

THE END OF DEMOCRACY AS WE KNOW IT

# Project 2025

## PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION PROJECT HOW WOULD PROJECT 2025 IMPACT BLACK AMERICA?

The document, drafted by former Trump Administration staffers but which Trump disavows, means poorer public schools, worse health outcomes and aggressive police.

Project 2025, the far-reaching Republican Party plan to demolish and radically remake the federal government under a Trump presidency, has gotten a lot of attention lately, and not necessarily in a good way.

President Joe Biden warns it's a threat to democracy. Former President Donald Trump says he had nothing to do with it, even though members of his administration helped write it. Actress Taraji P. Henson sounded the alarm while hosting the BET Awards last month, urging viewers to "look it up! Project 2025 is not a game!"

What's been missing in the conversation so far about Project 2025—which calls for eliminating the Department of Education, replacing career civil servants with political appointees, ending affirmative action in government hiring, and virtually eliminating access to abortion, among other sweeping changes — is what it would mean for Black America.

To answer that question, Word In Black took a look at Project 2025's potential effect on five issues important to Black communities: education, healthcare, the environment, criminal justice, and faith.

While some proposals are explicit, others are unclear and likely would face significant, insurmountable barriers. But it's likely that Trump would use much of it as a roadmap for his second term.

### EDUCATION

If implemented, Project 2025's proposal to dismantle the Department of Education, including its Office for Civil Rights, would deal a crushing blow to efforts to protect Black students from racial discrimination. The Office for Civil Rights handled over 19,000 cases in 2023 alone, and without it, students would face less protection from bias in schools. Additionally, the elimination of Title I funding, which is critical for schools with high percentages of low-income students, could cripple public education. These schools predominantly serve Black and Brown students who rely on resources to improve educational outcomes. Removing federal support would widen the racial achievement gap and erode access to quality education for Black students.

The plan also cuts crucial programs such as school meals and Pell grants, replacing them with private loans. This would disproportionately hurt low-income Black families, creating barriers to higher education, trapping Black students in debt, and jeopardizing the future prospects of millions of children.

### HEALTHCARE

Under Project 2025, the drastic reduction of federal involvement in healthcare would create a crisis for Black Americans who rely on Medicaid and Medicare. These programs are lifelines for millions of families, and reducing access would worsen healthcare disparities that already plague Black communities. The plan would also strip reproductive health protections from government regulations, limiting access to contraceptives and placing Black women, who already experience higher maternal mortality rates, in even more vulnerable positions.

Even though Project 2025 does not explicitly call for a federal

abortion ban, the rollback of reproductive rights at the federal level would reduce access to safe and legal abortions in many states, hitting Black women the hardest. Additionally, dismantling health research agencies could impede progress on treatments for diseases disproportionately affecting Black Americans, further worsening health outcomes.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In the criminal justice system, Project 2025 promotes harsher sentencing laws and calls for the rollback of reforms enacted after the murder of George Floyd. This would remove federal oversight of police departments that have faced misconduct issues, leading to increased risk of police brutality, particularly for Black Americans. The abandonment of reform efforts could lead to heightened rates of incarceration and continued cycles of trauma and instability in Black communities.

The plan claims that leniency in sentencing has led to a rise in violent crime, but this argument misrepresents the data, as crime rates have generally decreased. However, the return to harsher sentencing would disproportionately target Black Americans, exacerbating racial inequalities in the criminal justice system.

### FAITH

Project 2025 also threatens to dismantle the separation of church and state by embedding Judeo-Christian values into federal policies. This shift would fund parochial schools with taxpayer money, threaten LGBTQ rights, and dismantle protections for same-sex marriage. The Black LGBTQ community could find itself especially vulnerable under such policies, as religiously motivated laws would potentially undermine civil rights gains.

Additionally, Project 2025 seeks to preserve tax-exempt status for churches that engage in partisan politics or racial discrimination, which could enable religious institutions to promote exclusionary practices without facing consequences. This would be particularly dangerous for Black communities, undermining decades of progress toward equality.

### CLIMATE JUSTICE

In terms of climate justice, Project 2025 aggressively attacks environmental regulations by targeting agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy. The plan encourages fossil fuel exploration on public lands and cuts back on efforts to combat climate change. Black communities, which are more likely to be located near pollution sources, would be disproportionately harmed by the increase in environmental degradation. Reduced climate change mitigation efforts would further expose these communities to extreme weather events, worsening health and safety outcomes.

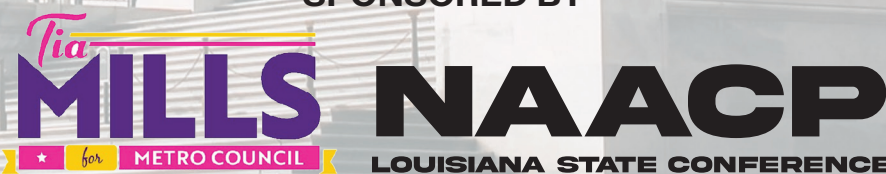
Environmental decision-making would shift from scientists to political appointees, prioritizing corporate interests over the well-being of vulnerable populations. This move threatens the health and safety of communities already suffering from disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards.

In summary, Project 2025's proposals would exacerbate racial inequalities across multiple sectors, including education, healthcare, criminal justice, faith, and climate justice. If enacted, the plan would dismantle vital protections and supports that Black communities rely on, reversing decades of progress in civil rights and deepening existing disparities. The potential impact on Black America is not only concerning but could also be devastating for generations to come.

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