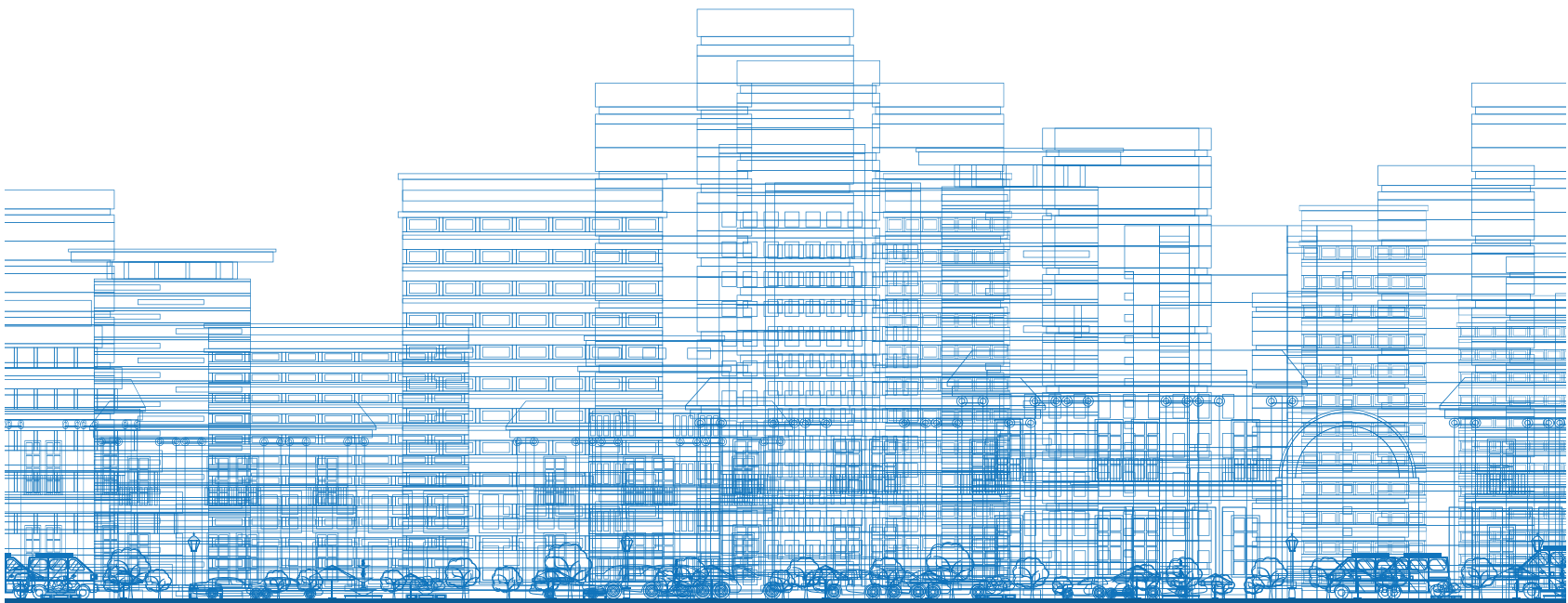


# Blueprint

for a Better Deal for Black America



A program of the National Center for Public Policy Research

20 F Street, NW, Suite 700  
Washington DC 20001  
[NationalCenter.org](http://NationalCenter.org)



**PROJECT 21**  
Black Leadership  
Network

**Co-Chairmen:**  
Horace Cooper  
Archbishop Council Nedd II  
Stacy Washington

# **Blueprint for a Better Deal for Black America**

**April 2018**



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*This publication is dedicated to the memory of Amy Moritz Ridenour, the founding CEO of the National Center for Public Policy Research, without whose support Project 21 wouldn't exist.*

## Executive Summary

It has been over a half-century since the enactment of landmark civil rights legislation targeting the scourge of racial discrimination. Unfortunately, too many black families today suffer from a non-racial scourge – conditions that undermine upward mobility and perpetuate unacceptable levels of poverty, crime and other social ills. The vaunted social safety net has become a web that ensnares black families in a vicious cycle of dependency.

Project 21, a network of black leaders from across the nation, has identified 10 key areas for reform and offers 57 concrete, budget-neutral recommendations to remove barriers blocking blacks from reaching their full potential and ensuring the American dream is attainable for all.

### Project 21 Areas of Focus and Key Recommendations:

***Promoting K–12 Educational Choice:*** Establish federal needs-based vouchers funded in part through an IRS 1040 voluntary donation check-off. Improve school security through upgrades in entry doors and by allowing trained school personnel access to guns.

***Improving Higher Education:*** Require schools to meet minimum graduation rate standards for both general and minority student populations to be eligible for federal student financial aid. Establish tuition caps for schools participating in student financial aid programs.

***Reducing Black Unemployment:*** Abolish the Jim Crow-era Davis-Bacon Act; initiate a second wave of welfare reform with work requirements and waive the minimum wage and collection of FICA for younger workers in special low-income areas.

***Strengthening Faith-Based Communities:*** Establish federal Tax Credit Scholarships; repeal the Johnson Amendment; create a tax credit for families paying for nursery-12 fees and tuition and ban abortions performed exclusively on the basis of fetus ethnicity.

***Promoting Self-Determination:*** End fraudulent election practices that dilute black votes. Require proof of citizenship to register; vigorously prosecute those who target minority communities for fraud and prohibit the mailing out of ballots that haven't been requested.

***Improving the Relationship Between Police and Black Communities:*** Get police out of the regulation business; disarm federal agencies and transfer the resources to support police-community outreach programs; increase use of body cameras; provide training to police in identifying people with autism; end gun bans and put police in charge of safety training.

***Ending Excessive Regulation:*** Require “Minority Impact Assessments” for new regulations.

***Stopping Wealth Transfer From the Poor to Non-Citizens:*** Bar illegal aliens from using public services, except in emergencies.

***Reducing the Economic Harm of Excise Taxes:*** Repeal federal, state and local sin and gas taxes, all of which have a disproportionate negative impact on low-income families.

***Reforming the Criminal Justice System:*** Require convictions for assets to be forfeited; prohibit incarceration for fine-only misdemeanors; require fines and forfeitures be transferred to general funds instead of enforcing agency budgets and consider ability to pay in levying fines.

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**Horace Cooper** is a co-chairman and a charter member of the Project 21 black leadership network. He also serves as a senior fellow of the National Center for Public Policy Research and as a senior fellow at the Heartland Institute. Cooper taught constitutional law while a visiting assistant professor at the George Mason University School of Law and previously served as a trustee on the GMU Board of Visitors. During the George W. Bush Administration, Cooper served as chief of staff at the Voice of America and at the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Standards Administration. Prior to that, he served as counsel to House Majority Leader Richard K. Armey. A popular legal and political commentator, Cooper averages 400 media appearances each year and has been a guest on CNN, MSNBC and Fox News. His articles have been published in the *Washington Times*, *Washington Examiner*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *The Hill* and the *Christian Science Monitor*.

**Archbishop Council Nedd II, Ph.D., TOSF** is a co-chairman and a charter member of the Project 21 black leadership network. He is rector of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania. Nedd is the world's youngest archbishop, and he's presided over Anglican churches in the United States, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. He's advised the UAE kingdom's royal family and helped Syrian Christians seeking asylum. Nedd received his Ph.D. from St. Alcuin House Seminary and his Doctor of Humanities from Anglican Major Seminary Diocese of the Caribbean and La Nueva Granada. Nedd is also a member of the law enforcement community, serving as a Pennsylvania State Constable. Previously, Nedd served on the staff of three members of the U.S. House of Representatives as an investigator and expert in health care policy. He also taught history, coached debate and helped establish a rugby team at a charter high school in Washington, D.C. He is the author of the books *Does America Hate God? Faith Under Fire*, *Teach Me How to Pray: A Guide to Family Prayer*, *The Final Four: A Scriptural Journey Through Advent* and *A Christmas Trilogy*. He previously chaired the faith-based advocacy group In God We Trust. Nedd has appeared on the Fox News Channel, One America News Network and TV One. His articles have been published by the Daily Caller, *Philadelphia Tribune* and *Washington Times*.

**Stacy Washington** is a co-chairman of the Project 21 black leadership network. She is the host of the "Stacy on the Right" daily talk radio program, which is syndicated nationally on the Urban Family Talk and American Family Radio networks. She has also served as guest host for such shows as "The Wilkow Majority" on SiriusXM's Patriot Channel, the Chris Plante and Larry O'Connor shows on WMAL-Washington, D.C., "Cam and Company" on NRATV and "The Dana [Loesch] Show" on Radio America. She is a decorated U.S. Air Force veteran, serving as a member of the Eglin AFB honor guard. Stacy's father was a U.S. Army Military Policeman who served overseas, and she spent much of her childhood in Germany as a result. She is now a wife and mother of three living in the St. Louis area. She was elected to the Ladue Board of Education and served as director, secretary and vice president. She was also the executive director of the Move-On-Up.org black conservative social network. Washington appeared on the cover of the June 2017 edition of *America's 1st Freedom* magazine after she terminated her contract with *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* when an editor tried to restrict her 2nd Amendment advocacy. Her commentaries have also appeared in Fox News Opinion, RealClearPolitics, The Federalist and *Washington Times*. Nominated for an Emmy Award for her television work, Washington has appeared on CNN, PBS, the BBC and the Fox Business Network.



Project 21 was established in 1992 to increase the diversity of black opinion represented in the mainstream media by promoting black conservative and libertarian leaders.

Project 21 participants have been quoted, interviewed and published in the media over 40,000 times since the program's inception, including in such outlets as the Fox News Channel, CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN, PBS, BET, TVOne, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, Westwood One and Rush Limbaugh Show.

Project 21 participants are black leaders in business, politics, the clergy, the media and academia and live all over the United States. They share a common desire to make America a better place for blacks, and all Americans, to live and work. Project 21 members do this in a variety of ways in their own communities, and, through Project 21, by writing opinion editorials for newspapers, participating in public policy discussions on radio and television, by participating in policy panels, by giving speeches before student, business and community groups and by advising policymakers at the national, state and local levels.