

## **WeROC's People-Powered Victories for a Stronger Washtenaw, 2012-2019...and Just the Beginning!**

*Here are some of WeROC's lasting victories, won by united community leaders in grassroots campaigns at 3 Major Public Meetings and countless group meetings with public decisionmakers in recent years...*

- **"Banning the Box"** on job applications in 5 key County municipalities, to help ex-offenders re-enter the life of the community
- **"Bus to the Clinics"**: Achieved agreement with U of M transportation officials, so U of M and AAATA work together to make it easier for people to get to Domino's Farm area for their medical appointments
- **Resisting "7th Hour Fees"**: Ensured Ann Arbor Public Schools found ways to avoid charging families for important classes
- **Keeping kids in school**: Won commitments from members of the 3 urban School District Boards to measurably reduce unnecessary expulsions and suspensions (in alliance with Student Advocacy Center), leading to more focus on Restorative Practices and less on punishment
- **AAATA millage**: Organized targeted door to door campaigning for this winning ballot initiative which greatly increased bus service in eastern Washtenaw (in alliance with Huron Valley Area Labor Federation)
- **Earned Sick Time and Regional Transit**: Provided key local grassroots support for 2016 ballot initiatives
- **WeROC Mental Health Equity Campaign**: Launched in 2017 responding to urgent concerns voiced by local clergy and County mental health worker unions, to demand serious improvements in mental health services, especially in eastern Washtenaw
  - WeROC quickly engaged by building grassroots support for the County-wide Mental Health and Public Safety millage, which passed overwhelmingly across the County
  - Created a focused community voice at follow-on community meetings discussing how to most effectively spend the new money generously voted by residents
  - Pushed for and won regular meetings with Community Mental Health director Cortes and her staff to support mental health crisis services
  - Worked with Labor allies to strategically build a majority on the County Commission to save front-line mental health worker jobs and increase their wages
- **Rising for Economic Democracy in Ypsi (REDY)**: Joined with new community leaders to create REDY, a new grassroots group that built a successful campaign to develop and pass a local Community Benefits Ordinance in the City of Ypsilanti -- one of the first such successful efforts in the country to ensure the community is involved at every step of local economic development projects
- **Veterans Action Team**: Most recently, WeROC members have shone a light on the special issues of veterans, especially veterans of color, leading to this exploratory action team