

AMERICA'S JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE

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ARE YOU IN FOR #JUSTICESUMMER?



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is America's Journey for Justice?

The NAACP, in conjunction with the labor, civil rights, environmental justice, educational, and faith-based communities, is calling for the formation of a broad coalition to march from Selma to Washington, D.C. beginning on August 1, 2015. 'America's Journey for Justice' will enable us to come together to bring attention to and persuade the leadership in Washington to adopt an advocacy agenda that includes our lives – ensures a fair criminal justice system, our votes --- uncorrupted and unfettered access to the ballot box, our jobs –promotes sustainable jobs and living wages; and our schools --- the need for equitable education.

Who are the coalition members with the NAACP?

Our coalition is still evolving, but it currently includes the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, the Communication Workers of America, the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, the Democracy Initiative, Common Cause, the NAACP Voter Fund, the National Congress of Black Women, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, Black Women's Roundtable, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the National Action Network, the National Bar Association, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. More partners are getting involved every day.



#JUSTICESUMMER

When and where does the march begin? Why?

The March will begin in Selma on August 1st and end in Washington, D.C. on September 16th. The march will begin in Selma because this is the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march and Alabama is the state in which the Shelby v. Holder case originated.

What is the Shelby v. Holder case about?

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Shelby to strike down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Section 4 of the VRA addressed the fact that racial discrimination in voting had taken place in certain areas of the country and put remedies in place such as the removal of literacy tests, strict and unfair voter identification laws, and limits on foreign language speakers. This ruling has allowed jurisdictions to make voting changes without the federal government's preclearance.

This is a major setback for America's democracy because it makes it easier for voter discrimination to persist, including the elimination of early registration laws, same-day voting laws, and the proliferation of voter identification laws.

Do you have to march the entire 860 miles?

No! The journey takes place in a five state relay format in which each state participates in a portion of the journey to dramatize the need for state level reform in the areas of voting rights, labor and employment rights, public education, and criminal justice. Also, there will be buses for those that cannot march the entire way. Participants may set how many miles they want to walk each day and can ride the bus for the remainder of the journey.

Which states will the march go through and why?

We will march through Alabama, Georgia, South and North Carolina, and Virginia. We have chosen states that have, among other things, implemented voter identification laws and shortened periods for early voting. All are efforts by these state jurisdictions to erode the potency and rights of the privilege to vote. Moreover, in a democracy the right to vote is the linchpin to other freedoms, including education, criminal justice reform, and economic freedom.

How far will we march in a day? How far will we march in each state?

We plan to march approximately 18 - 20 miles each day.

- Alabama Leg - 135 miles
- Georgia Leg - 204 miles
- South Carolina Leg - 110 miles
- North Carolina Leg - 168 miles
- Virginia Leg - 249 miles



If you cannot march, how can you participate in the journey?

You can go to your local NAACP branch and participate in the rallies that will be taking place throughout the duration of the journey. In addition to marching we will host teach-ins and Google hangouts, in order to open the conversation on how we can have reform passed on the federal, state, and local level.

You also can follow the journey online at <http://action.naacp.org/page/s/america-s-journey-for-justice> or text the key word JUSTICESUMMER to 62227. There will be television, newspaper, blog, and radio coverage of the journey as well.

Why start the journey now?

The journey is taking place now not only because it is the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march, but because we want the journey to prompt a national conversation regarding our lives, our votes, our jobs and our schools. This conversation should also be an essential part of every presidential candidate's election platform. Finally, we need to have legislation passed to strengthen the laws in place and promote a stronger democracy built on a promise of equality for every citizen of every religion, sexual orientation, heritage and hue.

What is the platform for the journey?

"Our Lives, Our Votes, Our Jobs, and Our Schools Matter"- we march and rally to ensure federal, local, and state reform to all four major areas with the ultimate goal to insure more equality and protection for everyone.

What events are taking place in each state?

- Alabama: Economic Inequality & Labor Rights Rally Aug. 3rd in Montgomery
- Georgia: Education Reform Rally Aug. 14th in Atlanta
- South Carolina: Criminal Justice Rally Aug. 20th in Greenville
- North Carolina: Voting Rights Rally Aug. 28th in Charlotte
- Virginia: Youth Rally Sept. 10th in Richmond
- D.C.: Advocacy Day Sept. 16th in Washington

How can I learn about the policies involved?

We plan to conduct teach-ins (classroom and virtual) along the march route focused on criminal justice reform, voting rights, sustainable jobs with living wages and education equity.

Contact Peter Williams or India Dockins at: idockins@naacpnet.org for more information about the Journey. For more information at the NAACP, see www.naacp.org

