

Who we are:

Arise Citizens' Policy Project (ACPP) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of congregations, organizations and individuals. ACPP educates the public on how state policies affect Alabamians living in or near poverty. Contributions to ACPP are tax-deductible.

Alabama Arise has the same membership as ACPP. It promotes state policies to improve the lives of low-income Alabamians. Alabama Arise employs three part-time lobbyists at the State House. Contributions to Alabama Arise are not tax-deductible.



Arise envisions an Alabama...

... where all people have resources and opportunities to reach their potential to live happy, productive lives, and each successive generation is ensured a secure and healthy future.

... where all government leaders are responsive, inclusive and justice-serving, and the people are engaged in the policy-making process.

... where all people live with concern for the common good and respect for the humanity of every person.



Join Arise today!

Phone: (334) 832-9060

Website: arisecitizens.org

Facebook: [fb.com/AlabamaArise](https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaArise)

Twitter: @AlabamaArise

What we do:

Arise works in three major areas to help make life better for low-income Alabamians – and for everyone:

- **Policy analysis**

Our policy team studies state policies and legislative proposals and analyzes their impact on “the least of these.”

- **Statewide organizing**

Our organizers work to ensure that low-income Alabamians have a voice in the development of the public policies that affect their lives.

- **Citizen advocacy**

We work to equip our members for active participation in the democratic process, including legislative advocacy.



Issue Priorities

2017



*Joining together to
speak up for a better
Alabama for all!*

Arise members have chosen the following issues as policy priorities for 2017. The first two are permanent priorities. The remaining six reflect this year's member voting. The Arise board also may approve action on other emerging issues throughout the year.

Adequate state budgets

Everyone deserves a chance to get ahead in life, and vital services like education, health care and child care help people do just that. Adequate state funding for these services is crucial to help families build a better life.

- Arise will make the case for new revenue to invest in Alabama's future and oppose harmful cuts to essential public services.
- Arise will urge the state to close the coverage gap by expanding Medicaid.

Tax reform

It's hard for low-income Alabamians to make ends meet when they're taxed deeper into poverty. Low-income families pay twice as big a share of their incomes in state and local taxes as top earners do. And Alabama is one of four states with no tax break on groceries.

- Arise will seek to untax groceries and restore balance to our upside-down taxes.

'Ban the box' policy

Too often, a criminal record is a barrier to getting work and rebuilding a life. The "ban the box" movement seeks to remove criminal history checkboxes from job applications. This would help employers consider the full range of qualified applicants on the merits.

- Arise will work to support "ban the box" efforts in Alabama.

Death penalty reform

Capital punishment is literally a life-or-death issue. Arise will support several reforms of Alabama's death penalty process, including better funding for indigent defense, a moratorium on executions, and an end to the "judicial override" policy allowing judges to impose a death sentence despite a jury recommendation of life without parole.

- Arise will urge greater transparency and reforms to Alabama's death penalty laws.

Housing Trust Fund revenue

Everyone needs a place to call home. But too many hard-working Alabamians can't find safe, affordable housing. The state Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was created in 2012 to build, rehabilitate and maintain housing for low-income families. Permanent HTF funding would create jobs and make home a reality for thousands of families, veterans, and people with disabilities in Alabama.

- Arise will seek dedicated state support for the HTF to expand affordable housing options, especially in rural areas.

Minimum wage

Hard work should pay off. But decades of stagnant wages have left many hard-working Alabamians falling behind and struggling to make ends meet. An increase in the state minimum wage would strengthen Alabama's economy and help families build a brighter future for their children.

- Arise will seek the creation of a statewide minimum wage above the federal level.

Payday/title lending reform

The gap between low wages and the real cost of living is vast for many Alabamians. Payday and auto title loans can widen that gap. With Alabama law allowing annual interest rates of 456 percent for payday loans and 300 percent for title loans, these loans sap wealth from far too many families and communities.

- Arise will pursue tighter state and federal regulations on payday and title lending and other high-cost loans in Alabama.

Public transportation

To meet basic needs, you need to be able to get where you need to go. But Alabama is one of five states with no state funding for public transportation. This patchwork system fails to meet the needs of many low-income people in rural, suburban and urban areas.

- Arise will build support for state funding of public transportation options.



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