

OUR STATES

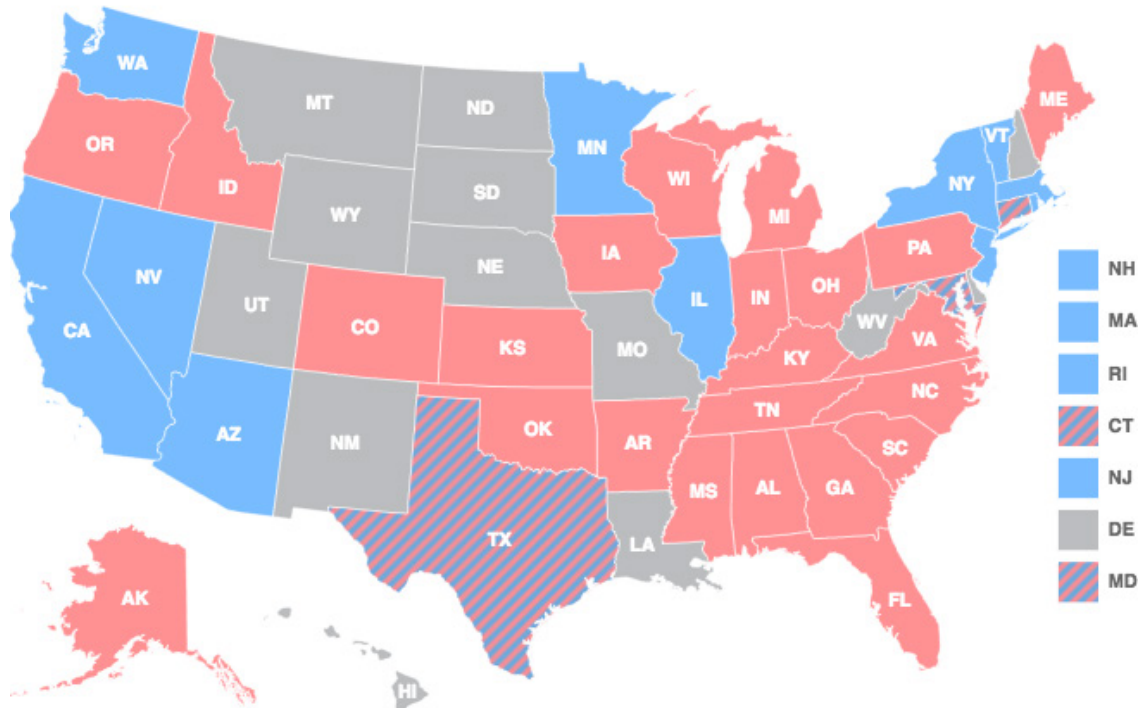
Updated: 3.29.2017

AS WE WORK TO **BLOCK** TRUMP'S AGENDA IN CONGRESS, HIS AGENDA IS
ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED IN MANY STATES.

OUR STATES

IMMIGRATION

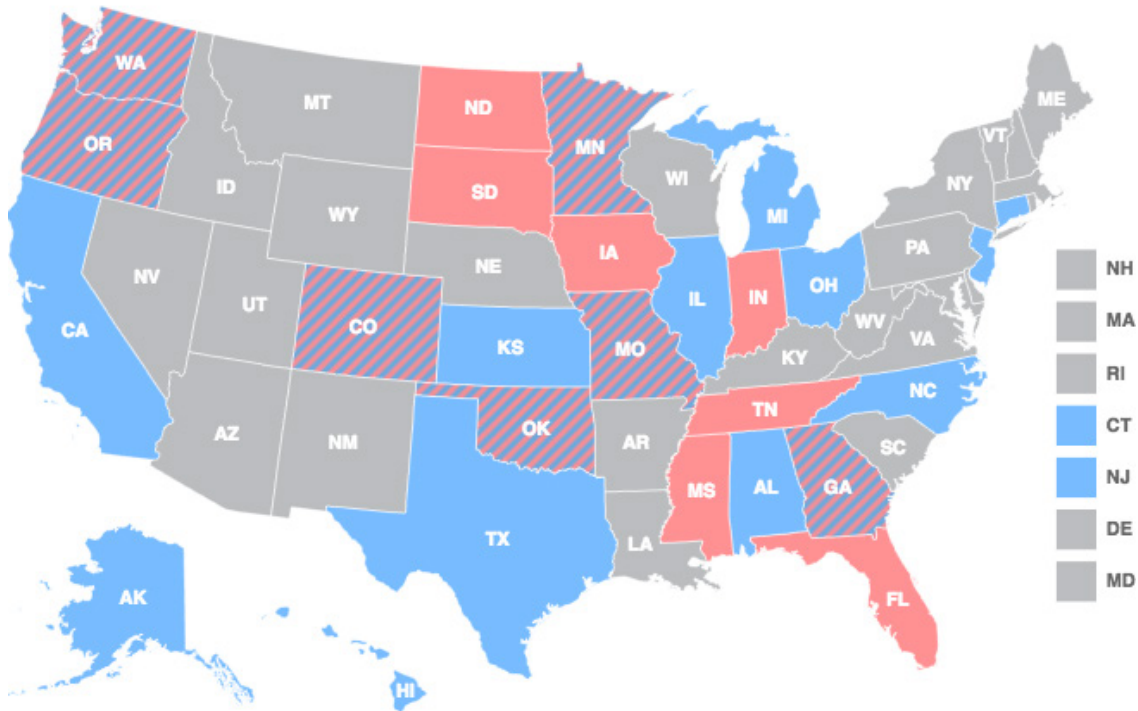
26 states considering legislation to ban sanctuary cities / campuses.
15 states considering legislation to protect immigrants.



POLICING / PROTEST

14 states considering legislation to punish protesters.

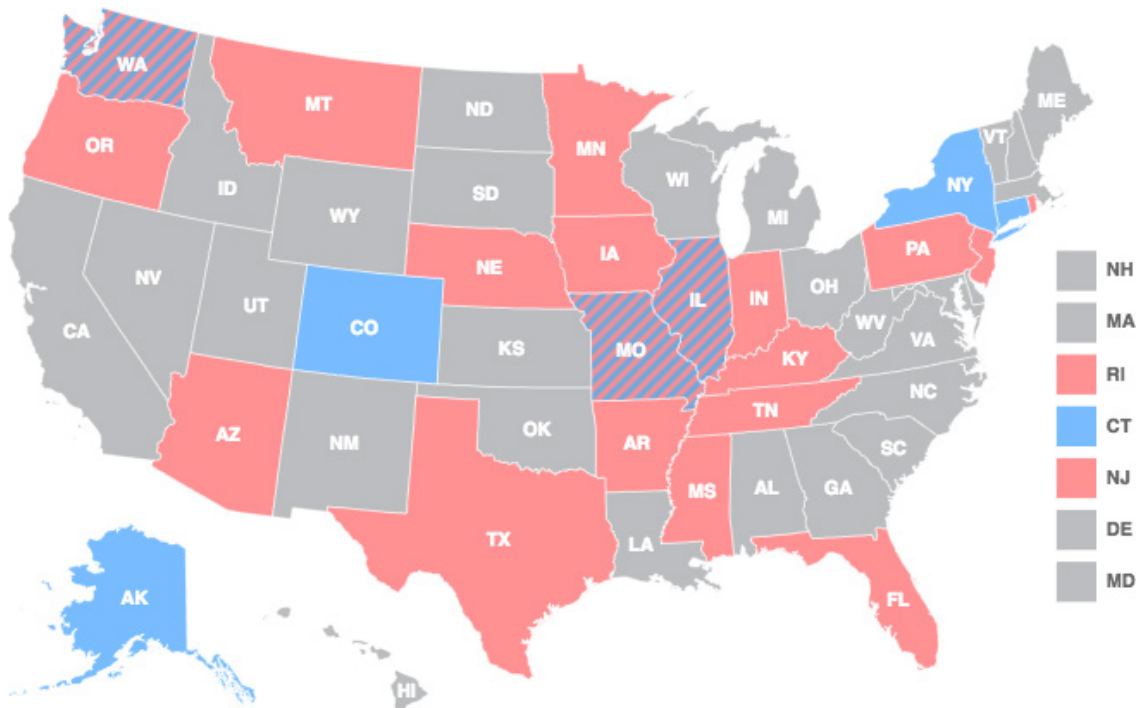
19 states considering legislation to address police violence.



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

19 states considering legislation to restrict reproductive rights.

7 states considering legislation to protect reproductive rights.

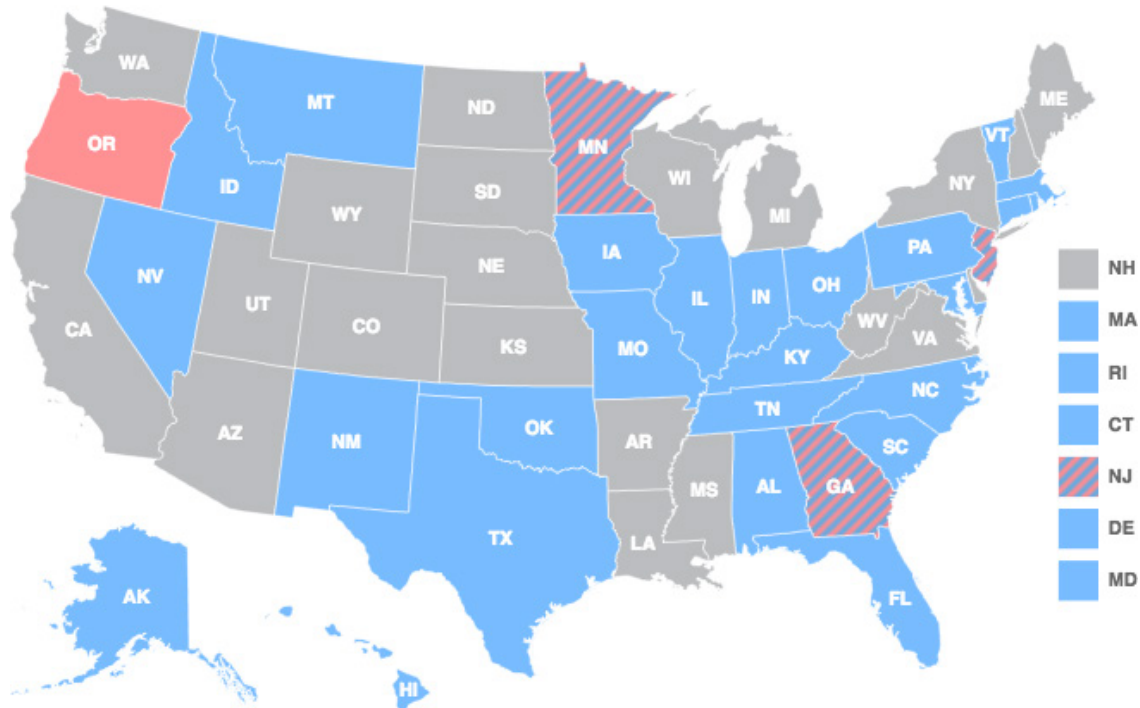


11 states considering legislation to restrict voting rights.
25 states considering legislation to protect voting rights.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

4 states considering legislation to block minimum wage increases.
29 states considering legislation to increase the minimum wage.



WE CAN **REJECT TRUMP'S AGENDA IN EVERY STATE.** WE CAN
MAKE **OUR STATES SANCTUARIES FOR COMMUNITIES.**

ENGAGING YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

27 STATES FINISH LEGISLATING IN THE NEXT 2 MONTHS.

Time is running out to make your voice heard.

You have **more power** to influence your [state legislator](#) than your member of Congress. The average state representative's district is **12 times smaller** than a Congressional district. Most are not lifelong politicians, or even [full-time politicians](#). They are not always focused on reelection because **many of them** run unopposed. And state legislators have the power to decide many of the **most important issues** impacting communities.

However, since state legislators have **fewer resources** than members of Congress, it is harder for them to take ideas and turn them into legislation.

That's where you come in.

6 STEPS TO INFLUENCE YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

01. Find out who your state legislators are.

Go to action.humanesociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=electedOfficials and enter your zip code to find your state legislators, their phone numbers, and where their offices are located. Use the [OurStates map](#) to see which bills they are currently considering. Then call them.

02. Ask for a face-to-face meeting.

State legislators live in your state, sometimes in your town. They don't always host town halls, so meetings are probably your best chance at engaging them.

Schedule meetings with both your state Senator and House (or Assembly) member, if possible.

Don't be discouraged if you are directed to meet with a staff member. Staff are gatekeepers to legislators.

Meet with them, inform them about the issues, and give them materials to give to your legislators.

03. Prepare for the meeting.

Be prepared to tell **them why an issue matters to you** and share a personal experience about it. Go to resistancemanual.org/State_and_Local_Pages to find data showing how the issue impacts your community (i.e. how many people are undocumented). Bring materials for your legislator to read to learn more. You can also reach out to [local organizations](#) to see if they have information you can share with your legislator or advice on how best to engage them.

04. Have an ask.

Use the [OurStates map](#) to view the bills your legislator is currently considering. Are there good bills you'd like your legislator to support or harmful bills you'd like them to oppose? Be mindful of your representative's political affiliation and their past positions on legislation. They won't want to look like they've "flip-flopped" so if you can approach them before they make public statements, that's better. Before you leave, **get a commitment from your state legislator** to 1) support or oppose existing legislation; 2) introduce legislation you're suggesting; or 3) consider what you've suggested. Ask to take a picture before you leave and share it online.

Opposing legislation: If you are asking your legislator to oppose policies that they have supported before, suggest ways they can distinguish this bill from others

in the past. For example, while a legislator may not have supported giving in-state tuition to undocumented students in the past, they might oppose a bill that bans sanctuary cities because they don't want to exacerbate tensions between police and immigrant communities. Once you've decided what bill(s) you'd like to focus on, print them out to leave with your legislator.

Supporting legislation: Be mindful of [which political party controls your state's legislature](#). It may be difficult in Republican-controlled states to pass many of the bills you believe should be passed. Try to find reasons to support the bill that effectively appeal to the party in control (i.e. criminal justice reform can help balance the state budget). If the bill hasn't made it out of committee yet, and the legislator isn't on the committee that is voting on it, ask them to co-sponsor the bill and then vote for the bill when it makes it out of committee.

Suggesting new legislation: Since state legislators have smaller staffs, bring the actual text of the bill or law that you're advocating for. [Find policy solutions](#) that have already been implemented in other states. Tell your legislator how many other states have laws similar to the one you're asking for and how the laws have been beneficial (i.e. workers earn more in states with higher minimum wages without there being higher unemployment).

05. Follow up.

Since state legislators don't have the same resources as members of Congress, a ton of follow-up calls might be counterproductive. Ask the legislator (or their office if you can't get a meeting), **what the best way to follow up on your conversation is (i.e. phone call, email etc.) and when**. Ask them what the best way is for others to get in touch. Finally, ask them if there are any upcoming **committee meetings** where the bill is being discussed where you can [testify](#). This is a way to stay involved, get your message in front of more legislators, and remind your legislator that you are paying attention.

06. Track the bill's progress.

Check back to see whether the bill is progressing through the legislature. [Call your governor](#) if the bill passes both houses of the legislature and reaches the governor's desk. If the bill is unsuccessful, follow up with your state legislator and ask him/her why and how you can help it be more successful **next session**.

APPLYING PRESSURE

PRESSURING UNRECEPTIVE STATE LEGISLATORS

Remember, your representatives work for you. If your state legislator isn't initially willing to engage or be persuaded, there are ways you can apply additional pressure to convince them. There are also alternative pathways to change within your state including [ballot initiatives](#) and pressuring your Governor or Attorney General. If you need assistance planning an advocacy campaign or have other inquiries about this project, email info@staywoke.org.

USE THE MEDIA TO APPLY PRESSURE

Like members of Congress, state legislators rely on positive coverage in media to maintain enough popular support to win re-election. Write letters to the editor or purchase (even [crowdfund](#)) ads in local media outlets that pressure or shame state legislators into taking a desired 'common sense' action like meeting with their constituents, taking a position on a controversial issue, or supporting a given bill.



Can someone please help us find @SenCoryGardner ? We took out an ad in the @denverpost ;) @coloradoan @KUNC @maddow #whereiscory #RESISTANCE



RETWEETS
16

LIKES
36

3:21 PM - 26 Feb 2017

3 16 36

DIRECT ACTIONS AND PROTESTS TO APPLY PRESSURE

It may be necessary to conduct protest actions to pressure a state legislator or other public official into taking an urgent action (for example, getting a Governor to veto an extreme bill). There are many organizers and activists who have experience planning protests, reach out to them for guidance.



The @NAACP & @AlabamaNAACP are occupying the Mobile office of @jeffsessions-- until he withdraws as a AG nominee or we're arrested. @tvonetv



RETWEETS
12,999

LIKES
26,132

9:44 AM - 3 Jan 2017 from Mobile, AL

Democracy Awakening, Democracy Spring, Democracy Initiative and 5 others

1.3K 13K 26K

WHAT POWERS DO STATE LEGISLATURES HAVE?

As you engage with your state legislators, it's important to understand the ways in which they can use the powers of their office to address the issues you care most about. While they may not get as much attention, **many of the decisions that most impact communities** are decided by state legislatures.

For example, while there has been much focus on President Trump's executive order threatening to "defund sanctuary cities," legislation proposed in many state legislatures to outlaw sanctuary cities would be much more likely to undo these protections for undocumented immigrants. Convincing state legislators to reject these harmful proposals, and to support positive legislation, is therefore essential to protecting communities. Here is an overview of which issues state legislators have the power to address, which issues they address in partnership with the federal government, and which issues they have less control over.

Issues that states **mostly or entirely control**:

- Criminal Justice and Mass Incarceration
- Whether or not cities and counties can raise their minimum wage, ban anti-LGBTQ discrimination, or become sanctuary cities
- Laws governing policing (federal government can incentivize with money and investigate a few police departments each year)
- Voting rights / voter suppression (federal government can sue states for violating Voting Rights Act)
- Redistricting / gerrymandering of state and Congressional districts
- State taxes
- Benefits and services available to undocumented immigrants (i.e. driver's licenses, in-state college tuition, healthcare)

Issues that the federal government sets minimum standards which states can **go beyond**:

- Affordable housing
- Reproductive Justice
- Infrastructure
- Workers' Rights (i.e. minimum wage, workplace safety/harassment)
- Gun Control Laws
- Climate Protections (i.e. Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act)
- Disability Rights (i.e. IDEA, ADA)
- Non-discrimination laws (Title VII, Title IX, Civil Rights Act)
- Healthcare (ACA sets standards but states decide about Medicaid expansion)
- Educational Justice (federal government provides different options for accountability standards that states work within)

Issues that states have **little to no control over**:

- Foreign policy (i.e. sanctions on other countries, military actions)
- Immigration policy (i.e. who gets visas, how to obtain citizenship, deportation priorities. However, the federal government relies on state and local police to identify, detain and transfer undocumented immigrants to them)
- Federal taxes
- Interstate commerce (i.e. federal banking regulations)
- Consumer Protections (i.e. Wall Street regulations, food and drug safety regulations)