



California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans

**POLITICAL DISENFRANCHISEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

FORMAL APOLOGY ON BEHALF OF STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR ITS ROLE IN POLITICAL DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF DESCENDANTS

- Apology could address:
 - California's ban preventing Descendants from testifying in court against a white person;
 - California's opposition to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the subsequent delay in guaranteeing equal protection of law to Descendants, including the right to vote;
 - California's history of political disenfranchisement through the use of racial barriers to voting;
 - The construction of monuments, plaques, state markers, and memorials memorializing and preserving confederate culture glorifying slavery and white supremacy;
 - California's role in disrupting the Black Panther Party and its founders through law enforcement overreach.

REQUIRE DISTRICT-BASED VOTING AND INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

- To protect the strength of the African American and Descendant voting bloc from political gerrymandering, which correlates to racial gerrymandering;
- Increase State enforcement of claims of voter dilution pursuant to California Voting Rights Act and federal laws;
- Increase voting education for Descendants, who are vital to the political process.

PASS LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VOTING

- Amend education and election codes to integrate academic and political participation in elections;
- Implement aspects of previously introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 2576;
- Fund activities and organizations that increase civic engagement and train or support potential political candidates and organizers;
- Make Election Day a paid state holiday and provide free public transportation;
- Fund grants for Descendants to meet voter registration requirements, for example, so they may obtain all necessary identification and documents needed to vote.

INCREASE JURY PARTICIPATION BY THOSE WHO ARE FORMERLY INCARCERATED

- Existing law allows people with previous felony convictions to be called to serve on juries as long as they are not on parole or probation and they are not registered felony sex offenders;
- Propose legal guidance or affirmative code amendments that a prior felony conviction cannot be used as a sole basis to disqualify a potential juror.

**REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE POLICY
COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT
RACIAL IMPACT ANALYSES OF ALL
PROPOSED LEGISLATION,
BUDGETS, AND REGULATIONS**

- Assessments should be in writing and include findings of the impact proposed legislation, budgets, and regulations might have on Descendants.

INCREASE EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS OF THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED

- Proposition 17 was approved in November 2020 and amended the California Constitution to permit people on parole for felony convictions to vote in California.
- Continue public education campaigns;
- Require California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide returning citizens with voter registration information.