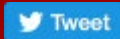


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LSPC Newsletter, Sept-Oct 2019

An Historic Presidential Forum Organized & Moderated by Formerly Incarcerated People

Message from the Executive Director



Dorsey Nunn

Fighting to uplift the voices of currently and formerly incarcerated people and family members is central to our mission. Our experience in both legislative advocacy and grassroots organizing has proven the saying, "If you're not seated at the table, you're probably on the menu."

So, it is with great pride that I invite you to witness the first presidential candidate forum organized and moderated by people directly-impacted by the criminal justice system. On Monday, October 28, Democratic candidates will answer questions and clarify their positions on Criminal Justice issues at [Justice Votes 2020](#), a forum organized by [Voters Organized To Educate](#) at the Eastern State Penitentiary Museum in Philadelphia, PA.

We deserve to be spoken with. There are over 70 million people in the U.S. with conviction histories, and most of us are able to vote. We are the true experts on the actual effects of the criminal justice system, and are well versed in the issues and solutions. Political office holders and candidates need to speak to more than just pastors and black police officers, and demonstrate that they respect our voice and value our support.

We will turn up for representative who turn up for us.

[Join us at watch parties across the country](#) to engage in this historic presidential candidate forum. Or host your own. This event is an excellent opportunity to reach out and engage all members of your community—especially to listen and learn from the 1-in-3 adults who have been directly-impacted by the criminal justice system.

We waive the right to be silent. We demand to be heard.
Let's join our voices together and speak truth to power.

Join a local Watch Party!

Justice Votes 2020: A Presidential Town Hall

Eastern State Penitentiary Museum
Philadelphia, PA • October 28, 2019



All of Us or None Watch Party!

10 A.M., Monday, October 28
The Freedom & Movement Center
4400 Market St.
Oakland, CA 94608

RSVP:

<https://justicevotes2020.eventbrite.com>

On the "Location" drop-down menu, select OAKLAND

Policy Update

VICTORY!

Governor Newsom signs major criminal justice bills into law, including:

SB 136 Eliminates 1-year Sentencing Enhancements for Prior Felony Terms
SB 310 Restores Jury Service to people with felony convictions

AB 45 Eliminates Medical Co-Pays for Current Inmates • AB 484 Eliminates Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Certain Drug Crimes • AB 1076 Creates an Automated Record Clearance System for Low-Level Offenses • SB 394 Creates Pre-Trial Diversion Program for Primary Caregivers



THANK YOU to all of our All of Us or None members, coalition comrades, volunteers, and legislative partners for making a more just California!

The 2019 Legislative cycle is over, and we are excited that **several of our co-sponsored bills were signed by the Governor into law!** These bills represent work from many LSPC staff members, All of Us or None organizers, community members, and all of our coalition partners.

Those signed bills are:

[AB 942 \(Weber\)](#) – CalFresh Meals Program. This bill extends the ability to use food stamps for hot meals at supermarkets.

[SB 136 \(Wiener\)](#) – Ending Ineffective 1-Year Sentencing Enhancements. This bill eliminates the 1-year mandatory sentencing enhancement for priors except for “sexually violent offense” priors.

[SB 310 \(Skinner\)](#) – Jury Service. This bill restores the right of jury service to people with felony convictions, excluding people currently on parole or on the sex offenders’ registry.

Other legislation of interest we supported that was signed into law includes:

[AB 32 \(Bonta\)](#) – Ban CA Private Prison Contracts. Prohibits new or renewal contracts between CDCR and private prison companies, including ICE detention centers. As many current contracts are on 1-year “bridge” contracts, the bill effectively ends private prisons and ICE detention prisons in CA after 2020. People currently incarcerated in ICE detention prisons will

probably be transferred to county jails with ICE contracts, until those contracts are also banned.

[AB 45 \(Stone\)](#) – **Prison Co-Pays. Ends the co-pays people incarcerated in prison must pay to access medical treatment. Currently, people incarcerated in CDCR prisons must pay a \$5 co-pay to access medical treatment.**

[AB 484 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) – **Eliminate Mandatory Confinement during Probation. This bill would, for certain drug convictions, give judges granting probation the discretion to impose the current 180-day confinement condition mandatory with current convictions.**

[AB 1076 \(Ting\)](#) – **Automatic Relief. Will automatically seal arrest/conviction records for certain low-level offenses after a diversion program.**

[SB 394 \(Skinner\)](#) – **Diversion for Primary Caregivers of Minor Children. Creates a pretrial diversion program for defendants who are primary caregivers of a child under 18 years of age, as specified, and who are charged with a misdemeanor or a nonserious, nonviolent felony.**

Governor Newsom vetoed:

Our co-sponsored bill [AB 1282 \(Kalra\)](#) – **No private ICE. This bill would have prohibited ICE from using private contractors to detain and transfer people from prisons following the completion of their sentences.**

[SB 42 \(Skinner\)](#) – **Getting Home Safe Act. Requires sheriffs to release people from county jails between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. or at sundown (whichever is later), as well as track the time and number of people released. Will end the practice of releasing people at midnight with no public transportation available.**

[SB 575 \(Bradford\)](#) – **Cal Grants for Students Incarcerated in Prison. Will allow students currently incarcerated to be eligible to receive a Cal Grant award.**

Our Legislative fight to restore voting rights for Californians on parole isn't over!

Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6 (ACA 6) is now in the California Senate and will be heard in committees starting in January! ACA 6 will restore voting rights to 50,000 Californians currently on felony parole plus all in the future!

Call [your CA State Senator](#) and tell them to vote to get ACA 6 on the 2020 ballot!

For more information about ACA 6 and the #FreeTheVoteCA campaign, [check out our coalition website here at Free The Vote.](#)



Thank all of you for your tireless effort and support for all of our legislation. For more information, contact Policy Fellow Katie Dixon: katie@prisonerswithchildren.org

Clean Slate Clinic

About 45 people received assistance obtaining their RAP sheets at a free Live Scan event in Riverside, CA on September 9, 2019. The event was the first of a two-part clinic to help people petition the courts to reduce, resentencing, or expunge past convictions to remove barriers to employment, housing, and education.

LSPC partnered with Transitioning Minds at Riverside City College, All of Us or None Riverside, and Starting Over, Inc. to plan this free Live Scan event. Volunteers from Underground Scholars Riverside and Empire Law Office also assisted.



For the second part of the clinic, approximately 60 people received individualized legal assistance on their RAP sheets on September 28 at Riverside City College. For Part II we partnered with the above organizations, as well as Homeboy Industries, Debt Collective, Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, and Underground Scholars.

For more information about Clean Slate clinics, contact Staff Attorney Judy

Free Her Conference

Four LSPC staff members—Ivana Gonzales, Katie Dixon, London Croudy, and Tina Nunn—participated in the 2019 FreeHer Conference from October 3-5 in Montgomery, AL. Organized by the National Council for Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls, the annual conference provides an opportunity for women directly-impacted by the criminal justice system to share stories and strategies, and to deep-dive into issues such as child custody and visiting rights, mental health, hygiene, financial and emotional support, and organizing inside and out.



Left to right: LSPC Receptionist Ivana Gonzales, FreeHer Conference Organizer Andrea James, LSPC Office Manager Tina Nunn, AOUON Sacramento Organizer Aaliyah Muhammad. Not pictured: 2019 Policy Fellows London Croudy and Katie Dixon.

Free Her conference was an empowering event for me, as well as a wake-up call to what I'm doing in the name of justice and to get more involved in the fight for justice for our women and girls not only in the U.S but all around the world. I connected with other organizations around the country, learning from them, learning about them, and using them as a resource for those letters we receive and answer every day seeking help from other states besides California. Being among those amazing, powerful, and strong but humble women was an honor. It has been for me an experience like no other!

—LSPC Receptionist Ivana Gonzales



Tina's granddaughters reflect on the statue of an enslaved woman at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL. The FreeHer Conference was located here at a center of both the slave trade and civil rights movement specifically to connect the incarceration of women—specifically women of color—throughout American history to the present day.

Being a daughter of a formerly incarcerated woman it was good to connect with so many women who understood my story but also felt my pain. Overall the conference was absolutely amazing and looking forward to the next one.

—LSPC Office Manager Tina Nunn

2019 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow London Croudy took advantage of having so many amazing organizers in one place and filmed a series of video interviews. We're publishing one a week on our AOUON Facebook page, as well as discussing them

during the weekly AOUON #FridayForum on FB Live. Check out [the first](#)

AOUON Community Engagement

First Friday (Oakland)

AOUON continues to participate in [Oakland First Friday](#). With all the art and food vendors and musical performances along a pedestrian-only section of Telegraph Ave (between W. Grand and 27th), First Friday is an awesome way to start the weekend—having fun and building community! Stop by the AOUON table to talk with organizers and pick up some swag!



Media Justice / E-Carceration Conference

On October 12, AOUON Organizer Ali Birts and 2019 Policy Fellow Katie Dixon joined 30+ activists and organizers at MediaJustice in Oakland for "[Challenging E-Carceration in California](#)"—a convening to discuss the issues related to e-carceration and to share strategies to stop this growing and invasive "reform" movement.



As Ali notes, "You're giving up a lot of Constitutional rights in addition to paying for e-carceration, because some of those ankle monitors can listen to everything that's going on."

While some tout ankle monitors as "better than prison," e-carceration expands monitoring to family and community members, and allows private companies to charge exorbitant fees, further financially burdening people that cannot afford it.

Keeping Counties Accountable

SAN FRANCISCO: AOUON members continued to support the No New SF Jails coalition by attending a S.F. County Board of Supervisors hearing on closing 850 Bryant Street—currently the site of a county jail. The building was deemed seismically unsafe 20 years ago, and has had numerous sewage and health issues. The current plan is to close it down in two years, but we want it closed immediately and no new jail built in replacement.

AOUON Organizer Succatti Shaw, leading our Housing campaign, states: *850 Bryant MUST be closed, demolished and replaced with a structure*

created for the purpose of housing the homeless and mentally unstable, as well as a program to help those housed with the skills necessary to aide them in becoming self-sufficient and more than capable of being a viable member of our society.

For more information about NoNewSFJails or our Housing campaign, contact Succatti at: succatti@prisonerswithchildren.org.

ALAMEDA: AOUON showed up at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors meeting on October 22 to demand they audit the Sheriff's department to find out where all the taxpayer money goes. Sheriff Ahern has one of the worst records in America when it comes to safety, as over 35 people have died in his custody since 2014.



Many mothers of those who died in Ahern's custody spoke at the hearing, with many Supervisors disrespecting them by engaging their phones instead of listening.

AOUON will continue to work with the Ella Baker Center, Critical Resistance, and other organizations to hold Sheriff Ahern accountable.

Impeach Racist Trump Panel

On Saturday, October 19, LSPC Ex. Dir. Dorsey Nunn spoke at the Town Hall on Impeachment about the systemic cultural racism reinforced by the Trump Administration. You can [watch Dorsey's talk here](#) (15 minutes) or [the entire event here](#) (2 hours).

The panel was organized by the Equal Justice Society, and the other speakers included U.S. Representative Al Green (D-TX 9th District), Professor Bill Ong Hing (U.C. Davis), Nakia Woods (Black Alliance for Just Immigration), and Linh Nguyen (Indivisible East Bay).

Caption: Dorsey (left) addresses the systemic and cultural racism perpetrated by the Trump administration as Congressman Al Green smiles.

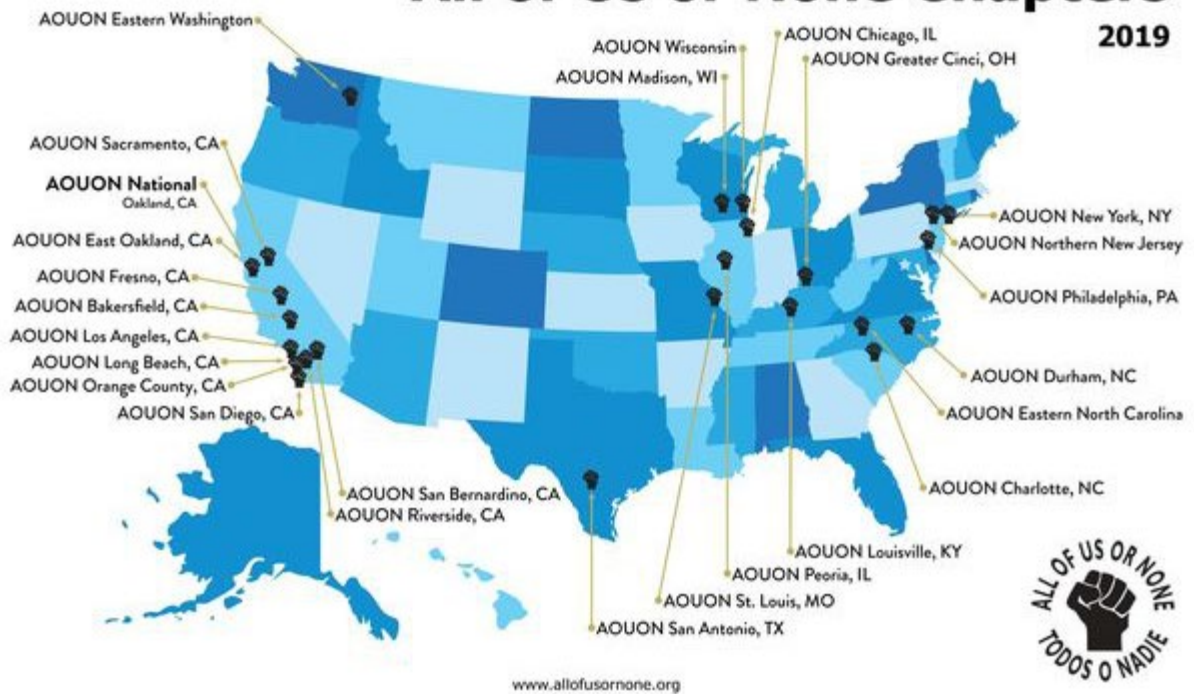


AOUON National

We have grown to 26 chapters!

All of Us or None Chapters

2019



Don't see an AOUON chapter near you? Contact AOUON National Organizer [Oscar Flores](mailto:oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org) to start one: oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7048

AOUON Chapter Spotlight:

AOUON Los Angeles, A New Way of Life, and the Social Justice Law Project are suing the Los Angeles County Probation Department and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for [overcharging probationers, especially those who are unable to pay fees.](#)

This lawsuit follows AOUON's successful campaigns to eliminate probation fees in both San Francisco and Alameda Counties. LSPC and AOUON are currently co-sponsoring SB 144, which would eliminate court fines and fees across the state.

For more information about the lawsuit against L.A. Dept. Of Probation, contact AOUON Los Angeles Organizer Tiffany Johnson: tiffany@anewwayoflife.org

Congrats Miss Will!



Longtime AOUON member Miss Will Walker recently became the senior class president at Southern University of New Orleans. Congratulations, Miss Will!

We see you and appreciate all you do for the Movement!

Welcome Succatti!

LSPC is excited and honored to welcome Succatti Shaw as our new AOUON Organizer! Succatti will leverage her many years of working in housing organizations to spearhead AOUON's campaign to secure housing and services for people returning from prison. In her own words:



I am a mother of 3. Upon returning home from incarceration, it became painfully real that my past conviction would bar me from safe and necessary housing for my family. Although employed as a leasing agent, the conviction continued to keep me from successfully securing a place of my own. The turning point was having to deny someone housing based on a past conviction; one that is now considered legal in California. My mission is to fight to get laws changed that will afford those whom once were

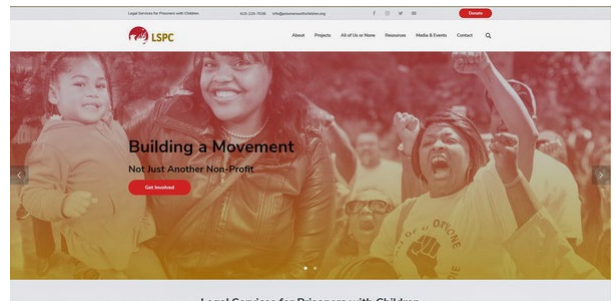
felons to live their new lives as upstanding members of their communities, able to lease, rent, and possibly own a safe place to live for themselves and, most importantly, for their families.

New LSPC Website!

LSPC has a new website!

Check us out at www.prisonerswithchildren.org

We'd like to thank designer [TaSin Sabir](#) and LSPC Administrative Director Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah for all their fabulous work!



Calendar

The Friday Forum

When: Every Friday at noon

Where: [AOUON Facebook Live](#)

Join us Fridays at noon for All of Us or None's live Friday Forum!

Friday Forums are [livestreamed on AOUON's Facebook page here](#), and feature policy and

legislative updates, upcoming events, and discussions about current social justice topics. Feel free to send in questions in the comments section and we'll try to address them right then and there!



Past editions of the Friday Forum are also available on the [AOUON Facebook video page](#).

See you Friday!

Justice Votes 2020 Watch Party

When: 10 A.M.-2 P.M. PST, Monday, Oct. 28, 2019

Where: Freedom & Movement Center –
4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608



JUSTICE VOTES
2020 PRESIDENTIAL
TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 28, 2019



AOUON is hosting a watch party for Justice Votes 2020 – a presidential candidate forum organized and moderated by formerly incarcerated people.

[RSVP here and join us](#) to watch and discuss this historic forum!

Not able to make it?

People who RSVP will be sent a link to watch a recorded version of the livestreamed event.

For more information, contact LSPC Communications Coordinator Mark Fujiwara: mc@prisonerswithchildren.org / 510.306.2444.

AOUON National – Oakland Meeting

When: 6:30 P.M. - October 17, 2019 (3rd Thursday of every month)

Where: Freedom & Movement Center –
4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608

All people and family members directly impacted by the criminal justice system are invited to join [All of Us or None](#) at our monthly meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month in Oakland, CA. We discuss local and state legislation, plan community events, and strategize how to advocate for our community in our own voices.

For more information contact Policy Fellow Katie Dixon: katie@prisonerswithchildren.org



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