

CFER 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

November 2025

Moving forward with courage & strategy

This year, we at the Californians for Equal Rights Foundation (CFER) started off in a complex landscape marked by the ongoing interplay between a positive national environment and growing hostilities in California. While we faced increasing pressure from the other side that dominates California's policy-making and governing scenes, we were also encouraged by developments at the national level. With persistence in carrying on CFER's policy monitoring, local organizing, voter education, legal advocacy and media outreach operations, we worked with our partners to bring a few notable achievements.

CFER's 2025 annual report summarizes our work, progress and impact this year, including **three encouraging legal victories, a renewed triumph in defending Proposition 209 by defeating the new ACA7, success in fending off reparation-themed legislation, deepening of local organizing** and more!



**POLICY
MONITORING**



**LOCAL
ORGANIZING**



**VOTER
EDUCATION**



**LEGAL
ADVOCACY**



**MEDIA
OUTREACH**

PROGRESS IN 2025

Defeated the new ACA7 (partial repeal of Prop. 209);
a 70% success rate in state policy monitoring

Took Fresno Unified School District and University
of California to court to stop racial discrimination

Won three legal victories by forcing the San Diego
Housing Commission and Sacramento County to
stop race-based programs and by stopping a UC San
Diego race-based scholarship

Effective awareness building on legislation, policies
and initiatives related to reparations, equity, and
free speech

Deepened local organizing throughout California

35+ columns & featured in 100+ news reports on
national/state/local platforms

Presented to you by the Californians for Equal Rights Foundation
November 2025

<https://www.cferfoundation.org/>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What a year! Although we started 2025 on an inspiring note of favorable policy changes at the federal level, realities on the ground, in a state paralyzed by progressive ideology and identity politics, quickly pulled us back from a celebratory mood. Whether it was the come-back of reparation legislation in the state legislature, or an inertia in race-based programs in local governments and schools, we realized that CFER must jump into action. We must carry on our mission and expand our activities with courage and strategy.

In terms of legal advocacy, this has been a year of a charming offensive. CFER strengthened collaborations with our partnering groups in public law interest and confronted several illegal programs in the court of law. After settling with the San Diego Housing Commission in eliminating race requirements in a housing assistance program, our new legal challenge in the sphere of higher education prompted the replacement of a 42-year-old, race-based University of California San Diego scholarship with a merit/need-based alternative. In northern California, we forced Sacramento County to stop a child welfare program which excluded white, Asian and Hispanic children through a successful settlement. We also took the Fresno Unified School District to court to halt a \$12-million initiative of racially exclusionary academic programs. This last case is still ongoing. We strongly believe CFER's legal advocacy is pulling California's public agencies back in compliance with constitutional principles and simultaneously educating the public!

This year, we also actively played defense in state policy monitoring. In spite of a Democratic supermajority in the state legislature, we understand the strategic importance of always identifying a wedge to slow bad legislation. In 2025, the wedge was Governor Newsom's presidential ambitions and the accompanying need to appeal to in-the-middle voters. Through policy position letters, public testimony, action alerts, alliance building and urging the public to contact Governor Newsom against those bills, we successfully slowed down the far-left's movement to ramp up reparations in state legislation as six of the nine such bills introduced by the California Legislative Black Caucus were stopped. Many other bills we monitored and opposed also failed due to either legislative fallouts or gubernatorial vetoes.

Our deepened footprints in policies and legal initiatives were matched by a parallel trajectory of consistent work in the court of public opinions. We understand the stakes for our future generations and America's future are too high to not participate in the culture war with a multi-pronged strategy. CFER proactively sought out engagement with local parents and other stakeholders, offering them resources from website development to policy analysis. Members of the CFER executive team also strove at the task to inform the public and change Americans' hearts and minds through media interviews and opinion writing.

Below you will read a detailed summary of CFER's operations and progress in 2025. If you find CFER's work important, necessary and effective, will you consider making a [donation](#) to us to help close our end-of-year fundraising goal of \$100,000?

LEGAL ADVOCACY

We sued and stopped UCSD's Black Alumni Scholarship Fund!



In July, we took the University of California Board of Regents, University of California San Diego (UCSD) and Black Alumni Scholarship Fund to [court](#) to challenge a race-based scholarship. In October, we [dismissed](#) the case after the defendants agreed to replace the 42-year-old scholarship with a race-neutral alternative. We were represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF).

San Diego Housing Commission prompted to cancel “BIPOC” mortgage program

Filed in March 2024 by PLF, our [lawsuit](#) sought to stop a mortgage assistance program that excluded all White applicants. CFER worked diligently to recruit a member plaintiff. On February 7, we [reached](#) a favorable settlement for the Commission to drop the race requirement in the assistance program and open it to first-time homebuyers of all racial backgrounds in San Diego!



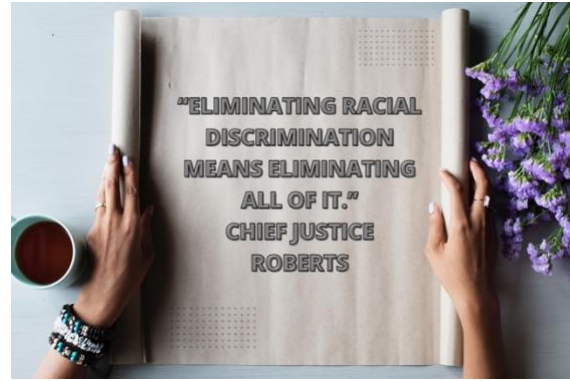
We forced Sacramento Government to close a race-based child welfare program!



This lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Rights Project in December 2024, challenged a “Family First Economic Support Pilot,” was a welfare program only available to low-income parents of “child age 5 or younger, who is Black, American Indian, or Alaska Native.” We [settled](#) the case in July 25 when the county agreed to drop the race eligibility.

Challenging “African American Academic Acceleration” in Fresno Unified

In February, PLF represented CFER in [filing](#) a lawsuit against the Fresno Unified School District to halt its Office of African American Academic Acceleration. The initiative is a \$12-million block of 13 race-based programs funded by taxpayers. Several CFER members are parents whose children are excluded from participating in these academic programs due to race. The lawsuit is currently at the stage of appeals.



We are actively building more cases!



Through research, whistleblower connections and alliance building, we have identified more unconstitutional programs. We are actively looking for potential co-plaintiffs to help us build strong cases against these discriminatory practices. You may [join](#) us as a member, upon which you will have access to more details. We need our members' help to bring more lawsuits against radical left ideologies.

The Battle Goes On...

CFER is dedicated to safeguarding equality, Prop. 209 and the Fourteenth Amendment in the court of law! We believe in the principles of equal opportunity and merit. To advance our mission, CFER has taken on various lawsuits and achieved many wins. The government should not expend government resources and public funds on divisive and unconstitutional programs and expect to get away with it. Sadly, local and state public agencies throughout California have never stopped trying to violate Prop. 209 and the constitutional guarantees of equality. As a faithful watchdog with a growing track record, CFER will continue to defend equality in the court of law. Please share any lead on potentially discriminating programs and initiatives in California.

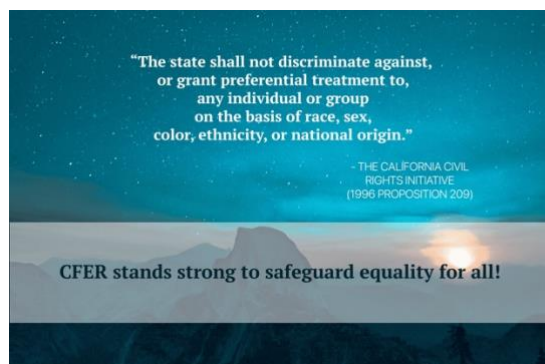
POLICY MONITORING

Thwarting another attempt on Prop. 209

Introduced in late 2024, the new ACA 7 intended to repeal education-related provisions of Prop. 209. Since February, CFER worked to [raise awareness](#), register official [opposition](#) and [build alliance](#) against ACA 7. Our hard work and persistence paid off in May, when the California Assembly Appropriations Committee, citing budgetary constraints, decided to [postpone](#) ACA 7 and turn it into a two-year bill.



We stopped several high-profile reparation bills!



CFER partnered up with our allies to advocate against [AB 7](#), [AB 57](#), [AB 62](#), [AB 742](#). In October, all these bills were [vetoed](#), which greatly blunted the race-obsessed reparations movement. In March, CFER organized a rally against these bills in Sacramento. CFER Executive Vice President Gail Heriot organized a letter-writing campaign targeting Governor Newsome. These efforts paid off.

A 70% success rate in state policy monitoring!

In spring, CFER issued our 2025 legislative [alert](#) and [analysis](#), followed with a [digest](#) on reparation-themed bills. Of the 20 problematic bills we alerted the public to, 14 failed. CFER was recognized as the principal organized opposition to many of these failed bills, demonstrating our growing track record in raising awareness and defeating bad legislation regarding racial preferences, indoctrination and DEI ideology.



Among the nine reparation bills identified by CFER, six have failed:

- [AB 7](#): to mandate California's public and private universities to provide a preference in admissions to an applicant who is a descendant of slavery. AB 7 was vetoed by Governor Newsom on October 13th.
- [AB 57](#): for the California Housing Finance Agency to reserve funds in affordable housing for descendants of slaves. It was vetoed by the governor on October 13th.
- [AB 62](#): to require the California Civil Rights Department to redress racially motivated eminent domain. Governor Newsom vetoed it on October 13th.
- [ACA 6](#): to amend the State Constitution to "prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude." The bill has not been referred to a committee.
- [ACA 7](#): to amend Prop. 209 to include only "public employment, higher education enrollment, and public contracting" in the state's ban on race-based affirmative action. It was stopped at the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 23rd.
- [AB 742](#): to mandate the Department of Consumer Affairs to prioritize license applicants who are descendants of slaves. It failed due to gubernatorial veto.

In addition, six of the eight diversity-themed bills CFER had monitored also failed:

- [AB 4](#): to grant healthcare access to "who have historically and systematically faced barriers to accessing health care include people of color and immigrants, both documented and undocumented." It was held under submission by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 23rd.
- [AB 15](#): to prohibit the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation from detaining individuals on the basis of a hold request because the punitive carceral system disproportionately harms minorities. It was vetoed on October 11th.
- [AB 73](#): criteria for a Black Mental Health Navigator Certification. It was held under submission by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 23rd.
- [AB 96](#): to require a community health worker to develop cultural competence including "respect for lived experience." It died in the Assembly Health Committee.
- [AB 766](#): to mandate all state agencies and departments to develop DEI strategic plans and racial equity analyses. Governor Newsom vetoed it on October 13th.
- [SB 21](#): to create the Equity, Climate Resilience, and Quality Jobs Fund in the State Treasury and prioritize certain races/genders. It was rewritten completely.

Two of the three indoctrination bills failed:

- [AB 860](#): to require county superintendents to help school districts better address equity concerns in local control and accountability plans. It was held under submission by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 23rd.
- [AB 1468](#): to mandate the State Board of Education to "develop and adopt academically rigorous content standards for ethnic studies instruction in high school." It was stopped in the Assembly Education Committee on May 8th.

AWARNESS BUILDING

Aiding the national effort to defund “Minority Serving Institutions”

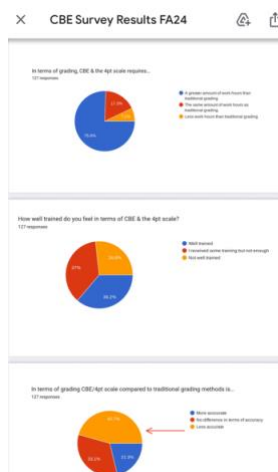
Starting in March, CFER joined a national effort to defund “Minority Serving Institutions (MSI),” a federal [program](#) that rewards schools that enroll certain percentages of minority students with “in-kind services, volunteerism, diverse hiring, grants and contacts.” We assisted in the initiative through publishing columns on syndicated [national](#) and [state](#) platforms, a [call to action](#), and [media outreach](#).

We also hosted a [webinar](#) to raise awareness on the issue. The [event](#) featured nationally renowned experts including: U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner, American Civil Rights Project Chair, CFER Executive Vice President Gail Heriot, Heritage Foundation Center for Education Policy Visiting Fellow, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs at U.S. Department of Education Adam Kissel, and American Civil Rights Project Executive Director & Secretary Dan Morenoff. In August, the U.S. Department of Justice [announced](#) its decision not to defend the constitutionality of “Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs),” which is challenged in court by the State of Tennessee and Students for Fair Admissions, CFER’s national partner. We will continue to monitor all pertinent developments and raise awareness.

Modena Community College	Pub 2yr	HSI	San Diego City College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Mendocino College	Pub 2yr	HSI	San Diego Mesa College	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Mesa College	Priv 4yr	HSI	San Diego State University	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Merrill College	Pub 2yr	HSI	San Francisco State University	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Miracosta College	Pub 4yr	HSI	San Jose City College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Minion College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	San Jose State University	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Modesto Junior College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	Santa Ana College	Pub 2yr	HSI
Monterey Peninsula College	Pub 4yr	HSI	Santa Barbara City College	Pub 2yr	HSI
Montpark College	Pub 2yr	HSI	Santa Monica College	Pub 2yr	HSI
Moreno Valley College	Pub 2yr	HSI	Santa Rosa Junior College	Pub 2yr	HSI
Mount Saint Mary's University	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI	University of California - Berkeley	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI
Mt. San Antonio College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	University of California - Davis	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI
Mt. San Jacinto Community College District	Pub 2yr	HSI	University of California - Irvine	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Napa Valley College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	University of California - Merced	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
National University	Priv 4yr	HSI	University of California - Riverside	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Norco College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	University of California - San Diego	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI
Oak Valley College	HSI		University of California - Santa Barbara	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Otto College of Art and Design	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI	University of California - Santa Cruz	Pub 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Pacific Oaks College	Priv 4yr	HSI	University of La Verne	Priv 4yr	HSI
Pacific Union College	Priv 4yr	HSI	University of Redlands	Priv 4yr	HSI
Palo Alto University	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI	University of the Pacific	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI
Palo Verde College	Pub 2yr	HSI	University of Saint Katherine	Priv 4yr	HSI
Palomar College	Pub 2yr	HSI	University of San Francisco	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI
Pasadena City College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	University of the West	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI
Pattersonville College	Pub 2yr	HSI	Vanguard University of Southern California	Priv 4yr	HSI
Providence Christian College	Priv 4yr	HSI	Ventura College	Pub 2yr	HSI
Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI	West Hills College - Coalinga	Pub 2yr	HSI
Reedley College	Pub 2yr	HSI	West Los Angeles College	Pub 2yr	HSI
Rio Hondo College	Pub 4yr	HSI	Whittier College	Priv 4yr	HSI
Riverside City College	Pub 2yr	HSI	Woodbury University	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Sacramento City College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	Woodland Community College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Saddleback College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI	World Mission University	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI
Saint Mary's College of California	Priv 4yr	AANAPISI, HSI	Yuba College	Pub 2yr	AANAPISI, HSI
San Bernardino Valley College	Pub 2yr	HSI			
San Diego Christian College	Priv 4yr	HSI			



Fighting equitable grading



This year, CFER started to research the history and impact of equitable grading and competence-based education.

Through [case studies](#) and [opinion writing](#), we uncovered the myriad political, ideological and technical issues with these so-called holy grails of progressive education reforms. We also showcased a real success story in which common sense reformers led by a courageous school board president took on and eliminated the practice.

Continuing to build awareness on ethnic studies

Since 2020, CFER has been actively following developments at the state level as well as in local school districts pertaining to ethnic studies. On September 4th, CFER Executive Director Dr. Wenyuan Wu spoke at a “fishbowl” [webinar](#) hosted by Courageous Conversations About Our Schools and Braver Angels. On September 20th, CFER President Frank Xu presented at an Ethnic Studies Workshop organized by the PUSD Community Watch. We are continuing our work to expose the ideological corruptions and biases in ethnic studies through [commentaries](#) and [media outreach](#).



Advocating for reforms to college accreditation and more

This year, we have worked on [alerting](#) the public to sensible reforms aimed at prohibiting accrediting agencies from mandating schools to implement race-based diversity requirements. In the same vein, we have deepened our [media](#) exposure [work](#) to change the culture and American hearts and minds by pinpointing the persistent harms of DEI beyond the court of law.

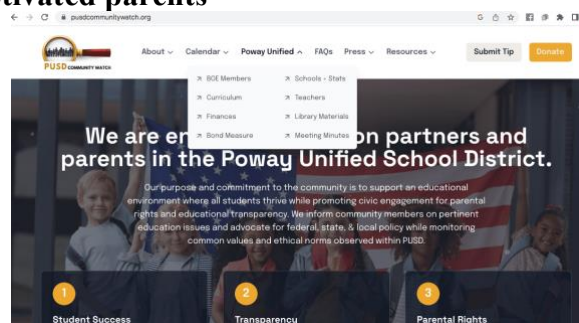


LOCAL ORGANIZING

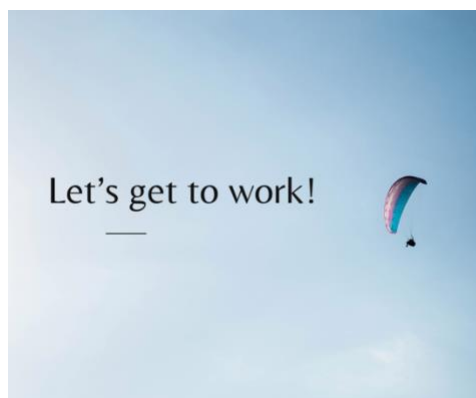
Since our founding, CFER has put into practice the strategy of helping local parents and community members build up their own local school district organizations. It is a long-shot strategy that does not bring immediate payoff or political glamour. Why do we insist on it then, you'd ask? Very simple. Parents, taxpayers and residents know their schools and communities the best. They have personal stakes in the fight. They can also make authentic claims that will be acknowledged by the school district leadership. Compared with national and state advocacy organizations, the model of local school district organizing affords parents and other community members ownership. The latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) [results](#) showed a national trend of academic declines. Students in California fared even worse. For 8th grade reading, California students [scored](#) below the national average of 257 at 254, which translated into a 28% proficiency rate. Proficiency rates for math and science for 8th graders stood at [25%](#) and [24%](#), respectively. This problem is further accentuated by financial irresponsibility. In 2025, California is spending \$18,020 per student in public K-12 education, according to Education Data Initiative. Keenly aware of these systematic issues, CFER helps local parents, community members and other stakeholders champion education at the local level.

Offering self-managed website toolbox to motivated parents

Through helping parent watchdog groups build and upgrade their [public-facing websites](#) to broaden outreach to other local stakeholders, CFER has developed the experience and knowhow to help others develop their own local organization website(s), for free and in a timely manner. We now [promote](#) this resource to our members and supporters.



Local organizing guides



In 2025, CFER developed a series of guides for local organizing. Inspired by real life experience and rooted in strong principles of equal access, free speech and merit, these guides intend to help our supporters [elevate your cause](#), [engage school board members](#), [attend board meetings in person](#), and [monitor curricular/policy changes](#).

MEDIA OUTREACH

The court of public opinions is as important as the court of law, when it comes to defending and promoting equality and merit. After working diligently on research and media outreach for the past five years, CFER is now one of California's leading thinktanks on issues including Prop. 209, reparations, equal justice, affirmative action, merit, free speech and more. In 2025, our work has been covered by outlets like The [National Review](#), [College Fix](#), [Fresno Bee](#), [Courthouse News](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#), [Fox News](#), [Coastal News Group](#) and many more. This year alone, we have [published](#) over [35 commentaries](#) and [columns](#) on reputable platforms.

