



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to News@scdaily.com or contact
John Robbins 281-965-6390
Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Publisher: Wea H. Lee
President: Catherine Lee
Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072
E-mail: News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Wednesday , February 02 2023

Fed delivers small rate hike, still expects ‘on-going increases’

WASHINGTON, Feb 1 (Reuters) - The Federal Reserve raised its target interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point on Wednesday, yet continued to promise “ongoing increases” in borrowing costs as part of its still unresolved battle against inflation.

“Inflation has eased somewhat but remains elevated,” the U.S. central bank said in a statement that marked an explicit acknowledgement of the progress made in lowering the pace of price increases from the 40-year highs hit last year.

Russia’s war in Ukraine, for example, was still seen as adding to “elevated global uncertainty,” the Fed said. But policymakers dropped the language of earlier statements citing the war as well as the COVID-19 pandemic as direct contributors to rising prices and omitted mention of the global health crisis for the first time since March 2020.

Still, the Fed said the U.S. economy was enjoying “modest growth” and “robust” job gains, with policymakers still “highly attentive to inflation risks.”

Fed’s Powell: will need substantially more evidence to be confident inflation on downward path
U.S. job openings increase to five-month high as labor market stays tight
Explainer: Why the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act has rattled Europe
India hikes spending, shuns ‘outright populism’ in last pre-election budget
“The (Federal Open Market) Committee anticipates that ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate in order to attain a stance of monetary policy that is sufficiently restrictive to return inflation to 2% over time,” the Fed said.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell wasted little time emphasizing that recent progress on inflation - while “gratifying” - is still insufficient to signal an end to the rate hikes.

“We will need substantially more evidence” that inflation is ebbing to be confident that it’s moving back toward the target,” Powell said at a news conference following the end of the two-day policy meeting.

That said, Powell said he believes there is a path back to the Fed’s 2% inflation target without a significant economic downturn, and the central bank may be only “a couple of more rate hikes” from the level it deems is sufficiently restrictive to bring inflation down.

Stocks, modestly lower ahead of the Fed rate decision, turned sharply higher as Powell spoke, with the benchmark S&P 500 (.SPX) index climbing about 1% on the session.

At the same time, the yield on the 2-year Treasury note , the maturity most sensitive to Fed policy expectations, dropped abruptly to the day’s low, last trading down about 8 basis points at around 4.12%. The U.S. dollar slid against a basket of major trading partner currencies.



U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell addresses reporters after the Fed raised its target interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point, during a news conference at the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, U.S., February 1, 2023. REUTERS/Jonathan ErnstRead less

“If you were hoping for clear signs of an upcoming pause in interest rate hikes, you were left wanting. The Federal Reserve retained the phrase ‘ongoing increases’ in their statement, leaving their options open depending on what upcoming economic data says,” said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.

INFLATION TARGET REAFFIRMED
The Fed’s policy decision lifted the benchmark overnight interest rate to a range between 4.50% and 4.75%, a move widely anticipated by investors and flagged by U.S. central bankers ahead of the meeting.

But in keeping the promise of more rate hikes to come, the Fed pushed back against investor expectations that it was ready to flag the end of the current tightening cycle as a nod to the fact that inflation has been steadily declining for six months.

The statement did indicate that any future rate increases would be in quarter-percentage-point increments, dropping a reference to the “pace” of future increases and instead referring to the “extent” of rate changes.

But those, it said, would take into account how the policy moves so far had impacted the economy, language that linked further rate increases to the evolution of upcoming economic data.

The Fed hopes it can continue nudging inflation lower to its 2% target without triggering a deep recession or causing a substantial rise in the unemployment rate from the current 3.5%, a level rarely seen in recent decades. Inflation, based on the Fed’s preferred measure, slowed to a 5% annual rate in December.

The U.S. central bank did not issue new economic projections from its policymakers on Wednesday but did reaffirm its commitment to its 2% average inflation target as part of its annual review of operating principles.

敬請關注我們的新媒體帳號
Follow us on social media



WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/31/2023

Our Brother Congressman Al Green

Our Congressman Al Green came to our Lunar New Year Festival celebration last Saturday. He delivered the greeting message. He is one of the best congressmen we have ever had. Not just because he cares for our community. His patience and contributions always give our community great help.

Through Al's help, just last month we got a two-million-dollar grant for the International District to improve our infrastructure and traffic from the federal government. I remember when the pandemic hit our community, Al was the first one who came to us and got all the help we needed for our community.

Congressman Al Green is our real brother. He never refuses the

requests of the people and always does his best. He is the best representative we have ever had in this region.

Today he told me we need to call a meeting with the Asian Chinese community to protest a bill in the Texas Senate that wants to ban Chinese from buying property in Texas.

We are very fortunate that we have such a big brother to take care of us.

Al, we all thank you for your service to our community.



Wea H. Lee
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas

Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Dozens of German-made Leopard 1 tanks, owned by Freddy Versluys the CEO of Belgian defense company OIP Land Systems, who said could help Ukraine if he received export permits from the Belgian regional government of Wallonia and from Germany to sell them, are seen in a hangar in Tournai, Belgium. REUTERS/Yves



Pope Francis celebrates a holy mass at Ndolo Airport during his apostolic journey, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose for a picture after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in an unknown location, Ukraine. Courtesy: Head of Ukraine's Presidential Office Andriy Yermak via Telegram



Pope Francis celebrates a holy mass at Ndolo Airport during his apostolic journey, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. REUTERS/Yara Nardi



A protester throws a projectile amid tear gas during clashes near the Invalides during a demonstration against French government's pension reform plan in Paris as part of a national strike and protests in France. REUTERS/Gonzalo Fuentes



Commuters travel in an overcrowded train near a railway station in Ghaziabad, on the outskirts of New Delhi, India. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis

In Celebration Of Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month Asian American Business Leaders Launch Effort to Fight Anti-Asian Discrimination

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The initiative plans to support research to correct discriminatory practices against Asian Americans



Hundreds March In Los Angeles To Protest Asian Hate And Violence Against Asians.

Overview
Anti-Asian discrimination, fueled by xenophobia and racist beliefs about the coronavirus, have plagued the AAPI community this past year. In order to promote equity and justice for all, citizens must fight racism and support people of Asian descent. Violence and discrimination against Asian Americans has surged over the past year. The United Nations calls on all countries to promote equity, tolerance, and inclusion — without doing so, we'll never end extreme poverty.

Amid a global rise in hate crimes against people of Asian descent over the past year, many individuals have decided to take a stand. From raising money to ensure Asian people feel safe to organizations fighting racism and discrimination, people around the world are attempting to end the bigotry and ignorance that leads to hate.

Now, a group of Asian American business leaders have launched a new initiative to help, pledging \$125 million over the next five years to The Asian American Foundation (TAAF), according to the New York Times.

TAAF will prioritize efforts in three areas — anti-hate, education, and data and research — to correct discriminatory practices that have plagued the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

Within these areas, TAAF seeks to build long-term solutions to defeat anti-Asian discrimination, invest in data-driven research to inform future policymaking, and create school curriculums that reflect the history of AAPI people in the US.



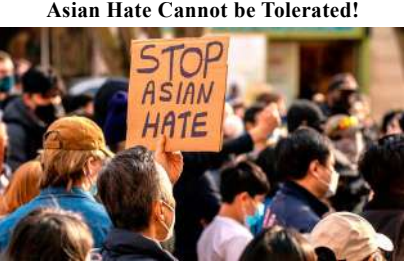
A woman holds a sign at a protest against anti-Asian discrimination. (Photo/Flickr/Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association)

The population of Asian Americans in the US grew 81% between 2000 and 2019, making it the fastest growing pop-

ulation among all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, according to the Pew Research Center. The community is projected to grow even more rapidly in the coming years. But Asian people living in the US have experienced a sharp rise in hate crimes amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has fueled racism and xenophobia. The group Stop AAPI Hate, which tracks anti-Asian violence and harassment, received 3,795 reports of incidents between the period of March 19, 2020 to Feb. 28, 2021, and noted that this number represents only a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur against members of the AAPI community.

"We created TAAF to stand up for the 23 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in this country and help bring us all together in the fight for our own prosperity," said Sonal Shah, president of TAAF. "TAAF wants to strengthen and build power for AAPIs, particularly as we face an exponential increase in hate and violence."

The founders board of TAAF is chaired by Li Lu, founder of hedge fund Himalaya Capital, and includes billionaires Jerry Yang, the co-founder of Yahoo, and Joseph Tsai, co-founder of Alibaba Group Holding, according to Reuters. A number of partners are supporting the new initiative, and The Coca-Cola Company, Walmart, Bank of America, the Ford Foundation, and the National Basketball Association have donated an additional \$125 million, according to TAAF. (Disclosure: The Coca-Cola Company is a funding partner of Global Citizen.)



Asian Hate Cannot be Tolerated!

The total \$250 million pledge is the largest philanthropic effort to support the AAPI community, according to the New York Times. So far, TAAF has distributed several grants, including \$1 million to support the efforts of Stop AAPI Hate. The foundation says these grants will provide support to the organizations monitoring anti-AAPI hate to help build systems to measure and defend against anti-Asian hate in the long term.

"AAPI communities need systemic change to ensure we are better supported, represented, and celebrated across all aspects of American life," Shah said. "TAAF plans to spark that systemic change and help fundamentally transform AAPI empowerment and support well into the future." (Courtesy globalcitizen.org)

Related
Groups Fighting for Asian Americans That You Can Support Right Now

BUSINESS



Messages are posted in a wall of solidarity by people participating at a rally "Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power" to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, March 13, 2021. | Messages are posted in a wall of solidarity by people participating at a rally "Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power" to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, March 13, 2021. | Damian Dovarganes/AP

Over the past year, at least 3,800 hate incidents against Asian Americans have been reported amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which activists say were stoked by misinformation and rising anti-Asian rhetoric from political figures and media pundits. The shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday that killed eight people, including six Asian women, took place amid this violence and further highlighted discussions about years-long harassment and discrimination against people of Asian descent in the US and around the world. While officials are still investigating whether hate crime charges should be brought against the shooting suspect, according to AP, advocates say there can be no obscuring the bigger picture.

"That the Asian women murdered yesterday were working highly vulnerable and low-wage jobs during an ongoing pandemic speaks directly to the compounding impacts of misogyny, structural violence, and white supremacy," said Phi Nguyen, litigation director at Asian American Advancing Justice in Atlanta, in a statement.

Anti-Asian hatred in the US isn't happening in a vacuum, shaped only by COVID-19 misinformation. It's taking place against the backdrop of history. Between imperial wars of aggression, domestic policies of exclusion, and offensive media depictions, bigotry against Asians is deeply embedded in US society.

The fight for racial justice requires that everyone lead this history and understand how it continues to shape reality today. It also requires everyone to show solidarity with Asian Americans and take concrete steps to stop hatred and violence, including learning how to engage in bystander intervention. A demonstrator participates at a rally "Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power" to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, March 13, 2021.



A demonstrator participates at a rally "Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power" to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, March 13, 2021. Image: Damian Dovarganes/AP

Countless grassroots groups across the US are organizing in their communities and building intersectional alliances to achieve equity, inclusivity, and justice.

Here are nine nonprofits and mutual aid groups focusing on Asian American rights that Global Citizens can support.

These groups are organizing for equity and justice

1. Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Atlanta
AAAJ is dedicated to protecting and advancing "the civil rights of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) in Georgia and the Southeast." The organization helps people resolve legal issues and organizes communities with the goal of "promoting equity, fair treatment, and self-determination for all."

2. Red Canary Song
Red Canary Song focuses on decriminalizing sex work, uplifting migrant workers, and advancing labor rights. The organization is advocating for a world in which all workers, especially Asian and migrant workers, have dignity and full legal rights.

3. Asian American Feminist Collective
AARC is an "ever-evolving" organization that engages in community building, offers political education events in public spaces, and provides resources to communities.

4. Stop AAPI Hate

5. Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)
The CPA primarily helps low-income Chinese migrants organize for better living conditions by, among other services, advocating for tenant's rights and providing material support to students.

Learn more here.



6. The Center for Asian Pacific American Women (CAPAW)
CAPAW seeks to help Asian American women gain access to positions of power in both the private and public spheres. CAPAW provides mentoring, networking, and education opportunities to its members.

7. The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
NAPAWF uses a "reproductive justice framework" to elevate and fight for issues affecting girls and women. The group works to end the gender pay gap, expand immigrant rights, and improve access to reproductive health care through legal efforts and community organizing.

Learn more here.

8. The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
This organization campaigns to improve the opportunities available to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) children by providing leadership development training and advocating for improved resource access.

Learn more here.

9. Asian Mental Health Collective
This group is working to break down stigmas around mental health within the AAPI community, while expanding access to mental health services.

Related

"It's Time To Act Now,"
President Biden Makes Racial Justice A
Top Priority With Four Executive Orders

COMMUNITY

(Article Continues From Above)

Asian American Business Leaders Launch Effort to Fight Anti-Asian Discrimination

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



President Joe Biden Signs COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act Into Law to Fight Anti-Asian Hate The law responds to the surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans.



President Joe Biden signs the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, in the East Room of the White House, on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Washington, DC. | President Joe Biden signs the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, in the East Room of the White House, on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Washington, DC. Clockwise from left: Sen. Tammy Duckworth, R-Ill., Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., Vice President Kamala Harris, Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., and Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii. (Photo/Evan Vucci/AP)

President Joe Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act Thursday to address the nationwide surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans over the past year. The signing of the bipartisan legislation follows testimony from experts about the rise in violence and grassroots pressure to protect Asian American communities. Biden spoke about the urgency of the matter while signing the law.

"All of this hate hides in plain sight," Biden said at the White House. "Too often it is met with silence — silence by the media, silence by our politics, and silence by our history." The law seeks to break that silence by improving law enforcement capabilities for dealing with hate crimes. Law enforcement agencies will receive training to better identify hate crimes, while officials will also deploy public education campaigns and create hate crime hotlines. The Justice Department will install someone to accelerate the agency's review of hate crimes. Efforts to improve data collection around hate crimes will also commence.

Over the past year, more than 6,600 hate crimes have been reported against Asian-Americans, according to the advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate. Experts point to misinformation surrounding COVID-19 and rising anti-Asian rhetoric from political figures and media pundits as instigating factors of the violence. The majority of crimes have taken place in parks, public streets, and businesses, and people report that verbal harassment, shunning, and physical attacks are the most common types of hate crime experienced. The public nature of these attacks has caused a feeling of dread to

pervade many Asian American communities. This dread reached a peak in March when a gunman murdered six women of Asian descent at their places of employment.



Many Asian-American advocacy groups hailed the passage of the law as a historic moment.

"The passage of this bill today begins a much-needed step forward in prioritizing language access and culturally competent outreach to our communities in reporting and addressing anti-Asian hate, while also giving the communities power to allocate resources for community solutions to hate and discrimination, including non-law enforcement support services for victims and communities," said John C. Yang, the president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, in a statement.

"This step forward also improves hate crimes reporting and data collection infrastructure to keep government agencies and law enforcement accountable to our communities' needs," he said.

Other groups, including Stop AAPI Hate, criticize how the law increases the power of law enforcement.

"Because the Act centers criminal law enforcement agencies in its solutions, it will not address the overwhelming majority of incidents reported to our site which are not hate crimes, but serious hate incidents," the organization wrote in a press release.

Stop AAPI Hate calls on the federal government to pass "legislation that addresses the root causes of systemic racism and oppression" by investing in mental health and immigration services, funding community-based groups, elevating "voices and histories of all communities by expanding ethnic studies and education," and "strengthen[ing] federal civil rights laws that address discrimination in public accommodations." (Courtesy globalcitizen.org)

"The fear is very real": how Asian Americans are fighting rising hate crime



As the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the US, Asian Americans are finally in a position to do more than stock up on pepper spray and hope for the best

A rise in Asian American gun ownership. Blocks-long lines for pepper spray in Manhattan Chinatown. Children kept home from school by fearful parents. Elderly people who have stopped leaving their homes. A warning to Filipinos in the US, issued by the Philippine embassy in DC. Across the US, Asian American communities have been gripped by anger and despair as hate crimes against them have increased sharply — rising by 339% last year compared with 2020, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. As early as March 2020, the FBI issued a report predicting a "surge" in hate crimes against Asian Americans, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which happened to originate in an Asian country. Adding fuel to the fire: incendiary and racist language — used by irresponsible politicians and repeated across social media — and geopolitical tensions with China.

"All of those are conditions that have led at other times to terrible anti-Asian violence," says author and activist Helen Zia.

But what's different this time, says Zia, is that more people recognize the problem. In the 1980s, Zia helped bring about the first federal civil rights case involving an Asian American: Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man was beaten to death by two white auto-workers who took him for Japanese and blamed Japan for the car industry's struggles. They were merely fined \$3,000 each for the killing. Today Asian Americans, the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the US, are finally in a position to do more than stock up on pepper spray and hope for the best. Meanwhile, academic research on implicit and unconscious bias, improvements in data collection, and social movements like Black Lives Matter have contributed to greater understanding about racism and bias, and the ways that can translate into hate speech and violence. From the local through federal level, community advocates and other leaders have been organizing, debating, and building support, aimed at combating the ongoing epidemic of anti-Asian hate.



People rally calling for action and awareness on rising incidents of hate crime against Asian Americans in Times Square in New York City on 16 March. Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP/Getty Images

After the Atlanta-area shooting deaths of eight people, six of them Asian women, by a white gunman in March 2021, President Joe Biden announced a set of actions to respond to anti-Asian violence and xenophobia, and in May, further established the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, "to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPi communities." Among other actions, the initiative will improve data collection methods that have left Asian people underrepresented in government statistics, and by extension, the resulting programs and policies.

Long-term, many agree that the answer lies in education. In January, Illinois became the first state to require that Asian American history be taught in public schools. New Jersey soon followed, and at least nine other states are considering the same. "Members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community have made countless contributions to our state and country, yet they are made virtual-

ly invisible by our history books," said four NJ assembly sponsors of the bill in a joint statement. "This erasure ... not only prevents students from gaining a full understanding of our nation's history, but also opens the door for racial biases that can turn into violence and hatred."



People gather at the Solidarity Against AAPI Hate rally on the National Mall in Washington DC on 31 May 2021. Photograph: Bryan Dozier/Rex/Shutterstock

The new hate crimes act aims to fill some of those gaps by making it easier to report incidents and incentivizing local police forces to improve their data collection methods, for example through better training around how to identify hate crimes. (It also includes provisions named after Heather Heyer, the woman run over and killed by a neo-Nazi in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.) "You're not going to find anti-Asian bias if you're not looking for it, so this bill does help train police to look for it better," said Mark.

However, critics say it does not address the root causes of hate, and fear the statistics will merely result in over-policing of Asian and other ethnic minority communities. "The community is divided about the role of police," says Jo-Ann Yoo, executive director of the Asian American Federation, an umbrella organization for non-profits in NYC. In New York City, for example, people reluctant to interact with police can instead report incidents to the Commission on Human Rights, which collects data about (and sometimes acts on) bias, harassment and discrimination incidents in general — a wider array than hate crimes, which are narrowly defined.

"Dedicate resources to local communities," wrote Stop AAPI Hate in a response to the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act. Existing grassroots efforts that have sprung up during the pandemic offer a glimpse at what locals feel is needed: new community groups, focusing on everything from mutual aid, to activism, to organizing volunteers to patrol the streets, to stoking pride in Asian American culture, have proliferated.

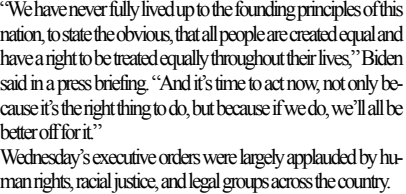


Members of the Thai-American community along with political leaders and members of law enforcement participate in a rally against Asian hate crimes in Thai Town in Los Angeles on 8 April 2021. (Photo/Genaro Molina/Los Angeles Times/REX/Shutterstock)



President Joe Biden signed four executive orders on Wednesday that address racial inequalities and injustice. The first executive order strengthens anti-discrimination housing policies that were weakened by the Trump administration. The second order forbids the federal government from signing new contracts with private companies to house federal prisoners. The third order aims to increase the power of tribal nations when engaging with federal agencies, and the final order formally condemns the rising racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden said that these executive orders, which join a growing list of racial justice actions by his administration, are meant to redress historical wrongs and level the playing field for all Americans. "We have never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives," Biden said in a press briefing. "And it's time to act now, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because if we do, we'll all be better off for it."



Wednesday's executive orders were largely applauded by human rights, racial justice, and legal groups across the country. The formal condemnation of racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander was heralded by the Asian American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (AALDEF) as a promising step toward a national reckoning with racism. The AALDEF noted that 2,800 hate crimes against Asian Americans were reported since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These incidents "followed the former president's repeated use of racist, inflammatory terms, such as 'China Virus' and 'Kung Flu,'" the AALDEF said in a statement.

The executive order on tribal rights was welcomed by the National Congress of American Indians: "The first steps President Biden has taken toward truth and reconciliation with Tribal Nations are so responsive to our needs and aligned with our values and principles. This order will, in effect, improve federal processes around policy implementation and budgeting for tribal lands, ensuring that tribal members and Indigenous communities have a say throughout these processes and that principles of transparency are upheld. Biden also declared that the federal government will stop relying on private prisons, a first step toward removing the profit incentive from the criminal justice system. Reform advocates have long argued that the justice system criminalizes poverty through cash bail, civil forfeiture laws, and the overpolicing of poor communities.

(Article Continues Below)