

Rejoining Society:

"Homelessness and justice system involvement are inextricably linked: People experiencing homelessness are 11 times more likely to face incarceration when compared to the general population, and formerly incarcerated individuals are almost 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public. In fact, the rate of homelessness among adult state and federal prison inmates is four to six times the annual rate of homelessness in the general population. Formerly incarcerated individuals experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable to continued justice system involvement. For instance, they are at high risk of reincarceration for failure to abide by the conditions of probation or parole due to lack of transportation, inability to maintain a stable address, lost or stolen property such as cell phones, and difficulty meeting regularly with supervision officers." *Full quote obtained from Texas Criminal Justice Coalition "Road to Nowhere"*

House Bill 1510 Authored by Senfronia Thompson and Sponsored by Representative Garcia addresses the need for renters to provide housing for individuals re-entering society.

Fair Bail Reform:

Since early 2014, 71 people were exonerated who plead guilty to drug possession in Harris County, Texas (Houston). In these cases, people plead guilty based on the results of field tests which are so imprecise that they have misidentified "Jolly Ranchers, breath mints, oregano and even air as illegal drugs," writes Benson. According to the National Registry of Exonerations, most of these people agreed to plead guilty "because they faced months in jail before trial, and years more if convicted." They were exonerated because the alleged drugs were submitted to testing after conviction and were found not to be controlled substances. <https://www.innocenceproject.org/why-are-people-pleading-guilty-to-crimes-they-didnt-commit/>

Limiting Arrest Powers:

In December of 2017 the Burnet County District Attorney's office began investigating a Texas Police Chief named Kevin Ratliff. Ratliff was convicted by a Burnet County jury on two misdemeanor counts of official oppression and one count of tampering with a government record. According to prosecutors, Ratliff "approved and presented" the offense report that had omissions and "misrepresented" facts that led to a civilian's wrongful arrest.

Video Links of Texas Police Departments investigating officers abuse of power.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=police+abuse+of+power+harris+county&view=detail&mid=982E3BBF967A6D033F5B982E3BBF967A6D033F5B&FORM=VIRE>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=police+abuse+of+power+harris+county&view=detail&mid=152E4B6D0D5AADE5D569152E4B6D0D5AADE5D569&FORM=VIRE>

Texas Coalition of Black Democrats are proud to stand in solidarity of criminal justice reform with the following partners:

Austin Justice Coalition

Melj

Jesuorobo Enobakhare

Ben Crump, Civil Rights Lawyer

Adrienne Bell, Candidate for Congress TX-14

Community Leaders For Change

Michael Cooper, Candidate for US Senate

Aisha McClendon – National Director for African American Outreach BETO for America

Ft. Bend County Texas Coalition of Black Democrats

League of United Latin American Citizens

Harris County Texas Coalition of Black Democrats

Texas Democratic Party Disability Caucus

Representative Ron Reynolds HD-27

Texas Democratic Women of Galveston County

Deborah Peoples – Chair, Tarrant County Democratic Party

Gene Collins – Chair, Texas Coalition of Black Democrats

Beaumont NAACP

John T. Floyd

Brazoria County Democratic Party South Club

Bishop James Dixon

Rep Jarvis Johnson

Damien Thaddeus Jones

Sri Kulkarni

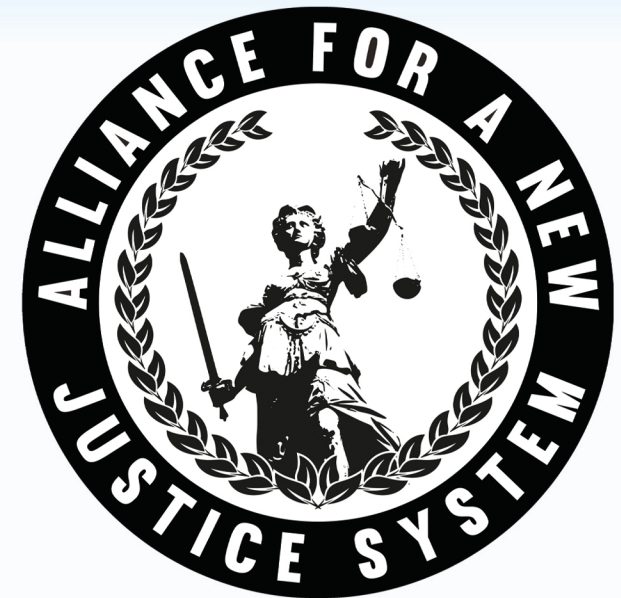
Our Revolution Texas

Aiesha Mclendon and Gene Collins are "former" chairs

Katy Democrats

"THE AIM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM IS TO ENSURE FAIRNESS, JUSTICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE FUNDAMENTALS IN TEXAS JUSTICE SYSTEMS, WHICH REDUCES THE COST OF ENFORCEMENT."

THE TEXAS FAIR JUSTICE ACT



ALLIANCE FOR A NEW JUSTICE SYSTEM