POLICY OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Preventing Bankruptcy from Limiting Water Access
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Who We Are

The Roosevelt Institute, working to redefine the rules that guide our social and economic realities, is home to the nation’s largest network of emerging doers and thinkers committed to reimagining and re-writing the rules in their communities to create lasting change. Our members, organizing in 130 chapters in 40 states nationwide, partner with policy makers and communicators to provide them with clear, principled ideas and visionary, actionable plans. Our members are actively influencing policy on the local, state and national level – from introducing legislation on protections for LGBTQ youth to consulting with local governments on natural disaster flood prevention.

What You’re Holding

Now in its eighth year, the 10 Ideas series promotes the most promising student-generated ideas from across our network. This journal, which includes submissions from schools located from California to Georgia to New York, stands as a testament to the depth and breadth of our network of innovators.

Our 10 Ideas memos are selected for publication because they are smart, rigorously researched, and, most importantly, feasible. We want to see these ideas become a reality.

How You Can Join

As you explore these ideas, we encourage you to take special note of the “Next Steps” sections. Here, our authors have outlined how their ideas can move from the pages of this journal to implementation. We invite you to join our authors in the process. Contact us on our website or by tweeting with us @VivaRoosevelt using the hashtag #RooImpact.

Thank you for reading and supporting student generated ideas.

Together we will design the future of our communities, from towns to countries and all that lies in-between.
Dear Readers,

Young people are incredibly important to the American political process. Millennials and Generation Z now make up the same portion of eligible voters as the Baby Boomer generation. This emerging generation is also the most diverse in our nation’s history: Half of all eligible Latino voters in 2016 are between the ages of 18 and 35. We’re told we can make the difference every election, and candidates and elected officials ask for our votes, time, and money—but they don’t ask for our ideas.

**Young Americans continue to transform our economy and culture. Now it’s time for us to disrupt our political system.**

The *10 Ideas* journals, one of our oldest and most competitive publications, elevate the top student-generated policy ideas from across the country. In this year’s journals, you will find solutions to problems in places ranging from South Dakota to North Carolina to Oregon to New York. Whether seeking to make Pittsburgh an immigrant-friendly city or to reduce recidivism in the state of Massachusetts, the following proposals take a creative and locally focused approach to building opportunity for all.

Roosevelters are also committed to turning their ideas into action. Whether that means meeting with decision-makers, writing opinion pieces in their local papers, or organizing actions in their communities, we intend to see the solutions we propose become reality.

Why? As the generation that will inherit the world shaped by today’s decisions, we have the most to lose or gain. Involving the emerging generation in the policy process will lead to outcomes that benefit everyone. We believe it matters who rewrites the rules, and we have ideas for how to change them.

I hope you enjoy reading the proposals in this journal as much as we did.

Onward,

Joelle Gamble
*National Director, Network, Roosevelt Institute*
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Preventing Bankruptcy from Limiting Water Access

By Maggie DeHart and Kathryn Wissman,
Michigan State University

Thesis
Access to water should not be dependent on the wealth of a city or of an individual. The Michigan Legislature should vote to categorize water as an essential human right for all citizens and guarantee unhindered access to it. Measures should then be taken to unify Michigan’s water infrastructure while cutting costs for low-income households.

Background & Context
Michigan’s Local Financial Stability and Choice Act permits the governor to appoint emergency managers in times of critical financial need and allows those emergency managers to take almost uninhibited action to cut spending. In the past five years, the law has been applied in two major Michigan cities, Detroit and Flint. Flint’s emergency manager cut costs by using Flint River water rather than remaining on Detroit’s water system. As a result, Flint is suffering from dangerously low water quality. These cuts affect the poorest citizens, who cannot afford filtered water or even pay their current water bills, forcing them to drink water with lethal levels of lead. According to the EPA, the level of lead that warrants concern is 5 parts per billion and the average Flint citizen’s water was measured at 27 parts per billion. The quality of the city’s water had been compromised for nearly 18 months before health officials advised citizens not to drink it. Despite these problems, residents are being threatened with shutoffs if they do not pay their bills. This is a serious humanitarian issue that requires an immediate resolution.

Talking Points
- In an attempt to cut costs, Flint’s emergency manager has created irreparable health problems for the city’s residents, especially children.
- Both Detroit and Flint have shut off water to their residents, disproportionately affecting lower-income citizens.
- President Obama recently declared a state of emergency in Flint, bringing this issue into the national spotlight and demonstrating the urgent need for action.
- Our policy would attempt to address the inequality of water access in Michigan and its initial causes.
Policy Idea
Michigan legislators need to pass a bill declaring water as a human right for all citizens, including discounted rates for low-income citizens and bill forgiveness. A referendum to Public Act 436 of 2012 (Legislative Council, State of Michigan 2013) should be passed that prevents Emergency Managers from adjusting water infrastructure, raising water bills, or shutting off water to residents. The state of Michigan should work to standardize water infrastructure and source the safest water, not the cheapest. This includes replacing old pipes and connecting cities to the cleanest available water nearest them.

Policy Analysis
This policy would combat several of the main factors that contribute to Michigan's growing water problem, including the power of emergency managers to make adjustments to water infrastructure and policy that can have severe consequences for a majority of citizens. If the proposed solution is not enacted soon, the cost to both the state and the cities involved will be staggering. For example, in 2014, the city of Detroit hired a private contractor to carry out the task of physically shutting off residents’ water. Homrich, Inc., charged the city and its taxpayers $5.2 million. In Detroit, around 40 percent of residents had their water shut off by the city’s emergency manager in 2014. This plan would guarantee the rights of all citizens to fresh and clean water while also preventing water shutoffs for those who cannot afford water. In Flint, attempts to cut the cost of water have effectively made it non-potable.

KEY FACTS
- United Nations Resolution 64/292, enacted in 2010, declares that water is an essential human right.
- In 2014 and 2015, more than 120,000 accounts were shut off by the Detroit Department of Water and Sewage—roughly 40 percent of the city’s residential consumers.
- From fiscal years 2006 to 2014, the City of Detroit’s allotted budget for its water and sewage systems has been reduced by about $1.57 billion.
- The mass shutoffs in 2014 and 2015 cost the City $5.2 million in the form of a two-year contract with demolition contractor Homrich, Inc.
NEXT STEPS
The proposal would require support from the Michigan Legislature as well as the citizens of the cities that it would affect. Jim Ananich, whose state senate district includes the city of Flint, could be a valuable ally. Senator Ananich is currently the senate minority leader and has formally requested hearings to examine the Flint water crisis. He could be convinced to support an effort to resolve the issues as pressure from his district mounts. There are already citizen organizations in Flint and Detroit that would, through grassroots movements, support actions to guarantee safe and accessible water. These groups include the Detroit Water Brigade, the People’s Water Board, and the Coalition for Clean Water.
Building Public Trust with Transparent Campaigns
By Joshua Ferrer and Maria D. Rodriguez, Amherst, Whittier

Thesis
Increasing transparency encourages participation in elections and enhances political accountability, both of which are sorely needed in Illinois. Establishing a contribution reporting schedule tied to Illinois’s election dates would strengthen the state’s currently weak campaign disclosure laws, addressing the crisis of public trust in state government.

Background & Context
The American public consistently expresses concern over the influence of money in politics.¹ In order to build the public’s trust, legislators should enact policies that promote transparency. As the public trains its attention on political donations, campaign finance disclosure has proven to be a viable method of doing this.² Modern communication technology allows reporting to happen up to Election Day.³

This policy could have a particularly strong impact in Illinois, where public trust in government is the lowest in the nation by far.⁴ In a 2014 Gallup Poll, only 28 percent of residents reported trusting their state government “a great deal” or a “fair amount.”⁵ Low voter turnout rates in state and local elections, and it has created a toxic climate for politics and policy-making in Illinois.⁶⁷

Despite strengthening its election laws in recent years, Illinois maintains an egregious reporting loophole that undermines the logic of its disclosure regulations.⁸ Current reporting dates do not align with the dates of consolidated state and local elections.⁹ This loophole consistently allows over 20 percent of last-quarter political contributions to go unreported on Election Day.¹⁰ In the 2015 election, donations under $1,000 made between January 1 and March 31 did not have to be reported until a week after the election took place.¹¹ In 2016, this loophole will leave the public unaware until the following year of many donations made to candidates between October 1 and Election Day.¹² This loophole will allow unprecedented amounts of money to influence local elections without the public’s knowledge, further eroding trust.

Talking Points
- Strong campaign disclosure laws correlate with increased public trust.¹³
Implementing time-sensitive reporting dates could eliminate unreported last-quarter contributions.\textsuperscript{14}

A deficit of trust in Illinois has led to record-low election turnout throughout the state.\textsuperscript{15}

Mandating reporting dates tied to elections would put Illinois on par with other states with strong campaign finance laws.\textsuperscript{16, 17, 18}

The Policy Idea
One way to ensure transparency and gain the public’s trust is simple: provide full election reports aligned with election dates. We propose two election-sensitive reports in addition to the four quarterly reports required each year. One would be due a month before an election and would cover contributions received since the last quarterly report up to 72 hours prior to publication. The other would be due one week before an election and would cover all contributions received since the previous report up to 72 hours prior to publication.

Policy Analysis
Several states have similar disclosure policies that have informed the public without overburdening candidates. In Massachusetts, all contributions over $500 made in the two weeks leading up to Election Day must be reported within 72 hours of deposit.\textsuperscript{19} In Oregon, all contributions over $100 received in the final 30 days before an election must be reported within seven days of receipt.\textsuperscript{20} Alabama requires disclosure of contributions over $100 every week in the month before an election.\textsuperscript{21} In case legislators worry this would create an undue burden, Illinois election law only applies to campaigns that meet a minimum monetary threshold of $5,000, meaning only relatively large campaign organizations would have to follow this reporting protocol.\textsuperscript{22}

KEY FACTS

- Only 28 percent of Illinois residents trust their state government, the lowest of any state.\textsuperscript{26}
- On Election Day 2015, voters didn’t know about 22.4 percent of all donations made in the final reporting quarter.\textsuperscript{27}
- In Cook County, the City of Chicago, and Springfield alone, unreported donations on Election Day 2015 amounted to $4,224,676 out of $18,824,606 spent in the final quarter.\textsuperscript{28}
- In the 2016 general election, smaller contributions made between October 1 and November 8 will go unreported until the next year, January 7, 2017.\textsuperscript{29}
The emergence of instant online journalism has increased the possibilities and stakes of reporting. Just as donors can contribute more quickly than ever before, journalists can instantaneously report those donations—if strong disclosure policies are in place. Establishing election-sensitive reports would allow journalists to inform the voters about virtually all political contributions made to campaigns. This would be an important step forward, not only to increase transparency in elections, but also to regain sorely needed trust in Illinois’s government.

NEXT STEPS
In order to pursue policy implementation, we will connect with relevant stakeholders and legislators who can move our policy forward through the Illinois legislature. We have already reached out to Representative Will Guzzardi, a progressive leader, along with the Illinois branch of the Roosevelt Institute network and Illinois PIRG. All were very receptive to our policy idea. We have also received political advice from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform. We will seek support from Illinois Senators Julie Morrison and Matt Murphy and House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, who recently sponsored legislation reforming expenditure disclosures. We will reach out to other groups active in Illinois election reform, including the Citizen Advocacy Center and the League of Women Voters of Illinois, and will continue to work with our existing partners to move this policy forward. The first step toward implementation will be gaining endorsements from relevant organizations and getting a legislative sponsor for our policy.
Low-Income Single Mothers and Their Children: A Co-Housing/Co-Operative Hybrid Solution

By Samantha R. Galina, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Thesis
There is a profound scarcity of low-income housing for single mothers and their children living in North Carolina. A co-housing/co-operative hybrid would provide a cost-effective environment in which women would function as family units while emphasizing the importance of saving and homeownership.

Background
In 1937, the U.S. Housing Authority established the first public housing program. The original intent was to provide housing for those temporarily affected by the Great Depression. Currently, affordable housing serves the poor. The number of extremely low-income renters increased due to the Great Recession. From 2007 to 2011, their numbers grew from 9.6 million to 12.1 million, but only 6.8 million housing units were available. Additionally, the minimum wage adjusted for inflation has decreased by 30 percent since 1968. A combination of lower real wages and less affordable housing has created a housing crisis for low-income families. This is readily apparent in North Carolina, where, in 2013, 45.6 percent of the 1.7 million people living in poverty were single mothers with children.

A viable solution to break the cycle of poverty is the development of a co-operative/co-housing hybrid in Durham County, NC. Co-housing is an intentional community in which private living quarters surround shared spaces; there are more than 160 co-housing communities across 37 states in the U.S. Co-operatives are government-subsidized and residents do not have any equity in their units. In comparison, the hybrid model integrates the evidence-based results of each housing solution, removes the pitfalls, and generates long-term wealth accumulation strategies and habits by providing residents with government subsidies and limited equity while emphasizing communal living, shared responsibilities, and the pride associated with homeownership.

Policy Idea
The policy idea is a limited equity co-operative/co-housing hybrid specifically designed for low-income mothers in Durham County, North
Carolina. Prior to becoming residents, the mothers would need to agree to the terms of the hybrid. The families would live in single-family residences with bedrooms and bathrooms and share a communal kitchen, laundry room, and living room. The mothers would be divided into three groups, with each group assigned different responsibilities; these would include (1) cooking, cleaning, and chores; (2) childcare; and (3) outside employment. Income earned would be distributed equally among the families. The women would collectively save money to repay loans, emphasizing the importance of saving and homeownership. This model would also give mothers more quality time with their children rather than forcing them to invest time in all three sectors.

Policy Analysis
Homeownership and self-sufficiency are integral to ending the cycle of poverty. The children of homeowners are 33 percent less likely to give birth as unmarried teens, 35 percent less likely to receive welfare, and 62 percent more likely to complete postsecondary education.\(^5\) The HUD-sponsored program Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) targets low-income families and helps them work toward self-sufficiency by increasing their earnings. Job training can be accessed through the U.S. Department of Labor. Government grants can pay for short-term training or vocational school.\(^6\)

The hybrid is a more effective housing model than federally subsidized limited dividend and nonprofit housing. Co-operatives are economically sound; average operation costs were 15 percent lower than nonprofit housing and 35 percent less than the costs of limited dividend housing.\(^7\) Single mothers cannot supervise children while working; therefore, child

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**KEY FACTS**

- In Durham Country, 18.5 percent of the population lives in poverty.\(^{10}\)
- Statewide, 43 percent of children live in “low-income” families; 25 percent live in poverty.\(^{11}\)
- In 2013, 43.1 percent of single women with children in the U.S. made income below the poverty line.
- In 2013, single mothers headed 45.5 percent of households in North Carolina.\(^{12}\)
- North Carolina’s minimum wage is currently $7.25. $13.33 is the hourly wage necessary to afford a two-bedroom apartment at “Fair Market Rent” in North Carolina, which is more than 180 percent of minimum wage.\(^{13}\)
Children left unsupervised are 27 percent more likely in the future to get “drunk/high,” 28 percent more likely to “steal something,” and 24 percent more likely to “hurt someone.”

NEXT STEPS
The institution responsible for the change would be a nonprofit real estate developer focused on creating affordable housing for hard-working, low-income families. The nonprofit would borrow funds through HUD’s Mortgage Insurance for Rental and Cooperative Housing Section 221(d)(4). This program insures mortgage loans made by private lending institutions to facilitate cooperative housing projects. The U.S. Department of Labor would provide vital job and child care training in conjunction with local businesses. Key allies include the proposed community of Durham County, UNC Law School’s NC Poverty Research Fund, Durham Housing Authority, and Durham’s Homeless Shelter for Women and Mothers with Children. Such organizations are natural allies because they will benefit from a decrease in poverty, truancy, crime, substance abuse, and welfare recipients. Additionally, families receiving such services will benefit most directly from this policy through safer, more affordable places to live and access to child care while they work. Most importantly, this policy would strengthen community ties and encourage self-sufficiency.
Eliminating the TANF Asset Limit in the District of Columbia

By Stephanie Gill, George Washington University

Thesis
Government assistance should not only provide temporary financial relief but also encourage behaviors that will lift program recipients out of poverty. To reach these goals, the District of Columbia should eliminate the asset limit as part of eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and implement a financial services information program designed to encourage low-income families to save money and accumulate wealth.

Background and Context
Created in 1996 under the Clinton Administration, TANF is temporary cash assistance for families living in poverty.1 Starting in October 2016, recipients of TANF will lose their benefits completely once they reach a 60-month lifetime limit.2 TANF eligibility varies by state; D.C. currently relies on factors such as income and participation in a GED or job training program, in addition to an asset limit of $2,000 excluding household cars.3 While the purpose of TANF was to “end welfare as we know it,” D.C.’s asset limit creates paradoxical consequences.4 The asset limit can actually be a disincentive for families to save and accumulate wealth, as it threatens their eligibility.5 However, asset accumulation is greatly beneficial for families in poverty both in the short and long term, as it provides financial stability during emergency situations and fosters individual economic development.6 Encouraging families to save money while also receiving TANF benefits will help lift families out of poverty permanently, which is imperative given the new TANF time limits.

Talking Points
▶ Eliminating the TANF asset limit will not necessarily lead to an increase in the number of families receiving TANF.7
▶ Eliminating the TANF asset limit will also simplify the application process and reduce administrative costs.8
▶ Encouraging families to accumulate wealth and increase self-sufficiency will fulfill TANF’s goal of “[reducing] dependency” on the government for public assistance.9

Policy Idea
The D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) should eliminate asset limits for TANF eligibility and should actively encourage families to save and accumulate wealth by promoting financial literacy. The DHS should work with private banks to help families receiving TANF establish savings accounts.
accounts and collaborate with nonprofit organizations to provide resources such as financial education classes and financial coaching sessions.¹⁰

**Policy Analysis**

As of July 2014, eight states (Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia) have eliminated TANF asset limits.¹¹ D.C. should join them because it is not only equitable but also efficient to do so. States have found that eliminating the asset test actually reduced administrative costs, because time and money are not spent on verifying assets.¹² Resources spent on verifying assets were wasted, as few cases were denied due to excess assets.¹³ Furthermore, eliminating the asset test does not lead to a significant increase in the TANF caseload.¹⁴ In fact, the savings in administrative costs “far [outweigh] the cost of any additional caseload.”¹⁵ For example, while Virginia spent an additional $127,200 on TANF benefits after eliminating the asset limit test, it also saved $323,050 in administrative costs.¹⁶ States that eliminated the asset limit also streamlined the application process for applicants by reducing the amount of paperwork needed.¹⁷ Alternatives, such as raising the limit, are not as efficient because resources would still be spent on verifying assets.¹⁸ Ultimately, eliminating the asset limit could prove to be a cost-saving measure for D.C.

**KEY FACTS**

- Low-income families can and do save, albeit at slow rates, enough to gradually improve their social status.²⁰
- This policy would impact approximately 5,600 families in the District of Columbia.²¹
- 12 percent of families in D.C. do not have savings accounts, while 25 percent of families are underbanked.²²

**NEXT STEPS**

Ultimately, the D.C. City Council would have to pass legislation to implement this policy change. Throughout the process, working with the DHS and anti-poverty organizations would be imperative. Additionally, lobbying and gaining support from councilmembers would increase traction. Possible councilmembers to support or draft legislation include Yvette Alexander, chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services, and David Grosso, who is on the same committee and co-authored a progressive paid leave bill.¹⁹ Support from the private sector and their cooperation with financial literacy programs would ease the burden on the D.C. government. The public image benefits of participating in such programs would be an incentive for socially responsible banks. Advisory Neighborhood Commissions would also serve as valuable allies to host town halls and raise awareness and support for this policy change.
Expanding Absentee Voting: Removing Unfair Restrictions on College Voters

By Walter Hanley and Mario Gruszczynski,
Michigan State University

Thesis
To encourage student voter participation and expand democratic access in Michigan, the State should allow all registered student voters to obtain absentee ballots.

Background/Context
Democracy works best when all citizens have a say in the policies that govern us. Young people, however, are underrepresented in our politics—especially those students who have substantial commitments outside of the classroom. In local elections for the East Lansing City Council in November 2015, the five precincts on Michigan State University’s campus averaged a voter turnout rate of 1.15 percent. While those on campus represented 12.9 percent of registered voters, they accounted for only 0.7 percent of actual voters. This underrepresentation stems from the transient nature of college students, who float between their hometowns and universities. For example, the 2016 presidential primary occurred during Michigan State’s spring break, leaving students unsure of where they would be on Election Day. Rather than discouraging voting, Michigan should encourage students to have a larger role in our elections. Some states, such as Oregon, have taken steps to encourage their residents to participate in the democratic process by expanding absentee voting. Michigan should follow their lead in treating voting as a fundamental right and not a privilege.

Talking Points
► Students represent a disproportionately small share of our voting population.
► Given the unpredictable conditions under which college students vote, the government should undertake policies that encourage college students to engage in politics.
► Universal absentee voting for college students would provide much-needed flexibility in the voting process.

Policy Idea
The state of Michigan allows certain groups of voters to vote absentee without fault, such as senior citizens. The right to request an absentee ballot should be extended to all college students registered to vote in Michigan, even if they currently reside where they are registered. This would allow college students to have a more proportional role in state and local politics.

Policy Analysis
Easing the restrictions on absentee voting in Michigan would be a potent tool...
to address a key barrier to student election participation: access to the polls. Students registered to vote at school must find a way to get to the polls during a thirteen hour voting window, creating an unreasonable obstacle for college voters, especially those with work commitments. College students often have uniquely hectic schedules that keep them tied up for the entire voting window, such as those students who work at the while they carry a full credit load. These issues would be rectified by an absentee voting system that explicitly allowed student voters to vote by mail. Absentee status would give students certainty in their ability to vote, regardless of schedule or location on Election Day. Currently, Michigan state law only affords college students an absentee ballot if they plan on being out of town on Election Day. Instead, election law should encourage all college voters, especially those who plan on voting in the local elections.

A common argument against expanding absentee voting is an appeal to an increased risk of voter fraud. Increasing absentee voting, it is argued, increases the risk that votes will be coerced or fraudulently obtained. However, this argument ignores the astonishingly low rate of absentee voter fraud in the U.S. From 2000–2012, there were only about 491 cases of absentee voter fraud nationwide. In addition, the rate of absentee voter fraud varies independently of absentee voting access, casting further doubt on the correlation between absentee voting and rates of fraud.

**KEY FACTS**

- On Michigan State University’s campus, only about one in 100 registered voters actually casts a ballot.7
- While students on MSU’s campus make up nearly 12.9 percent of registered voters in the most recent election, they represent only 0.7 percent of voters.8
- States that expand access to no-fault absentee voting experience a long-term increase in voter participation.9

**NEXT STEPS**

Because election law is largely decided at the state level, this policy must be enacted through the Michigan legislature. A coalition must be formed among like-minded actors, such as college students and university groups focused on voter turnout. This coalition will be key in mobilizing allies and lobbying for this change. These allies understand that college students face unique difficulties in the voting process, and that action must be taken to ease those difficulties. Students should present their experiences to members of the state legislature. State representatives and senators who represent districts that include college campuses will be key targets in this effort. Their support will be instrumental in passing legislation and swaying public debate.
Get to Work: An Employer–Transit Partnership to Connect the Boroughs of New York City

By Robert Godfried, Sarah Esteban, Saba Mundlay, and Sarah Manney, Columbia, Hofstra, Wheaton, and Stanford

Thesis
In order to address the long commute times of low- and moderate-income (LMI) workers in New York City’s outer boroughs, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) should work with anchor institutions and innovative startups to analyze employee commute data and create better bus routes.

Background/Context
Between 1990 and 2008, residential, commercial, and industrial growth in the outer boroughs—Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island, and Brooklyn—has surpassed that in Manhattan by more than 30 percent.1 Unfortunately, transportation systems have not caught up, leaving dozens of burgeoning LMI neighborhoods disconnected from new centers of job growth.2 Within boroughs, transit times are often over an hour and can be highly unpredictable. These underserviced areas, termed transportation “deserts,” pose a distinct challenge for LMI workers who tend to face more rigid schedules and less job security. To empower these individuals economically and support job growth, the MTA must address the significant deficiency in inter- and intra-borough transportation.

Think tanks focused on public–private partnership, such as the Center for an Urban Future and the Pratt Institute, have called on the MTA to expand bus service in order to address this problem. Unfortunately, because of budget restraints and political stagnancy (not to mention a debt surpassing $34 billion), these well-researched proposals have been met with little action. Meanwhile, the MTA continues to pursue expansions in Manhattan while ignoring the needs of outer-borough residents.3 4 An explanation for this disinterest is that employers have minimal input in MTA bus route planning. A lack of employer involvement in route design wastes valuable knowledge about the demographics, schedule, location, and commutes of workers. Employer involvement in transportation planning can enhance route efficiency and job access.
Talking Points
- This plan will enable LMI commuters to get to work more efficiently.
- The MTA transportation network should be expanded in the outer boroughs.
- A competitive bidding system leads to the most effective routes.
- Employers, LMI workers, and the MTA have overlapping incentives to work together.

The Policy Idea
Through a public–private partnership between the MTA and anchor institutions (large institutions that drive local economies) in outer boroughs, we can harness employer data to design routes that best serve LMI workers. Then, in a partnership termed a Transit Service Contract (TSC), the MTA would allow employers to bid for prospective routes servicing their area. This partnership would be fueled by overlapping mutual incentives: Employers benefit from an expanded job pool and increased worker retention while the MTA achieves increased fare revenues and LMI ridership.

Policy Analysis
Employers possess detailed data about LMI commuters, including their residency demographics and route times, which the MTA currently doesn’t utilize when developing routes. The Employer–Transit Partnership would bridge this gap by connecting the MTA with valuable employer knowledge, allowing the MTA to learn how to best serve LMI workers and reduce their commute times. In return, employers would receive a host of benefits. As one major employer in northern Queens explains, “Improved mass transit would allow our expanding business to draw from a larger labor pool, improve our ability to attract and retain new workers and make us a more competitive manufacturer.”

Key Facts
- The Urban Mass Transportation Administration concluded that competitive contracting resulted in large reductions in operation cost, between 10 and 50 percent per unit of output.
- The average commute time is 52 minutes in Brooklyn and 69 minutes in Staten Island.
- In Staten Island, 29 percent of workers are low-wage earners; in Queens, 37 percent; in Brooklyn, 41 percent; in the Bronx, 52 percent.
The MTA’s incentives are also numerous. By setting targets for service provision for LMI workers in transportation deserts, the MTA can achieve a more expansive outer-borough transportation network. In addition, data shows that such routes could be highly profitable for the MTA: Ridership within the outer boroughs totals 1,671,815 riders per weekday compared to only 447,585 per weekday in Manhattan.\(^{11}\)

The current political climate is favorable toward such a proposal. Our policy connects the public–private partnerships endorsed by Governor Andrew Cuomo with Mayor Bill de Blasio’s call for transportation expansion in the outer boroughs.\(^{12,13}\) Specifically, our proposal would help to achieve Mayor de Blasio’s OneNYC goal that “in 2040, 90% of New Yorkers can access at least 200,000 jobs within 45 minutes by transit.”\(^{14}\) It would also satisfy Governor Cuomo’s focus on reducing costs through competitive application and use of specific employer knowledge.

**NEXT STEPS**

The New York City Council as well as the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) are the institutions responsible for implementing this policy proposal. Additional partners include agencies such as TransitCenter, which could gather more information and prove the feasibility of this project. Lastly, a grassroots operation could improve public relations and recruit LMI workers for the purposes of lobbying and winning City Council support for the bill.
To Protect and Serve: Enhanced Transparency and Training for Volunteer Law Enforcement

By Nathan Leys and Michelle Bennett, George Mason University

Thesis
Volunteer reserve police officers commonly operate with little accountability or preparation. Police departments should require equivalent training for armed reserves and regular police, and should improve transparency in their selection and oversight.

Background & Context
More than half of police departments nationwide rely on reserve officers, or unpaid and often unprepared volunteers who serve the same functions as regular police.¹ When budgets tightened after the Great Recession, departments turned to reserve officers, who almost never draw salaries.² As a result, reserve officers have moved beyond their original functions, such as directing traffic or completing paperwork, and begun conducting drug busts and armed patrols, exacerbating the risk of violent confrontation and mishandled justice for officers and citizens alike.³ Additionally, the prevalence among reserve officers of wealthy donors to police departments has raised questions of “buy-a-badge” or “pay-to-play” schemes.⁴ In fact, 69 percent of reserve officers are permitted to carry their weapons while off duty.⁵ Additionally, reserve officers are permitted to carry guns into weapons-free zones like schools where ordinary concealed carry licenses do not apply, and are sometimes exempted from other measures like bans on high-capacity magazines.⁶ ⁷ One Michigan attorney noted of his town, “Essentially, there are no prohibited areas whatsoever with this permit.”⁸ Occasionally, individuals have become reserves in towns they have never visited. The lack of restrictions on firearms for reserve officers, and the potential for pay-to-play arrangements, calls into question the charitable nature of at least some reservists’ donations. There are currently no national standards for how police forces use reserve officers, and the Department of Justice has not conducted a nationwide study since 2006, when it counted 400,000 reserve officers.⁹ ¹⁰ For comparison, the most recent Department of Justice Census of State and Local Law Enforcement counted approximately 765,000 sworn personnel.¹¹ With little public awareness, state and local departments have created a system in which at least a third of officers are not professionals. While the Black Lives Matter movement and related protests have raised much-needed awareness over systemic police brutality and created a political climate conducive to law enforcement agency reform, state and local communities cannot afford to ignore the dangers posed by opaque and unaccountable reserve officer programs.

Policy Idea
In order to ensure transparency and accountability from police forces, departments should take the lead on three main levels. First, the Los Angeles Police Department has an ideal model, creating a tiered system of reserve officers in which
only the top tier is allowed to carry weapons. This level of officers is composed solely of reserve officers who were previously full-time police officers or active-duty military. Further, any reserve officer with arrest powers or who is armed should receive the same training as full police officers. Finally, to prevent buy-a-badge schemes like those in Oakley, Michigan, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, donors to police departments should be ineligible to become armed reserve officers. Working in Fairfax County, VA, which has extremely lax requirements for reserve officer training, we hope to raise awareness of this issue and demonstrate the potential for reform in the home county of many national policymakers.

Policy Analysis
Following the events in Ferguson, much investigation and reform has occurred on a national scale. Unfortunately, reserve officers remain untouched by federal reform largely because the 10th Amendment devolves police powers to states and localities. Reform must occur on the local level, where departments not only have authority over their reserve officers, but also familiarity with the communities they protect. Policy alternatives focusing on police reform more generally do not address the specific issues regarding reserve officers. With police use of force under intensified scrutiny, many have called for enhanced police training. Research suggests more training would reduce police use of force overall—a widely-cited 2013 meta-analysis found a number of studies in which different professional development programs for police reduced violent interactions with civilians. But reserves may not benefit from improved training because they will not receive it in many places. For example, in Fairfax County, VA, where George Mason University is located, reserves receive just 120 hours of training compared to the 760 hours completed by the average regular police officer. As local departments reexamine traditional police training and introduce new methods like implicit bias training, reserve officers should be included in professional development.

Police training incurs small upfront costs but could save money down the road. Fairfax County’s Internal Affairs Bureau investigated 112 citizen complaint cases in 2014 alone. Given how expensive lawsuits and settlements can be for cities and police departments, including armed reserve officers in training programs would reduce the potential for costly litigation resulting from confrontations involving reserves.
Another potential alternative would be to simply strip weapons from reserve officers. However, this would be counterproductive and potentially dangerous; increases in the number of mass shootings and attacks on police make the presence of well-trained, responsible, and armed reserves beneficial for public safety in cases where full-fledged officers may not be immediately available.\textsuperscript{17,18} A more effective policy would be a department-level mandate that all reserve officers empowered to carry weapons and make arrests receive the same training as professional officers. Additionally, as more departments begin requiring armed officers to wear body cameras, reserve officers carrying weapons should be issued the same equipment and accompanying guidelines.

**Talking Points**

- Jurisdictions that accept contributions from and issue reserve officer badges to the same people create the potential for “buy-a-badge” schemes.
- Armed reserve officers are often not required to receive adequate training before being placed in communities.
- Local communities must ensure their own safety by demanding transparency and accountability from police department leadership.

**NEXT STEPS**

Next steps require contact with stakeholders on all levels. Each jurisdiction’s policies on reserve officers will be slightly different, but each state has branches of the ACLU and police unions. Although nongovernmental, these organizations are committed to defending the rights of civilians and police and should push local departments and government to protect both. Additional pressure needs to be placed on those with tangible authority within municipalities. For example, local candidates for sheriff’s offices—like Fairfax County’s sheriff, Stacey Kincaid—usually hold public forums or town halls where those interested in reform can ask questions about a candidate’s stance on reserve policing reform. Pressing this issue during election seasons forces local government officials and sheriffs to go on record during races. If adopted, Fairfax County police could potentially apply for an Edward Byrne grant, a federal justice assistance program. If necessary, the incoming money could enable the department to effectively improve its training.

Additionally, as this issue has remained quantitatively unexplored for too long, departments should be provided with best practices for the effective and appropriate use of reserves. To obtain this information, the Department of Justice must be petitioned to conduct a new nationwide survey of reserve officers. To increase momentum for federal fact-finding, reformers should consider pushing state representatives or municipal leaders for smaller-scale studies. At a campus level, university students should consider contacting their criminology departments about the possibility of speaking to students interested in a law enforcement career.
Rescuing Surplus Food from Landfills: Addressing Food Insecurity in Chicago

By Douglas Ortiz, Rahul Shah, and Jennifer Kim, DePaul, University of Georgia, and Cornell

Thesis Statement
In order to increase the capacity of food programs serving food insecure individuals in Cook County, the Chicago Department of Procurement Services (DPS) should require all city food contracts to be awarded to businesses that participate in the Food Rescue Programs of the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD).

Background
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Food insecurity is caused by low wages, poverty, unemployment, and high housing costs. For households with incomes near or below the federal poverty line, households with children headed by single parents, and Black- and Hispanic-headed households, rates of food insecurity are substantially higher than the national average. In Cook County, Illinois, more than 812,000 individuals, or 232,110 households, are currently food insecure. Chicago, in particular, makes up approximately 54 percent of the population of Cook County. Many of these individuals receive food assistance from the GCFD network of 650 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, mobile programs, children’s programs, and older adult programs.

The rate of food insecurity in Cook County is alarming and has been growing in recent years. In a 2014 study, 68 percent of GCFD programs reported an increase in the volume of clients seeking food assistance over the prior 12 months. As a result, 29 percent of the GCFD’s food pantries reported having to turn away clients, citing many reasons including the lack of food resources. Seventy-three percent of GCFD clients have reported having to choose between paying for food and paying for utility bills, and, with food pantries reporting shortages, a policy intervention is needed to tackle food insecurity in the county.

Talking Points
- 812,000 individuals in Cook County suffer from food insecurity and depend on the emergency food services and programs of the Greater
Chicago Food Depository, such as food pantries and soup kitchens.

- Over the last year, in the face of increasing demand for emergency food assistance, many of these food programs have had to turn away clients due to food shortages.
- In the United States, vast amounts of wholesome food are thrown away by various food outlets, including restaurants, caterers, and retail grocers.
- To increase food donations to emergency food assistance programs, the city of Chicago should leverage its purchasing power to require that food vendors participate in the GCFD’s Food Rescue Program in order to be awarded a city contract.

**The Policy Idea**
The DPS, which is responsible for the procurement of all goods and services for the City of Chicago, should leverage its purchasing power to require that all food contracts that it awards go to businesses that participate in the GCFD’s Food Rescue Program. This will allow the GCFD to rescue wholesome, edible food from many food outlets when it would otherwise have been thrown out.

**Policy Analysis**
Food rescue is the process of recovering wholesome, still-edible food by diverting it from landfills. Businesses throw away food for a variety of reasons unrelated to edibility, including labeling errors, aesthetic concerns, and inadequate storage. Chicago throws out 55 million pounds of food each month; much of this waste is generated by food businesses such as wholesalers, restaurants, and grocery retailers.

By diverting food to pantries, more food assistance can be provided to food-insecure communities. Benefits include increased worker productivity, better child development and performance in school, and better physical health.
and mental health as a result of mitigating food insecurity. Participating in food rescue programs can also benefit the vendors through existing tax deductions and reduced trash disposal. Food rescue also benefits the environment by reducing landfill waste and vehicle miles needed for food disposal.

Other solutions to fight food insecurity are politically difficult or costly to implement. For example, the House Budget Committee’s plan would slash SNAP benefits (federal food assistance for the poor) by $125 billion between 2021 and 2025, suggesting that increased federal spending of food assistance is unlikely. SNAP currently provides about $200 per household, but greater participation in food rescue can provide food more cost-effectively. Rescued food is donated, so there is no direct cost incurred to GCFD in terms of purchasing food. And GCFD picks up the rescued food directly from food businesses, so there is no cost to vendors to transport the food.

**NEXT STEPS**

The city council will need to pass legislation in order for the DPS to adopt this policy. Key supporters are the GCFD, which would benefit most from this policy, and the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI). The IPHI will be a useful partner because of its history of working on implementing policy changes of this nature and because it maintains a number of key partnerships with other health- and food-based institutions that can provide more support for the policy. The IPHI has also already reviewed this policy and expressed enthusiasm about bringing it to action. Key organizations include those currently involved in helping the food-insecure and the DPS itself, which can put pressure on the city council. Most importantly, constituents of the mayor and the aldermen will have to be organized for their political support. Many of the constituents who rely on emergency food assistance are located in areas with a high concentration of need, which include neighborhoods to the south and west of downtown Chicago. These constituents have a direct stake in ensuring that leaders who support the innovative food rescue initiatives of the Greater Chicago Food Depository are elected.
Decreasing D.C. Gun Violence: Attaching Breathalyzers to New Guns
By Anna Primosch, Georgetown University

Thesis Statement
The District of Columbia can reduce alcohol-induced gun violence by funding the research and development of breathalyzer-equipped gun technology, with the eventual goal of taxing guns without breathalyzers to fund gun safety programs.

Background and Context
The U.S. ranks highest in worldwide firearm ownership. The Washington Post estimates that in 2013, America’s 357 million privately owned guns outnumbered its 310 million citizens. As gun ownership has swelled, so has gun violence, particularly in the nation’s capital. Homicide in D.C. claimed 162 victims in 2015, increasing 54 percent from 2014.

Despite widespread public exasperation with persistent gun violence, Congress has struggled to pass comprehensive gun legislation. Well-funded lobbying groups such as the National Rifle Association have defeated proposed legislation that would have banned the sale of assault weapons or required more stringent background checks on would-be gun owners and have already dismissed President Barack Obama’s recently proposed executive action against gun violence.

Local ordinances have been more effective than national policy in deterring gun violence. In August 2015, the Seattle City Council levied a $25 tax per firearm sold in Seattle, which local officials estimate will raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for gun violence prevention.

Identifying the small, local factors behind gun deaths would help generate more tailored solutions that chip away at larger patterns of gun violence. One of those factors is substance abuse. Alcohol consumption increases impulsive behavior and inhibits one’s memory, judgment, and other executive functioning abilities. The British Medical Journal estimates that one-third of gun deaths are alcohol-induced, as firearm owners are far more likely to consume alcohol than non-owners.

The Policy Idea
D.C. should selectively award research grants to nonprofits or government
agencies to develop a prototype breathalyzer-equipped gun. If non-equipped firearms were taxed at a higher rate than equipped firearms, the latter would appeal more to price-conscious consumers. This incentivizes manufacturers to attract new customers by adding breathalyzer-equipped guns to their brand. A strategically placed breathalyzer would prevent the trigger from firing until the person pulling it has demonstrated a blood alcohol content (BAC) under 0.08 percent, the same BAC at which an individual is legally considered too intoxicated to drive.7

Policy Analysis
Breathalyzers have been effectively used to reduce automobile accidents. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have some type of law requiring individuals convicted of driving under the influence or while intoxicated to install an ignition interlock device—better known as a breathalyzer—in their cars.8 The ignition will not operate until the driver blows into the device, which then determines whether the driver’s BAC is low enough to operate the vehicle. To ensure that the driver does not start drinking while behind the wheel, the car stops periodically to require additional tests.9 Although breathalyzers have not yet been manufactured specifically for guns, the technology of the device is simple enough to be applied to firearms. Small enough to be marketed as a smartphone accessory, breathalyzers are also inexpensive to produce; they are available for purchase for as low as $20 apiece online.10 The device takes between 30 seconds and a minute total to warm up, measure one’s BAC, and produce results.

Gun rights activists might counter that a breathalyzer would hinder someone in dire circumstances from using a gun in self-defense. Their argument rests on the incorrect assumption that guns are primarily used for

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KEY FACTS

- Between 1997 and 2009, there were 395,366 victims of gun violence in the US, averaging about 30,000 gun deaths per year.13
- Someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs is seven times more inclined to commit a violent crime than a sober individual.14
- 51 percent of D.C. residents favor the reinstatement of the D.C. ban on gun ownership overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2008.15
- In July 2014, a federal judge overturned the District’s ban on concealed carry weapon permits, starting a new series of court battles over gun rights in D.C.16
self-defense purposes; in a survey of 4,348 Americans, the *British Medical Journal* found that less than 1 percent of respondents have used a gun in self-defense, either by posturing with the weapon or firing it. Furthermore, a breathalyzer would not hinder D.C. recreational hunters, as the District already lacks viable hunting space.

**Talking Points**

- Gun violence plagues the U.S., particularly in urban areas like the District of Columbia.
- Encouraging the sale of breathalyzer-equipped guns in D.C. is less controversial than sweeping gun regulations that have been proposed at the national level but ultimately fail.
- D.C. needs to generate micro-solutions to combat different forms of gun violence before concealed carry permits become commonplace.

**NEXT STEPS**

The Council of the District of Columbia should launch a positive marketing campaign to generate public support for the tax. It should hold public forums and send surveys to registered gun owners’ homes to determine the tax threshold at which they would rather buy a breathalyzer-equipped firearm. The council should then temporarily place said tax on all firearms currently sold in the District to fund long-term research on a breathalyzer-equipped gun prototype. If manufacturers are interested in developing the prototype for sale, the tax will continue to apply to guns that are sold without breathalyzers but will not apply to breathalyzer-equipped guns. Whether or not breathalyzer-equipped guns make it to market, once the prototype is complete, the council should redirect the tax to help fund Project ChildSafe, a national gun safety awareness program that distributes free gun locks to registered D.C. gun owners through the District’s Metropolitan Police Department.
Drug-Related Restrictions in Public Housing: Decreasing Recidivism by Reuniting Families

By Michael Vitelli, City College of New York

Thesis
New York City should discontinue eviction proceedings for low-level offenses, remove outdated zero-tolerance policies, and expand the reach of the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) Family Re-entry Pilot Program for its public housing tenants. These changes will unite families, combat homelessness, and reduce recidivism.

Background and Context
NYCHA is responsible for providing housing to the city’s low-income residents through Section 8—the federal housing program—and other housing subsidy programs. In 1988, Congress passed its first attempt to oust violent, drug-related criminals living in federally subsidized Section 8 housing. In response to the crack epidemic, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 required each public housing administration (PHA)—a local or state public housing administrator—to include a lease provision allowing the PHA to terminate a whole family’s tenancy if a tenant, or even a guest of a tenant, is ever engaged in any drug-related criminal activity.\footnote{1} The Clinton administration’s 1996 “One Strike and You’re Out” policy only served to reiterate those strict drug restrictions.\footnote{2} The one-strike policy explicitly encouraged PHAs to evict any tenant who engaged in “drug-related activity,” meaning any person convicted or even charged with manufacturing, selling, distributing, or possessing illegal drugs. Regardless of circumstance, the federal government gave local PHAs authority to evict tenants for drug-related activity. Those policies were enforced with zero tolerance and opened the window to excessively punitive eviction proceedings. Zero-tolerance eviction policies adversely affect the lives of many low-income families reliant on Section 8 and other forms of subsidized housing programs, leading to increased rates of recidivism and homelessness among ex-offenders.\footnote{3} While the city should be committed to ensuring the safety of its public housing residents, the drug-related policies implemented to protect NYCHA tenants are unnecessary and harmful.\footnote{4} In certain instances, excluding drug-related offenders might be necessary to protect NYCHA’s tenants, but the termination of tenancies often disrupts the lives of families without any corresponding net benefit. However, the city, among other organizations, has made strides to address these issues; the NYCHA Family Re-entry Pilot Program (FRPP) is designed for individuals who are leaving prison or jail to reunite with their families who live in NYCHA housing, and the program also provides re-entry services. Furthermore, to help the
participants get back on their feet after being incarcerated, the FRPP provides case managers to ease their entry back into society.

Talking Points

- Outdated zero-tolerance policies are detrimental and counterproductive to the current NYCHA population and sever important community and family ties and relationships. These family ties and relationships help combat homelessness and recidivism.
- People recently released from prison are less likely to return to crime or live on the street if they are able to live with their families.
- Policies modeled after the Family Re-Entry Pilot Program can be introduced in other states’ PHAs to achieve the same effects: uniting families, combating homelessness, and reducing recidivism.

Policy

NYCHA should remove the pre-existing zero-tolerance administrative policies, such as the one-strike rule, which prevent people from reuniting with their families, and adopt a less punitive strategy. In order to stop punitive eviction proceedings for low-level offenses, NYCHA should not accept the New York City Police Department’s nor the District Attorney’s recommendations to pursue evictions of low-level offenses that target underrepresented tenants. Finally, NYCHA should expand the Family Re-entry Pilot Program to unite families, combat homelessness, and reduce recidivism rates.

Policy Analysis

The issues of housing, homelessness, and incarceration are deeply intertwined. The expansion of the FRPP will alleviate some of the major burdens on former prisoners by giving them access to public housing, and allowing them to live with family. If provided with adequate re-entry assistance and the ability to legally reside with their families, the likelihood of ex-convicts returning to crime should diminish significantly. Since the creation of the FRPP in 2013, the program reportedly has not received the influx of referrals and applications that the program’s administration originally expected; however, it is not an issue of effectiveness, but an issue of NYCHA’s lack of advertising.

Key Facts

- People with criminal records are banned from NYCHA premises, even for petty crimes like minor possession.
- Mayor Bill de Blasio has persistently tried to make it easier for PHAs to evict tenants with criminal records.
- Exclusions of non-tenants in NYCHA units have risen by 20 percent, from 344 to 415 in the past year.
Bringing more people into this program would decongest the courts’ landlord-tenant cases and open space in homeless shelters. The money spent on expanding the reach of the program would be nominal compared to the money spent on shelters and prisons. In 2012, the city spent an average of $167,731 per inmate. In addition, the city also spent an average of $37,603 to house a family in a homeless shelter in 2013, a 2 percent rise from 2012.

NYCHA’s current policies are needlessly broad, and, in response to the crack epidemic, adversely affect a larger population than originally intended. The expansion of the FRPP can serve as a close vetting process to determine which people deserve and are ready to re-enter public housing, and to separate those who are potentially true dangers to residents. The FRPP, by providing case managers, can also assist participants diagnosed with mental illnesses so that they can be integrated back into society and live with their families in public housing. Coupled with ending administrative evictions proceedings for low-level offenses, harmless circumstances will no longer put many families in danger of eviction.

**NEXT STEPS**

Tenants in public housing should be allowed to enjoy housing stability and security. Within the first few months, the expansion of the FRPP should be discussed between NYCHA, the Vera Institute for Justice (the partner organization for the FRPP), the New York City Council, and other grassroots organizations dedicated to re-entry platforms. These bodies would be responsible for the expansion of the FRPP and the creation of an advisory board made up of representatives from different nonprofit and governmental bodies, can also be implemented to ensure proper leadership for future action. Additionally, certain city council members are sympathetic to re-entry and decriminalization positions.

Initially, the aim of the collaboration should be to increase awareness of the FRPP and find suitable candidates among the pool of recently released convicts who are NYCHA and Section 8 tenants. These changes will benefit local governments by decreasing demands on homeless shelters and reducing recidivism and prison costs. In addition, more tenants will be able to work, improving the financial position of public housing agencies through more stable incomes. Many current and formerly incarcerated people with family ties to NYCHA housing would benefit from the policy changes and can be organized to contact their local representatives to advocate for these issues through phone calls and through the work of already established housing and re-entry non-profits. Organizations like The Center for Urban and Community Services (CUCS), The Supportive Housing Network of New York, and the Fortune Society are dedicated to supporting people and families with re-entry and housing information mirroring the goals of NYCHA’s FRPP.
Preventing Bankruptcy from Limiting Water Access

2 Genesee Board of Commissioners. 2015. Public Health Emergency Declaration For People Using the Flint Water Supply with the Flint River as the Source. Flint, MI.

Building Public Trust with Transparent Campaigns

5 Number two on the list, Rhode Island and Maine, are at 40% trust.
9 Illinois has consolidated election laws. All state and local elections are held on the same date, and campaigns report donations to the same place at the same time.
10 See Appendix A and B; data from Followthemoney.org. Note “final reporting quarter” refers to the reporting quarter before the election (January 1 to March 31), not the calendar year.
14 See Appendix A and B; data from Followthemoney.org.
16 MA Gen. L. § 55.2
17 OR Code § 260.044
18 AL Code § 1717.5
19 MA Gen. L. § 55.2
20 OR Code § 260.044
21 AL Code § 1717.5
22 IL Code § 10.5.9-1.8
24 See Appendix A and B; data from Followthemoney.org.
25 See IL SB 248 (99th General Assembly)
27 See Appendix A; data from Followthemoney.org. Note “final reporting quarter” refers to the reporting quarter before the election (January 1 to March 31), not the calendar year.
28 See Appendix A; data from Followthemoney.org.
29 The Illinois State Board of Elections. “STATE OF ILLINOIS ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE CALENDAR 2016.”
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6 “CareerOneStop.” Careers and Career Information. U.S. Department of Labor
7 Sazama, Gerald, and Roger Wilcox. “An Evaluation of Limited Equity Housing Cooperatives in the United States.”
13 North Carolina Housing Coalition Critical Information on the Issue of Affordable Housing

Eliminating the TANF Asset Limit in the District of Columbia

4. Ibid.
8. Ibid., 4.
12. Ibid., 4.
15. Ibid., 14.
16. Ibid., 4.
17. Ibid., 9, 14.
18. Ibid., 11.

Expanding Absentee Voting: Removing Unfair Restrictions on College Voters


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Get to Work: An Employer–Transit Partnership to Connect the Boroughs of New York City


16 Ibid.


To Protect and Serve: Enhanced Transparency and Training for Volunteer Law Enforcement


9 Ibid.
Rescuing Surplus Food from Landfills: Addressing Food Insecurity in Chicago


3 Ibid. 9.


7 “Hunger in America 2014: Cook County Profile.”


9 “Hunger in America 2014: Cook County Profile.”


**Decreasing D.C. Gun Violence: Attaching Breathalyzers to New Guns**


**Drug-Related Restrictions in Public Housing: Decreasing Recidivism by Reuniting Families**

2. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
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