



HOW TO PLAN A

HOUSE PARTY

**WINNING  
JUSTICE**

THE PROSECUTOR PROJECT  
[www.winningjustice.org](http://www.winningjustice.org)



# INTRODUCTION

We are in a unique moment in history. Black people are shifting the political landscape into a reality where elected officials are being held accountable to the needs of our communities. 2018 is the year that will decide that trajectory for our future. But first, we must come together and take stock of the conditions our people face and begin envisioning a new course of action.

In this toolkit we provide links to resources to assist you in planning a house party and the building blocks to organizing around issues impacting Black people in your community.

By signing up to host a house party you are joining a collective of leaders across the country that are using their homes, churches, and community spaces to convene like-minded people and build the united front necessary to combat the criminal injustice system. Our plan is to local prosecutors, to hold them accountable to their constituents. Elected officials need to hear directly from those they represent and make ending the over incarceration of our people top priority.

The goal of your house party is to provide a fun, innovative space for folks to strategize around building Black political power, commit to taking action, and sign up to join your team.

Once your team is established, notify Color Of Change and to receive the digital resources and strategy support needed for your team to launch a successful campaign targeting a local prosecutor in your community.



# GOALS

- I. Connect with connect with like-minded people in your city who are interested in reforming the criminal justice system.
- II. Begin to build a strategy targeting elected officials and holding them accountable to ending criminal justice practices that are unfair to Black people.
- III. Establish a core team that will recruit more community members to join the movement to end harmful practices within the criminal justice system.
- IV. Black joy! Remember to center Black joy in every aspect of your event. From the decor and music to conversations with guests, try to remain open, positive and curious. Most importantly, have fun!



# HOW?

## Getting Started

- **Set a date.** The sooner you nail down a date on the calendar the more time you have to plan your event and provide your guests the opportunity to schedule ahead.
- **Make a guest list.** Write a list of all your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues you want to invite. Don't limit yourself to folks who are already politically inclined, see this as a chance to bring in people who are new to politics!
- **Spread the word digitally.** Utilize email and social media to get the word out to your extended community.
- **Pick up the phone.** Reach out to your folks through phone calls and texts to give them the rundown of the gathering and an invitation to attend.

## Elements of Gathering

- **Welcome your guests.** Allow your guests about 30 minutes to mingle, drink and eat food. Talk to each person when they arrive. Introduce people to each other and genuinely get to know people by asking a few questions. After some time has passed, ask your guests to have a seat.
- **Tell your story.** Now is your chance to share your own personal story and to explain why you are passionate about transforming the criminal justice system. Keep this short and simple but don't rush your presentation. Tell a story you can comfortably share in 3-5 minutes.
- **Make the ask.** The host is the person who makes "the ask." Don't be afraid. You believe in this work. Now you've brought together your friends, family, coworkers and others with whom you have a relationship. They will want to help you!
  - Identify one issue area within the criminal justice system you would like your team to collaborate on.
  - Identify the decision maker in your city that has the power to make change.
  - Invite your guests to organize a visit to this decision maker's office to demand changes to one of many criminal justice issues affecting Black communities.
- **Thank your guests.** Thank everyone for coming and sharing space with you.
- **Take Pictures!** Take a group photo with the hashtag #WinningJustice
- **Follow-up. Don't stop here!** Make sure to call, text or email your guests thanking them for attending and asking if they would be interested in hosting another #BlackPeopleBrunch in the next few weeks.



# RESOURCES

Facebook:

[Color Of Change](#)

Twitter:

[@ColorOfChange](#)

Join our Facebook Group (Change for the People) here:

[bit.ly/change4thepeople](http://bit.ly/change4thepeople)

## NEED SUPPORT?

E-mail our Winning Justice team at [cjorganizing@colorofchange.org](mailto:cjorganizing@colorofchange.org)  
with questions and to let us know about your event.

