

Who we are

Arise Citizens' Policy Project (ACPP) is a statewide nonprofit organization comprising 144 community groups and congregations, as well as individual members. ACPP analyzes state policies and educates its members on poverty issues. ACPP has 501(c)(3) status, so contributions are tax-deductible.

Alabama Arise has the same membership as ACPP. It promotes state policies that improve the lives of low-income Alabamians. Alabama Arise has three part-time lobbyists during legislative sessions. Because Alabama Arise has 501(c)(4) status, contributions are not tax-deductible.



Visit us online at arisecitizens.org.



Issue Priorities 2013

How we work

Arise promotes fairer state policies toward low-income Alabamians in three ways:

- **Policy analysis**

The ACPP policy team studies **current state policies and legislative proposals** and analyzes their impact on “the least of these.”

- **Statewide organizing**

ACPP believes **low-income people deserve a voice** in the development of public policies that affect their lives.

- **Citizen advocacy**

ACPP works to equip its members for active participation in the democratic process, including legislative advocacy.



*Putting democracy
to work to address
the causes of poverty
in Alabama . . .*

ACPP members have chosen the following issues as policy priorities for 2013. (The first two are permanent priorities; the remaining five reflect this year's concerns.)

Adequate state budgets

Fairer state policies toward low-income Alabamians depend on adequate funding of human services. By the same token, budget cuts to health care, child care, education and other human services can have a lopsided impact on “the least of these.”

- ACPP will promote consumer-friendly health coverage expansion under the Affordable Care Act and build the case for new General Fund revenue.
- ACPP will work to prevent harmful cuts to essential programs.

Tax reform

Alabama continues to tax low-income people deeper into poverty. As of 2012, we're one of only two states that offer no tax break for groceries. And our income tax deductions favor the highest earners.

- ACPP will work to untax groceries and make our income tax more balanced.

Predatory lending reform

Alabamians face a dizzying array of credit services designed to trap consumers in financial quicksand. At an annual interest rate of 456 percent, even a short-term payoff for a payday loan can take a sizable chunk from a borrower's paycheck. Predatory lending deepens poverty by exploiting those caught in the gap between low wages and the real cost of getting by.

- ACPP will promote tighter regulations on at least one form of predatory lending.

Death penalty moratorium

Studies have shown that Alabama's death penalty system discriminates on the basis of income, race, age and disability.

- ACPP supports a three-year moratorium on the death penalty while the state reviews inequities in our criminal justice system and in the application of capital punishment.

Constitutional reform

Alabama's 1901 constitution was designed to suppress the power of local governments – and ordinary citizens – by giving the Legislature control over numerous aspects of local policymaking, taxation and spending.

- ACPP will provide analysis and advocacy as the constitutional reform commission proposes article-by-article revisions of parts of the state constitution.

Public transportation

Inadequate transportation keeps thousands of Alabamians from meeting basic needs – getting to work, to the doctor or to the grocery store. Our state constitution prohibits Alabama from using gas taxes for public transit. Every year, we leave millions of federal dollars on the table because we can't put up the state share.

- ACPP will work to bridge the funding gap for public transportation.

Immigration law repeal

Alabama's 2011 anti-immigration law is the harshest in the nation. Designed to make life difficult for undocumented immigrants and cause them to leave Alabama, the law has had a far broader impact, bringing national scorn, widespread economic harm and personal hardship to citizens and non-citizens alike. A 2012 federal court decision weakened the law somewhat, but harmful provisions remain.

- ACPP will work for repeal of the 2011 anti-immigration law, known as HB 56.

Other legislative action

ACPP will monitor all proposed legislation to evaluate its potential impact on low-income Alabamians. The legislative committee of the ACPP board may approve membership action on emerging issues.



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