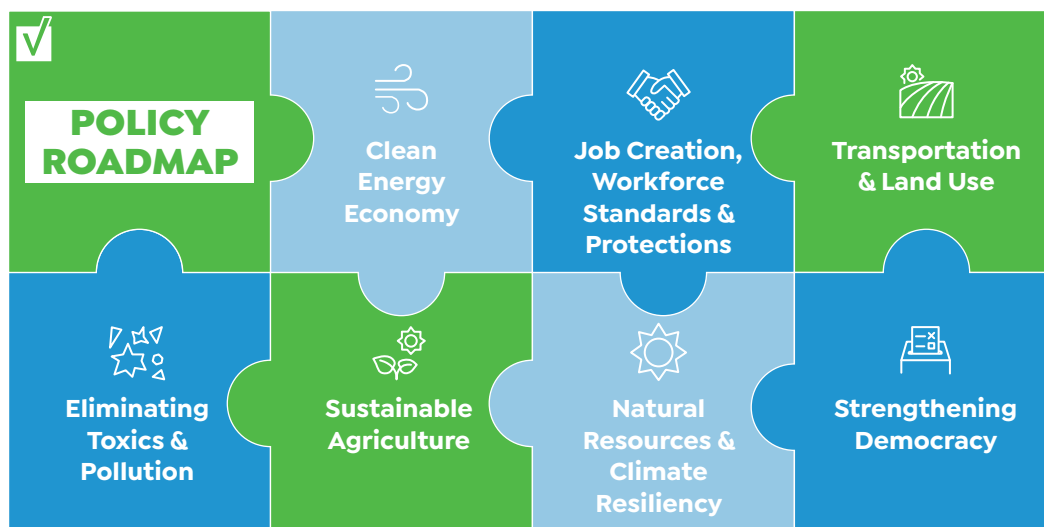


A ROADMAP FOR CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE RESILIENT FUTURE

Although California has earned a global reputation for progressive environmental policy, the Golden State is not moving at the pace science says we must in order to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis. The climate crisis is already here, and vulnerable, low income, and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities continue to suffer the highest burdens of our pollution-based economy. We have the solutions to stop the climate crisis and build a cleaner, more resilient and just future, but we need the political will to implement these solutions at the rate and scale needed. The longer leaders wait to implement these solutions, the harder and more expensive these problems become to solve.

Through extensive research and interviews with partners and experts across the state, California Environmental Voters has identified a set of policies and solutions that must be enacted before 2030 to protect people and our planet from further harm and begin to repair the damage already done through decades of climate inaction. The experts in environmental advocacy, environmental justice, workforce development, and the public and private sectors all agree we need bold, transformational, and intersectional leadership to achieve climate stability and advance economic, racial, and gender justice. To that end, our organization has identified the following seven policy areas which are interconnected and depend on successful action on all fronts to realize our vision for a climate-safe future.



Too many policy solutions are long past-due, and as a result, more resources will have to be invested to bring our natural and social ecosystems back into balance. To accomplish this, equity, anti-racism, and environmental justice must be embedded in every climate solution. New ongoing sources of revenue must be identified to fund the massive investment needed to make California climate resilient, and increased collaboration and coordination across state, regional, and local leaders will be necessary to ensure successful implementation of the solutions identified. We strive to realize a future that has addressed the root causes of the climate crisis and advanced equity, where all California residents have clean air and water, and live in healthy, connected, and thriving communities. This vision can be realized if California uses climate action to advance justice, but we need a clear and comprehensive policy vision and strategy, and we must act now.



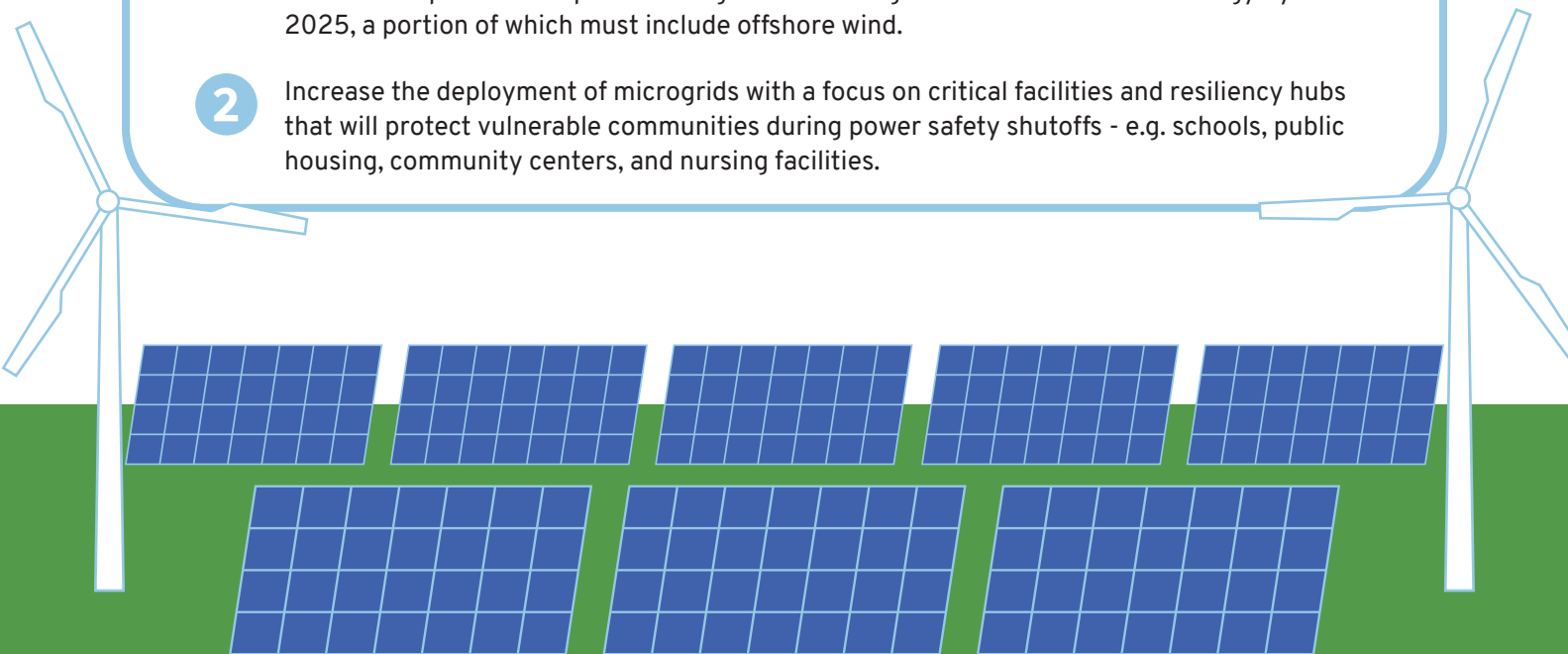
CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

California must rapidly accelerate our transition to clean energy and dramatically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. The longer leaders delay this transition, the more costly it becomes. Experts and state planners estimate we will need anywhere from 140-200 GW of new power brought online by 2045 to meet existing targets already mandated by law. However, the current pace of completion is approximately 1-2 GW per year – much too low. The significant time required for new projects to come online, the lack of consistency between agencies, and stubborn political fights all remain obstacles to progress. We need strong leadership and a clear vision that focuses immediate investment on scaling up affordable, clean, and reliable energy resources if we want to meet our clean energy targets. Doing so not only reduces emissions and provides a more reliable and sustainable power grid, it also presents tremendous opportunities for economic growth, jobs, public health, and the environment. To protect our health and provide reliable clean energy in the state, we must achieve the following policy objectives:

- ✓ **Rapidly expand procurement contracts** for massive utility-scale and distributed clean energy for solar, wind, and storage to flood the market with clean, reliable energy.
- ✓ **Managed decline of fossil fuel extraction, including ending the issuance of new oil drilling and hydraulic fracturing permits** and phasing out existing fossil fuel production as it becomes an obsolete energy source in our state.
- ✓ **Develop and invest in a smart, reliable electricity grid** to support the decarbonization of the building and transportation sectors, and ensure residents have the power they need, optimized to match supply with demand through better planning, connectivity, and grid regionalization.
- ✓ **Decarbonize the building sector for both new and existing buildings** prioritizing low-income households and requiring community input for the solutions implemented.
- ✓ **Ensure corporate accountability and leadership in the transition to a clean energy economy.** The private sector, particularly the largest corporations who have the resources and who have an outsized impact on emissions, must contribute their fair share to reducing pollution and solving the climate crisis.

Example Policies:

- 1 The legislature must identify opportunities to complete clean energy projects at an accelerated pace and require state agencies to bring on 15 GW of new clean energy by 2025, a portion of which must include offshore wind.
- 2 Increase the deployment of microgrids with a focus on critical facilities and resiliency hubs that will protect vulnerable communities during power safety shutoffs - e.g. schools, public housing, community centers, and nursing facilities.



JOB CREATION, WORKFORCE STANDARDS & PROTECTIONS



Economic equality and racial justice must be an integral part of our plan for a sustainable and climate resilient future. California must continue to advance policies and programs that support the transition to a clean energy economy while simultaneously creating new opportunities for high paying jobs and prioritizing employment and support for workers in all sectors impacted by this transition. The economic fallout following the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the economy and resulted in workers demanding better pay and better labor standards. This is an opportunity to rethink and redesign policy to ensure more people work in family-sustaining jobs that pay wages and deliver benefits needed for themselves and their families to thrive.

- ✓ **Invest in and support sectors of the economy and industries that reduce pollution, restore our ecosystems, expand clean energy, and make our communities more climate resilient.** Jobs are created when policy makers invest in a clean energy economy. Without significantly scaling up investments – the high-quality jobs we want to see created for workers simply won't exist.
- ✓ **Strengthen and better enforce labor standards throughout the state** to ensure that all jobs are held to higher standards for worker safety, compensation, and provide essential benefits including healthcare, paid leave, and vacation.
- ✓ **Fund and empower local leadership and input:** Successful workforce transition programs rely heavily upon close partnerships between industries and the communities where they operate. Robust and strong stakeholder engagement processes must drive workforce transition policy.
- ✓ **Fund projects that include Workforce Labor Agreements** which require minimum labor standards and hire workers from the community where the projects take place.

Example Policies:

- 1 Leverage public dollars spent towards industries and projects which reduce pollution and support a clean energy economy to spur equitable, family sustaining, high-quality job creation by establishing tangible, enforceable, and accountable workforce standards related to job quality, compensation, employee benefits, and community benefits.
- 2 Pass policies that incentivize and send strong market signals to create the demand for projects which reduce pollution, support a clean energy economy, and generate a demand for jobs.





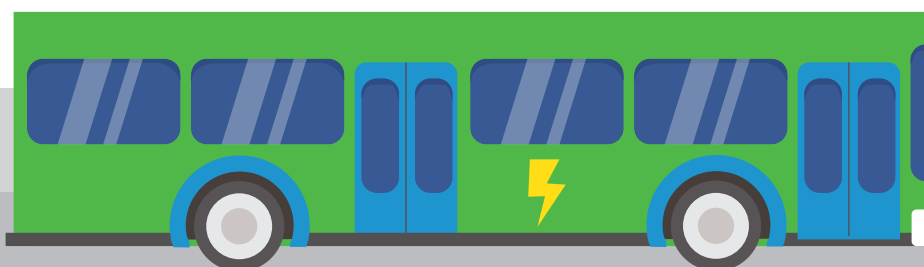
TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

The transportation sector continues to be the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in California. The long history of designing the state's infrastructure for vehicles, racist land use planning and redlining, urban sprawl, and the prioritization of industrial development over environmental health has exacerbated climate change, racial and economic inequality, and impacted public health. Through the Air Resources Board and other state agencies, CA has proven itself as a leader in reducing emissions from vehicles and in doing so, created global impacts on transportation in the marketplace. Governor Newsom's bold executive order will phase out the sale of gas-powered cars by 2035, and it is critical that implementation of this policy be equitable. But clean cars alone will not be enough; we must expand and build on this leadership to do more, particularly in expanding transit and repairing past harms perpetuated by poor transportation and land use planning decisions. We must re-center public and active transportation investments to ensure people spend less time in their cars and have access to affordable, reliable transportation. And we must stop land use development that continues to lead to increased traffic, poorly connected communities, elevated climate risks, and biodiversity loss. In the next decade, the following solutions need to be enacted:

- ✓ **Support and expand sustainable, equitable and climate resilient development** that promotes infill development, increases access to housing that is affordable for low, very low and extremely low-income households in every community near transit and jobs, reduces vehicle miles traveled, accounts for elevated climate risks like wildfire and sea-level rise, and utilizes green building practices that maximize water and energy efficiency and protects green space and biodiverse habitat.
- ✓ **Invest heavily in expanding public transit and active transportation to maximize mobility in a way that doesn't rely on highways and vehicles** and provides safe, accessible, affordable, and reliable means of transportation to everyone.
- ✓ **Accelerate the transition to zero emission trucks and vehicles**, prioritizing access and subsidies for low-income communities and expanding charging infrastructure to advance equity and optimize the grid.
- ✓ **Protect and strengthen laws that prioritize public health, sustainability and the environment**, including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act and the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act.

Example Policies:

- 1 Update the guidelines for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to focus investments in public transportation, active transportation, and road maintenance instead of new highway and road development which in 2018, 80% of the funds were allocated to.
- 2 Limit and prohibit the development of polluting industries in frontline communities already over-burdened with pollution.





ELIMINATING TOXICS & POLLUTION

The communities most polluted and harmed by the climate crisis must be co-authors and architects of solutions to the climate crisis. The majority of highly polluting industrial facilities in CA do not have health and safety buffer zones around them and are not held responsible for the public health risks they pose to surrounding communities, and due to poor land use planning decisions and racism, most are sited in communities of color. As the most populous state California also faces severe challenges around waste management and recycling, especially in recent years. California's waste stream, particularly the non-recyclable, non-compostable portion such as single-use plastic, is a growing concern due to its harmful impact on landfill capacity and ever present environmental and economic problem of litter.

- ✓ **Closure and remediation of oil and gas wells.** Ensure that the oil industry is held accountable for funding the closure, cleanup, and remediation of oil wells across the state, prioritizing the most toxic sites, as well as projects in disadvantaged communities most impacted by pollution.
- ✓ **Immediately establish minimum health and safety buffer zones** of at least 3,200 feet between hazardous or highly polluting industrial facilities, such as oil drilling sites, and sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, and health care facilities to protect public health and safety.
- ✓ **Implement strong oversight and accountability for the Department of Toxic Substances Control** to ensure strong enforcement of hazardous waste regulations that protect people and the environment from toxic pollution.
- ✓ **Increase oversight and authority for local air districts** to bring the state into attainment for federal air quality standards and exceed goals to reduce air pollution statewide.
- ✓ **Ensure waste management policy prioritize source reduction** in order to significantly reduce single use plastic waste and other unnecessary single-use products and packaging entering California's market. Pass policies that avoid waste being produced and increase convenience for consumers, such as right-to-repair policies and expanded access to refillable and reusable products and packaging.
- ✓ **Create Consistent Waste, Recycling, and Compost Collection Programs across the state and Scale up Funding for Recycling and Composting Facilities** to provide widespread access to recycling and consistency for people across the state which are needed to achieve comprehensive waste reduction and recycling targets.

Example Policies:

- 1 Phase out of existing oil and gas production in the state by 2035 with interim targets for 2025 and 2030.
- 2 Require manufacturers of single-use packaging and products to meet reduction targets to significantly reduce unnecessary waste and ensure that remaining single-use packaging and products are compatible with the state's recycling and composting infrastructure.





SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

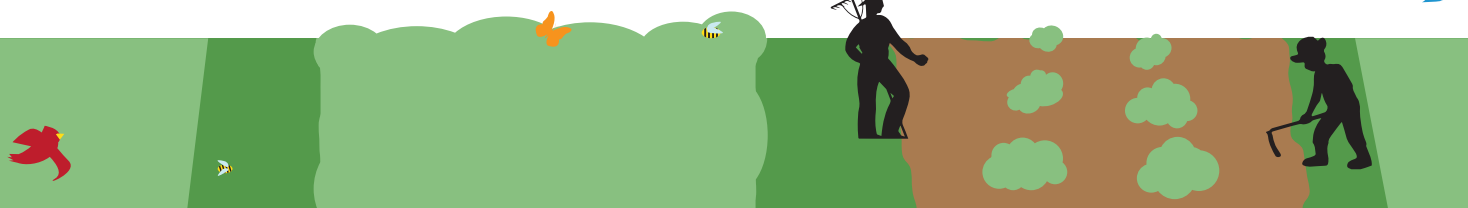
Over a quarter of California's total land mass is dedicated to farming and ranching. Agriculture is currently a net-emitter of greenhouse gases and has a fraught relationship with the state's limited water resources. But recent high demand for the state's Climate Smart Agriculture programs and expanding acreage in organic agricultural production demonstrates real opportunity to transition this sector to carbon negative.

Large agricultural operations can be a major source of local air pollution, pose significant risk of contamination of water resources due to runoff, and contend with increasingly limited water resources. The use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides have harmful effects on farmworkers, water quality, and wildlife while also contributing to toxic nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions. With adequate financial, technical and research investments alongside regulations that promote health and equity, California can move agriculture towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and carbon-negative by 2035. To achieve this, we must do the following:

- ✓ **The state must rapidly shift to regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices** through increased incentives, research, and technical assistance that improve air quality, soil health, sequester carbon, provide ample food and good jobs, and protect biodiversity.
- ✓ **Set goals and plans to bring the agriculture industry to carbon negative** by pairing regulatory programs and regulations with increased funding for popular and effective programs such as the CDFA Healthy Soils grant program, program funding that is accessible to small farms and farms operated by people of color, programs that incentivize farmland conservation, and robust engagement and education programs on regenerative agriculture.
- ✓ **Eliminate the use of toxic pesticides where alternatives are available to mitigate the harm** to public health and the environment and develop targets to phase out use of toxic pesticides and herbicides throughout the state.
- ✓ **Address racial and economic disparities in access to healthy food** by scaling up funding for programs that promote and expand and support regional food infrastructure and economies in rural and urban communities to support urban farms, community food pantries, community kitchens, and co-ops dedicated to increasing access to local food resources, particularly within low-income communities and communities of color.

Example Policies:

- 1 Pass comprehensive CA Healthy Soils Act by 2025 developed through planning process that sets targets to transition to regenerative agricultural practices that are carbon negative by 2035 with interim targets for 2030.
- 2 Provide expanded emergency relief for farmers to deal with the impacts of climate change, including extended drought, extreme heat, and wildfires and couple relief aid with incentives to transition to more sustainable and resilient farming practices.





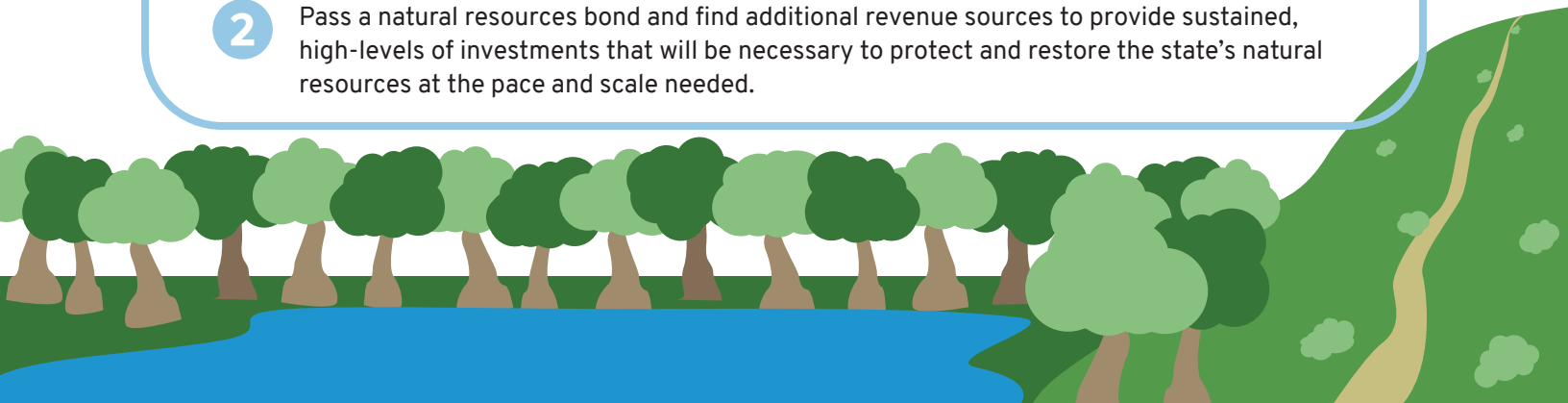
NATURAL RESOURCES & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

California's is experiencing a biodiversity and nature crisis that has direct impacts on public health and our resiliency in a warmer world. The state's natural and working lands, which are natural carbon sinks, are at risk of being a larger carbon emitter due to wildfires and land management practices that degrade ecosystems. Prior development in our state and the resulting biodiversity loss has caused the loss of 90 percent of our coastal and inland wetlands, 99 percent of our riparian areas, and most of our native grasslands. In addition, many of our cities lack adequate greenspace and are designed in a way that harms biodiversity rather than helps it. This can and must change. The nature crisis requires more than protecting existing open space. We must regreen and redesign our cities to support biodiversity and public health as well as repair and restore natural and native ecosystems. Doing so will both draw down more carbon from the atmosphere and provide natural protection from the impacts of a more extreme climate. Investments in nature-based solutions pay huge dividends, and through robust collaboration and effort, natural resources protection and restoration offers multi-benefit opportunities that promote that improve soil health, protect and conserve water resources, cool down our cities and residents during heat waves, restore critical habitat to maintain biodiversity, mitigate damage from wildfire, and increase equitable access to nature. The following solutions should be implemented in the next decade:

- ✓ **Protect, Restore, and Expand Public Lands** that act as natural buffers and carbon sinks across the state and enhance biodiversity and resiliency.
- ✓ **Expand Equitable Access to Nature and Greenspace** for communities which have historically been disinvested and underinvested in, as well as low-income communities.
- ✓ **Protect, Expand, and Invest in Urban Greening** which can connect and cool communities, better filter stormwater runoff, reduce the urban heat island, and provide more habitat for native species.
- ✓ **Wildfire Resilience and Prevention:** Massively scale up funding to focus on mitigation and prevention alongside ecosystem restoration and maintenance; advance land-use planning that protects existing communities and limits new development in the wildland-urban interface, and ensure firefighting jobs are well-paid, safe, and sustainable for workers.
- ✓ **Advance science based sustainable surface and groundwater management planning throughout the state to conserve water resources and improve or maintain safe drinking water;** prioritizing the needs of communities who lack access to clean and safe drinking water.

Example Policies:

- 1 Codify the 30x30 Executive Order and make significant investments in the State Budget to implement this goal with a focus on elevating nature-based solutions to climate change, identifying and protecting biodiversity corridors throughout the state, and increasing equitable access to nature so all Californians can enjoy the outdoors and the benefits of nature.
- 2 Pass a natural resources bond and find additional revenue sources to provide sustained, high-levels of investments that will be necessary to protect and restore the state's natural resources at the pace and scale needed.





STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY

The majority of Californians support policies to defend clean air and water, address the climate crisis, mitigate the impacts of climate fueled natural disasters, and to advance a clean energy economy. Yet, too often voters feel disempowered and disengaged in the political process, and their voices are drowned out by well-funded and politically influential corporate interests. California has made significant progress in increasing access to elections. But more can be done to ensure future policy change is driven by a more representative and participatory democracy, prioritizing the needs of underrepresented groups of voters like youth voters and people of color. It is also critical that the state addresses the influence of money in politics. By upholding and improving democratic functions that increase transparency and accountability to voters and prioritize citizens' voices over corporate interests, we can achieve a government that is more responsive to the electorate. We recommend the following:

- ✓ **Dramatically expand options for voting matched with widespread, accessible voter education and outreach** to provide all people with accessible voting options, including vote-by-mail, remote accessible voting, expansion of early voting options, dramatically increasing language access in elections, and increasing availability of in person voting services, prioritizing the needs of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised populations such as young people, communities of color and low-income communities.
- ✓ **Lower the voting age** to expand the youth voter turnout and to foster habits of civic engagement and voting for young voters at an earlier age.
- ✓ **Reform campaign finance laws to limit campaign contributions and increase disclosure requirements and public transparency** with a focus on empowering candidates from diverse backgrounds to run for office who are not independently wealthy, or who are not willing to accept corporate campaign contributions as a means of ensuring that voters receive the best possible representation by candidates who will be forced to be more accountable and responsive to voters.
- ✓ **Expand collaborative governance practices in policymaking, including participatory budgeting**, as a means of addressing our ability to maintain the public's faith in government and in elections which continues to affect our ability to reach 100% eligible voter turnout.

Example Policies:

- 1 Pass policies that empower and support youth voter registration and participation, including lowering the voting age.
- 2 Remove barriers to voter registration through policies such as expanding automatic voter registration to additional state agencies ensuring that the onus is less on the individual to register to vote and instead the responsibility of government when eligible voters interact with agencies.

