



WHY ENGAGE IN POLICY?

Q: Many of us are in active fights resisting the state. Why should we engage with it?

- Policy is one of many tools at our disposal. We can't afford to leave any tools on the table.
- Decision-making regarding the distribution of public resources happens through policy at the federal, state, and local levels. If we are serious about demanding a shift in resources toward investments in our communities, we must engage in public policy.

Q: Won't policy work take away resources from organizing?

- While policy is often decided in highly exclusionary spaces with only the perspectives of the powerful, policy that is in service to the work on the ground and the culture shift we demand is possible, and up to all of us to push.
- Rather than taking away from organizing, legislation has the ability to make organizing sharper by having clearly defined terms and goals.

Q: Why should we work on legislative efforts that we can't win right now?

- We are not interested in what some believe is politically possible. We are interested in what is necessary.
- If we cannot articulate a clearly defined vision of what we need our political position is weak, and we run the risk of spending promising political moments fighting about details. We owe it to the people to whom we are accountable to define what we mean when we say we want liberation.
- We have seen uprisings change the political conditions - and what feels politically possible - over the course of days. What seems impossible today is doable tomorrow, and we need to be prepared for our moment.

Q: Why should we engage legislators who have histories of being involved with harmful systems?

- If your vision is clear, you can strategize ways to engage policymakers in service of your demands.
- Policymakers are public servants whose job entails representing us. Our job is to make our demands impossible to ignore.

