



Glossary of Terms

Tennessee New Majority Fund Survey

Education & Immigration Terms

- **Public education** – Free schooling (K–12) provided by the government.
- **Immigration status** – A person's legal status in the U.S., such as undocumented, permanent resident, visa holder, or citizen.
- **School vouchers** – Government-funded certificates used by families to pay for private school instead of public school.
- **Federal immigration enforcement** – Agencies like ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) that enforce immigration laws.

City & Legal Terms

- **Apprehension, detention, deportation** – Stages of immigration enforcement where someone is stopped, held, and/or removed from the U.S.
- **Undocumented immigrant** – A person living in the U.S. without official legal status.
- **Know Your Rights information** – Educational materials about what you can say or do if approached by immigration or police.
- **Universal representation** – A policy where everyone in immigration court has access to a lawyer, regardless of income or status.
- **Deportation proceedings** – Legal processes where a judge decides whether someone must leave the U.S.

Worker Rights Terms

- **Wage theft** – When an employer doesn't pay a worker what they are legally owed.
- **Professional development** – Training or education that helps someone grow in their job or career.
- **Non-traditional hours** – Work hours outside the typical 9am–5pm schedule (like evenings, nights, or weekends).

- **Union** – A group of workers who join together to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Climate Justice Terms

- **Climate events/disasters** – Natural events like extreme heat, flooding, or tornadoes worsened by climate change.
- **Black and Brown communities** – A reference to communities of color who often face higher environmental risks due to systemic inequality.

Voting & Democracy Terms

- **Same-day voter registration** – Being able to register and vote on the same day, usually on Election Day.
- **Ballot** – The official list of choices you vote on during an election.
- **Civic engagement** – Participating in your community and government (like voting, attending meetings, or organizing).
- **Polling location** – The place where you go to vote.
- **White nationalism** – A belief system that promotes white racial superiority and exclusion of non-white people.
- **Xenophobia** – Dislike or fear of people from other countries.
- **“America First” agenda** – A political viewpoint focused on U.S. interests, often associated with anti-immigrant policies.
- **Great Replacement Theory** – A white nationalist conspiracy theory that falsely claims immigration is a plot to “replace” white Americans.

Housing Terms

- **Affordable housing** – Housing that costs no more than 30% of a household’s income.
- **Exploitation by landlords** – When landlords take unfair advantage of tenants (e.g., overcharging or neglecting repairs).
- **Renters’ rights** – Legal protections for people who rent housing.