



Volume 2, Issue 7 | October 2020

ALL OF US OR NONE

All of Us or None is an organizing movement started by people who have been in prison in order to challenge the pervasive discrimination that formerly incarcerated people, people in prison, and our family members face. Our goal is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration and the growth of the prison industrial complex. Through our grassroots organizing, we are building a powerful political movement to win full restoration of our human and civil rights.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

THE INJUSTICE SYSTEM

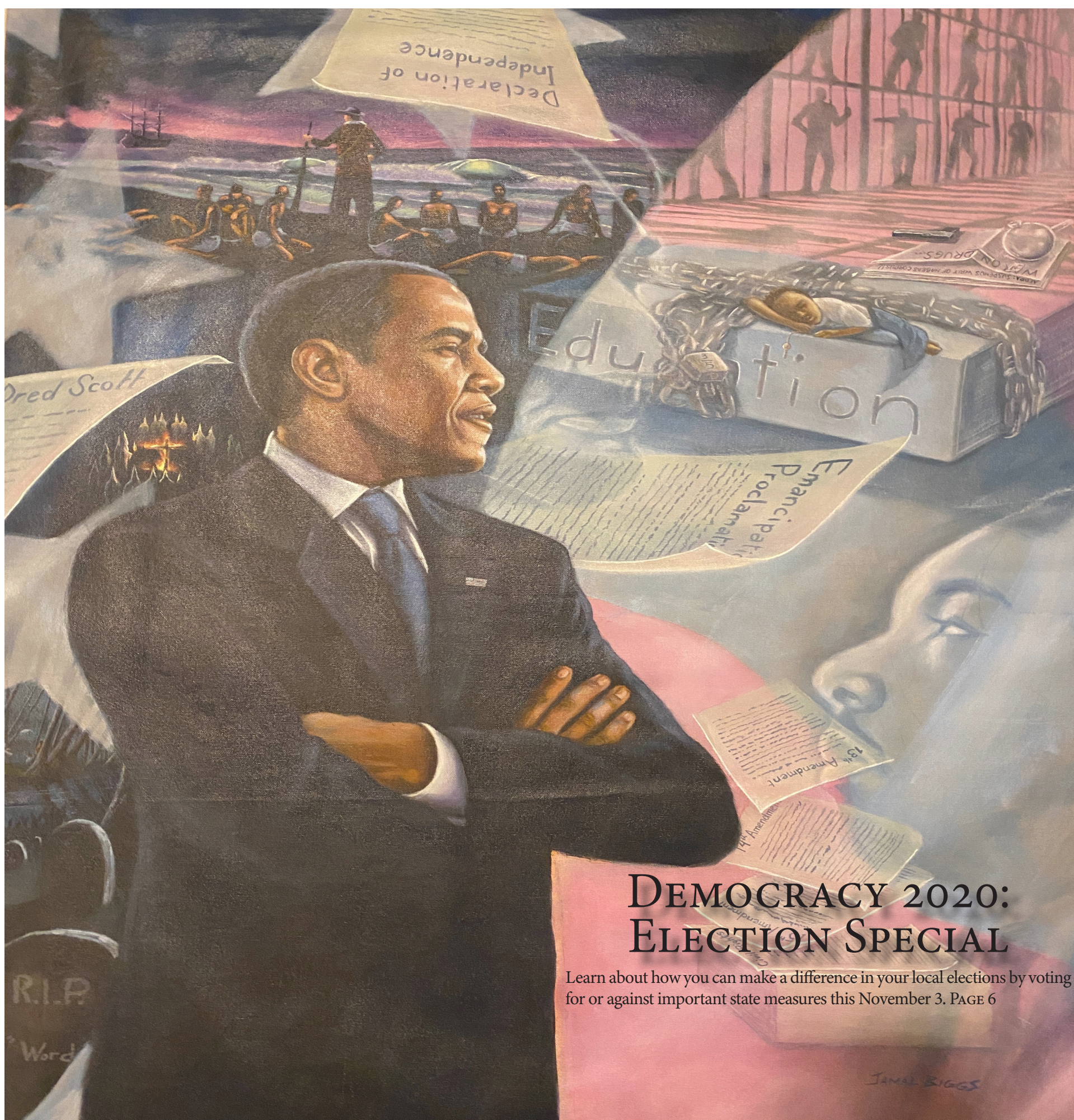
The connection between slavery and mass incarceration is fairly obvious. The link is undeniable once you start living it. A dispatch from California State Prison reflecting on the centuries-old practice of subjugating African-Americans. PAGE 4

OUR STORIES

Minister Caliph Muab-el has spent the majority of his life fighting for the right to exist in a country that touts itself as the land of the free. As the Wisconsin chapter president, he's on the front lines of the fight for racial justice in America. PAGE 3

MAIL BAG

Joshua Sprague, an incarcerated writer at New Hampshire State Prison in Concord, shares his first-hand experience with sentencing discrepancies and the inhumanity with which Americans treat their fellow citizens. PAGE 5





All of Us Or None
Self-Determination
Pledge

As members of All of Us or None,
we pledge:

- To demand the right to speak in our own voices
- To treat each other with respect and not allow differences to divide us
- To accept responsibility for any acts that may have caused harm to our families, our communities or ourselves.
- To fight all forms of discrimination
- To help build the economic stability of formerly-incarcerated people
- To claim and take care of our own children and our families
- To support community struggles to stop using prisons as the answer to social problems
- To play an active role in making our communities safe for everyone.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FEATURE STORY

You may be jaded by the insanity of the election cycle at this point. But local elections can pave the way for significant reforms -- or make change harder. Check out the state ballot measures that stand to impact our community, for better or for worse and vote like your life depends on it. Because this year, it truly does. PAGE 6

Check your voter registration status at www.usa.gov/voter-registration. If you are on probation, on parole, incarcerated in a county jail or incarcerated in state prison in Maine or Vermont, you may still be able to vote. Check with your local Secretary of State or contact any All of Us or None chapter to see if you are eligible and to learn how to get your ballot.



THE INJUSTICE SYSTEM

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CHAPTER UPDATES

All of Us or None chapters have been hitting the streets to help get out the vote. Some chapters organized registration days, others went door to door. Many targeted communities with large numbers of directly impacted individuals who may be voting for the first time. Check out photos from our recent events. PAGE 10

COVER IMAGE: A NOTE FROM THE ARTIST

The following is a description of the cover image “Barack Obama: Perfecting the Union” by its creator, incarcerated artist Jamal Biggs.

This painting is a commentary on America and the continuing struggle to get it to live up to its promise of equality and freedom for all its people. Although Barack Obama is a main character in the piece, it’s less about him and more about the story of African-Americans and their efforts to break the chains of physical, psychological, and economical slavery. Obama’s election to the presidency was a significant step in this ongoing saga.

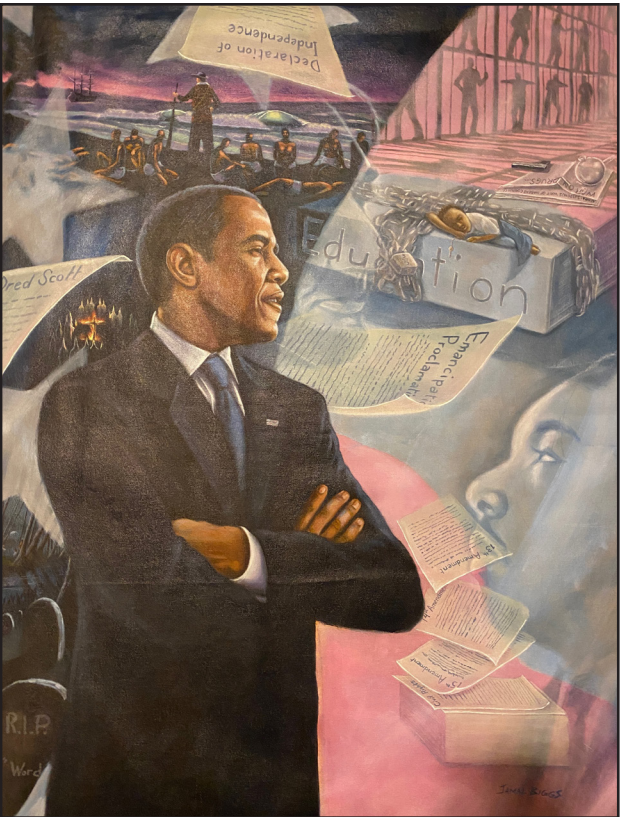
Slavery is juxtaposed to mass incarceration, paralleling its past form with its modern form. A newspaper reports the propaganda used to justify the mass incarceration, e.g., “War on Drugs.” “AEDPA: Suspends Writ of Habeas Corpus,” refers to the 1996 Crime Bill and the signing of the Anti-Terrorism Effective Death Penalty Act by former President Clinton, which severely limited the use of the Federal Writ of Habeas Corpus by state and

federal prisoners to challenge unconstitutional convictions and sentences, thus keeping people confined/enslaved.

A child sleeps on a chained, locked book entitled “Education,” representing the state of poor Black youth and the educational system. Education or the lack thereof is the cornerstone to breaking or continuing the cycle of slavery/imprisonment. MLK is depicted to suggest that overhauling our educational system should be the new civil rights agenda of today. The sleeping child represents the ignorance and unconsciousness of our youth. They are ignorant of their condition, ignorant about the importance of education, and ignorant because of a lack of education. Suggesting hope, the sleeping child holds the key to the lock which is analogous to young people today holding (being) the key (answer) to their future. However, if they remain asleep (ignorant), they’re assured to remain trapped in the cycle of drugs, violence, imprisonment, and death, represented by the prison cells, firearm, crack pipe, and syringe.

Obama’s profile is juxtaposed to Abraham Lincoln’s, whose profile is subtly rendered in the background, reminiscent of optical illusion artists I admire like Dali and Ocampo. Numerous documents are depicted being blown about by the wind, suggesting that they are just meaningless pieces of paper if we don’t live up to their words.

They include the Declaration of Independence, Emancipation Proclamation, Constitution of the United States, 13th thru 15th Amendments, and the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision. The Klu Klux Klan is depicted burning a cross. A house in the woods is shown representing the underground railroad. A cemetery is depicted with a tomb stone inscribed with “R.I.P. ‘N’ word.”



If you would like to send feedback or contribute to the All of Us or None newspaper, please contact the Editor.

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Caliph

The Wisconsin chapter president, Caliph Muab-el (pictured second in from the right alongside other chapter members) is on the front lines of the fight for racial justice in America. *Photo courtesy Caliph Muab-el*

Unrest was brewing in Wisconsin. Yet another unarmed Black man had been shot -- in the back, in front of his children -- by law enforcement. Caliph Muab-el organized members of the People's Revolution and All of Us or None Wisconsin to march in Kenosha to protest the brutality with which Jacob Blake had been treated by police officers.

On the second night of demonstrating, AOUON Wisconsin got a call from the mayor of Madison. Provocateurs were threatening to turn peaceful protests into violent riots and the mayor was hoping Caliph could provide security. It wasn't the first time AOUON had been called on to keep the peace and so the security arm of the organization left for Madison, leaving the core membership to continue marching in Kenosha.

While patrolling the scene in Madison, Caliph got a call: His people had been ambushed by a white supremacist militia group shooting from rooftops. Caliph and the security team rushed back to Kenosha. By the time they arrived, two people had been killed, a medic had nearly had his arm blown off, and three people were missing.

One might look at Caliph's encounter in Kenosha and recognize that he's in a fight for his life. But Caliph said he's been fighting for his life ever since he started living.

Caliph was the youngest person in Wisconsin to go straight to adult prison, sentenced to 15 years for reckless injury. He spent 10 years in solitary confinement at Wisconsin Secure Program Facility (WSPF), originally the Supermax Correctional Institution, threatening the status quo by rallying his comrades to liberate themselves from their oppressors.

"I would rally people and tell them, 'learn your rights,' and 'we can't take this oppression laying down,'" Caliph said. "We can't expect the system to give us our rights when it's designed to keep us down."

Caliph became a jailhouse lawyer. He had mentors who were former Black Panthers and members of the Nation of Islam who directed him to books about his people's history and institutional racism.

"I learned how the system was designed to wipe us out," Caliph said. "The difference between myself and everyone else who read those books was I took that knowledge and started organizing and executing a plan for change."

He started his mission inside, connecting with organizations on the outside devoted to, as he describes it, "real causes and real dispositions." When he was released, one of those organizations, Voices Beyond Bars, helped Caliph get an apartment and find employment. With a sense of stability, he began speaking at events all over the country about disrupting the school to prison pipeline. He ultimately developed a youth program called Breaking Barriers to engage young people by providing them with resources.

"I learned how the system was designed to wipe us out."

He also started a "Circles of Support" reentry program, bringing 40 to 50 people together each week to discuss barriers to reentry and how to overcome them. The program contributed to a 75% drop in the local recidivism rate and caught the attention of the Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality and Solidarity (MOSES), which elected Caliph to be its vice president. Caliph grew the local MOSES membership from a handful to over 10,000 members and he found himself at events with some of the larger civil rights organizations in the country, including All of Us or None. He met Dorsey Nunn, co-founder of All of Us or None, who encouraged

him to start a Wisconsin chapter.

"I decided I needed to do more to enhance the people's movement, to have an entity that is controlled by us and makes sure our voices are liberated," he said. "We have a robust and active chapter here and it recently spawned into another chapter in Madison."

Caliph has structured the Wisconsin chapter into three tiers of members: boots on the ground, organizers and policy advocates.

"We need people on the ground to make the noise, the organizers to direct that energy and the people on the third tier to make sure policymakers can hear us in our own voices without any clutter."

This summer forced Caliph to evolve the chapter once more. Racism had become normalized and things had escalated from people hurling racial slurs at Caliph and his comrades to taking aim with loaded weapons.

"We're in a pressing time where our president perpetuates volatile tactics and divisive behaviors," Caliph said. "We're in a country that doesn't value the lives of Black people and so we're being gunned down by police unjustifiably."

"We only hear about so many names, but, make no mistake about it, this is an epidemic and a mass genocide," he continued. "The structural racism and overt racism is in our faces and it's come to a place where we're not safe."

Caliph and other organizers recovered their missing members who were snatched up in Kenosha and restructured to ensure demonstrations are secure. They have a security team that protects women and children at the march. They've designated three central leaders to vet demonstrators and weed out provocateurs.

"We have to train our people in a different way, because it's not just about peacefully assembling," Caliph said. "Those rights aren't being honored. If they were they wouldn't be bombing us with tear gas, shooting at us or rolling through crowds with tanks."

Breaking the Chain from Plantations to Prisons

LIES THAT FOUNDED IT ALL

By Delbert Williams

There are 2.3 million people behind bars in America; more than the entire population of the Bahamas, Bahrain, and Barbados combined, more than the Republic of Cyprus, or the Commonwealth of Dominica, and three times the population of Dominica (World Almanac, 2015). Put another way, the U.S. population is the largest carceral state in the entire world, yet we only host 5% of the world's population.

African Americans and Latinx people disproportionately represent the dominant prison population. The great prison expansion of the U.S. began in the 1970s. Some would argue that white repression was retaliating against uppity Negroes who had just rammed the Voting Rights act of 1965 down their throats. The spirit of domination is a motherf.cker!

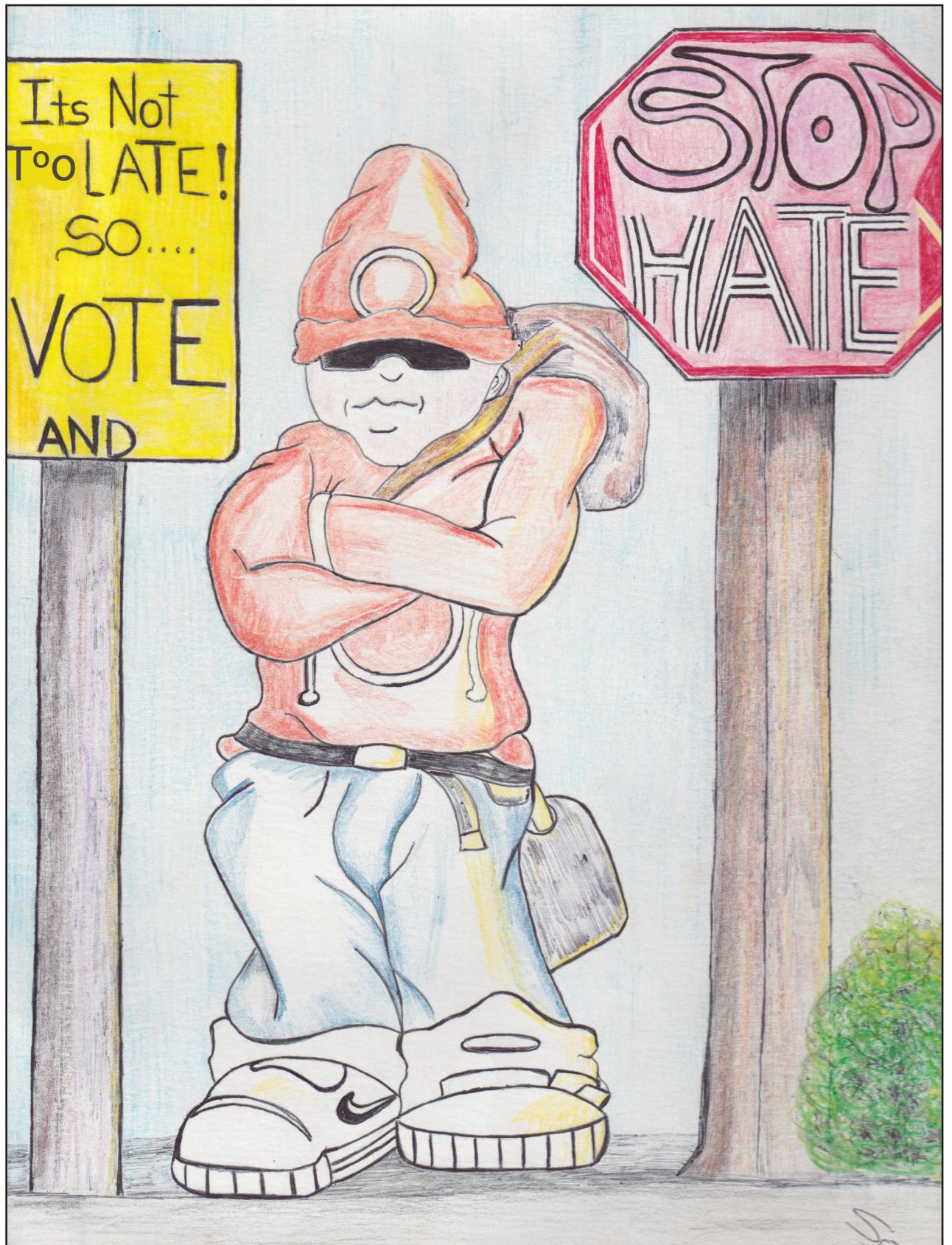
The truth is that control and subjugation have always been the goal of white separatists and slave owners. It all began with the unique construct of American slavery, and though disguised in various social cloaks through the centuries, the primary aim was, and is, domination of colored bodies; the secondary goal is labor and financial exploitation. America was built on the painstaking labor of enslaved Black people, and the white power structure continues to exploit the 99%.

The literal blood, sweat and tears of Black men, women and children constructed the abusive abodes that are called plantations. Black slaves built the cities of Atlanta, Durham, Jackson, and so many more. They were not compensated. Instead, they were viciously beaten, maimed, and even killed for having the audacity to dream, to strive forward, to make an attempt at the same meager freedom the dogs on the plantation enjoyed.

There was a dichotomy between the value of the slaves. The slaves were worth less than a dog. Financially their flesh was gold, but their bodies were completely expendable. Millions upon millions of slaves died under the brutal conditions, while the plantation owners built million dollar empires that still exist today.

When slavery was finally laid to rest, the equally exploitive practice of sharecropping replaced it. Sharecropping invited former slaves to return to those traumatic plantations with the promise of earning a slight profit and a livable wage farming the land of their former masters. Subjugation prohibited slaves from learning to read or figure mathematics. As a result, their former masters ensured the business books reflected deficits, rather than profits, guaranteeing indebtedness. Black slaves were slowly being indentured, beholden to their former masters for huge sums, often for life terms or near life terms.

Convict leasing followed, with vagrancy and other laws for landless Blacks. They were accused of offenses we'd call misdemeanors today: loitering, trespassing, disrespecting a white man by not lowering their heads in



Last month, we introduced you to incarcerated artist Scott Smith a.k.a Scotty Scott, who drew "COVID Creature." This month, Scotty sent a new drawing, special for the November election.

passing. Blacks were sentenced to years and decades for these "crimes," pushed back into hard labor, often for life.

Then came the great prison expansion, almost immediately after the successful passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In 1970, the American state and federal prison system held a total of 200,000 souls. By 2016, the state and federal prison system held 2.3 million, with another 6 million people on probation or parole and 68 million with some sort of criminal record (from "The Meaning of Life: The case for abolishing life sentences" by Marc Maurer, 2018).

Race is a social construct, as are criminal definitions. One man's misdemeanor is another man's felony, and, unfortunately, that one man, that one labeled a minority, is shackled and subjugated to those felonies, disproportionately subjected to prison and disenfranchisement. Nearly half of the American prison population

is serving life, or virtual life, sentences.

For far too long, these nefarious social constructs have been used to subjugate, marginalize and dominate people of color. It is past time to deconstruct these fallacies of human harm and damage and cut the chains that link old plantations to modern prisons. We have seen how civilized life is without plantations. Makes you wonder what life could look like without prisons. How about institutions that help people, institutions without cages, to self improvement and betterment?

Delbert Williams is a pseudonym for an incarcerated writer who describes himself as a "repentant prisoner who has been incarcerated for three decades. He makes amends by mentoring youth within the [prison] facility [where he is housed] and donating money to youth organizations."



Joshua W. Sprague 53922
P.O. Box 14
Concord, N.H. 03302-0014

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm sending this letter to your organization becu
feel as though prison is not being well represented or
he have no voice. I think the biggest reason behind th
because no one seems to think about the criminal justice
not until they're stuck in it, and at that point, now n
feign...Now you can't be trusted and you don't matter.
probably deserve it, they'll say.

First of all, there is nothing fair about the just
system, when an alleged crime happens, anyone present a
time becomes one of two things... a witness or suspect.
help the cops and prosecution to convict someone else,
a witness. If you decide to "plead the 5th", now you're
and you get charged as well.

Even though there are laws in place that strictly
any attorney from offering anything of "value" to a wit
for their testimony, which includes money, a promise or
else, this is still a routine practice. The prosecution
has time with the paperwork after the trial, so legally
can deny it.

"Anything of value," what is of more worth, more v
than your freedom? Than your life? I can only imagine,
cases would go much differently if a defense attorney c
offer witnesses the same promise, to tell "their" side
story, instead of the States. This is why over 95% of c
are convictions through plea-bargain, because there is
in a game that is so fixed.

Even with this atrocity going on in the criminal j
system, there's more. Sentence disparity. A manslaughter
conviction in the State of California will get you four
in the State of New Hampshire, the same crime will get
years. By this, legislators are stating that the value
life is 26 years different between the two. Is a person
Hampshire worth that much more than one in California?

Then of course even within the State, the same iss
It is very evident, that when it comes to what an indiv
"deserves" for a sentence, it is not a matter of mitiga
evidence or culpability. It just depends on the prosecu
mood or how they feel about the aggression you have let
with. Same goes for the Judge. It's about your race, or

Class, or what you look like through their eyes. And most times,
it's about the money you have.

As an example, here in New Hampshire, when the law changed
for sentencing juveniles to life without parole sentences, it
affected four of five people. Two of them individuals live
in my unit. One of them was a well off white kid. He killed
two people. At resentencing he received 20 to life for each
murder. The other guy is a very dark Spanish kid and poor. He
killed one person. At resentencing he received 45 to life. He
received more time for one homicide than the other guy did for
two. How can that be?

Or how about myself? I received a life without parole
sentence for a crime I committed after being awake or -----
and alcohol for six days without sleep. After three I
robberies against me, I mistook a cell phone for a g
instinctively shot a man out of nothing more than self
preservation. The same mistake that police officers i
the time in this country. It's always justified for a
officer, even though they routinely do this... the el
after having gone through the academy, having been in
deal with these situations. They still make this same
in judgment. Why is a civilian expected to react bett
no training, and while intoxicated? Why are they held
standard than a trained police officer?

Another case. A guy in this same unit, he also i
without parole sentence. His crime? Raping, mutilati
killing an eleven-month old baby boy, and taking part
the incident. Why do we have the same sentence? Gosh
should be no death penalty. How can a Country which
so proud to kill, sentence people to be killed? It's a
hypocritical. If it's wrong for a civilian to kill hi
the same should apply for the Government's enemy.

If the death penalty is wrong, that means the s
sentence would be life without parole... which is als
fundamentally wrong. Life without parole is a death i
a very slow one, but never the less, that sentence is
the rest of our life. There is nothing humane about i
actually worse. If it's a living death sentence, back to
why would someone with my case, have the same senten
else that has such a heinous crime against a baby? Th
the legislature are saying we deserve an equal penalt
we, having instinctively and accidentally about another
who was a felon, on parole, selling drugs, with stoli
on his, trying to rob people and having sex with a m
deserves the same punishment as this other man, who i
caped, beat, mutilated and killed an 11-month old bab
An 11-month old baby boy, the most innocent, defense
on the planet? How can this situation exist in a w

supposedly "equal"? Those crimes are nowhere near equal. Why
do they have the same sentence? And how can we even expect
anything to change for us? We are the poor, the forgotten and
the thrown away. We have no power to change rules or laws that
we never agreed to follow in the first place. It's the rich
and powerful that are in control. And they make the rules for
the rest of us. Democrat, Republican, it's the same, because
no one wants to "be" the poor and misfortunate.

People in Government say they want to help the poor? Have
they ever been the poor? Have they ever gone an entire New
England winter without heat? Lived entire summers at a campsite
with no living-room couch out there? Have they faced such
reject as a child to have a babysitter overdose and die in
the living room? Have they ever lived without running water,
or made their meals (child only) to a food pantry? Or sent for
by the State as a child for severe abuse? Do you know where
those kids and old Foster care, then group homes, then the Y
Center, then prison, Youth Centers prime kids for jail and pr
You're quickly turned into a number, and then abused by the
staff.

One of the big problems is that men cannot rule over men
Power corrupts. Always has, always will. Remember the Stanfo
project? Take all this police brutality movement going on ri
now. You could fire every cop in America, hire random people
to fill the position... in 18 months, they will all be doing
the same thing. If being a police officer is "too "serve", wh
are they not possible very dirty then they could be polled,
polygraphed, and sent to the academy... in a year, kick them
loose. That way, they get out before the power corrupts them.

Sentencing too, the same science behind what changed 11
sentences for 18 and under proves that the human brain is no
fully developed until the age of 25. Why doesn't that matter
in court? People are not the same at 23 as at 33. So why is
this not a factor? Why is this not a factor? Wouldn't it mak
more sense to have it be a direct reflection of your age?

If you take a life at 16 years, the maximum sentence to
be given is not more than 16. If you take a life at 20 years,
the max sentence to be given is not more than 20 years, and so
on. Because you should be more controlled as your brain devel
and every, the sentence goes up with it.

Right now, it's just based on how you "look" to a Judge
or prosecutor... how they "feel" that day. You could resemble
this nephew and because of that, you could receive a lower
could send them of someone who lives next door that plays
the music too loud, and get an extra 5 years. Power corrupts
and no one is free... everyone's in chains and is just told

they're free, but as soon as an authority figure says the word
"security", the Government is allowed to do anything they want.
Just look at the Patriot Act.

"White privilege"? It's "rich privilege", that's the
problem, ask any poor person in this country, it doesn't matter
what color you are. "Privilege" is for the rich and always has
been. It's ironic that a Country that started over "freedom"
has become the very devil it ran from. We're supposed to be a
progressive nation. What is so progressive about a nation that
doesn't even give second chances to its own citizens? When a
felon has done their time, but can't get a job because of a
background check? Or an apartment because of a background check?

The only thing "progressive" about the prison system,
the inhumane mistreatment of homosexual behavior, not onl
has the D.O.C. eliminated all medical visits across the so
with the exception of rape four states. Also, we cannot h
naked pictures of our own wife, but allow you to buy porn
relationship. In this prison, you're not even allowed
leave your spouse in the visiting room, under the watchdog
of cameras, Correctional officers, and with the threat of i
nobody corner to detect any contraband. At the same time the
took leaving away, the prison simultaneously started allow
men here to buy makeup.

Makeup was invented to make women more appealing... or
desirable... more attractive, the Women's prison in Massach
Doner's men sell makeup to the women. So why is it being i
to transsexual men in prison? While simultaneously removing
any signs of affection between a man and a woman in a visit
room?

These men openly "date" in here, and it's ignored by a
It's hard enough to make a relationship work from prison. I
now prison rehabilitates us in every way. Hearing families ar
by discouraging people to visit, through applying a miserab
expectation.

The very idea of prison is inhumane. To lock another p
in chains. To cage them like an animal, speaks volumes to a
mistake really is. We are the slave of society. Once convic
us in chains and solitary. Slavery was not abolished like p
can be forced to work for free. If we refuse, they can
... it was reemphasized to convicted people.
why the prison industry is so big. There is so much money i
and the US is literally making more money off of the prison
with enslaving us? Why? Because a corrupt system said we d
something wrong? Are people even aware that the narrative is
any story is always written by the powerful? Because the po



always win... and winners are the writers of history. It's not
like people in here earn freedom from these places through
day. But that's their faith, not ours. We need something to
hate, and we're it. Only people are likely to be hating someone
with a severe mental illness, there is not hating a truly evil
criminal!!! because truthfully, there isn't a lot of truly evil
criminals... that's just what T.V. shows, and movies and the
media brainwash you to think. People want a villain, they want
someone to hate. Everyone wants a bad guy to hate, so they don't
have to dwell on the bad guy within themselves. But most of
us are not "bad guys", we're just people that made a mistake.
Just like anyone else can make a mistake. No one cares until
they're sitting right where I am, and when that day comes, they
one will hear them either. America, land of the free, home of
the innocent.

I'm hoping that this letter will pique your interest in
our plight, and you will allow me to call you so we can discuss
this and suggest and maybe come to what could be a better and
more humane solution.

Sincerely,

Joshua W. Sprague

The letter pictured above and transcribed below
is from Joshua Sprague, an incarcerated writer at
New Hampshire State Prison in Concord.

I'm sending this letter to your organization
because I feel as though prison is not being well
represented or heard. We have no voice. I think
the biggest reason behind this is because no one
seems to think about the criminal justice system.
Not until they're stuck in it, and, at that point, no
one will listen to them either. Now you're a criminal.
Now you can't be trusted and you don't matter. You
probably deserve it, they'll say.

First of all, there is nothing fair about the justice
system. When an alleged crime happens, anyone
present at the time becomes one of two things:
a witness or a suspect. If you help the cops and
prosecution to convict someone else, you're a
witness. If you decide to "plead the 5th," now
you're a suspect and you get charged as well.

Even though there are laws in place that strictly
prohibit any attorney from offering anything of
"value" to a witness for their testimony, this is still
a routine practice.

"Anything of value." What is of more worth, more
value, than your freedom? Than your life? I can
only imagine that cases would go much differently
if a defense attorney could offer witnesses the
same promise. This is why over 95% of cases are
convictions through plea bargains. There is no
choice in a game that is fixed.

Even with this atrocity going on in the criminal
justice system, there's more. Sentence disparity. A
manslaughter conviction in the state of California
will get you four years. In the state of New
Hampshire, the same crime will get you 30 years.
Is a person in New Hampshire worth that much
more than one in California?

Then, of course, even within the state, it is
evident that when it comes to sentencing, it is
not a matter of mitigating evidence or culpability.
It just depends on the prosecutor's mood or the
impression you left them with. Same goes for the

judge. It's about your race or your class, or what
you look like through their eyes. And most times,
it's about the money you have.

As an example, here in New Hampshire, when
the law changed for sentencing juveniles to life
without parole, it affected two guys in my unit.
One of them was a well-off white kid. He killed
two people. At resentencing he received 20 years
to life for each murder. The other guy is a very
dark Spanish kid and poor. He killed one person.
At resentencing he received 45 to life. He received
more time for one homicide than the other guy
did for two. How can that be?

There is no choice in a
game that is fixed.

Or how about myself? I received a life without
parole sentence for a crime I committed after
being awake on drugs and alcohol for six days.
After I'd been robbed three times, I mistook a
cellphone for a gun and instinctively shot a man
out of nothing more than self-preservation. The
same mistake that police officers make all the time
in this country. It's always justified for a police
officer. Why are we held to a higher standard than
a trained police officer?

Another case: A guy in this same unit, he also has
a life without parole sentence. His crime? Raping,
mutliating and then killing a baby. Why do we
have the same sentence? How can this situation
exist in a system that's supposedly "equal"?

And how can we even expect anything to change
for us? We are the poor, the forgotten and the thrown
away. The rich and powerful are in control and they
make the rules. Democrat, Republican, it's the same.

People in government say they want to help the
poor? Have they ever been the poor? Have they
ever gone an entire New England winter without
heat? Lived entire summers at a campsite with the
living room couch out there? Have they faced such

neglect as a child to have a babysitter overdose and
die in the living room? Have they ever lived without
running water, or been displaced as a child for
severe abuse? Do you know where those kids end
up? Foster care, then group homes, then the Youth
Center, then prison. Youth centers prime kids for
jail and prison. You're quickly turned into a number
and then abused by the staff.

One of the big problems is that power corrupts.
Remember the Stanford Prison Project? Take all
this police brutality movement going on right now.
You could fire every cop in America, hire random
people to fill the positions... in 18 months they will
be doing the same thing. If being a police officer is
to "serve," why are they not polled like jury duty.
Then they could be polled, polygraphed and sent
to the academy and, in a year, kicked loose. That
way, they get out before the power corrupts them.

The very idea of prison is inhumane. To lock
another person in chains, to cage them like an
animal, speaks volumes to what mankind really is.
We are the slaves of society. Once convicted, we
can be forced to work for free. If we refuse, they
can put us in chains and in solitary confinement.
Slavery was not abolished like people think. It was
renamed, reassigned to convicted people.

Why is the whole country so content with
enslaving us? Why? Because a corrupt system said
we did something wrong? Are people not aware
that the narrative for any story is always written
by the powerful? Because the powerful always
win, and the winners are the writers of history. It's
not like people in here earn freedom from these
places through rehabilitation. That's got nothing
to do with it. People need something to hate, and
we're it. People want a villain, they want a bad guy,
so they don't have to dwell on the bad guy within
themselves. But most of us are not "bad guys."
We're just people who made a mistake. No one
cares until they're sitting where I am, and when that
day comes, they will call out for forgiveness and
mercy, but no one will hear them either. America:
Land of the free, home of the incarcerated.



Democracy 2020

LOCAL MEASURES THAT WILL SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY -- FOR BETTER OR WORSE

Election season is exhausting, adding hot air to an already unseasonably hot Fall. But even if you’ve given up on the presidential election, even if you’ve given up on the McConnell’s or Pelosi’s, we beg of you not to be so jaded as to ignore the important local measures that will have an immediate and direct impact on your communities.

Part of the strategy for election season is to induce exhaustion, to just overwhelm people with nonsense so that they allow November to come and go without exercising their voice. Do not allow this to happen. Voters this year have an opportunity to decriminalize marijuana in four states, meaning fewer future incarcerations and an opportunity for people currently languishing in prison for using marijuana to apply for resentencing. This year, voters have the power to strike “slavery and involuntary servitude” from their state constitution, and remove the confederate symbol from the Mississippi flag. And as loudly as they can cry YES to these crucial reforms, voters can also say NO to criminal justice reform rollbacks that are proven to reduce the prison population and increase public safety. They can say NO to amendments that will make it harder for citizens to initiate ballot measures and impede direct access to democracy.

Check your voter registration status at www.usa.gov/voter-registration. If you are on probation, on parole, incarcerated in a county jail or incarcerated in state prison in Maine or Vermont, you may still be able to vote. Check with your local Secretary of State or contact any All of Us or None chapter to see if you are eligible and how to get your ballot. This November, vow to make an impact and vote like your life depends on it. Because this year, it truly does.

OREGON

Measure 110
Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative

When we talk about “defunding the police,” Measure 110 is a good example of what part of that might look like. A YES vote on Measure 110 supports making personal non-commercial possession of a controlled substance no more than a Class E violation (max fine of \$100) and establishing a drug addiction treatment and recovery program funded in part by the state’s marijuana tax revenue and state prison savings. The latter includes all the money the state would save from reductions in arrests, incarceration, and official supervision -- an estimated \$24.5 million over a two-year period.

CALIFORNIA

Proposition 16
Repeal Proposition 209 (Affirmative Action ban)

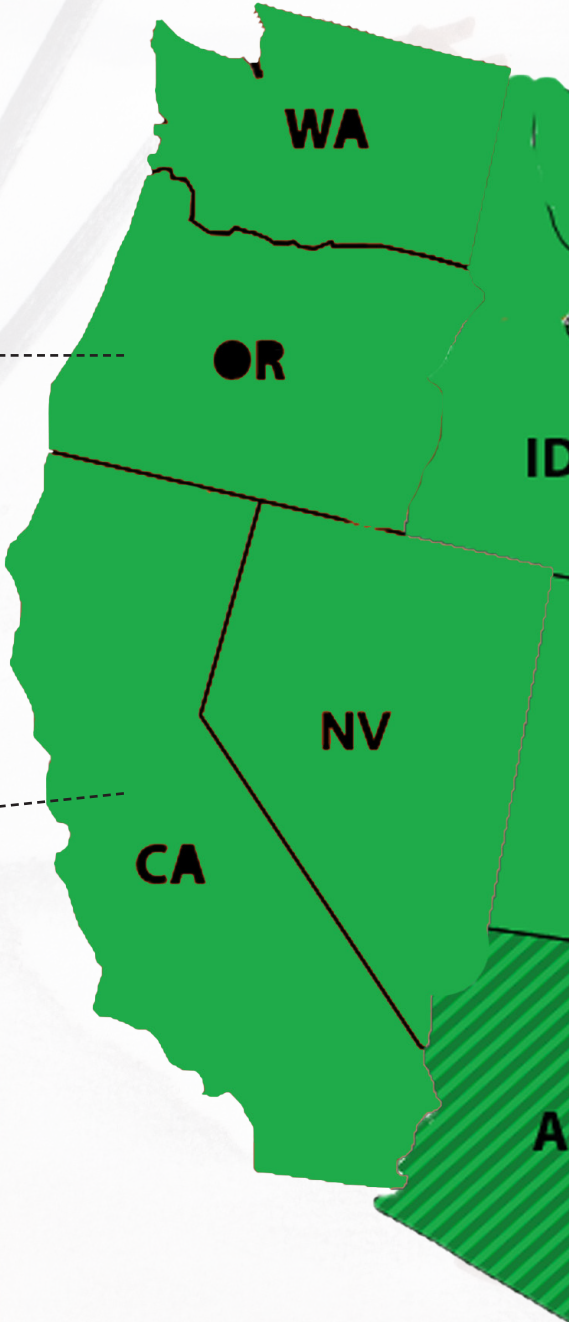
A YES vote on Proposition 16 is a vote for true equality. If approved by voters, Prop 16 would lift California’s ban on affirmative action. California is one of only nine states that bans affirmative action as a tool to fight discrimination. By restoring affirmative action, we can end discrimination in hiring, employment, contracting, and education for women and people of color.

Proposition 17
Free the Vote Initiative

A YES vote on Proposition 17 would restore voting rights to Californians on parole. Felony disenfranchisement silences 50,000 people in California who have completed their sentences. When they have a say in their future and the future of their children, our democracy becomes stronger. Restoration of voting rights also leads to an increase in public safety. In 20 states where people on parole can vote, the recidivism rate is lower than the rate in California. Felony disenfranchisement emerged from Jim Crow laws that sought to suppress the vote of minorities in this country. By voting YES on Prop 17, California can cut ties with systemic racism.

Proposition 20
Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative

A NO vote on Proposition 20 rejects an attempt to roll back significant gains in making the justice system more equitable. The non-partisan Legislative Analyst’s Office forecasts that Prop 20 will cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars per year on prison spending, while rolling back effective, proven criminal justice reforms that voters have already passed. It poses to cut back on rehabilitative programs in prisons as well as mental health programs proven to reduce recidivism rates. It would also cut significant victim support programs. Former Gov. Jerry Brown said this about Prop 20: “Prop. 20 wants to basically eliminate all hope in the prison. Men who have given decades will have no chance to earn their way back to society. And that’s fundamental to any kind of criminal justice system that while you impose punishment, you make room for redemption and rehabilitation in the prison.”



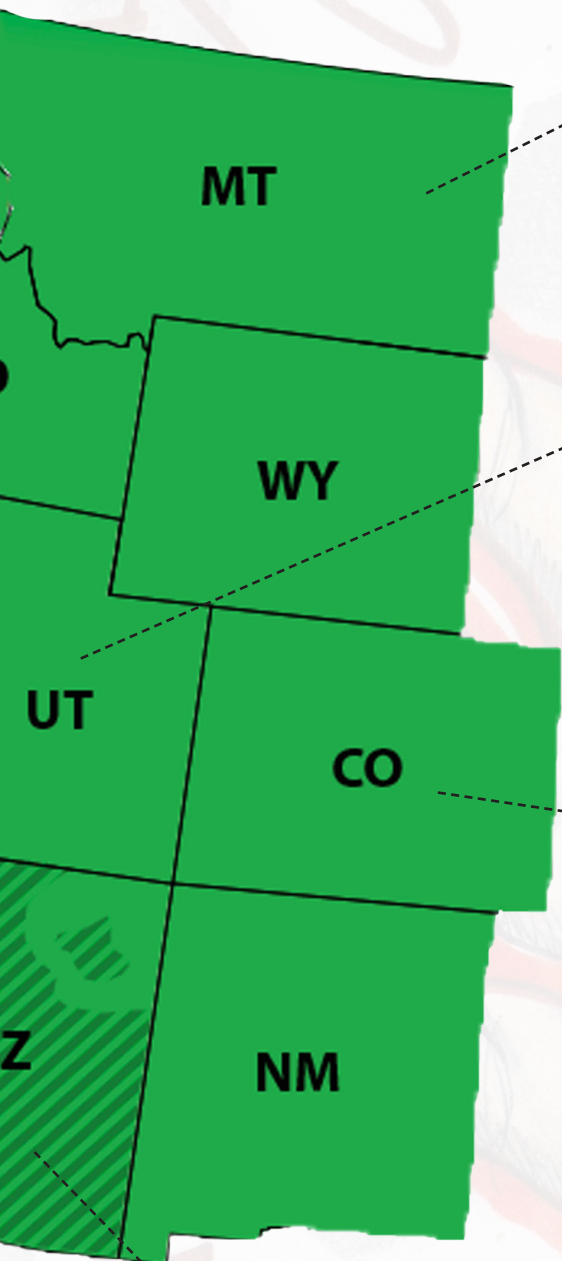


ABOUT THE ARTIST: FEATURE STORY BACKGROUND

The background image for our feature spread this month was drawn by Minister Chavelo Borden, an artist incarcerated at New York State Prison in Buffalo. Borden and a group of comrades have started the A Touch of Love campaign, which he describes as such:

The A Touch of Love campaign is a campaign to end hostilities, hate and war within our national communities and social groups. As we embrace solidarity nationally, our goal collectively is to bring new energy to the forefront of our lives as we come together and share our stories, testimonies, and words of encouragement for the greater good. The campaign is 100% voluntary and volunteers are being sought nationally for aid in the furthering of this campaign. Everyone deserves A Touch of Love. Love is a conqueror. Let's prove it... together!

To learn more about Borden's campaign, email ChaveloBorden@yahoo.com.



MONTANA

**Initiative 190
Marijuana Legalization and Tax Initiative**

A YES vote for I-190 supports the decriminalization of marijuana in Montana. This initiative seeks the legalization of marijuana for adults over the age of 21, imposing a 20% tax on marijuana sales. It would also allow for the resentencing or expungement of marijuana-related crimes.

UTAH

**Amendment C
Remove Slavery as Punishment from Constitution**

By voting FOR Amendment C Utahns have the chance to end the injustice of slavery in the state once and for all. In 2019, State Representative Sandra Hollins sponsored H.J.R.8, which strikes down the exemption clause allowing for slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime. Both the Utah House and Senate passed it unanimously, setting it up for Utahns to vote for the amendment in 2020. A FOR vote will signal that this immoral and outdated language is no longer acceptable in the state's most important legal document. It also properly aligns Utah's constitutional language with the values of its citizens.

COLORADO

**Proposition 113
National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Referendum**

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is a group of states that have pledged their electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote, with the intention of nullifying the Electoral College. In order to do so successfully, the group would need to be composed of states totalling 270 electoral votes. Colorado, which has nine electoral votes, joined NPVIC in March 2019, when Senate Bill 42 passed out of the legislature and was signed into law by the governor. It was put on the ballot after a referendum petition was filed by Mesa County Commissioner Rose Pugliese and Monument Mayor Don Wilson. A YES vote on Prop 113 would codify the state legislature and governor's decision to join the NPVIC and give the state's nine electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote once the compact reaches the required threshold of 270.

ARIZONA

**Proposition 207
Marijuana Legalization Initiative**

A YES vote on this ballot initiative would legalize the possession and use of marijuana for persons who are at least 21 years old, enact a tax on marijuana sales, and require the state Department of Health and Human Services to develop rules to regulate marijuana businesses. Prop 207 would also allow anyone convicted of certain marijuana-related crimes related to possession, consumption, cultivation, and transportation to petition for the expungement of their criminal record starting on July 12, 2021. Former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington, a Republican, has endorsed the measure, saying, "Today the evidence is overwhelmingly clear: criminalizing law-abiding citizens who choose to responsibly consume marijuana is an outdated policy that wastes precious government resources and unnecessarily restricts individual liberty."



MIDWEST

NORTH DAKOTA

Initiated Constitutional Amendments Approval (SCR 4001)
A NO vote on this initiative opposes the use of legislative power to overrule the voice of the people. Through Senate Concurrent Resolution 4001, state senators hope to dilute voter power by requiring any citizen-initiated constitutional amendment passed by voters to be submitted to the legislature for approval. Should the legislature reject the people’s decision, it is placed on the ballot again and becomes effective only if approved by voters a second time. A NO vote rejects the assertion that legislators can veto the voice of the people they’re meant to represent.

SOUTH DAKOTA

**Constitutional Amendment A
Marijuana Legalization**
A YES vote supports a constitutional amendment to legalize the recreational use of marijuana and require the South Dakota State Legislature to pass laws providing for the use of medical marijuana and the sale of hemp by April 1, 2022. Interestingly, this initiative was filed by Brendan Johnson, former U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota.

NEBRASKA

**Amendment 1
Remove Slavery as Punishment from Constitution**
Nebraska voters have an opportunity to abolish slavery in all forms by voting FOR “A constitutional amendment to eliminate slavery or involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime” (it’s a mouthful, we know). In 2019, the Nebraska legislature unanimously passed a constitutional amendment to eliminate slavery from the state constitution. In 2020, voters in Nebraska have the chance to finish the job. Voting FOR the amendment will remove the exception clause that allows slavery as punishment for a crime. That means the state constitution will simply say: There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in this state.

OKLAHOMA

**Question 805
Criminal History in Sentencing and Sentence Modification**
A YES vote supports the prohibition of outdated and harmful sentence enhancements. Question 805, if passed, would prohibit criminal courts from using a person’s past non-violent felony convictions to impose a greater (enhanced) sentence when sentencing a person convicted of a non-violent felony. This initiative also provides for sentence modifications for eligible individuals serving or set to serve sentences that were enhanced based on past felony convictions. This is essential legislation in a state that incarcerates its citizens at a rate of roughly 70% longer for property crimes and 79% longer for drug crimes compared to elsewhere in the nation.

MISSISSIPPI

State Flag Referendum
A YES vote for this referendum would replace the current state flag with one absent of the confederate symbol. This is a far cry from something like removing slavery from the state constitution, but it is a significant recognition and rejection of slavery by voters in the state.

MICHIGAN

**Proposal 2
Search Warrant for Electronic Data Amendment**
A YES vote for Proposal 2 supports a constitutional amendment to require a search warrant to access a person’s electronic data and electronic communications. This constitutional amendment passed out of the state legislature with unanimous, bipartisan support. “Information stored in your cellphone or personal computer is no different than the paper document stashed in your home file cabinets and desk drawers,” the Detroit News editorial board wrote in support of the proposal. “Government should have a very sound reason to peek at that information, and should have to explain the reason to a judge.”



KENTUCKY

**Constitutional Amendment 1
Marsy’s Law Amendment**
A NO vote on Constitutional Amendment 1 would keep Kentucky’s already robust victims rights intact without adding problematic expansions that infringe upon due process. Kentucky is asking voters to add Marsy’s Law to the state’s constitution. However well intentioned, the so-called victim’s bill of rights law has drawn criticism from defense attorneys, prosecutors and even victims rights advocates. According to a report by the Marshall Project in 2018, “prosecutors and victims’ rights groups complain that its provisions can hinder investigations and dilute services for people who need it most. Defense attorneys argue it upends the presumption of innocence, giving alleged victims a say before it has been established that there was a crime in the first place.”



EAST

RHODE ISLAND

Question 1
Name Change Amendment

A YES vote supports amending the Rhode Island Constitution to remove “Providence Plantations” from the official state name. It currently appears in the state’s Oath of Officers and Article IX (Commissions). Similar to the Mississippi flag proposition, this symbolic gesture could have larger implications should it pass. Rhode Island Rep. Anastasia Williams said in support, “When you have more than 10,000 Rhode Islanders showing up in a pandemic for a march calling for an end to police brutality and to affirm that Black Lives Matter, we can take this ugly, painful word out of the name of our beautiful state.”

NEW JERSEY

Public Question 1
Marijuana Legalization Amendment

Question 1 is the first legalization measure that a state legislature has referred to voters. In Illinois and Vermont, the state legislatures passed bills to legalize marijuana. The other nine states (and D.C.) that have legalized marijuana did so through the ballot initiative process, in which campaigns collected signatures to place their issues before voters. There is no initiative process in New Jersey.

FLORIDA

Amendment 4

Require Constitutional Amendments to be Passed Twice Initiative
It’s ironic that the initiative to have voters jump through additional hoops to make constitutional changes is on the ballot with the same amendment designation as the 2018 measure that restored voting rights to 1.4 million returning citizens in Florida. The 2020 version of Amendment 4 does the opposite: It makes democracy less accessible, and this time for all Floridians. It does this by requiring voter-approved constitutional amendments to then win a supermajority at a second general election to become effective. As it stands now, constitutional amendments initiated by citizens (such as the 2018 Amendment 4), become effective once they win a supermajority vote. According to the Orlando Sentinel Editorial Board, “If No. 4 passes, back-to-back campaigns would become far too expensive for grass-roots organizations that want to change the constitution, while the opponents would get an automatic do-over. Citizens would be thrown out of the amendment ballgame, and the backers of No. 4 know that.”



A young girl at an All of Us or None rally in Wisconsin. Photo courtesy Caliph Muab-el



CHAPTER UPDATES

All of Us or None chapters are working to GET OUT THE VOTE!

BELOW: AOUON Los Angeles/Long Beach helped register voters and promote Proposition 17. RIGHT: AOUON St. Louis canvased neighborhoods to help people register to vote.



LEFT: Darryl Poole (white t-shirt) with his family, all decked out in “Yes on 17” masks. Darryl spent 30 years in California state prison. Today he is a taxpayer who contributes to society and advocates for restoring voting rights to formerly incarcerated individuals—but is denied the right to vote himself. CENTER: Tia Ryans, President of All of Us or None Northern New Jersey at a voter registration event. RIGHT: All of Us or None Orange County at a voter registration and information action.

Vote YES on CA Proposition 17 this November and restore voting rights to 50K Californians on parole

FREETHEVOTE
freethevote2020.org





RESOURCES & EVENTS

**CORONAVIRUS
RESOURCES**

SUPPORTING DIRECTLY AND SYSTEM-IMPACTED PEOPLE DURING CRISIS
<https://www.beyond-prisons.com/covid19>

SAFETY MANUALS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN STATE, FEDERAL AND CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
prisonerswithchildren.org/Coronavirus

COVID-19 MUTUAL AID (NEWARK, NJ)
<https://www.allofusornone-northernnj.com/covid-19-newark-mutual-aid>

OUR STATE CONSTITUTIONS ARE NOT SYMBOLIC DOCUMENTS, THEY ARE LIVING DOCUMENTS THAT FORM THE BASIS FOR ALL OF OUR LAWS. THE LANGUAGE THAT REMAINS IN OUR CONSTITUTIONS PERMITTING SLAVERY IS IMMORAL AND WE MUST REMOVE IT.

**ABOLISH
SLAVERY
NATIONAL
NETWORK**

JOIN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT TO END SLAVERY IN AMERICA
LEARN MORE AT [ABOLISHSLAVERY.US](https://abolishslavery.us)

ALL OF US OR NONE
YES ON PROPOSITION 17
VOTER REGISTRATION
GUEST SPEAKERS
DJ OPEN MIC & MORE

FLORIN SQUARE
2251 Florin Road, Sac 95822

**FREE THE
VOTE 2020**
FREE THE PEOPLE
ON PAROLE TO VOTE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020 | 1pm to 4pm

ENTERTAINMENT • FREE FOOD & DRINKS • MEDIA & COMMUNITY BOOTH

Logos: FREEDOM YOUTH, DECARCERATE SACRAMENTO, TTP, STREET TEAM, BLACK ZEBRA PRODUCTION, RISE, Sacramento Homeless Union

JUSTICE2JOBS

JOIN US & SETUP A BOOTH: (209) 762-0850

JOIN

Participatory Defense

ON zoom

Link: <https://bit.ly/2zJelTN>
Password: 1MybWU

A community organizing model for people facing charges, and to help communities impact the outcomes of cases and transform the landscape of power in the courtroom.

**EVERY FRIDAY
6 PM - 7 PM**

FIGHTING WITH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM THE CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEM.

Logos: Starting Point, Inc., PARTICIPATORY DEFENSE MOVEMENT, ALL OF US OR NONE

ALL OF US OR NONE
TODOS O NADIE

**All of Us or None
Monthly VIRTUAL
Membership
Meeting**

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY
6:30pm to 8:30pm PT
<http://bit.ly/AOUONGeneralMeeting>

All of Us Or None

Slave, who is it that shall free you?
Those in deepest darkness lying.
Comrade, only these can see you
Only they can hear you crying.
Comrade, only slaves can free you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

You who hunger, who shall feed you?
If it's bread you would be carving,
Come to us, we too are starving.
Come to us and let us lead you.
Only hungry men can feed you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Beaten man, who shall avenge you?
You, on whom the blows are falling,
Hear your wounded brothers calling.
Weakness gives us strength to lend you.
Come to us, we shall avenge you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?
He who can no longer bear it.
Counts the blows that arm his spirit.
Taught the time by need and sorrow,
Strikes today and not tomorrow.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can't better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956)

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All of Us or None Membership Form

YES, I want to become a member of ALL OF US OR NONE!

Name & Number:

Institution:

Address:

County of Origin:

- ☐ I can organize & facilitate group meetings
- ☐ I can help with membership
- ☐ I can distribute materials & resources
- ☐ I can address & pass along feedback

Mail this form & any questions to: Willard Birts/AOUON
4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608