

# URGE AL

UNITE FOR REPRODUCTIVE &  
GENDER EQUITY ★ ALABAMA

# ALABAMA YOUNG PEOPLE'S Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda 2024



# About URGE



Young people today – a majority of whom are Black, Indigenous, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or Latinx/a – are on the frontlines of the fight for Reproductive Justice: organizing, educating, shifting culture, and building power with URGE.

URGE envisions a liberated world where we can live with justice, love freely, express our gender and sexuality, and define and create families of our choosing.

As a state-driven national organization, URGE builds power and sustains a young people's movement for reproductive justice by centering the leadership of young people of color who are women, queer, trans, nonbinary, and people of low-income.

URGE focuses on policy advocacy, organizing, and voter engagement in states where the challenges and opportunities are greatest, with deep investment in Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, Ohio, and Texas.

From increasing youth voter engagement to engaging young people in policy advocacy, from organizing to shifting culture in our communities and online, URGE has cemented our reputation as innovative, impactful, and fearless in our fight for reproductive justice.



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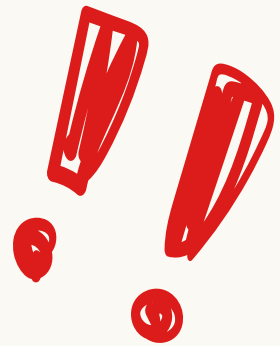


# Introduction



**Reproductive Justice issues URGE worked on in the 2023 Alabama legislative session** included fighting anti-abortion, anti-queer & trans, and anti-democracy legislation. We also supported legislation to address criminalization of pregnancy outcomes. In the past 4+ years, we've seen attacks on our autonomy and democracy and young people don't want that, here's what young people in Alabama want....

- 1. ACCESSING ABORTION WITHOUT BARRIERS**
- 2. SUPPORTING TRANS, INTERSEX, AND QUEER YOUNG PEOPLE**
- 3. REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR DEMOCRACY**
- 4. ACCESSING HEALTHCARE AND COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION**
- 5. TRANSFORMING OUR ECONOMY SO YOUNG PEOPLE CAN THRIVE**
- 6. CREATING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**





# Issue 1:

## ACCESSING ABORTION WITHOUT BARRIERS

**Abortion is completely banned in Alabama.** URGE wants to repeal those bans to increase access to abortion and decrease barriers to care. We are working within the Alabama Reproductive Health, Rights, & Justice Coalition to organize in the long term for a Ballot Initiative to get a re-vote on Constitutional Amendment 2.

### IN THE 2024 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:



**URGE OPPOSES HB 31**, which would create exceptions to the prohibition on abortion for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

Full abortion access is a necessary component of comprehensive reproductive healthcare, and so-called “exceptions” to abortion bans do not improve access to care or reduce the harm that bans cause.





# Issue 2:

## SUPPORTING TRANS, INTERSEX, AND QUEER YOUNG PEOPLE



**Anti-Trans legislation has been the leading priority for the Conservative Trifecta in Alabama since 2019.** Several anti-trans laws have been passed and gone into effect since that time, including a ban on young people under the age of 19 being able to access gender affirming healthcare as well as anti-trans athlete bans for K-12 & post-secondary schools.



### IN THE 2024 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

**URGE OPPOSES SB 129** which would prohibit certain public entities, including state agencies, local boards of education, and public institutions of higher education, from maintaining a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) office or department or sponsoring any DEI program or program that advocates for a divisive concept.

This bill would authorize certain public entities to discipline or terminate employees or contractors who violate this act. This bill includes a trans bathroom ban to be implemented in public institutions of higher education.



### IN THE 2024 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

**URGE OPPOSES HB 111 / SB 92** which would define man, woman, boy, girl, father, mother, male, female, and sex for purposes of state law. This would provide policy on the differences between sexes.

This bill allows local governments to set rules for gender segregated spaces leading to inconsistency and potential discrimination for people who do not fit in traditional gender norms.



# Issue 3:

## REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR DEMOCRACY



Voter suppression is a huge policy issue in Alabama, so many bills in the Alabama legislature address this. Most recently, the federal government had to intervene in a case to redraw congressional voting districts in Alabama to be in accordance with the Voting Rights Act.



### IN THE 2024 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

**URGE OPPOSES SB 1** which would prohibit any person from receiving a payment or providing a payment to another person for distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, prefilling, completing, obtaining, or delivering an absentee ballot application or absentee ballot of a voter in certain circumstances.

This is another instance of legislators aiming to create barriers to voting in Alabama. This bill would also establish criminal penalties for violations. SB 1 would charge civic organization employees or individuals with a crime simply for assisting their neighbors in exercising their right to vote via absentee ballot. SB1 could pose significant challenges for seniors, college students, people with disabilities, and people living inside Alabama prisons and jails.





# Issue 4:



## ACCESSING HEALTHCARE AND COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION

In 2021, URGE worked to update the State Sex Education Code to get rid of antiquated and stigmatizing language around homosexuality, HIV, and AIDS as well as required any sex education to be medically accurate.



### IN THE 2024 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

**URGE OPPOSES HB 195** which would require that any sex education or human reproductive curriculum or program in a public K-12 school to exclusively teach sexual risk avoidance and encourage the avoidance of any nonmarital sexual activity.

This bill would further provide for the sex education and human reproductive curriculum or program in public K-12 schools, including the provision of information about state laws relating to the financial cost of pregnancy and child care, abortion, and adoption.

This bill would prohibit any sex education or human reproductive curriculum or program from supporting, demonstrating, or providing a referral to or information about how to acquire an abortion, from demonstrating the use of or providing distribution information regarding contraceptives, and from using “graphic materials” that are deemed by the state sexually explicit.





# Issue 4:

## ACCESSING HEALTHCARE AND COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION

Sexual risk avoidance is also called abstinence-only-until marriage sex education. Numerous studies say that sexual risk avoidance programs do not work to reduce sexual activity. At best, they have no effect; at worst they are harmful to youth, leading to shame and trauma. Leading medical associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Society for Adolescent Medicine are opposed to abstinence-only programs.

40.7% of Alabama high schoolers have had at least one sexual experience, so while we can encourage abstinence, some teens will choose to have sex and we need to provide them with medically accurate information to protect themselves. Young people deserve to have medically accurate information about their bodies and how to protect them.





# Issue 5:

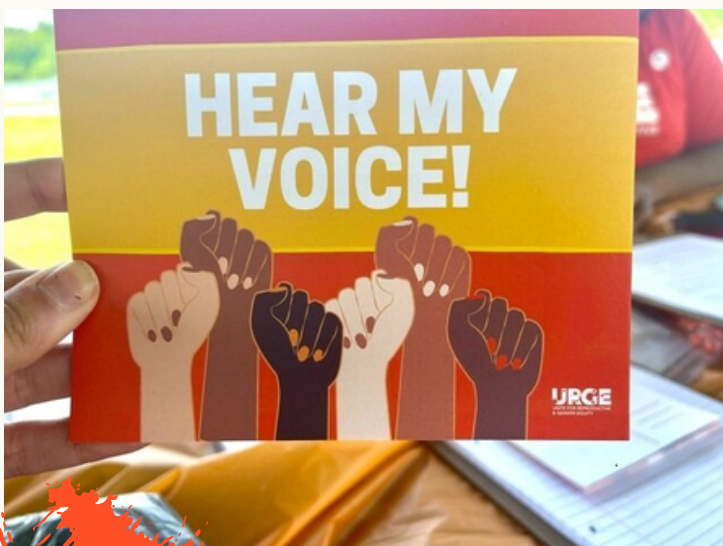
## TRANSFORMING OUR ECONOMY SO YOUNG PEOPLE CAN THRIVE

In Alabama, 58% of young voters think the economy and cost of living should be prioritized by policymakers. Providing a tax exemption for the sale of baby care products, maternity clothing, and period products would relieve the added costs of family care and menstruation management, reduce the negative health, social and financial outcomes for people who menstruate and those needing to care for their families.



### IN THE 2024 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

URGE SUPPORTS SB 62 / HB 236 which would exempt the purchase of certain baby supplies, baby formula, maternity clothing, and menstrual hygiene products for personal use from the state portion of sales and use tax.





# Issue 6:

## CREATING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Under existing Alabama law, any person who induces or attempts to induce an abortion, miscarriage, or premature delivery is guilty of a misdemeanor.



### IN THE 2024 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

**URGE SUPPORTS HB 45** which would repeal the law providing that it is a misdemeanor to induce or attempt to induce an abortion, miscarriage, or premature delivery.





# Conclusion



There is no one policy – not even one policy area – that will usher in an era of reproductive justice and liberation. And young people are not a monolith; there are as many different perspectives on the issues and ideas for change as there are young people in this country. At the heart of this vision for reproductive justice are the voices of URGE chapter leaders and young people engaged in their communities. It represents young people living in big cities, small towns, and rural parts of the country.

URGE envisions a liberated world where we can live with justice, love freely, express our gender and sexuality, and define and create families of our choosing. This policy agenda is not exhaustive, and the policy areas do not stand alone; each issue is inextricably bound with the other, as much as our individual liberation is inextricably bound up with that of our communities.

It is our hope that the Young People's Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda will fuel the flame for change with young people – it is a tool for liberation!

Policymakers: This is the future, and we invite you to join us in building it.

Contact URGE at [info@urge.org](mailto:info@urge.org), and sign up for more information at [urge.org/yppa](http://urge.org/yppa).





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