

Y•E•O NETWORK

2019 POLICY BOOK



Y•E•O
NETWORK

PEOPLE
FOR THE
AMERICAN
WAY
FOUNDATION

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Dear YEOs,

Since its founding in 2005, the Young Elected Officials Network has been dedicated to supporting our YEOs by providing the latest and most cutting-edge policy resources to help them create the change they see as being the most necessary in their communities. Through our annual survey, National Convening, and Policy Academies, our YEOs define and shape the Network's policy priorities and focus each year.

Over the past couple of years, YEOs across the United States have been leading the fight for a fair criminal justice system, economic equity, education reform, sustainable future, immigrant rights, gender equality, healthcare, voting rights, and more.

The YEO Network is proud to release the 2019 Policy Book, a member-driven resource highlighting some of the most impactful policy efforts led by YEOs across the country. We have compiled 45 of those efforts in the 2019 Policy Book, most of which are authored by YEOs.

We hope that you will find the Policy Book useful as you pursue your policy priorities in 2020. As always, feel free to contact us directly if we can be of support, or if you have any policy materials that you would like to share. We are really excited to see the work that you will be leading across our nation this year, not only to create a lasting impact, but also to inspire the next generation of young elected officials.

Yours in service,

Svante Myrick
Director of Youth Leadership Programs

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YEO Program Manager

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Economic Justice

Federal Level

Policy: [S. 1242: Raise the Wage Act](#)

Where: U.S. Senate

Who: Senator Bernie Sanders

- Amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the federal minimum wage for regular employees over a seven-year period, for tipped employees, and for newly hired employees who are younger than 20 years old.
- Allows employers to receive technical assistance that will allow them to transition their practices and comply with wage increases.

State Level

Policy: [HRC No. 89](#)

Where: Hawaii

Who: Representative Chris Lee

- This resolution declares that all families in Hawaii deserve basic financial security and that it is in the public interest to ensure economic sustainability for all people.
- Under this resolution, Hawaii becomes the first state in the nation to begin evaluating universal basic income for all.

Policy: [SB 0065](#)

Where: Montana

Who: State Senator Cynthia L. Wolken

- Revising laws regarding housing options for offenders.
- Establishing a legislative policy regarding housing options for individuals leaving the Montana state prison or other Department of Corrections programs.
- Creating a supportive housing grant program to be administered by the Board of Crime Control.
- Allowing the department to provide housing assistance to certain offenders.
- Requiring the department to collect certain information.
- Expanding rulemaking authority for the Department of Corrections and the Board of Crime Control.



Policy: [Paid Family Leave Program](#)

Where: Colorado

Who: State Representative Faith Winter

- Creates an employee-funded program that would allow private employees to take paid family and medical leave.
- The program will generate as much as \$1.8 billion when fully operational in the 2021–22 fiscal year.

Local Level

Policy: [Berkeley Minimum Wage Ordinance](#)

Where: Berkeley, CA

Who: Mayor Jesse Arreguin

- Protects the public health, safety, and welfare of all employees in Berkeley.
- Requires employees to be compensated by their employers or respective subcontractors in such a manner as to enable and facilitate their individual self-reliance.
- Under this ordinance, the minimum wage was raised to \$15 in 2018, and will continue to increase every July based on the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Policy: [Inclusionary Housing](#)

Where: Detroit, MI

Who: Councilwoman Mary Sheffield

- Requires developers to set aside a certain percentage of affordable residential housing units for low- and moderate-income residents.
- Helps ensure that all Detroiters can take part in the city's recovery.
- Requires developers for projects of \$500,000 or above, who are receiving certain government subsidies and/or discounted land from the city, to make 20 percent of their residential housing units affordable.



Policy: [Equity Package](#)

Where: Charlottesville, VA

Who: Councilmember Wes Bellamy

- Puts \$4 million into marginalized communities, including \$2.5 million to public housing redevelopment.
- Includes \$50,000 for GED training for all public housing residents.
- Includes \$5,000 for a new scholarship for students to attend historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).
- Includes a new position for a youth opportunity coordinator.

Policy: [Initiative Measure No. 1433](#)

Where: Seattle, WA

Who: City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

- Requires employers to provide paid sick leave to most employees beginning January 1, 2018.
- Increases the minimum wage over the next several years.
- Ensures that tips and service charges are given to the appropriate staff.
- Protects employees from retaliation when exercising their rights under the Minimum Wage Requirements and Labor Standards Act.



Education Reform

State Level

Policy: [Free College Tuition — S4749](#)

Where: New York

Who: Senator Toby Ann Stavisky

- Provides free tuition at the State University of New York and City University of New York for qualifying students.
- Requires community service and state residency and employment for a period of five years after completion of an academic program.

Policy: [Assembly Bill 284](#)

Where: Wisconsin

Who: State Representative Mark Spreitzer

- Establishes a program for reimbursing certain individuals who operate small farms for their higher education debt.
- Under the bill, an individual is eligible for reimbursement if he or she 1) graduated from an accredited public or nonprofit institution that awards associate or baccalaureate degrees; 2) completed a farm and industry short course offered by the University of Wisconsin System; or 3) obtained a technical college diploma or certificate in agriculture or a field related to agriculture.

Policy: [HB17-1184](#)

Where: Colorado

Who: Speaker of the House Crisanta Duran

- Helps ensure that Colorado students are well prepared for the modern economy and have the skills in computer science and digital literacy that they will need for success.
- Creates a resource bank of materials to help educators put together comprehensive courses, and a grant program to help teachers get training on this important subject.
- Adds computer science and digital literacy to academic standards to ensure that students come out of Colorado schools prepared with the skills they'll need to succeed in the modern economy.
- Creates a resource bank of materials that will be available for schools across the state to use to start and improve computer science classes.



Local Level

Policy: [Free City College Plan](#)

Where: San Francisco, CA

Who: Supervisor Jane Kim

- Makes San Francisco the first city in the United States to offer free community college to its residents regardless of income.
- Provides that the city will guarantee nearly \$5.4 million annually to the City College of San Francisco, a public, two-year community college, to pay for the \$46-per-credit tuition fees of students.
- The funding will apply to California residents who have lived in San Francisco for at least one year and a day and are expected to start next fall.
- More than 28,000 students stand to benefit from this proposal.

School Board Level

Policy: [Equal Access to Education](#)

Where: Los Angeles County, CA

Who: President Christopher Apodaca

- Provides equal access to the school district to all students, regardless of their immigration status.



Environmental Rights

Federal Level

Policy: [Environmental Justice Bill Package](#)

Where: U.S. Congress

Who: Congressman A. Donald McEachin

- Creates the Office of Environmental Justice within the Executive Office of the President.
- The director of the office would be tasked with conducting environmental justice assessments of executive orders, doing community and stakeholder outreach, and assessing the progress made on implementing environmental justice policies at the following agencies:
 - Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of the Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, National Economic Council, and the Council of Economic Advisers

Local Level

Policy: [Zero Carbon Footprint by 2040](#)

Where: San Francisco, CA

Who: San Francisco Unified School District

- The most aggressive carbon reduction goal in the nation, thanks to a plan to completely phase out the use of fossil fuel by 2040.
- Focuses on reducing the use of fossil fuels in two major areas: school buildings and the district's fleet.
- Schools will be designed or retrofitted to generate enough energy to cover demand, and to collect enough rainwater to meet half of water demand.
- Aims to reduce the school district's natural gas use by half by 2030 and stop burning natural gas entirely by 2040.
- All district-owned vehicles are scheduled to be emission-free by 2030, and buses will switch to renewable diesel over the next three years.



Healthcare Reform

Federal Level

Policy: [Expanded & Improved Medicare For All Act](#)

Where: U.S. Congress

Who: Representative John Conyers Jr.

- Provides all individuals residing in the United States and U.S. territories with free healthcare that includes all medically necessary care, such as primary care and prevention, dietary and nutritional therapies, prescription drugs, emergency care, long-term care, mental health services, dental services, and vision care.

State Level

Policy: [The Healthy California Act](#)

Where: California

Who: State Senator Ricardo Lara

- Provides comprehensive universal single-payer healthcare coverage and a healthcare cost control system for the benefit of all California residents.
- Provides a wide range of medical benefits and other services and would incorporate the healthcare benefits and standards of other existing federal and state provisions, including, but not limited to, the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medi-Cal, ancillary healthcare or social services covered by regional centers for persons with developmental disabilities, Knox-Keene, and the federal Medicare program.

Policy: [Youth Violence Is a Public Health Epidemic](#)

Where: Missouri

Who: State Representative Bruce Franks Jr.

- Declares youth violence to be a public health epidemic.
- Calls on the General Assembly to support the establishment of statewide trauma education.
- States that youth suffer from trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from violence in their communities or against a loved one.



Immigration Reform

State Level

Policy: [TRUST Act \(SB 31\)](#)

Where: Illinois

Who: Illinois Senate President John Cullerton

- This bill offers the nation's strongest state-level due-process protections for immigrants who fear that any interaction with local police could result in deportation.
- Provides that a law enforcement agency or official shall not detain or continue to detain any individual solely on the basis of any immigration detainer or administrative warrant, or otherwise comply with an immigration detainer or administrative warrant after that individual becomes eligible for release from custody.

Policy: [CA SJR 29](#)

Where: California

Who: State Senator Richard Pan

- Calls upon President Donald J. Trump and the United States Congress to acknowledge that the separation of immigrant children from their families at the border is detrimental to the short- and long-term physical and mental well-being of the children and incompatible with our fundamental values as a nation.

Policy: [IL SR 864](#)

Where: Illinois

Who: Illinois Senate President John Cullerton

- Urges President Trump, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Congress to preserve protections under DACA and to uphold the values of the United States and the State of Illinois, of providing protection to vulnerable young people who have lived much of their lives in the United States, attended school in the United States, and made the United States their home.



Local Level

Policy: [Extending Temporary Protected Status](#)

Where: Boston, MA

Who: Josh Zakim

- Urges the White House to extend Temporary Protected Status, a program that authorizes employment and establishes protection from deportation for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who cannot safely return to their home countries because of environmental disasters, ongoing armed conflicts, or other epidemics.

Policy: [Denver Public Safety Enforcement Priorities Act](#)

Where: Denver, CO

Who: Council Members Paul Lopez and Robin Kniech

- Disentangles the role of the City and County of Denver from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Memorializes predominant City practices by prohibiting City employees from collecting information on immigration or citizenship status.
- Prohibits the sharing of any other information about individuals for purposes of immigration enforcement.

School Board

Policy: [Condemning violence and hate speech, expressing support for Muslim students and those perceived as Muslims](#)

Where: Kansas City, MO

Who: School Board Chair Melissa Robinson

- Condemns all hateful speech and violent action directed at Muslims, those perceived as Muslims, immigrants, and people of color.
- Commits to fostering a school environment that promotes respect for, and curiosity about, all religions and cultures, and affirms the equal humanity of all members of the community.
- Ensures instituting school policies and setting an educational curriculum that reflects the values expressed in this resolution via training of staff and teachers, the inclusion of diverse resources to supplement in-class curricula, and the creation of safe spaces for students to address school-based bullying.



Justice Reform

State Level

Policy: [Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Immunity](#)

Where: Nebraska State Legislature

Who: Nebraska State Senator Adam Morfeld

- The bill grants limited immunity (for possession only) to persons seeking help for themselves and/or someone else in need of immediate medical attention due to a controlled substance overdose.
- The law applies to the person experiencing an overdose, and the person or persons making a call for medical assistance as soon as the overdose is apparent.
- Such person or persons must also stay on the scene and cooperate fully with law enforcement when medical attention arrives.

Local Level

Policy: [Prison Divestment Resolution](#)

Where: California

Who: Afrikan Black Coalition at University of California

- A resolution to push the University of California to divest all of the \$25 million it has currently invested in private prison corporations.
- The UC system divests all of the \$425 million it has invested in Wells Fargo for as long as Wells Fargo has any business relations with the private prison industry.
- The UC Regents will institute a policy to never invest in private prison corporations.

Policy: [Albany County Fair Chance Act](#)

Where: Albany County Legislature

Who: Albany County Legislator Sam Fein

- A bill to prohibit the Albany County government from discriminating against potential employees based on their criminal arrest record or conviction.



Policy: [Live to Be More](#)

Where: Baltimore, MD

Who: Baltimore City Councilman Brandon Scott

- A comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy, authored by Baltimore City Councilman Brandon Scott, that focuses on long-term actions to address root causes and prevent crime.
- Among these actions: reducing absenteeism in city schools, encouraging participation in youth violence prevention programs, fatherhood courses and B'More Night Hoops basketball, expanding the Community Schools model to all city schools, boosting job opportunities for youth and returning citizens, and increasing lead abatement efforts.

Policy: [Common Sense Gun Laws](#)

Where: Columbus, OH

Who: City Council President Shannon G. Hardin

- This bill seeks to address long-standing issues of violence in our communities by closing the gap between state and federal law, protecting victims of domestic violence, and removing dangerous weapons from neighborhoods.

Policy: Community Conversations

Where: Albany, NY

Who: Common Councilmember Dorsey Applrys

- This initiative encourages [community conversations with police on countering implicit bias](#).
- To help hold police accountable, Councilmember Applrys passed legislation that makes sure officers will present civilians with a [business card with their contact information](#) on the front and Citizen's Police Review Board contact information on the back — no matter who's in charge of the police department or the city.

School Board Level

Policy: [Governing Board School Safety Resolution](#)

Where: Arizona

Who: Arizona School Board Association

- Urges local, county, and state public safety agencies to prioritize collaborative threat assessment and crisis planning with school districts.
- Calls on the United States Congress and state legislatures, including the Arizona State Legislature, to prioritize the protection of students and school system employees from gun violence on campus.



Policy: [Safe and Supportive Schools](#)

Where: San Francisco, CA

Who: School Board Member Matt Haney

- Reduces student suspensions for defiant behavior in favor of restorative practices.
- Commits the district to fully implementing restorative practices along with positive behavior intervention and support.



LGBTQ Rights

State Level

Policy: [SB 121](#)

Where: New Mexico

Who: State Senator Jacob Candelaria

- Protects LGBTQ youth in the state from the dangerous and abusive practice of “conversion therapy.”

Policy: [Assembly Bill 418](#)

Where: Wisconsin

Who: State Representative Mark Spreitzer

- Prohibits discrimination on the basis of a person's gender identity or gender expression, regardless of the person's assigned sex at birth, or gender identifiers on official documents issued by a federal, state, or local government agency.
- Adds sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression as bases of discrimination in certain other laws prohibiting discrimination.



Voting Rights

State Level

Policy: [Voter Bill of Rights](#)

Where: Michigan

Who: State Representative Jon Hoadley

- Amends the state's constitution to include the Voter Bill of Rights.
- Allows people to vote in prison.
- Implements automatic voter registration.
- Allows sending overseas citizens a ballot up to 45 days before an election.

Policy: [HJR 565](#)

Where: Florida

Who: State Representative Al Jacque

- Amends the Florida Constitution to automatically restore the voting rights of convicted felons after a certain time.

Local Level

Policy: [Allowing Immigrants to Vote Locally](#)

Where: College Park, MD

Who: Councilwoman Christine Nagle

- Gives noncitizens — a broad category that includes green card holders, students with visas, and undocumented immigrants — the right to cast ballots for the city's mayor, council members, and other local officials.

School Board Level

Policy: [Proposition N](#)

Where: San Francisco, CA

Who: Supervisor Eric Mar

- Allows immigrant residents of San Francisco to vote for members of the Board of Education as long as the resident is the parent, legal guardian, or legally recognized caregiver of a child living in the School District, and is of legal voting age and not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction.



Women's Rights

Federal Level

Policy: [Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights](#)

Where: U.S. Congress

Who: Rise Now

- The bill gives the right to not have the rape kit destroyed before the statute of limitations, the right to your medical information as a patient of a rape kit examination, and the right to notice of information, such as a police report, rape kit results, and knowledge of one's rights and resources.

Policy: [HF2306](#)

Where: Iowa

Who: State Representative Liz Bennett

- In early February, Iowa State Rep. Liz Bennett [introduced a new bill](#) that would require insurance companies to cover a 12-month supply of contraception for recurring patients and help reduce barriers to [women's access](#). Then in March, Rep. Bennett [introduced](#) a bill to hold employers accountable for discriminating against employees based on their reproductive health decisions.

Local Level

Policy: [Gender Equity Commission](#)

Where: Pittsburgh, PA

Who: Former City Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak

- Creates a Gender Equity Commission committing the city to the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).



Possible Policy Ideas

State Level

Policy: [Net Neutrality Act](#)

Where: Nebraska

Who: State Senator Adam Morfeld

- Would adopt a net neutrality policy at the state level.
- The legislation would keep broadband providers from slowing down or blocking internet content and from cutting deals with content companies to give them faster connection speeds.

Policy: [Local Control Of Minimum Wage](#)

Where: Colorado

Who: State Representative Adam Moreno

- Allows a unit of local government to enact laws increasing the minimum wage within its jurisdiction.
- Allowing local governments, either through an act of their governing body or through initiative or referendum, to set a higher minimum wage will give them the power to respond to the varied and unique needs of their communities.

Policy: [Transgender in the Workplace](#)

Where: California

Who: League of California Cities

- A guidebook to provide best practices for city officials and city staff related to policies and practices that promote inclusive workplaces.

Local Level

Policy: [Universal Childcare Program](#)

Where: San Francisco, CA

Who: Supervisor Jane Kim

- Supervisor Jane Kim is leading an effort to create a universal childcare program in the city of San Francisco.
- The program would reduce childcare costs for San Francisco families to just 10 percent of their income.



