



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

*From The
Project Sound Off Family*



*This Thanksgiving, we honor the
community whose belief in our work
makes every step possible.
Thank you for believing in us.*



President Biden Acted, Governor Wolf Acted. Illinois Must Act.



Fearless leadership freed thousands: Illinois must show the same courage for its forgotten 34 Indeterminate Sentence prisoners.

In moments when injustice lingers, true leadership is measured not by comfort but by courage. President Joe Biden, in his final days, pardoned nearly 2,500 nonviolent drug offenders – a fearless act to correct decades of sentencing disparities. Governor Tom Wolf, in Pennsylvania, opened the door for thousands burdened by minor marijuana convictions to reclaim opportunity and dignity.

These men of courage remind us that justice is not static. It is lived in bold choices, in the refusal to let outdated laws define human lives. Their actions prove that compassion and conviction can bend the arc of history toward fairness. Now, Illinois stands at its own crossroads.

Project Sound Off
WE DEMAND TO BE HEARD
Criminal Justice
Reform Advocate



Thirty-four elderly inmates remain trapped under an old indeterminate sentencing law – a relic of another era, where punishment stretched endlessly and hope was denied. Their continued confinement is not justice; it is inertia.

For Governor, Pritzker, the call is clear: find the same courage Biden and Wolf displayed. Be fearless in confronting the past. Show Illinois, and the nation, that leadership means refusing to let outdated laws steal the final years of human lives. Justice delayed is justice denied – and history will remember whether you chose to act.

By TPN Team

Parole Transformation

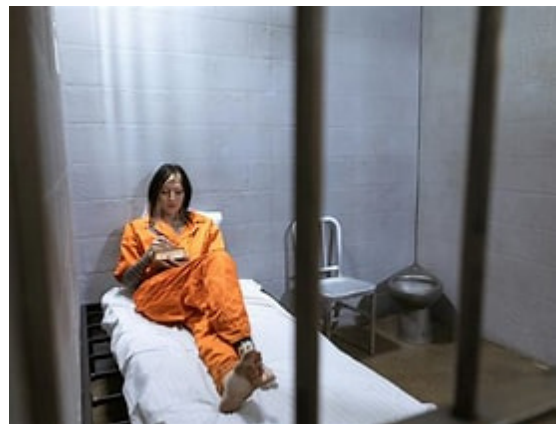
The Time Is Now



By Jazmine Salas

Parole is a piece of the criminal legal system that organizers and advocates often overlook. While people physically being out of prison is a good thing, people seeking parole face significant barriers to their release, and once they're out, they continue to exist under state supervision. How did this come to be?

Richard Nixon's 1968 Presidential Campaign's promise of "freedom from fear" and "law and order" resonated with White voters. With Lyndon B. Johnson War on Poverty out of office, **Nixon ushered in a "War on Crime" used to criminalize the Black Liberation, militant union, anti-war, and other social movements.**



Nixon's strategy focused on criminalizing drug addiction and the sale and transport of drugs.

The War on Crime movement resulted in 16 states revising their parole policies, shifting towards determinate sentencing and removing parole altogether. **States like Illinois also implemented additional post-release supervision for individuals convicted of a felony, ranging from 6 months to 3 years. These changes served to expand state control over Black Americans, racial minorities, and the working class.**

Living in one of the 34 states with a parole system doesn't automatically guarantee an individual release. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, of the 29 states that provided release data, only 8 had grant rates above 50%; parole fees and fines burden low-income individuals; parole boards often hold discretionary power, which creates a lack of consistent and objective guidelines for release; and parole revocations funnel individuals back into prisons for technical violations.

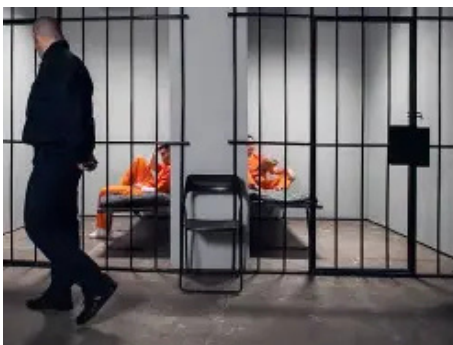


As the Trump Administration threatens to unleash Law and Order across our communities, the need for parole transformation is more urgent than ever. The National Parole Transformation Project, alongside the Prison Policy Initiative, drafted the principles for parole reform to unite organizers and advocates under a banner of meaningful transformation. **The principles for parole reform consist of 16 principles that aim to address the issues and provide guidelines for progressive and radical advocates to expand access to parole systems and ultimately**

drive decarceration. The principles cover parole access and eligibility, preparation and process, criteria considerations, board composition, and revocation hearings.

On October 8, nearly 120 advocates from across the country, the UK, and Australia gathered on Zoom to share our collective vision and begin the organizing work necessary to shatter the barriers that exist within our current parole systems. It's time to join our movement, reunite families, and rebuild communities. To learn more about the principles, visit <https://www.macarthurjustice.org/principles-for-parole-reform/>

The Time Is Now



President Number 47th Donald Trump

The Revenge Presidency



President Trump will be known as the revenge president throughout our Nation's History. Revenge against the people is not leadership it is betrayal. True leadership lifts the people up, not punish them for believing

Not only has Trump attacked the judges and prosecutors who held him accountable for crimes and violations of the law, he has also gutted legal institutions and weakened the courts to eliminate opposition to his authoritarian ambitions. If the rule of law collapses, society risks falling into chaos and losing faith in our system of justice.

Trump appointed a majority of the Supreme Court justices and installed many federal judges nationwide. His loyalists now hold sway over critical institutions of authority

including the **Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and the Federal Judiciary—** consolidating power in ways that threaten democratic checks and balances.



The public must watch the details of this administration. First the US Constitution Amendment 22nd prohibits Trump from running past his second term. Efforts are underway behind closed doors to change the Constitution so he can remain in office as a dictator.

The 2028 election is pivotal because it will mark the first contest after Trump's second term, opening the door for new leadership.

With Trump constitutionally barred from running, the race will likely be highly competitive and framed as a referendum on his legacy. **We the people can't afford to live in the shadows of his legacy.**

Trump has shown us how petty, evil, and vindictive he can be toward anyone who dares to challenge him or earn his dislike. He has weaponized our institutions against the very people they were meant to protect, bending them to his will and punishing dissent instead of uplifting the nation. This is not leadership—it is betrayal, a deliberate twisting of power to serve his own revenge presidency.

Follow the Money



Donald Trump entered the White House carrying over half a billion dollars in fines and liabilities from court rulings. In New York alone, he was ordered to pay \$355 million in civil fraud penalties, which with interest swelled past \$515 million. Add to that the \$83.3 million judgment in the E. Jean Carroll defamation case, the \$1.6 million Trump Organization tax fraud fine, and other sanctions, and his total exposure climbed well above \$600 million. This would have humbled the average man.

instead of being humbled by these debts, Trump turned the presidency into a profit machine. Under the table, his personal business empire was pushed through the corridors of power. Foreign governments and corporations lined up at Trump hotels, golf resorts, and properties, knowing that patronage meant access.



His Net Worth 6.29 Billion

“From Debt to Dictatorship: The White House for Sale...”



Deals with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Dubai brought in tens of millions, even as his administration negotiated defense contracts and energy partnerships with those same nations.

Trump’s \$600 million in fines didn’t stop him—it fueled him. He turned the presidency into a cash register, pushing personal business through the White House, cutting corrupt deals with foreign powers, and weaponizing institutions to get richer while democracy grew weaker. Hum! Some people refuse to see corrupt patterns in people behavior when you are filthy rich. As a reminder don’t forget he was convicted on all 34 counts of falsifying business records and other felony charges. Stay focus America, just follow the money to catch a thief.

By The Street Poett

Trump’s debts created the motive. His presidency provided the means. And his business empire became the vehicle.

What should have been the people’s house was pimped into a marketplace of corruption, where foreign deals violated ethics laws and democracy itself was sold off piece by piece.

But it wasn’t only foreign powers. Mega-companies and billionaires like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Amazon saw profit in Trump’s greed. They weren’t bystanders; they were complicit, chasing contracts, deregulation, and influence. That’s why elected officials voted the way they did – not just out of ideology, but because corporate giants and wealthy elites fueled the machinery. Together they robbed America blind, selling democracy to the highest bidder.

A Family Affair

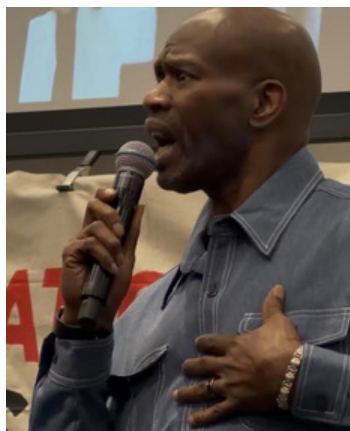
The National NAARPR Conference



The NAARPR conference gathered activists from across the state, confronting politics and criminal justice from A to Z. This gallery is more than snapshots—it’s a record of solidarity, urgency, and the collective call to action that echoed through every panel and rally. And at its heart, Angela Davis’s powerful video address reminded members that the struggle is ongoing, urging us to carry this momentum forward and transform it into bold action for 2026.



Angela Davis



Johnnie Khalif Veal



Jasmine Smith



**Our National
Community family**



Breakout session



**Kevin Tyson
Frank Chapman
Jasmine Smith
Johnnie Khalif Veal**

A Family Affair

The National NAARPR Conference



**Khalif, Project Sound Off
Khaleed London, The Jerico
Movement and Hondo, The C-
Number Committee**
“FREE THEM ALL”



THE NAARPR FAMILY
**Erica Veal
Khalif
Dod
Regina**
Chicago and New Orleans



Coalition Power Breaking Bread

- Project Sound Off
- We the Survivors
- CAARPR



**Special thanks and
acknowledgement to
Executive Director
Clayborn Smith.**

Cyber Fundraising for Change Is Tax-Deductible



Project Sound Off is launching our Cyber Fundraising campaign for **October and November—a season when nonprofits across the country ask their communities to invest in them. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, every donation you make is tax-deductible and directly supports our mission to uplift lived experience and build programming that drives lasting change.**

We need our community and friends to help us maintain the high-level of commitment in serving our public and develop programs that up-lift, educate, and mobilize our communities.

Your Donation Impact

- **Advocacy Labs**, where participants learn how to write bills, testify and organize around legislation.
- **Educating Returning Citizens**, on their voting rights through workshops, digital guides, and peer-led sessions.
- **Voter Registration Drives**, in impacted communities, with culturally relevant outreach and coalition-led mobilization.
- **Legal Representation Support**, through advocacy for individuals navigating reentry, housing discrimination, or unjust sentencing.
- **Know your Rights Clinics**, co-hosted with legal partners to demystify the justice system.
- **Maintaining the Project Sound Off Newsletter**, as a trusted source for justice News and calls to action.

See Next Page for Donation Instructions

Cyber Fundraising for Change Is Tax-Deductible



Donating Instructions

Scan the QR CODE



Other Ways To Donate.

- Login into our website Projectsoundoff.org and select the donate button and follow the prompts.
- Send a money order or check payable to “Project Sound Off” to our office address:
**1940 N. Municipal Way, Suite 1571 Round lake
IL 60073**
- For any additional questions please contact us email: Office@Projectsoundoff.org

Thank you for your support

Johnnie Khalif Veal
Executive Director



Giving From The Heart

Project Sound Off is calling on our supporters and community to step up to the plate and help sustain our work. In these uncertain times—when financial support is harder to secure and so many have faced job loss under the Trump administration—your contribution is more than a donation, it is a lifeline. Every dollar strengthens our fight for justice, keeps our programs alive, and ensures that our collective voice continues to rise against inequality.

Quote of The Day



I'm not competing with anyone, the only person I'm competing with is the person I was yesterday and each day I try to get better so therefore I'll be a different person tomorrow.

TPN News Team



THANK YOU!

*for your support
this year!*

We are truly grateful for the love and support showered upon us by our incredible followers and members

Cyber Fundraiser



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<https://www.Projectsoundoff.org>