

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 a lobbyist at the State House. Contributions to Alabama Arise are not tax-deductible.



Join Arise today!

Phone: (334) 832-9060

Website: arisecitizens.org

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

Twitter: [@AlabamaArise](https://twitter.com/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

2018



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.



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

Arise members have chosen the following issues as policy priorities for 2018. The first two are permanent priorities. The remaining five reflect this year's member voting. The Arise board also may approve action on other emerging issues during 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 Medicaid and other services is critical.

- Arise will make the case for new revenue to invest in Alabama's future and oppose harmful cuts to essential public services.

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 rebalance our upside-down tax system.

Payday/title lending reform

When a worker's low wages fail to cover the cost of living, payday and auto title loans can seem appealing. But 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.

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.

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 laws to bring the state's capital punishment system in line with federal rulings regarding juveniles and people with intellectual disabilities.

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

Public transportation

To meet basic needs, you need to be able to get where you need to go. But Alabama is one of few states with no state funding for public transportation. Alabama's jumble of local systems fails to meet the needs of many people in rural, suburban and urban areas.

- Arise will promote state funding options to meet these needs, including creation of a state Public Transportation Trust Fund.

Criminal justice debt

High court fees and fines impose a heavy burden on many struggling families. Driver's license suspensions over unpaid fines often cause low-income Alabamians to lose their jobs. High cash bail for minor offenses also can imperil families' economic security.

- Arise will support policies to reduce the economic burden that court fees and fines place on low-income Alabamians.

Endorsement issues

Arise members have endorsed these two issues in addition to our seven policy priorities for 2018:

- **Ban-the-box policies** to remove the criminal history checkbox from most job applications.
- Creation of a **state minimum wage** above the federal level.



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