



HIP HOP CAUCUS POLICY PRIORITIES FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE

Our policy priorities fall under three pillars. Outlined here is a cursory summary of our policy priorities:

- **Climate** - Cut our dependence on oil in half; Move to 100% electricity from clean sources such as wind and solar; Create 5 million new clean energy jobs; Reduce global warming pollution by at least 80%; Maximize investments in the transition to a green economy; Focus on fixing, improving efficiency, and lowering energy costs for our existing infrastructure, rather than on new development.
- **Justice** - Preventative policies to decrease violence in urban communities; Reinstatement of civil liberties that were removed/abused by the Bush Administration; Voter registration in High Schools nation-wide; Right to Return of Katrina Survivors; Voting Rights for people with Felony convictions; Equal access to quality education, jobs, and housing.
- **Peace** - Immediate and safe withdraw of American troops from Iraq; Defunding of AFRICOM; Reversal of foreign policy roles and responsibilities transferred from the State Department to the Department of Defense under the Bush Administration.

HOW ARE YOUNG AMERICANS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO HELP MEET THESE SPECIFIC NATIONAL CHALLENGES?

- **Young people have base-line values that are more progressive than previous generations.**
- Demographically young people are more racially and ethnically diverse *and* young people's attitudes towards diversity are more accepting of people different than themselves, as compared to older generations. **Through the leadership and vision of our generation, we can move past identity-based politics and the practice of segmenting the electorate by race and class.**

WHAT THE HIP HOP CAUCUS IS DOING TO EMPOWER AND ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO US AND THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY:

- **Developing leadership and identifying genius outside of the Academy and outside of our existing activist community:** We seek out young people who are not brought through the ranks of college activism, and we foster their unique leadership and voices for change.
- **Broadening our base:** We are working to engage young people of color in urban communities, a group that is disproportionately and adversely impacted by conservative policies, but are the least heard and engaged in the policymaking process.
- **Making government more transparent:** We are educating young people on how government works, from the basics of what different levels and branches of government do, to what the avenues are for the public to put pressure on policymakers and public administrators.

ABOUT THE HIP HOP CAUCUS, EST. 2004

Since 2004, the Hip Hop Caucus has grown to 700,000 email and mobile members, with an active organizing network across 23 states.

Through the Hip Hop Caucus we are challenging the demonization of a generation and culture by creating a space for young people to speak up - to discuss and debate a new vision of a society and a government that works for all of us. We insist that issues of poverty, inequality and opportunity be placed at the center of our national debate. We challenge the status-quo in Washington, which relies on "experts" to determine what our communities need. We engage the Hip Hop generation, those born after 1964, through issue campaigns, events, and voter education. We work to broaden and revitalize a civil and human rights agenda for the 21st century that is embodied in a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-class progressive movement for change.