

## Who we are:

**Alabama Arise** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of congregations, organizations and individuals. Arise educates the public on how state and federal policies affect Alabamians living in or near poverty. Contributions to Alabama Arise are tax-deductible.

**Alabama Arise Action** has the same membership as Alabama Arise and promotes policies to improve the lives of low-income people. Alabama Arise Action employs a lobbyist at the State House. Contributions to Alabama Arise Action are not tax-deductible.



## Join Arise today!

Phone: (334) 832-9060

Website: [alarise.org](http://alarise.org)

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

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



## *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.

## 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

# 2019



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

*Arise members have chosen the following issues as policy priorities for 2019. 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 public investments in education, health care and child care help people do just that. Adequate state funding for Medicaid and other services is vital to remove barriers to opportunity for struggling Alabamians.

- 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 three states with no tax break on groceries.

- Arise will seek to untax groceries and rebalance our upside-down tax system.

## Public transportation

Alabama provides no state funding for public transportation, and its shortage of transit options keeps many people from meeting basic needs. State investment in public transit would create jobs and increase mobility and opportunity for many seniors, people with disabilities, and people who can't afford cars.

- Arise will seek dedicated state revenue for the Public Transportation Trust Fund.

## Payday/title lending reform

When low wages fail to cover the cost of living, many desperate borrowers turn to payday or auto title loans. But with Alabama law allowing annual percentage rates of up to 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.

## Automatic universal voter registration

Voting is the most fundamental way that individuals can make their voices heard in the democratic process. Many states have lifted barriers to voting by registering eligible people automatically when they apply for a driver's license or interact in other ways with public agencies. Alabama should do the same.

- Arise will promote an efficient process for Alabama to establish automatic universal voter registration.

## Criminal justice debt reform

Exorbitant court fees and fines take a heavy toll on many families in poverty. High cash bail for minor offenses can imperil families' economic security. And civil asset forfeiture policies allow police to seize a home, car or other property from people who have not been convicted of a crime – or even charged.

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

## Death penalty reform

Capital punishment is literally a life-or-death issue. Arise will support several reforms of Alabama's death penalty process, including more indigent defense funding, a moratorium on executions, and laws to bring the state 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.

## Endorsement issues

*Arise members also have endorsed these two issues in addition to our policy priorities:*

- Dedicated state revenue for the **Housing Trust Fund** to expand opportunities for affordable housing across Alabama.
- **Jail food funding reform** to end policies that provide financial incentives for sheriffs to underfeed incarcerated people.



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