

Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign: *Rebuilding a Platform for Prosperity*

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign is a nonpartisan partnership of community, faith, student, labor and human rights organizations advocating for federal legislation based on HR 4048, the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act and urging the Democratic and Republican Parties to adopt Gulf Coast Rebuilding planks in their National Party Platforms.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita decimated the Gulf Coast destroying thousands of homes and businesses, tens of billions of dollars worth of community infrastructure and displaced hundreds of thousands of families. Over two and a half years later many of Hurricane Katrina and Rita's victims remain scattered across the country, and communities continue to suffer from crumbling roads and water systems, closed schools, police stations and hospitals and the threat of an inadequate flood protection system and accelerating coastal erosion which threaten to leave wide swaths of land underwater and vulnerable to future. The result is an American human rights crisis.

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Act creates a regional authority to fund resident led recovery projects creating good jobs and training opportunities for local and displaced workers rebuilding infrastructure and restoring the environment. The bill empowers residents to realize their right to return with dignity and safety, revitalizes the local workforce and helps create more sustainable communities.

Takes Action to Jumpstart Recovery

- Establishes the Gulf Coast Recovery Authority to implement and coordinate the necessary federal response to the devastation of the Gulf Coast
- Rebuilds infrastructure, undertakes environmental projects and develops the local workforce benefiting workers, residents and local businesses
- Coordinates existing federal programs to ensure rapid, effective, and efficient recovery
- Encourages displaced families to return with quality jobs improving their communities

Rebuilds Vital Public Infrastructure and Restores the Environment

- Rebuilds and repairs community assets including schools, police and fire stations, parks, city halls, court houses, roads, utilities, and cultural centers
- Funds the building of equitable flood protection infrastructure and restores marshes, wetlands, and other environmental features to restore natural flood protection for region
- Serves as a national model for disaster recovery and infrastructure development

Spurs Sustainable Community Development

- Strengthens the regional workforce by providing jobs and needed skills training
- Helps fill existing skills gaps for trades workers in the Gulf Coast region
- Focuses benefits on the regional economy through first source for hiring provisions
- Allows community groups and officials to determine what projects are needed in local advisory councils
- Builds capacity of community groups through partnerships using their networks for neighborhood hiring halls in the local community and in the new communities of the displaced.

Creates Opportunities for Partnerships

- Creates at least 100,000 opportunities for jobs and training for Gulf Coast residents
- Creates opportunities for local businesses through competitive contract bidding
- Supports sustainable industrial and commercial development of the Gulf Coast region

Requires Accountability

- Requires oversight and community participation in all recovery projects

National Gulf Coast Rebuilding Platform:

Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign supporters including Democratic Party members in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and California, and Republican Party members in Louisiana and Alabama, have agreed to present resolutions to their state parties demanding their delegates to the DNC and RNC Conventions support adding the follow to their National Platforms:

- We believe fulfilling the federal government's promises for Gulf Coast recovery and empowering residents to realize their right to return and rebuild are moral and government obligations, and require the attention of every American, regardless of party affiliation or state of residence.

- We believe many of the greatest rebuilding successes have been led by residents and furthermore that a coordinated local, state, and federal partnership empowering local families, businesses, and communities is required to respond to the need of Gulf Coast communities.
- We support the passage of policy based on the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act for a resident led partnership to rebuild public infrastructure and restore the environment for stronger, safer and more equitable communities, training a new generation of skilled trade workers, creating job and training opportunities for returning and displaced workers, and developing contracting opportunities for local businesses.
- We support authorizing increased funding for federal-state-local partnerships to create access to and additional affordable housing and promote home-ownership for and promote home-ownership for returning families, workers and families moving out of unsafe FEMA trailers.
- We support federal funding towards the swift completion of an equitable Category 5 flood protection plan through levee construction and coastal restoration projects for all Gulf Coast communities, securing vital national economic, environmental and security interests along the Gulf Coast and creating safer communities and opportunities for local businesses and workers.

Support the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign by:

- Having your organization endorse the campaign, email buchanan@rfkmemorial.org to endorse.
- Urging your US House Representative to co-sponsor HR 4048.
- Urging state and National Democratic or Republican Party Delegations to support inclusion of platform.
- Urging your city, county, parish or state to pass a resolution in support of the platform.
- Staying tuned for the launch of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign Website (launching in late July)

For More Information about the Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign contact:

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Organizational Supporters/Partners of Gulf Coast Civic Works Campaign:

All Congregations Together, New Orleans, LA
 Americans for Gulf Coast Recovery
 Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now
 Bayou Area Readiness and Recovery
 Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
 ColorofChange.org
 Community Church Unitarian Universalist, New Orleans, LA
 Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana
 Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
 Every Child Matters Education Fund
 Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
 Gulf Coast Civic Works Project
 Gulf Restoration Network
 Hip Hop Congress
 Living Witness Community Social Service, Inc.
 Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation
 Louisiana Housing Alliance
 Mary Queen of Viet Nam CDC
 Middle Collegiate Church, New York, NY
 Mississippi Center for Justice
 Moore Community House, Women in Construction
 Mobile Baykeeper
 National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
 National Community Development Institute, Palo Alto, CA
 Network of Spiritual Progressives
 Pax Christi, New Orleans
 Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church, New Orleans, LA

The Poverty Initiative, Union Theological Seminary, NY
 Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights
 Sacred Heart Community Service, San Jose, CA
 The Shalom Center, Philadelphia, PA
 South Bay Communities Alliance, AL
 Speak Truth to Power
 Student Hurricane Network
 Terrebonne Readiness and Assistance Coalition
 Turkey Creek Community Initiatives, Turkey Creek, MS
 Zion Travelers Cooperative Center, Inc, Phoenix, LA

Individual Endorsements:

Rev. Tony Campolo, Ph.D., Eastern University, St. Davids, PA
 Jerome Hughes, Center for Healthy Communities (AL)
 Rev. Robert Jones, Ph. D., President, Public Religion Research
 Rabbi Michael Lerner, Editor, TIKKUN Magazine
 Leon Panetta, former White House Chief of Staff
 Bill Quigley, Professor, Loyola School of Law
 State Representative Patricia Todd (Birmingham, AL)
 Cornell West, Ph. D, Professor, Princeton University
 Beverly Wright, Executive Director, Dillard University,
 Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

Political Parties Passing Resolutions Supporting:

California Democratic Party
 Louisiana Republican Party
 Missouri Democratic Party

Government Bodies Passing Resolutions:

California State Legislature
 Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish Councils