

NEWSLETTER

Fairfield Equity Coalition's Weekly Newsletter



Fairfield Equity Coalition is a youth-led organization taking local action to reimagine Fairfield's definition of what constitutes a comprehensive education. Our goal is to push for equitable policy and curriculum changes within Fairfield Public Schools while raising awareness on injustices against marginalized populations within our community.

Welcome to our **thirty-ninth** newsletter! As a community newsletter, we encourage our readership to reach out with suggested items. Thank you for your continued interest in our coalition!

COALITION UPDATE

This past Saturday marked Juneteenth, a holiday commemorating the emancipation of the last enslaved people in the United States. On June 19th, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas carrying the message of emancipation to the town, *years* after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. While FEC agrees that this important holiday should be acknowledged and honored, like with its recent designation as a federal holiday, symbolic measures are entirely insufficient in reaching the goal of racial equity.

Check out the article posted in our "This Week We're" section to learn about how Juneteenth should be celebrated and what policy decisions we need to fight for to achieve racial equity. Please also head to our Instagram page to see our explainer on Juneteenth.

Also on our Instagram page is a series of posts highlighting influential LGBTQIA+ leaders and thinkers of our past and present in honor of Pride month. We hope this series helps acknowledge the important work of these activists, much of which has gone unacknowledged outside of the LGBTQIA+ community.

IN THIS ISSUE

**COALITION UPDATE:
WHERE WE ARE NOW &
WHERE WE ARE GOING**

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

ACTION ITEMS

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- **Thursday, June 24th, 10:45 AM - 2:00 PM via phone:** "One-on-One Career Counseling" hosted by the [Fairfield Public Library](#). Learn from career coach Ann Wright through a twenty minute session to help on a wide array of issues like career planning and job applications. Registration required. Details [here](#).
- **Friday, June 25th, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM 605 Main St, Middletown, CT:** "Pride Paint Night" hosted by [The Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts Center](#). Register for this art class where you use an image or a word that represents what LGBTQ+ Pride means to you and turn it into your own work of art. Registration and ticket required. Details [here](#).

ACTION ITEM *a way to make a difference today*

Many Black activists correctly point out that the best way to celebrate Juneteenth is to provide material support through personal reparations. [Black Trans Rent Relief](#) has developed a list of mutual aid funds that support Black, Trans-led organizations. As we said before, symbolic measures like designating Juneteenth as a national holiday only go so far. If you are able to donate to one or more of these organizations you can do so by following the instructions posted [here](#).

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

Reading "[Don't get comfortable after getting Juneteenth holiday](#)" by [Mara Schiavocampo](#) for [CNN](#). Schiavocampo rightly points out that, in the last year, Americans have taken to the streets in the largest, most diverse coalitions ever seen in this nation to demand racial equity, partly through "transformative police accountability, an economic reckoning, and [permanent] voting rights." What we often get in response to these demands, though, are measures like making Juneteenth a national holiday. While there is importance in these symbolic steps, they are often made to suggest the issue of racism has been remedied. Schiavocampo implores her readership to not get distracted - to focus on the *substantive* reforms needed to actually achieve what our self-identified progressive politicians say they support. We hope this article helps explain the necessary policy decisions that must accompany the designation of Juneteenth as a national holiday.

GET INVOLVED

We are always seeking new members and leaders! If you are a current student or alumni of FPS and are interested in further involvement, please [fill out this survey](#). If you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or Fairfield resident, please email us at fairfieldequitycoalition@gmail.com to get involved.

FOLLOW US!



Fairfield Equity Coalition



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