

JAN-MAR 2022

Quarter One



ONE VOICE QUARTERLY IMPACT REPORT



Mississippi Black Leadership Institute (MBLI) Classes.

MBLI

MISSISSIPPI BLACK LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The end of this quarter marked the end of the 10th cohort of the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute. While the on-going COVID-19 pandemic caused some interruptions and adjusted the sense of normalcy we once had, we continued to adjust and were able to hold in person sessions once again towards the end of the cohort!

Over the course of the session, our cohort learned about the inner workings of Mississippi, its history, and how that history is currently impacting their communities across the state. These lessons and dynamics helped guide this cohort through brainstorming and completing their Community Transformation Projects, which will go on to aid their respective communities. We at One Voice are looking forward to providing assistance to the cohort and their communities with implementation and continued support of their projects.



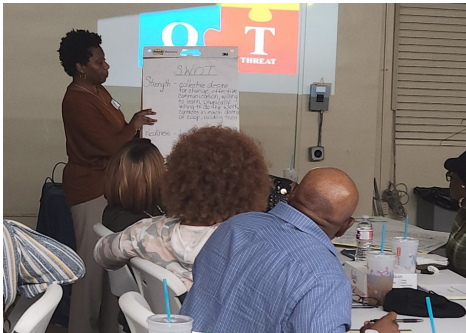


ECLI

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

During first quarter, Energy Democracy focused on developing an effective strategy for (1) recruitment, (2) preparing for an electric cooperative leadership class, and (3) developing questions for the Mississippi scorecards. The focus consisted of touching base with member-owners within varies electric cooperatives regarding their participation within the ECLI class as well as setting up listening tours for the second quarter. We have working diligently with our intern, Morgan Gray, to rephrase and provide questions for the Mississippi scorecards. The next objective is to develop a method on how the information will be disseminate to the community.

On March 26, 2022, we held our first Electric Cooperative Leadership Institute meeting for the year. The meeting was comprised of 13 member-owners from Twin County and 4-County to discuss the history of electric cooperative and to develop more insight on what strategic organizing is. In the next upcoming weeks, we will be working to finalize the meeting dates for listening tours and preparing to disseminate information to the public regarding the scorecards.



Electric Cooperative Leadership Institute (ECLI) Participants Discussion.



HWMLI



AMBER CORNELL
INTERN



KRISTIAN BRYANT
INTERN



RYAN SAYLES
INTERN



ALESHIA YOUNG
INTERN



MORGAN GRAY
INTERN



MICHAEL CHESTER
INTERN



Hollis Watkins Muhammad Leadership Institute



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

One Voice is committed to ending the state law that permanently takes voting rights away from individuals convicted of twenty-three (23) felony crimes. Mississippi offers two ways for individuals to have their rights restored; one is through a pardon from the Governor and the other is through a legislative suffrage restoration process. In addition to educating citizens about the law, we also provide assistance to individuals interested in restoring their suffrage rights.

During the 2022 legislative session, One Voice submitted seven suffrage applications to the House Judiciary B Committee. These applications were previously submitted during last year's session. As a matter of fact, two applicants have applied to have their suffrage restored four times! These men, Omar Travis and Jay Jackson, have both been out of the criminal justice system for over ten years. Both are hard workers and committed to improving the community and making the system better for others. Unfortunately, none of our suffrage applications were successful this year. Committee members said that our applicants either owed fines or did not have enough time off of parole.

We will keep fighting for the people of Mississippi! We are also working to support the leadership of the individuals seeking to restore their rights. Change in Mississippi must be led by those who are most impacted.



FISCAL POLICY

Eliminating Individual Income Tax is

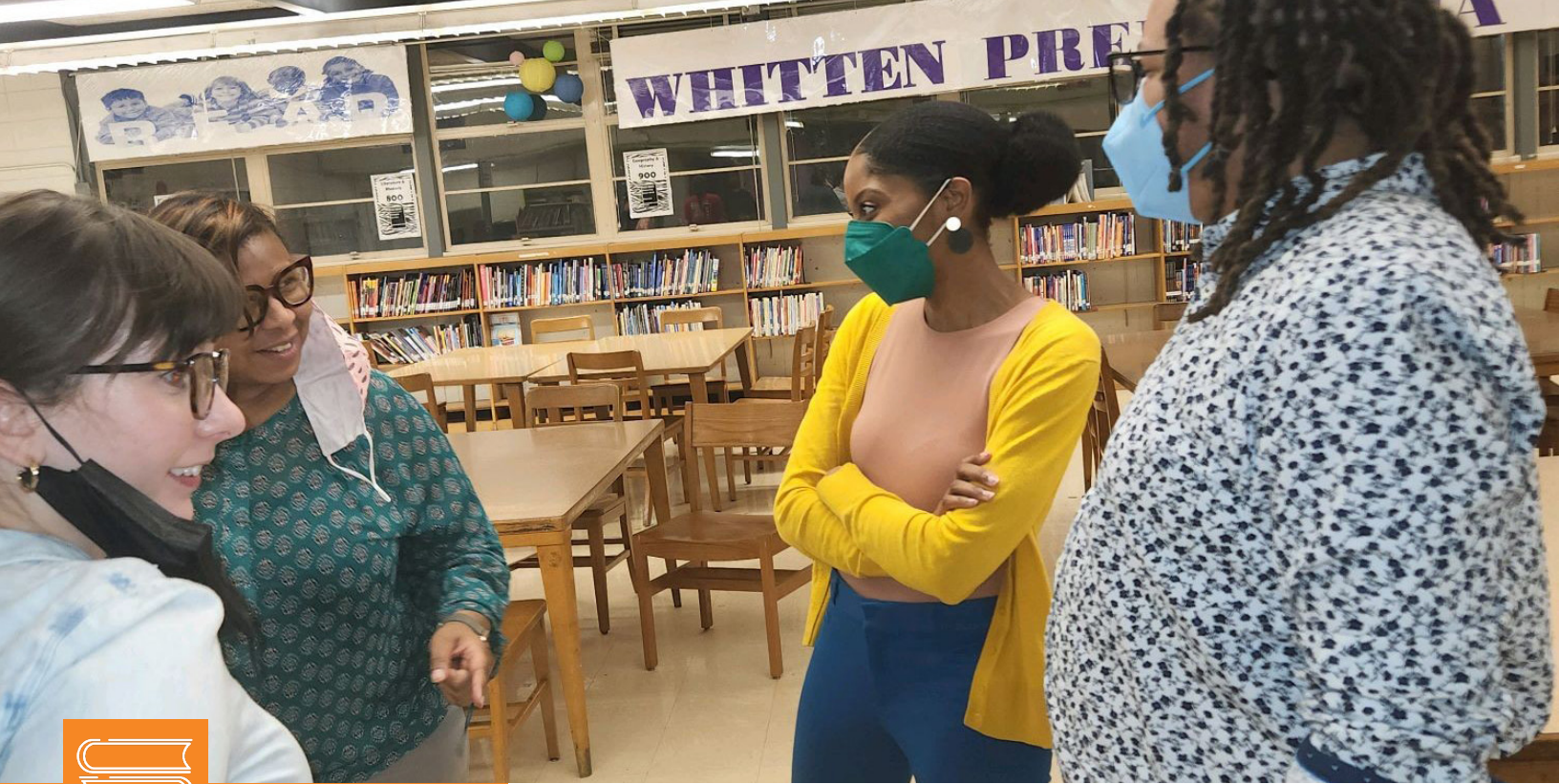
BAD for MS.

One
Voice

At the start of the year, we revealed our priorities for the legislative session: Better Communities, Better Governance, and Better Opportunities. These simple phrases lead to a better Mississippi.

During this legislative session, there was a huge push by Governor Reeves and Speaker Gunn to eliminate the state's income tax under the guise of reducing the financial burden of Mississippi's citizens. The truth was and is still currently that eliminating the state income tax would be disastrous for the state itself (The Income Tax provides 32.8% of Mississippi's Tax Revenue), but even worse for working families in Mississippi due to the guaranteed increase to the sales and other taxes to compensate for the loss of revenue. We've released several statements and fact sheets to provide data to show how much this would negatively impact Mississippi. Fortunately, the legislature did not eliminate the state Income Tax; however in its' place was a large tax cut that will only further keep Mississippi from moving forward.

Another focus in our fiscal policy work was the allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act which was passed early last March. We've released a joint report with the Mississippi State Conference NAACP and the Southern Economic Advancement Project (SEAP) highlighting Mississippi Survey responses from SEAP's Community Needs Survey and a giving a detailed look at how Local Leaders in Mississippi are spending those funds.



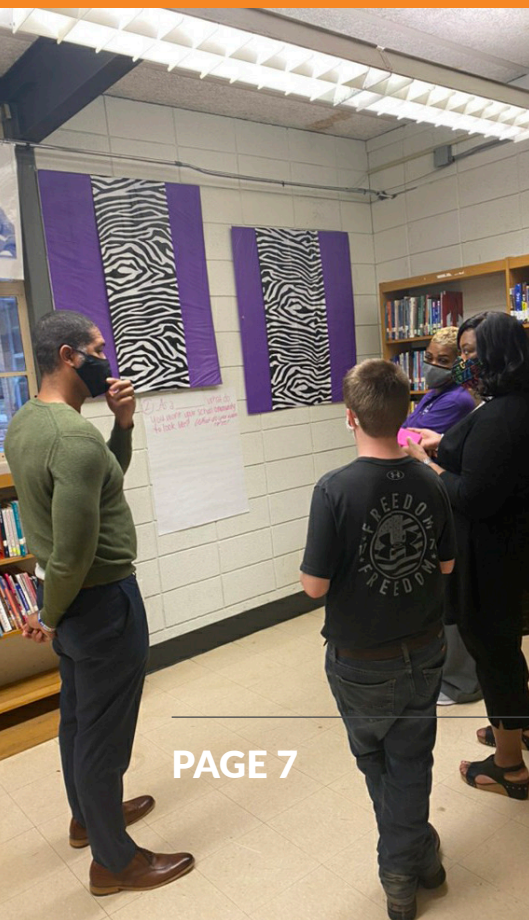
EDUCATION

The key phrase for our education focuses this quarter was *community engagement*. With our communities' feedback we can determine educational gaps, needs, and concerns that provide us with data to help shape how education in Mississippi should progress.

In response to proposed changes to the Social Studies curriculum that removed mention of several African-American figures, One Voice alongside other organizations and communities across the state sent in comments to the Mississippi Department of Education expressing our concerns around what the proposed changes would mean for social studies.

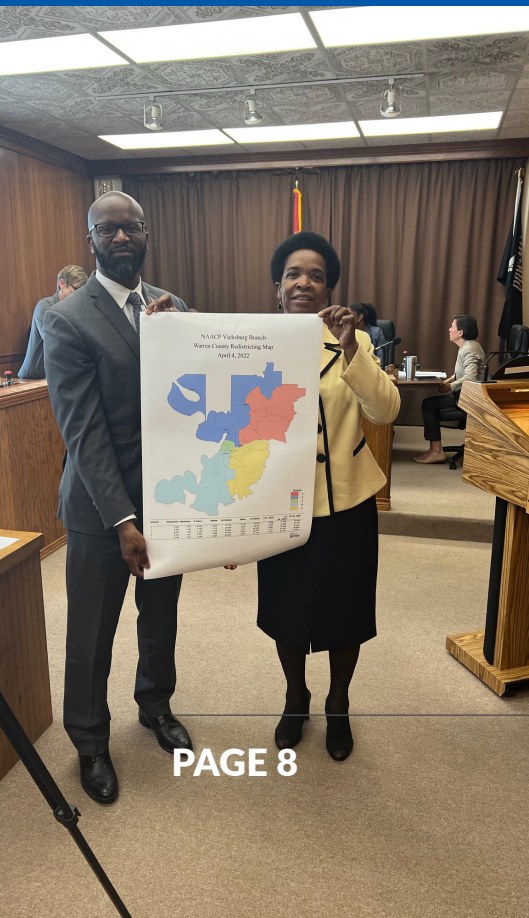
Another community effort has been aiding OurJPS in holding community meetings around Community Schools. Through these meetings, communities get to voice their opinions and suggest how they propose community schools can help mend educational gaps in our state.

This quarter we also re-launched our Mississippi Speaks podcast and the debut episode was "A Critical Education Conversation" hosted by Tevin Brown, discussing education in Mississippi with local education experts Dr. Corinne Anderson, Chauncey Spears, and John Spann. You can view this conversation by visiting our PodBean page.





CIVIC ENGAGEMENT REDISTRICTING



PAGE 8

Last month, on March 21st, the Warren County Board of Supervisors held a “public hearing” on a “draft” redistricting plan. That “public hearing” was held on a Monday morning at 10:00 am . . . a time at which most community members were at work and unable to attend.

Although the most recent census data shows that Warren County is 48% Black, the County proposed redistricting map, discussed at the public hearing, was developed in a way to create three majority White districts and only two Black districts. This clearly is not in line with the most recent census data showing that there are more Black “voting-age-people” in Warren County than Whites.

Since the meeting on March 21st, working together with local community leaders like NAACP Vicksburg Branch President, Bobbie Bingham Morrow; District 3 Supervisor, Shawn Jackson; Attorney Marshall Sanders; and Monica McInnis from One Voice MS, we created an alternative map which carves out three majority Black districts that better reflect census data and fall within State and Federal redistricting guidelines.

This morning, April 4th, I was proud to appear at the Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting with NAACP Vicksburg Branch President Bobbie Bingham Morrow to submit our alternative County redistricting map for the official record to the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

- Ty Pinkins, NAACP Vicksburg Branch

ONE VOICE
**QUARTERLY IMPACT
REPORT**

