



WINTER | 2024

State of Black PA: Recommendations

BY: STATE SENATOR ART HAYWOOD
PROUDLY SERVING THE 4TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

*“You got to use what you got to get what you want.”
- James Brown, Godfather of Soul*



Background

In February 2023, Senator Art Haywood announced the release of a first-of-its-kind [State of Black Pennsylvania report](#). The report details the changing position of Black Pennsylvanians from 2010 to 2021, with several data points indicating the upward socioeconomic mobility of the Black community.

The 28-page report examines health, incarceration, income, and population data for Black Pennsylvanians. The data was pulled from a number of sources to put together a complete picture of the Black experience in PA over the past decade.

Key Takeaways

THE STATE OF **BLACK** PENNSYLVANIA 2010-2021

- **State incarceration dramatically down by 8,000, 32%**
- **Higher education up by 34,437 males and 38,119 females (72,556 total), or an increase of 74.92% males and 49.66% females, from 2010 to 2021**
- **Over \$100K income earning households significantly up by approximately 54,000 from 2010 to 2021**
- **Black annual median household income increased by \$11,000 from 2010 (\$31,000) to 2021 (\$42,000)**
- **The total Black poverty population declined by 55,591 persons from 2010 to 2021, a change of -14.22%**
- **Uninsured for healthcare down from 14.6% to 6.1%**
- **Homeownership slightly down from 47.2% to 44.7%, or 2.5% fewer Black owner-occupied housing units between 2010 and 2021**
- **Hate crimes with anti-Black motivation up from 35 to 148 (+113) reported offenses from 2010 to 2021**

Listening Tour

Following the report's release, Senator Haywood embarked on a Pennsylvania-wide listening tour to hear feedback and recommendations from Black residents.

Tour Metrics

- Over 90 citizen participants.
- Over 20 elected-official participants
- Tour events across 6 counties.
- Over 1000 travel miles logged.

STATE OF BLACK PA TOUR



[SENATORHAYWOOD.COM/STATEOFBLACKPA](https://senatorhaywood.com/stateofblackpa)

“The inherent dignity and worth of Black Pennsylvanians are not conditioned on the comparison to White Pennsylvanians or anyone else. This report is important because it is a one-of-a-kind comparison to ourselves. It shows us how we have advanced and where we need to see more progress.”

- Senator Art Haywood

Recommendations

“Every success comes with the responsibility to bring more folks along with you.”

- Rita Smith Wade-El

1. Establish equitable school funding to improve the environments and resources that support Black students and educators.
2. Prepare Black students to take over as next generation of leaders by equipping them early and intentionally with the information, skills, and space for success.
3. Replace the school-to-prison pipeline with the opportunity pipeline, directing Black students toward underrepresented opportunities while offering support in the forms of mentorship and financial guidance.
4. Raise the minimum wage to a family-sustaining level.
5. Increase and improve access to safe, affordable family housing by increasing inventory and removing barriers to homebuying, such as bias and criminal history.
6. Increase Harrisburg support to municipalities via programs such as Whole Home Repairs.
7. Support Black entrepreneurs in establishing a strong business community by increasing access to financial and professional resources.
8. Position incarcerated individuals for success through educational and mental health supports.
9. Support Black women by increasing access to contraceptive care, pre- and postnatal care, and emotional support.
10. Increase access to affordable, accessible childcare.

Next Steps

The State of Black Pennsylvania report highlights significant strides for Black Pennsylvanians, as well as demonstrates the need for continued investment and attention from the General Assembly. This report will be used as a resource to craft legislation and develop policy that further supports and betters the lives of the Black community. The Office of Senator Haywood continues to engage with elected officials, including Governor Shapiro, to advance the recommendations that were inspired by the report.

The report also serves as a call to action to community leaders and elected officials to advance the report’s findings and corresponding recommendations.



© 2024

Senator Art Haywood

SenatorHaywood.com



@SenatorArtHaywood



@SenatorHaywood