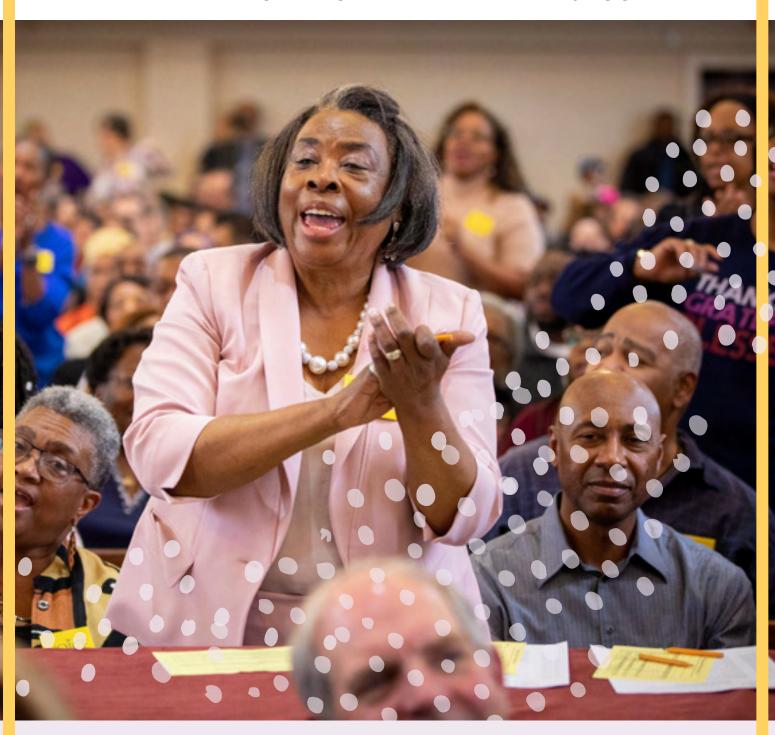


VOICE 2019 Annual Report

Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE)



ORGANIZING FOR A NEW DOMINION OF JUSTICE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN VIRGINIA



WHO IS VOICE?

VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) is a non-partisan citizens' organization of almost 50 faith and civic institutions in Northern Virginia. We organize to build power and do justice in middle and low-income communities in Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington and Alexandria City. Uniting people across lines of race, class, religion, political party and geography, we take action on key issues in our communities including, but not limited to, immigrant rights, foreclosure accountability, schools, criminal justice, affordable housing preservation/ development, and youth investment.

Founded in 2008, VOICE is an independent and non-profit organization led by a strategy team of religious, lay, and community leaders from across Northern Virginia. VOICE is funded by dues-paying member institutions (congregations, temples, mosques, union locals, business groups, schools, health centers, etc.), grants from foundations, and generous donations from individuals and businesses.

VOICE is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the nation's first and largest network of multifaith broad-based citizen organizations, which has seven decades of experience winning tough battles on housing, health care, education, living wages, immigrant rights and other issues across the nation. To see what the IAF has accomplished this year throughout the country, see pages 16-19.



VISION

We believe that people working together have the power to change their communities and their country for the better.

NEED

Political and corporate leaders often don't embrace change unless they're pressured by the people they serve. And too many people don't realize they have the potential to join forces and create change in their neighborhoods through organizing.

OUR APPROACH

We work with the people who want to transform the world—from what it is to what they believe it should be. We challenge people to imagine the change they can accomplish, connect individuals and organizations to multiply their power, and organize people by the hundreds and thousands to make their voices heard. We set bold goals, we create effective strategies—and we ACT, taking on the powerful interests that stand in the way.

2008-19

VOICE SIGNATURE VICTORIES

Held the CEOs from Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and General Electric accountable for the foreclosure crisis

in Prince William County, VA — resulting in \$250 million in principal reduction, more than 1,500 loan modifications, and \$30 million in reinvestment capital that kept thousands of families from losing their homes and is rebuilding blighted communities.

Won \$800,000 to provide dental care to over 2,000 low-income adults

in Northern Virginia and preserved \$9 million in state funding for dental care for low-income families statewide.

Trained and organized hundreds of immigrant leaders to win

on local housing, recreation, youth investment and immigration issues as well as to be a voice on national comprehensive and accountable immigration reform.

Organized low-income tenants to preserve 1,000+ affordable apartments and public housing units

from upscale development in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax counties, to address housing and fire code violations, improving 2,000+ units in Fairfax, Prince William, and Alexandria, and to win 1,000+ new affordable housing units on public and non-profit owned land in Northern Virginia.

Secured \$3 million to renovate local parks and athletic facilities

for low-income African- American and immigrant residents in southern Fairfax County.

Worked to secure over \$15 million in affordable housing projects

in Arlington and Alexandria between 2017 & 2018.

Won \$10 million to expand kindergarten to serve 576 low-income children

in Prince William County, VA—the first majority-minority county in Virginia.

Developed major power base of multi-faith institutions to support Muslims from hate and anti-immigrant based attacks.











MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, LEADERSHIP, & STAFF

VOICE is governed by 1) a Strategy Team of clergy and lay leaders which sets the strategic direction for the organization and 2) an Action Team of 100+ leaders from the member institutions (2 votes per institution) that discuss, ratify, and implement all VOICE's major campaigns and actions. There are approximately 4-6 Action Team Meetings a year.

VOICE 2019 STRATEGY TEAM MEMBERS

Serving as VOICE's board of directors, leaders from our member organizations are elected to serve three-year terms on the Strategy Team. Thank you for your service!

> Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon (Co-Chair) Rev. Becca Messman

Rev. Austin Almaguer Vienna Baptist Church, Vienna (Co-Chair)

> **Paul Douthit** St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington (Treasurer)

Dar al-Noor Islamic Community Center, Manassas Khadija Athman

Rev. Tuck Bowerfind St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria

> Florence Dale St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington

Mount Olive Baptist Church, Woodbridge **Rev. Clyde Ellis**

Kevin Harris ARHA Resident Association, Alexandria

Rabbi Michael Holzman Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, Reston

> **Hilary Horn** Temple Rodef Shalom, Falls Church

Emmaus United Church of Christ, Vienna **Rev. Kristen McBrayer**

Rev. Kenneth Nixon Jr. First Baptist Church, Manassas

> Saif Rahman Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, Falls Church

VOICE STAFF

Alisa Glassman

VOICE Lead Organizer aglassman@voice-iaf.org

Jeremy McClayton

VOICE Associate Organizer, Arlington/Alexandria imcclayton@voice-iaf.org

James Pearlstein

VOICE Senior Organizer, Prince William james.pearlstein@gmail.com

VOICE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

VOICE as a collective and membership organization, is open to congregations, temples, mosques, union locals, business groups, schools, health centers, and other institutions that support VOICE's mission to organize for a New Dominion of Justice and Participation in Virginia. VOICE member organizations are the source of the leaders who create and shape our issue campaigns. Each member organization has a Core Team of people who are invested in doing justice and building a relational culture. Core Team members participate in VOICE activities in a variety of ways depending on their interests, talents and passions. Member organizations can call on the VOICE staff to help them develop strategies and to act to address issues within their institutions and their community.

Is your organization interested in joining VOICE? Email us at voice@voice-iaf.org or contact a VOICE organizer for more information.

Accotink Unitarian Universalist

2019 VOICE MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

ALEXANDRIA CITY

Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Good Shepherd Catholic Church Grace Episcopal Church Old Presbyterian Meeting House Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church Third Baptist Church St. Joseph Catholic Church St. Paul's Episcopal Church Virginia Theological Seminary

ARLINGTON COUNTY

Mount Olive Baptist Church **NOVA Catholic Community** Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church St. George's Episcopal Church St. Mary's Episcopal Church Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

Arlington Presbyterian Church

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Church ADAMS Center Bethlehem Baptist Church Burke Presbyterian Church Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center Emmaus United Church of Christ Floris United Methodist Church Muslim American Society - DC Nativity Catholic Church NOVA Hebrew Congregation St. John Neumann Catholic Community St. Stephen's United Methodist Church Temple Rodef Shalom Trinity Presbyterian Church

Unitarian Universalist Church in

Reston

Vienna Baptist Church

VOICE of Mt. Vernon

PRINCE WILLIAM AREA

Bull Run Unitarian Universalists Dar Al-Noor Islamic Community Center First AME Church of Manassas First Baptist Church Manassas First Mount Zion Baptist Church Mount Olive Baptist Church Northern Virginia Baptist Association Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church St. Paul United Methodist Church









2019 VOICE ORGANIZING VICTORIES

BUILDING POWER AT THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL

In 2019, VOICE held three separate candidate accountability actions with state, county, and municipal candidates

from Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria between May and October with a total turnout of 1,700 VOICE leaders, winning commitments to:

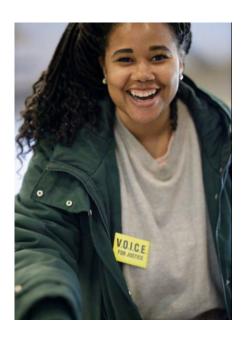
- Create a Public Defender office in Prince William, the first county that is majority people of color in Virginia
- Increase local investments in affordable housing by tens of millions in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria
- Expand after-school and Head Start/pre-K education in Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria

VOICE launched its Nonpartisan Get-Out-the-Vote work in 2017 at VOICE's Gubernatorial Accountability Action attended by 1,565 VOICE leaders at Patriot HS in Prince William County—the largest assembly of the election season with both gubernatorial candidates—three times larger than the second-largest assembly.





Since 2017, VOICE has had 1,332 election volunteers knock on their neighbors' doors in Virginia's 2017, 2018, and 2019 elections. In 2019, VOICE once again secured major results through its nonpartisan GOTV work in low voter turnout swing districts. This year, VOICE leaders strategically focused on Prince William County as it was key to who would control power in the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates. Each year, VOICE leaders have significantly increased voter turnout over other similar precincts. For example, this year in the 51st District— overall turnout was 49%, but in two of the precincts VOICE worked, turnout increased by 100.6% and 82.68%.







STATE ISSUE AGENDA

VOICE HAS PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING VICTORIES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS:

- Won driver's license restoration for 627,000 VA residents with unpaid court debt/fees/fines.
- Increased Virginia's felony larceny level to \$500 from \$250, the lowest in the nation. VOICE will push to raise the felony level to \$2,500 in 2020 to match the threshold in Texas.
- **Secured \$154 million** in dedicated annual funding for capital improvements for WMATA, part of \$500 million total in annual dedicated funds from VA, DC, and MD to revitalize the Washington regions bus and rail system.
- **Secured a down payment of \$12.5 million** towards the \$90 million needed to raise the school counselor-to-student ratio to 1:250. The ratio in many elementary schools is now 1:500. Gov. Northam committed the full \$90M over three years in his budget that VOICE requested.
- Expanded Virginia's Affordable Housing Fund to \$11 million.





2019 KEY VICTORIES



ABOUT METRO IAF

VOICE is an affiliate of Metro IAF. The Metro Industrial Areas Foundation (Metro IAF) is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the first and largest network of multi-faith, broadbased citizen organizations, which has seven decades of experience winning tough battles on housing, health care, education, living wages, immigration rights, and other issues in the US and abroad. Metro IAF's 22 affiliates are in the East, Midwest, and Southeast United States (CT, DC, IL, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, OH, VA, WI).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Restored drivers' licenses to 627,000 Virginians with unpaid court fees and fines and won commitment to create a public defender office in Prince William County, the first county to be a majority people of color county in VA. Expanded access to Cleveland, OH's Drug Court for people of color creating alternatives to incarceration set to open winter 2020. Won Clean Slate legislation introduction to wipe criminal records clean upon release in CT. Won increase in Medicare/Medicaid funding of newly established Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) in IL by Governor J.B. Pritzker. CSU's divert those in mental crisis from crowded jails and hospital emergency rooms, allowing people with mental illness to avoid incarceration and receive support by trained professionals in a therapeutic space that is safe and will be responsive to their future care needs. In addition, Chicago Mayor Lightfoot committed to end incarceration of people with mental illness with the establishment and expansion of CSU's.

JOBS

Turnaround Tuesday, a jobs movement in Baltimore, MD, added 214 job placements in 2019 for a total of over 757 since its inception along with organizing nearly \$3 million to develop quality jobs through 2024. Won hourly wage increase to \$15/hr by Durham, NC Housing Authority for all jobs required to renovate its properties with priority in hiring its own residents. Secured a commitment from the Durham Mayor that all jobs generated by the proposed \$95 million housing bond as well as \$17.5 million construction of Durham's Belt Line Project will pay \$15/hr and seek to hire local returning citizens. Won commitment from Duke University to pay a living wage of \$15/hr, to stop asking job applicants to disclose past criminal convictions and to make workforce development a priority. Won commitment to double size of youth employment program in Durham, NC.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Secured more than \$730 million for 5,160 affordable housing apartments with projects in DC, IL, MD, NC, NJ, and NY; \$300 million for over 3,350 affordable homes with projects in IL, MA & NJ; and \$76 million for over 1,000 units fixed due to landlord accountability in MD, NJ & NY serving people and families with mental and/or developmental disabilities, as well as low-income seniors, individuals and families. Celebrated 20% affordable housing mandate for Under

Armour's new corporate campus development on Baltimore, MD's waterfront, creating thousands of affordable units. Restored \$424 million to New York City's budget for affordable senior housing to be built on excess NYC Housing Authority land. Held NYC Housing Authority accountable to fix mold & leaks in thousands of apartments and won a commitment of at least \$75 million for ventilation repairs. Relentless organizing over a decade won a \$20.1 million renovation of one of DC's largest abandoned apartment complexes, restoring 220 affordable housing units. Dedicated 99 new affordable housing units at Emory Beacon of Light in DC, culminating 10 years of work. Won \$68 million more for Housing Initiative Fund in Montgomery, County, MD, bringing the total investment to over \$725 million since inception. Expanded VA Affordable Housing Fund to \$11 million. Won over \$1 million in investments by developer in Anne Arundel County, MD to make structural repairs, eradicate rodents and fix other housing code violations. Secured win of Fair Housing Law in Anne Arundel County, MD that removed discrimination based on forms of payment and won establishment of Human Relations Committee that has authority to subpoena landlords who violate the Fair Housing Law. Delivered win to homebuyers in Boston, MA with \$3.8 million in assistance towards a combination of lower interest rates and enhance down-payment assistance.

IMMIGRATION

Secured \$2.5 million for DC Immigrant Legal Services and a commitment of \$540,000 towards free legal support for immigrants facing deportation in Montgomery County, MD. Took power away from ICE by putting an end to a program allowing deputies to hold an individual in jail so that ICE may assume physical custody of the individual in Mecklenburg County, NC. Created and issued hundreds of parish identification cards to immigrants in Baltimore that are recognized by city agencies as an alternative form of identification in specific situations, restoring trust within the community to relate to police and other government entities.





HEALTHCARE

Won \$140 million in savings on prescription drug costs in MA. Increased state medicaid reimbursement rate for Crisis Stabilization Units (CSU) in IL, creating a game-changing incentive for hospitals to establish CSUs for people in mental health crisis. Won \$1 million for school mental health services in Howard County, MD. Expanded Medication-Assisted Treatments in IL & NY, helping incarcerated individuals in jail and on parole.

GUN SAFETY

Metro IAF's Do Not Stand Idly By (DNSIB) campaign organized a Gun Safety Tech Expo in Milwaukee, WI that brought together key players on gun safety: developers of state-of-the-art gun safety technologies, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, DA John Chisholm and other officials from throughout the region, public health leaders, and investors pressing for responsible conduct in the gun industry. DNSIB recruited the team of mayors and other officials who launched the Gun Safety Consortium -- the nation's first coalition of cities and counties dedicated to getting effective gun locks and safety products into the hands of police and civilian gun owners. Consortium co-founders include mayors John Cranley of Cincinnati, OH, Bill Peduto of Pittsburgh, PA, and Joe Ganim of Bridgeport CT; County Executive Steuart Pittman of Anne Arundel County MD; Kane County, IL Sheriff Ron Hain, and Park Ridge, IL Police Chief Frank Kaminski. DNSIB won a public commitment from Chicago, IL Mayor Lori Lightfoot to work on safer guns, gun locks & gun dealer reforms. NJ Governor Phil Murphy and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal signed onto the DNSIB campaign and made New Jersey the first state to compile and release data showing the manufacturers of guns used in crimes in the state – an important step toward holding manufacturers accountable.

EDUCATION

Gained major funding increases for schools in MD, NC, NJ & VA, including \$60 million in Montgomery County, MD, \$7 million in Jersey City, and \$12.5 million in VA. These funding increases will allow for rebuilds of high-poverty schools, after school programming for low-income students, and an increased school counselor-to-student ratio. In Boston, Somali leaders secured \$100,000 to improve playground space that was unsafe and in disrepair. In Orange County, NC, urban and rural leaders from diverse backgrounds celebrated their success in pushing the school district to quadruple the hiring of teachers of color.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS FRIENDS OF VOICE

A special thanks to Friends of VOICE: those who gave or raised \$300 for the organization.

Adam Finkel & Joann Booth

Alisa Glassman

Allan and Barbara Ratner

Anna Steward Ashley Goff Austin Almaguer

Barbara Sprout Becca Messman

Bernard & Helen Hensgen Betsy Bicknell & Roland Cyr

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Susan Etherton
Suzanne Porth
Wolfgang Scherer

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS SUPPORTERS OF VOICE

Agnes Mallard Alex Roth Ann Lunger Ann Rudd

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Ric & Anne Blackstein Robert & Nancy Morgan Rosemary & Edgar Kley

Renee Brereton

Sally Recinos Sharon Williams Stephanie Paduano

Stephen and Juanita Csontos

Stephen Smith-Cobbs

Styron Douthit Tina Ejtemai Wayne Cimons Wayne Moore

William & Janice Logan

William Casey Yena Hwang

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM OF 2019! DONATE NOW BY SCANNING THIS CODE BELOW ON YOUR PHONE







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in America Hunger Fund
Franciscan Friars, Holy Name
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National Capital Presbytery
Presbyterian Church USA
Hunger Program
Speer Trust

Foundation Supporters

Meyer Foundation

With your support, in 2019, VOICE can continue to train thousands of leaders to act and win on the issues that are most important to them in their communities. Thank you.

Please donate at www.voice-iaf.org. You can also send a CHECK to VOICE at 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22204

VOICE is an independent, strictly non-partisan, tax-exempt 501c3 non-profit organization.

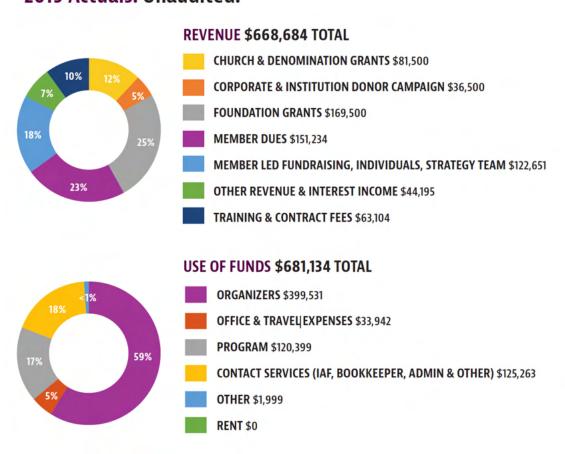
VOICE FINANCES

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

VOICE is funded by dues for member institutions, individual donations, corporate donors and foundations. The bulk of VOICE's annual budget pays for professional staff members who guide and serve the member organizations. The budget also funds the training of volunteer leaders each year and covers expenses associated with operating issue campaigns. VOICE is able to keep its cost down by having little to no overhead. Thank you to UUCA and Vienna Baptist for donating space to VOICE to store supplies.

VOICE does not accept government funds so that it can remain autonomous and politically independent.

2019 Actuals, Unaudited.





VOICE leaders challenged ourselves to raise in advance the salary for a fourth organizer. We did it! As a result of your support, VOICE now has on-the-ground organizers in each of VOICE's four jurisdictions









