



**Fairfax County NAACP
2017-2018 Political Advocacy Agenda and Legislative
Priorities**

Fairfax County NAACP
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Fairfax County Residents:

Overt and institutionalized racism remain a significant obstacle in our nation. If the national political climate is an indicator of what lies ahead for us locally, the coming years will undoubtedly challenge those of us striving to achieve equality. Fairfax County is in it of itself a fault line between the ways of old and the ways of new and a microcosm of the all the hot button national debate topics. The friction caused by demographic changes witnessed in our communities in recent years has manifested itself in several ways including battles over immigration reform, education reform, funding to close the minority student achievement gap, criminal justice reform, and the struggle to expand affordable housing, just to name a few. Fairfax NAACP has been at the forefront of these issues, and will continue to advocate for reform in the years ahead.

To those who once questioned the need for the NAACP, question no more. As we enter 2017 the need for the NAACP's presence in our community couldn't be more evident. Just as the soldiers of oppression feel emboldened to roll back the clock to the "good 'ole days", we too feel emboldened to not only secure the gains made thus far, but to fight to make even more progress in holding Fairfax County accountable to its stated ideals. To those who say now is the time to lay low, we say now is the time fight harder than we've ever fought before. To those who say the political climate is too hostile to demand change, we say now is the time to lock arms and forge ahead. Progress has never been linear, and the road has never been smooth, but together we shall overcome.

The following agenda was adopted in January 2017 by the Fairfax County Executive Committee, highlights the priorities for this administration. Our agenda will challenge complacency in the school system; champion criminal justice reform; and encourage economic development and job growth in minority neighborhoods here in Fairfax County. I urge you to join with us. Help us continue stepping forward, despite the headwinds that have amassed against us.

Kofi Annan
President, Fairfax NAACP

Executive Committee

Branch Officers

President

Kofi Annan

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Third Vice President

Dr. Iris Hunter

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First Vice President

Karen Campblin

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Treasurer

Michelle Leete

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Second Vice President

Evelyn Spain

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Secretary

Michael O'Brien

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Standing Committee Chairs

Communications, Press, and Publicity

Courtney Brunson

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Legal Redress

Dr. Lawrence Bussey

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Community Coordination

Evelyn Spain

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Membership

Dr. Iris Hunter

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Criminal Justice

Kofi Annan

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Political Action

Karen Campblin

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Economic Development

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Religious Affairs

Sylvia Washington

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Education

Ralph Cooper

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Youth Council

Shareem Annan

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Freedom Fund (Fundraising)

Michelle Leete and Evelyn Spain

freedomfund@fairfaxnaACP.org

Economic Development

The Economic Development Committee works to implement local efforts and support national programs to preserve and expand economic empowerment among African-Americans and other communities of color.

- Quality Employment
 - Identify and partner with local unions and advocacy organizations to promote equal access to high-value and quality earning employment opportunities.
- Community Services
 - To identify and partner with community-based organizations to promote financial stability, affordable housing and other quality of life amenities.
- Accessible and Affordable Transportation Services
 - Work with transit-related organizations to ensure equal access to quality and affordable transportation options. As well as to ensure transportation projects do not disproportionately negatively impact low-income and communities of color.
 - Projects to track include: Richmond Highway/Route 1, Rail expansion, and Pedestrian and Bicycle safety programs.

Political Action

The Political Action Committee works to increase voter registration, turnout, and education. It also works to enact municipal, state and federal legislation designed to improve the educational, political and economic status of minority groups.

Political Action Chair: Karen Campblin
Email: politicalaction@fairfaxnaacp.org

- Assist Branch Committees
 - The PAC will maintain awareness of current events, policy reform or program changes that may impact communities of color as well as provide technical support for strategy development and implementation for advocacy-focused Branch Committees.
 - Identify appropriate advocacy training opportunities for Committees and Branch members
- Election Process
 - Voter Registration / Education - Increase voter registration and participation
 - Launch program Spring 2017
 - Promote Voter Rights Protection Policy
 - Promote Fair Re-districting efforts
 - Co-sponsor programs and events with local community organizations
- Legislative Documentation and Tracking
 - Develop Annual Scorecard for County Officials

Education

The Education Committee will seek to eliminate segregation and other discriminatory practices in public education.

Education Committee Chair: Ralph Cooper
Email: education@fairfaxnaacp.org

- Provide input to search for new superintendent; ensure incoming superintendent has a plan to address minority student achievement gap and other issues unique to minority student population.
- Advocate for greater funding specifically earmarked for minority programs in 2017-18 Budget
- Closing the Minority Student Achievement Gap
- Pre K initiative
- J.E.B. Stuart Renaming
- Advocate for staff and administration to reflect school population
- Advocate for fairness in punishment and reduce suspension rates of African American Students
- Limit scope of duties for school resource officers
- Achieve membership on the following committees
 - Minority Student Achievement Oversight Committee (MSAOC)
 - Human Relations Advisory committee (HRAC)
 - Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT)

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Agenda

Criminal Justice Committee will seek to eliminate harsh and unfair sentencing practices that are responsible for mass incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Criminal Justice Committee Chair: Kofi Annan
Email: justice@fairfaxnaacp.org

- Get a member of NAACP on each district Citizen Advisory Committee
- Continue to advocate against police brutality and wrongful death while in custody cases with the AG and police departments
- Ensure body cameras and dash cameras get implemented
- Racial sensitivity police training
- Mental Health Training for prison/jail officers (Senate Bill 933)
- Support (revive) H.R. 1933 End Racial Profiling Act of 2015
- Encourage non-lethal measures
- More police accountability
 - Whistleblower Protection

- Sentencing reform
 - Treatment for mentally ill
 - Raise the limit for grand larceny from \$200.00 to \$1500.00
 - Decriminalization of recreational drug offenses (emphasis on treatment)
- Highlight cost savings to elected officials
- Police department to reflect community demographics
- Judges and Commonwealth Attorneys divest themselves of stock holdings of operations of detention centers jails and or Prisons
- Elimination of excessive fees and charges for goods and services for inmates within jails
- Complete Background Checks on all who Purchased Guns (Senate Bill #832)