



Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation

FROM VISION TO VICTORY

AMPLIFYING BLACK VOICES



#ALC53

SEPTEMBER 11-15 | WASHINGTON, DC | CBCFINC.ORG/ALC

ALC 53 PRESENTED BY amazon

THE WASHINGTON
Informer

SPECIAL ISSUE

Schedule Inside

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK
CAUCUS FOUNDATION
(CBCF)

53RD ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE
CONFERENCE



Informer

INFORMER

BRIDGE

Scan to learn more.

NEWSPAPER READING IS A HABIT

DON'T BREAK THE HABIT!



READ THE WASHINGTON INFORMER YOUR WAY:

- **In Print** – feel the ink between your fingers of our Award Winning Print Edition
- **On the Web** – www.washingtoninformer.com updated throughout the day, every day
- **On your tablet**
- **On your smartphone**
- **Facebook**
- **Twitter**
- **Weekly Email Blast** – sign up at www.washingtoninformer.com



202-561-4100

For advertising contact Ron Burke
at rburke@washingtoninformer.com

THE WASHINGTON
Informer

...Informing you everyday in every way

THE WASHINGTON
Informer

THE WASHINGTON INFORMER NEWSPAPER (ISSN#0741-9414) is published weekly on each Thursday. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. and additional mailing offices. News and advertising deadline is Monday prior to publication. Announcements must be received two weeks prior to event. Copyright 2016 by The Washington Informer. All rights reserved. POSTMASTER: Send change of addresses to The Washington Informer, 3117 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20032. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The Informer Newspaper cannot guarantee the return of photographs. Subscription rates are \$45 per year, two years \$60. Papers will be received not more than a week after publication. Make checks payable to:

THE WASHINGTON INFORMER
3117 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20032
Phone: 202 561-4100
Fax: 202 574-3785
news@washingtoninformer.com
www.washingtoninformer.com



Word
to Black



In Memoriam
Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, Sr.
Wilhelmina J. Rolark

PUBLISHER

Denise Rolark Barnes

STAFF

Micha Green, *Managing Editor*
Ron Burke, *Advertising/Marketing Director*
Shevry Lassiter, *WTN-TV Producer*
Ra-Jah Kelly, *Digital Asset Manager*
Lafayette Barnes, IV, *Editor, WT Bridge DC*
Desmond Barnes, *WTN Daily Editor*
Anthony Tilghman, *Social Media Strategist*
ZebraDesigns.net, *Graphic Design*
Mable Neville, *Bookkeeper*
Angie Johnson, *Office/Circulation Manager*

REPORTERS

Stacy Brown, *National Reporter*
Sam P.K. Collins, *Political/Education Reporter*
Zerline Hughes, *Housing Reporter*
Brenda Siler, *Lifestyle Reporter*
Lindiwe Vilakazi, *Health Reporter*
Ed Hill, *Sports Editor*
Jada Ingleton, *Reporter*

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Shevry Lassiter, *Photo Editor*
Ja Mon Jackson, *Asst. Photo Editor*
Roy Lewis, Jr.
Robert R. Roberts
Anthony Tilghman
Abdullah Konte

Welcome to the 53rd Annual Legislative Conference

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), we welcome you to the 53rd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). This year's theme, "From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices," reflects our unwavering commitment to unity and collective action. Together, we are stronger and will shape a future of equality and opportunity for all.

"From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices" is more than just a theme—it is a rallying cry for our community. It speaks to our collective strength and our power when we come together to advocate for change. Our united voices will drive the progress we seek and turn our visions into victories.

This conference is a significant milestone in our ongoing journey toward progress. We continue to make strides in economic prosperity, social justice, and opportunity for Black America through innovation, advocacy, and collaboration. Our shared vision is to create pathways that lead to lasting change, ensuring that the victories we achieve today pave the way for a brighter future.

At the heart of our vision is a commitment to building economic prosperity and achieving social justice. We know that amplifying our voices can create opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship that will drive prosperity and success in our communities. Our dedication to social and economic justice is unwavering, and together, we will advocate for policies and practices that promote fairness, equity, and opportunity for all.

This year's theme is also a call to action for all of us to engage, advocate, and drive change. Every voice adds strength to our collective efforts, and we encourage you to actively participate in the conversations and initiatives that will take place throughout the conference. Whether it's engaging with thought leaders, advocating for policy change, or simply sharing your story, your voice matters.

Our focus this year includes several key sub-themes:

- **Path to Progress and Prosperity:** We are committed to charting a clear path toward economic growth and social advancement, ensuring that our vision of progress becomes a reality.
- **Fostering Opportunities:** By amplifying Black voices, we will promote opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship, driving prosperity and success in our communities.
- **Advancing Social and Economic Justice:** Our amplified voices will demand social and economic justice, advocating for policies that promote fairness, equity, and opportunity for all.



As we gather for this historic event, we unite by a shared vision:

- **Creating a Prosperous Future:** Our vision for a prosperous future involves empowering Black communities through education, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Together, we can achieve lasting economic success.
- **Driving Social Change:** By amplifying Black voices, we drive social change that addresses systemic inequalities and promotes justice. Every voice is crucial in building a more equitable society.
- **Building Wealth and Opportunity:** We are committed to creating wealth-building and economic growth opportunities. Collaboration and advocacy pave the way for financial stability and success.
- **Uniting for Victory:** Our collective strength lies in unity. By working together and amplifying our voices, we can turn our vision into victory and ensure progress for future generations.

We invite you to join us at CBCF's 53rd Annual Legislative Conference.

Be part of the movement that amplifies Black voices and transforms visions into victories. Engage with thought leaders, policymakers, and community champions, and advocate for policies that promote economic opportunity, social justice, and prosperity for all.

Your voice matters. Together, we can shape a future where every vision leads to victory and every Black voice is amplified and heard. Don't forget to register to vote—your vote is your voice, and it's a powerful way to drive change and support policies that benefit Black communities.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference and working together to build a brighter, more equitable future.

Sincerely,

Representative Lucy McBath,
Honorary ALC Co-Chair

Representative Troy Carter,
Honorary ALC Co-Chair



Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation

ALC 53



ALC 53



THE WASHINGTON INFORMER / CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CBCF) 53RD ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE / SPECIAL



CBCF/2

Q&A: Rep. Lucy McBath Talks 2024 CBCF ALC, Motivation, Goals

CO-CHAIR DUTIES:

What are your primary responsibilities as Co-Chair of the Annual Legislative Conference, and how do you prioritize your tasks to ensure the conference is a success?

We have seen absolutely amazing growth in the Congressional Black Caucus—we're 60 members now. And with that, our responsibility and the excitement within the CBC continues to grow. It's amazing to have so many of our neighbors from our home states here in Washington, DC. We are always coming in with a focus on engagement across all our organizations to get more entities and more individuals involved. We have incredible programming—I'm sure many of us wish we could be in five places at once to hear from all our panels [laughs]. It's about the investment of time and dedication that makes this such an important week, and the Co-Chairs feel a real responsibility to make it successful.

PERSONAL MOTIVATION:

What motivates you to take on the role of Co-Chair for this conference, and how does it align with your broader goals and values as a legislator?

I never thought I would be in Congress. I lost my son, Jordan Davis, in 2012 and spent a long time searching and praying to try to cope with my grief. It was through the encouragement of a lot of our colleagues here—especially Vice President Kamala Harris—that I began advocating for change and encouraging survivors to make our world safer. I've been in Congress almost six years now, and I'm proud of the work we have done to keep the American people safe. I'm excited about advancing the goals and the vision of the Congressional Black Caucus with this year's Legislative Conference, especially the power we have to shine a light on advancements of opportunity and safety in our communities.

KEY ISSUES:

What specific issues or topics do you consider most critical for discussion at this year's conference, and why are they important for current legislative efforts?

There are many, but I think what ties most directly to my own personal story and reason for being in Congress are securing the right to vote for Americans across the country, gun violence prevention, economic opportunity, and affordable, quality health care and education. To truly grow and thrive, we all need to be safe, healthy, and whole. These make up the foundation of a successful life.

CONFERENCE GOALS:

What are the key objectives you aim to achieve with this year's conference, and how do these goals align with your broader legislative priorities?

My key objective for the conference this year is not only to broaden our perspective on the policies that we need to build out for communities of color, but to find solutions from the diverse voices we will have with attendees from all over the country. Beyond that, finding solutions that will strengthen us and fortify the path forward so that our community leaders are able to support growth opportunities for our people.

TEAM COORDINATION:

How do you collaborate with other co-chairs and organizers to shape the agenda and ensure that diverse perspectives are represented?

The choice of this year's theme, "From Vision to Victory" was specific. We are living through a difficult and historic time, and this election is one of the most important. We have the power to gather together during the conference and find real ways that Americans can make their voices heard and bring their stories. The power of our collective group is profound, and that shapes the kinds of discussions we

REP. LUCY MCBATH

In Congress, Lucy McBath serves as the Secretary of the Congressional Black Caucus and the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime. She is an active member of her faith community, a proud graduate of a Historically Black College and University, and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Congresswoman McBath has passed numerous bipartisan pieces of legislation to lower insulin costs for seniors, protect veterans facing financial hardship, and reform our nation's gun laws for the first time in a generation through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Law. She has also successfully staved off two attempts by Georgia Republicans to kick her out of Congress through partisan gerrymandering.

REP. TROY A. CARTER, SR.

Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. is a dedicated and elected United States House of Representatives member from Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, always striving to serve his constituents. Congressman Carter currently serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, one of the most significant committees in Congress that has jurisdiction over all modes of transportation and infrastructure. He also serves on the powerful committee for Homeland Security of the United States, where he serves as Ranking Member over Emergency Management and Technology. Congressman Carter previously served on the Small Business Committee, which has direct oversight and consideration over all matters affecting America's backbone, small businesses.

are able to have.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

How will you assess the success of the conference and its impact on legislative efforts and public policy? What metrics or feedback mechanisms will you use?

Of course, we want a fantastic

turnout and for folks to get a lot of value from the programming of the conference. To talk with one another, to meet new friends, and to inspire each other. In addition, I will be looking at our progress over the next year and what we are able to accomplish. I would love to be able to look back next year and see

tangible results from the charge that was given to all those who attended this year. I would love for our people and our leaders to be able to come back and know that we expanded our vision and goals for the conference to our broader world.





THE WASHINGTON
Informer

Is proud to partner with
The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation



@WashingtonInformer

WashingtonInformer.com



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Registration Ticketing	WCC (East Salon)
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	CBCF Professional Development Series	WCC
9:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Policy Sessions & Established Braintrusts	WCC
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Opening Press Conference	WCC (Hall D Spotlight Main Stage)
11:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Exhibit Showcase	WCC (Hall D)
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Grand Opening Block Party	WCC (Hall D)
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Attendee Welcome Lunch	WCC (Hall D)
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	ALC Welcome Reception honoring the Members of the CBC	WCC (Hall D)
8:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Alumni Association Networking Reception (IO; 21+ only)	WCC (Ballroom B)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Registration Ticketing	WCC (East Salon)
7:30 AM – 10:30 AM	CBC Spouses Community Breakfast and Health Fair	Franklin Park
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	ALC National Town Hall Meeting	WCC (Ballroom A)
9:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Exhibit Showcase	WCC (Hall D)
11:30 AM – 6:00 PM	Policy Sessions & Established Braintrusts	WCC
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Block Party	WCC (Hall D)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Leadership Reception – CBC Chair's Reception (IO)	Invitation Only
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Gospel Extravaganza	United House of Prayer
8:00 PM – 12:00 AM	The Sojourner Truth Women's Leadership Reception* (Ticketed Event)	Invitation Only

Legend: IO (Invitation Only), Ticketed Event - Tickets available for sale online at registration site (until capacity is reached).
WCC (Walter E. Washington Convention Center)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Registration Ticketing	WCC (East Salon)
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Policy Sessions & Established Braintrusts	WCC
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Exhibit Showcase	WCC (Hall D)
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Block Party	WCC (Hall D)
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Legacy Reception – CBCF Chair & BOD Reception	Conrad, Washington DC
9:00 PM – 1:00 AM	The Black Party* (Ticketed Event; 21+ only)	Hamilton Hotel – Grand Ballroom Schuyler (1001 14th Street NW)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

6:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Registration Ticketing	WCC (East Salon)
7:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Day of Healing* (Ticketed Event) (doors open at 7:00 am)	WCC (Hall E)
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Exhibit Showcase	WCC (Hall D)
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Phoenix Awards VIP Pre-Dinner Reception (IO)	WCC (Hall D)
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Annual Phoenix Awards Dinner* (Ticketed Event) (doors open at 6:00 pm)	WCC (Hall E)
9:30 PM – 11:00 PM	Official Phoenix Awards After Party* (Ticketed Event)	WCC (Hall D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

10:45 AM – 2:30 PM	Donald M. Payne Sr. Foreign Policy Fellowship Cruise (IO)	Gangplank Marina
--------------------	---	------------------



CBCFINC.ORG/ALC



Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Hosts 53rd Annual Legislative Conference: 'From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices'

By Yolanda Raine
CBCF Vice President
Marketing and
Communications

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) 2024 Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) is a cornerstone event in the political and cultural landscape of Black America. This year's theme, "From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices," is both a rallying cry and a reminder of the enduring power and resilience of the Black community.

As thousands gather to discuss policies that directly impact African Americans' lives, it's crucial to reflect on the significance of this conference and why it matters more than ever to Black America.

THE POWER OF AMPLIFICATION

"From Vision to Victory" underscores a journey that many in the Black community know all too well—a journey from dreaming of a better future to taking actionable steps to achieve it. But it's the latter part of the theme, "Amplifying Black Voices," that truly resonates in today's socio-political climate.

In a world where systemic racism continues to be a pervasive issue, amplifying Black voices is not just about speaking louder; it's about ensuring those voices are heard, respected, and acted upon in meaningful ways.

Amplifying Black voices means creating spaces where Black people can speak freely about their experiences, challenges, and triumphs without fear of retribution or dismissal. It means recognizing the expertise and leadership within the community and allowing those insights to guide policy decisions.

The ALC serves as a space to amplify African American voices, bringing together legislators, activists, educators, and everyday citizens to engage in critical discussions and formulate strategies to address the unique needs of Black America.

ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES

The ALC is more than just a gathering; it's a strategic convening designed to address systemic inequities that have long plagued Black communities. From healthcare disparities and economic inequity to criminal justice reform and educational access, the conference provides a platform to tackle these issues head-on. Each panel, workshop, and town hall meeting is an opportunity to dissect the policies that have failed us and to advocate for those that promise real change.

One of the most pressing issues on the agenda this year is economic empowerment. In a post-pandemic world, where economic recovery has been uneven and often inaccessible to Black communities, discussions on wealth-building, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy are paramount. The ALC is a space where experts can provide guidance on navigating these economic challenges, while also advocating for policies that promote equity in access to capital, job opportunities, and economic mobility.

HEALTH EQUITY AS A PILLAR OF JUSTICE

Health care has always been a critical issue for Black America, but the COVID-19 pandemic has brought health disparities into even sharper focus. The ALC provides a crucial forum to discuss how we can achieve health equity—ensuring that every person, regardless of race, has access to quality health care. This includes addressing the social determinants of health that disproportionately affect Black communities, such as housing, education, and access to nutritious food.

This year's conference will delve into the nuances of healthcare reform, pushing for a system that



▲ Samantha Tweedy, Damon Hewitt, Dr. Kimberlé W. Crenshaw and Congressional Black Caucus Chair U.S. Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) at last year's Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). The CBCF's 2024 ALC, themed "From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices," is both a rallying cry and a reminder of the enduring power and resilience of the Black community. (WT File Photo/Robert R. Roberts)

not only treats illness but also promotes wellness and prevention in Black communities. It will also address the mental health crisis exacerbated by the pandemic, recognizing the need for culturally

In light of recent efforts to suppress Black votes through gerrymandering, voter ID laws, and other restrictive measures, the ALC will focus on mobilizing the community to protect their rights. It will also highlight the significance of the 2024 elections and the critical role that Black voters will play in shaping the future of the nation.

CELEBRATING CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Beyond policy discussions, the ALC is a celebration of Black culture and community. It's a time to honor the contributions of Black Americans to every facet of society—from arts and culture to science and technology. The conference serves as a reminder of the strength, creativity, and resilience of Black people, even in the face of adversity.

Events like the Phoenix Awards Dinner, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the community, and the Day of Healing, which celebrates the profound role religious faith has played in the Black community—they're

about inspiring the next generation of Black leaders, advocates, and creators.

WHY THIS CONFERENCE MATTERS

The Annual Legislative Conference is more than a policy conference; it's a testament to the enduring fight for justice, equality, and opportunity. It is a powerful reminder that the vision of a better future is not a distant dream but a goal within reach. By bringing together thought leaders, policymakers, and community advocates, the ALC provides a unique opportunity to craft a collective vision for Black America's future.

In a time when our rights are under attack and our voices are often marginalized, the ALC stands as a beacon of hope and a call to action. It is a space where the community can come together to strategize, mobilize, and advocate for the changes that will lead us from vision to victory.

As we gather this year under the theme "From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices," let us remember that our voices have power. They have shaped history, and they will continue to shape the future. The ALC is a critical part of that journey, ensuring that our voices are not just heard but that they resonate, leading to meaningful change for Black America.

FROM VISION
TO VICTORY
AMPLIFYING BLACK VOICES

ALC 53

competent mental health services that understand the unique stressors faced by Black Americans.

POLITICAL POWER AND REPRESENTATION

Political power and representation are at the heart of the CBCF's mission, and this year's ALC will be no different. The conference is an essential platform for discussing the importance of voter engagement, representation in government, and the protection of voting rights—issues that are crucial to ensuring that Black voices are heard in the political arena.



POWER OF THE BALLOT

RU**VOTE**READY

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE NOW

- ☒ **REGISTER** TO VOTE TODAY
- ☒ **VERIFY** YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS
- ☒ **REQUEST** YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT
- ☒ **KNOW** YOUR VOTING RIGHTS
- ☒ **VOTE** EARLY OR ON ELECTION DAY NOV. 5, 2024

GET READY @ [UNITYCAMPAIGN.ORG](https://unitycampaign.org)

We Are Not Going Back!

CBC MEMBERS



Delegate Eleanor
Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Serving since 1991



Rep. Maxine Waters
(D-CA-43)
Serving since 1991



Rep. Sanford D. Bishop
(D-GA-02)
Serving since 1993



Rep. James E. Clyburn
(D-SC-06)
Serving since 1993



Rep. Bobby Scott
(D-VA-03)
Serving since 1993



Rep. Bennie G. Thompson
(D-MS-02)
Serving since 1993



In Memoriam

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
(D-TX-18)
Serving since 1995



Rep. Danny K. Davis
(D-IL-07)
Serving since 1997



Rep. Gregory W. Meeks
(D-NY-05)
Serving since 1998



Rep. Barbara Lee
(D-CA-13)
Serving since 1998



Rep. David Scott
(D-GA-13)
Serving since 2003



Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II
(D-MO-05)
Serving since 2005



Rep. Al Green
(D-TX-09)
Serving since 2005



Rep. Gwen Moore
(D-WI-04)
Serving since 2005



Rep. Yvette D. Clarke
(D-NY-09) - Serving since
2007 (CBC 1st Vice Chair)



Rep. Hank Johnson
(D-GA-04)
Serving since 2007



Rep. André Carson
(D-IN-07)
Serving since 2007



Rep. Terri A. Sewell
(D-AL-07)
Serving since 2011



Rep. Frederica S. Wilson
(D-FL-24)
Serving since 2011



In Memoriam

Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr.
(D-NJ-10)
Serving since 2012



Rep. Joyce Beatty
(D-OH-03)
Serving since 2012



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries
(D-NY-08) - Serving since
2013 (Democratic Leader)



Rep. Marc Veasey
(D-TX-33)
Serving since 2013



Rep. Robin Kelly
(D-IL-02)
Serving since 2013



Sen. Cory Booker
(D-NJ)
Serving since 2013



Rep. Alma Adams
(D-NC-12)
Serving since 2014



Rep. Stacey Plaskett
(D-VI)
Serving since 2015



Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman
(D-NJ-12)
Serving since 2015



Rep. Dwight Evans
(PA-03)
Serving since 2016



Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester
(D-DE)
Serving since 2017

CBC MEMBERS



Rep. Steven Horsford
(D-NV-04) - Serving since
2018 (CBC Chair)



Rep. Colin Allred
(D-TX-32)
Serving since 2018



Rep. Jahana Hayes
(D-CT-05)
Serving since 2018



Rep. Lucy McBath
(GA-07) - Serving since 2018
(CBC Secretary)



Rep. Joe Neguse
(D-CO-02) - Serving since 2018
(DPCC Chair)



Rep. Ilhan Omar
(D-MN-05)
Serving since 2018



Rep. Ayanna Pressley
(D-MA-07)
Serving since 2018



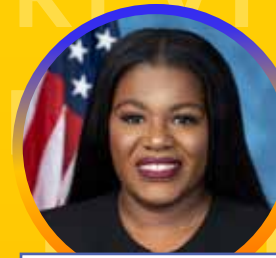
Rep. Lauren Underwood
(D-IL-14) - Serving since 2018
(DPCC Co-Chair)



Rep. Kweisi Mfume
(D-MD-07)
Serving since 2020



Rep. Nikema Williams
(D-GA-05)
Serving since 2021



Rep. Cori Bush
(D-MO-01)
Serving since 2021



Rep. Jamaal Bowman
(D-NY-16)
Serving since 2021



Rep. Ritchie Torres
(D-NY-15)
Serving since 2021



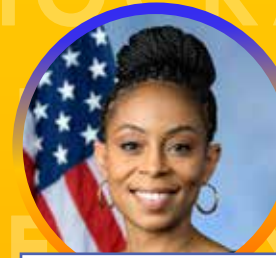
Rep. Marilyn Strickland
(D-WA-10) - Serving since 2021
(CBC Whip)



Sen. Raphael Warnock
(D-GA) State of Georgia
Serving since 2021



Rep. Troy Carter
(CBC 2nd Vice Chair)
(D-LA-02) - Serving since 2021



Rep. Shontel Brown
(D-OH-11)
Serving since 2021



Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
(D-FL-20)
Serving since 2022



Rep. Jasmine Crockett
(D-TX-30)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Don Davis
(D-NC-05)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Valerie Foushee
(D-NC-04)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Maxwell Alejandro Frost
(D-FL-10)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Glenn Ivey
(D-MD-04)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Jonathan Jackson
(D-IL-01)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove
(D-CA-37)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Summer Lee
(D-PA-12)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Emilia Strong Sykes
(D-OH-13)
Serving since 2023



Rep. Jennifer McClellan
(D-VA-04)
Serving since 2023



Sen. Laphonza Butler
(D-4CA)



Rep. Gabe Amo
(D-RI-1)

VP Kamala Harris: Carrying Shirley Chisholm's Torch in a Relentless Fight Against Racism and Misogyny

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

In a world where political power has long been the domain of men, Vice President Kamala Harris' ascent as the first Black woman to secure the Democratic nomination for President of the United States is not just historic—it is a victory hard-fought through decades of struggle.

Her achievement stands on the shoulders of trailblazers like the late U.S. Rep Shirley Chisholm, who battled the dual forces of racism and sexism to open doors that had been firmly shut to women of color.

"I remember

1972 and Shirley Chisholm," said Stuart Anderson, a member of D.C. Democratic State Committee and second vice chair of the Ward 8 Democrats, comparing and contrasting Harris' historic confirmation as the Democratic presidential nominee.

Anderson attended the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago with a mission.

"Shirley Chisholm had a bunch of delegates who pledged their support for her. So before all the hoopla and so many dove in [for Harris], I was afraid that we were going to get to this moment and it'll be a double cross again," he said. "So I said I was going to be here to make sure that I found the naysayers and convince them to support Kamala Harris."

Chisholm, born in 1924 to immigrant parents from British Guiana and Barbados, understood from a young age the barriers that lay ahead. When she was elected to Congress in 1968 as the first Black woman to do so, it wasn't just a personal triumph—it was a seismic shift in a political landscape where Black women had been almost absent. Chisholm's unapologetic voice and fearless advocacy for the marginalized marked the beginning of a new era, even as she faced intense opposition from her peers and the public.

In 1972, Chisholm made another bold move by running for the Democratic presidential nomination. Her candidacy was a watershed moment, challenging a system that had long excluded women, especially Black women, from the highest levels of leadership.

"I am not a candidate of Black America, although I am Black and proud," she declared. "I am not a candidate for the women's movement, although I am a woman and equally proud. I am a candidate of the people."

Fast-forward to 2024, and Kamala Harris, the daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants, is poised to break yet another glass ceiling as the Democratic nominee for president. Her

journey from California prosecutor to U.S. Senator and now to the top of the Democratic ticket mirrors the battles Chisholm fought decades earlier. Harris' candidacy is the latest chapter in a long history of Black women pushing against the boundaries of a political system designed to keep them out.

But the path to power has been anything but smooth. Political candidates are often recruited in exclusive spaces like golf clubs, fraternities, and private clubs—places where women, particularly Black women, have historically been unwelcome. These are the backrooms where men network, forge alliances, smoke cigars, swallow down a scotch or brandy, and build the support needed to run for office. For women, gaining entry into these circles has always been an uphill battle.

Even when women enter the political arena, they face different—and often more severe—challenges than their male counterparts. A 2017 Politico survey revealed that while women in fields like law, business, and education have political experience comparable to men, they are significantly less likely to view themselves as qualified to run for office. Experts claim this lack of confidence reflects the societal conditioning that has long told women they are less capable of leadership.

The stakes were visible when Hillary Clinton, the first female presidential nominee from a major party, lost to a controversial and divisive newcomer with a contentious past in 2016. The loss was a bitter pill for many women who had hoped to see the glass ceiling shattered, underscoring the deep-seated sexism that still pervades American politics.

For Black women like Harris, the obstacles are even more significant.

A 2020 study by disinformation expert Nina Jankowicz and reported by Newsweek found that female political candidates face staggering levels of abuse and disinformation, with Harris being targeted in 78% of such attacks. These assaults are not just about politics—they are deeply rooted in misogyny and racism, designed to undermine Harris' credibility and diminish her accomplishments.

The attacks have been relentless, often hinging on the baseless and misogynistic claim that Harris "slept her way to the top"—a narrative that stands in stark contrast to the numerous accusations and convictions surrounding her opponent, Donald Trump. This kind of gendered disinformation is a deliberate attempt to erode public trust in Harris, reinforcing the barriers that Black women have always faced in the pursuit of political power.

Despite these challenges, the presence of Black women in politics has grown, though they remain underrepresented. According to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), Black women comprise 7.7% of the U.S. population but hold only 5.4% of all voting positions in Congress. While these numbers reflect progress, they highlight the ongoing struggle for full representation.

Harris' candidacy is not just a personal milestone, but the culmination of the battles fought by women like Shirley Chisholm, who dared to enter spaces where they were neither expected nor welcomed. Her campaign is a testament to the resilience and determination of Black women who have refused to be sidelined, fought for their place at the table, and never backed down in the face of adversity.

As she prepares to take on a former president who has been twice impeached and found guilty of multiple crimes, including sexual assault, the stakes could not be higher. Her campaign is not just a bid for the White House—it is, like President Biden announced in 2020, a battle for the soul of a nation. A nation still grappling with the legacies of racism and sexism. In the spirit of Shirley Chisholm, Harris has proclaimed her readiness to fight, unbought and unbossed, for a future where the highest offices in the land are within reach for all women, regardless of race or background.

"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair," Chisholm famously declared.

Kamala Harris has not only brought her chair—she's poised to lead at the head of the table, fulfilling the dreams of generations of women who fought for this moment.

■
@StacyBrownMedia



► Vice President Kamala Harris' ascent as the first Black woman to secure the Democratic nomination for President of the United States stands on the shoulders of trailblazers like Shirley Chisholm, who battled the dual forces of racism and sexism to open doors that had been firmly shut to women of color. (WI File Photo/Robert R. Roberts)

TRUMP'S PROJECT 2025 IS A THREAT TO BLACK AMERICANS

Project 2025 is Donald Trump and JD Vance's plan to remake the federal government if they win. It would:

Use Civil Rights-era laws created to address discrimination to instead benefit white people

– Axios, 4/1/24

Gut the Affordable Care Act, which will raise health care costs and threaten healthcare coverage for millions of Americans

– AP News, 11/27/23

Cut Social Security and Medicare Americans have earned

– Washington Post, 2/9/23

Ban abortion nationally

– New York Times, 2/16/24

LEARN



MORE



Education is Essential for Casting Ballots As States Enact Various Voting Laws

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

Through sessions, panels and programming, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) 53rd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) is working to combat voter suppression and encourage all eligible voters to make their voices heard by casting ballots.

Thus far in 2024, the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice has tracked at least six states that have enacted seven restrictive voting laws. Overall, at least 291 restrictive bills have been considered in 40 states, making it harder for eligible Americans to cast their ballots.

Since 2022, the Brennan Center said they've also tracked election interference legislation, measures that allow for partisan interference in elections or threaten the people and processes that make elections work. These measures stand to not only harm existing election administration, but they also undermine voters' faith in the security of elections, Brennan Center officials concluded.

So far this year, at least one state, South Dakota, has enacted an election interference law.

Overall, at least 56 election interference bills have been considered in 21 states.

On the other hand, pro-voter legislators are seeking to expand access to the vote. Expansive laws have outpaced the number of restrictive laws passed. In 2024, at least 11 states have enacted 14 expansive laws. Overall, at least 631 expansive voting bills have been considered in 44 states.

But voter suppression remains real with one comprehensive analyst noting that states have added nearly 100 restrictive laws since the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act a decade ago.

Many new laws are found in states with a history of racial voting discrimination.

In Georgia, a new law went into effect this summer that makes it easier for people to attempt to

kick their neighbors off the rolls through voter challenges. The effects of Senate Bill 189 are already being felt. On July 1, the Bibb County party chair challenged 243 voters; the local board put 45 of those voters into "challenged status," meaning they will have to take extra steps to have their ballots counted this fall.

"Also in early July, an individual submitted two lists comprising around 34,000 voter challenges that alleged only that these people may have a new address," Andrew Garber of the Brennan Center reported. "The county elections supervisor began the process of mailing those voters notices but was clear that he would not remove voters who don't respond. Some of the county election boards tasked with implementing this undemocratic law are taking steps to mitigate the damage."

Voter Education is Key, Learn Various Ways to Cast a Ballot

Voter education is a central focus at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 53rd Annual Legislative Conference, which runs from Sept. 11–15, in Washington, D.C. This year's theme, "From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices," underscores CBCF's dedication to social justice and economic empowerment, particularly as new voting laws and restrictions threaten to disenfranchise communities of color.

With a growing number of Republican-led states enacting laws that complicate the voting process, the conference emphasizes the importance of understanding voting options, deadlines, and el-

igibility requirements. The information is crucial as voters navigate early voting, absentee voting, and mail-in ballots—methods that are becoming increasingly significant amid efforts to restrict access to the ballot box.

Absentee voting and vote-by-mail are critical ways voters can ensure their voices are heard. According to USA.gov, all states offer some form of absentee voting, though the rules and deadlines vary significantly. While some states require a valid excuse, such as illness, travel, or being a student out of state, others allow no-excuse absentee voting. Voters must be vigilant about meeting these deadlines, as missing them

could result in their vote not being counted. Vote-by-mail, another crucial option, is automatically available in states that conduct all-mail elections. According to the Movement Advancement Project, 19% of the voting-eligible population lives in states where every registered voter is mailed a ballot without needing to request one. These ballots can be returned through the mail, to secure drop boxes, or directly to election offices. For voters in the remaining 81% of states that do not conduct all-mail elections, understanding how to request and return a mail-in ballot is essential.

The Movement Advancement Project's Democracy Maps, which track 44 election laws and policies, highlight the varying levels of accessibility across states. States are scored on a 32.5-point rubric, with favorable policies that expand voting access earning points and restrictive laws that limit civic engagement receiving negative scores. This tracking underscores the ongoing challenges voters face, especially in states where laws have been enacted to make voting more difficult.

For those who prefer to vote in person but want to avoid Election Day crowds, early in-person voting is available in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories. However, Alabama, Mississippi, and New Hampshire do not offer this option, though absentee voting may

be available for those eligible. Early voting periods vary widely, with some states offering up to 46 days of early voting. Additionally, many states provide weekend voting options, including 22 states that offer Saturday voting and nine that allow voting on Sundays. Ensuring Voter Registration New U.S. citizens are also encouraged to participate in the electoral process. After completing the naturalization process, new citizens can register to vote online, by mail, or in person at various government offices. While many believe voting is a right and a powerful way to contribute to the community, new citizens must ensure they are registered and aware of their voting rights and responsibilities.

Accessibility remains a critical issue in the voting process. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees that polling places are equipped with accommodations to ensure all voters can participate fully. These accommodations include accessible voting machines, large print materials, and support for service animals. Voters are encouraged to contact their local election office ahead of time to confirm that the necessary accommodations will be available at their polling place.

It is still possible to register and vote for those without a fixed address, such as people experiencing homelessness. Voters can use addresses from shelters, religious centers, or general delivery at a local post office. Organizations and homeless service providers can offer additional resources to assist with voter registration and identification requirements.

Finally, voters with felony convictions should verify whether their voting rights have been restored, as this varies by state. The Department of Justice provides a comprehensive guide on state voting rules after a criminal conviction, offering crucial information for those looking to regain their right to vote.

Check out a comprehensive list of voting rules by state at vote411.org.

■ @StacyBrownMedia



▲ With a growing number of Republican-led states enacting laws that complicate the voting process, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference is working to combat voter suppression through emphasizing the importance of understanding voting options, deadlines, and eligibility requirements. (WI File Photo/Robert R. Roberts)



VOTE 411.org

Election Information You **Need.**

All the election information you need, available in English and Spanish. Check your voter registration, find your polling place, learn about candidates, and more.

Why It Matters

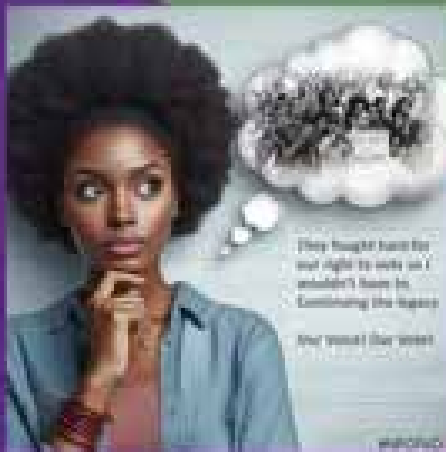
The future of our families, our communities, and our country are at stake. No matter what zip code we live in or the color of our skin, our voices are equal at the ballot box, and we could all use some help making sure our voices are heard. VOTE411.org is the League's one-stop-shop where you can find all the information you need to cast your ballot. It's virtual, nonpartisan, and available in both English and Spanish.

Even for those of us who've voted before, the process can be confusing. Election rules differ from state to state and can change between elections. VOTE411 gives you personalized information, so you're prepared to cast your vote in every election. Whether it's local, state, or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities.

Discover all your voting options, from early voting to absentee and mail-in voting, to voting on Election Day, and make an election plan that fits your life.

Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.





“ DID YOU KNOW 40% OF 2024 VOTERS ARE GENZS OR MILLENNIALS? ”

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD
GO TO [VOTE.ORG](https://vote.org) FOR INFO FOR EVERY STATE

SPONSORED BY NON PARTISAN COALITION FOR VOTER OUTREACH AND
13TH ANNUAL MONTH OF NON VIOLENCE, FAMILIES, VOTERS RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

[WWW.MONTHOFNONVIOLENCE.ORG](https://www.monthofnonviolence.org)

#NPCVR

COALITIONFORVOTEROUTREACH@GMAIL.COM



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARE YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES

REGISTERED TO VOTE?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR VOTE HAS THE POWER TO
BRING IN NEW POLICIES, GET
RID OF HARMFUL ONES, AND
CHANGE YOUR COMMUNITY
FOR THE BETTER.

GET STARTED TODAY:

reclaimyourvote.org

The Greater Washington Urban League
empowers communities and changes
lives through social work, civic
engagement, emergency assistance,
economic empowerment, and
human-centered development.

Learn more at gwul.org



Greater Washington
Urban League



National
Urban League

CBCF/15



THE WASHINGTON INFORMER / CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CBCF) 53RD ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE / SPECIAL



ALC 53



CBCF's National Town Hall Focuses on Prosperity and Democracy

By James Wright
WI Staff Writer

The prosperity of African Americans and the effort to save democracy in the U.S. will be the subject of the 2024 National Town Hall Meeting that will take place at the upcoming Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference (ALC).

This year's National Town Hall, themed "Pathways to Prosperity: Advancing Democracy and Black Economic Opportunity," is scheduled for Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Northwest, D.C., as part of the second day of the ALC.

"Black Americans continue to be left behind when it comes to economic opportunity and prosperity," said Dr. Jonathan M. Cox, the vice president for CBCF's Center for Policy Analysis and Research. "In recent decades,



▲ Michael Eric Dyson, LaShawn Warren, State Rep. Justin Jones, LaTosha Brown and U.S. Rep. Stacey E. Plaskett (D-USVI) during the 2023 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference National Town Hall at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Northwest, D.C. (WI File Photo/Robert R. Roberts)

the wealth gap between Black and white Americans has increased significantly, with the median wealth of white American families being more than six times the median wealth of Black families. Historical processes like the systematic exclusion of Black Americans from national social programs

that helped build the middle class, as well as ongoing discrimination in housing, lending and hiring practices, tax policies, the current criminal legal system, voting rights and democratic participation, and beyond, have all contributed to the current realities of Black economic life."

Cox pointed out that racial wealth gap disparities cost the American economy trillions of dollars and said closing the gap would increase the U.S. gross domestic product.

He also noted that panelists, while not finalized at the time of this publication, will be asked to discuss the barriers to Black economic advancement and equality while outlining the way forward.

"This discussion will serve as a call to action for policymakers, business leaders, and community advocates to collaborate on creating a more just and prosperous society, fostering an environment where equity and prosperity can flourish for all," he said.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CBCF ALC TOWN HALL

Historically, the town hall meeting has generated discussion among the nation's leaders.

On September 22, 2005, then U.S. Sens. Barack Obama (D-Illinois) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-New York) joined the Town Hall Meeting on Poverty that included speakers such as actor-musician Harry Belafonte and actress Alfre Woodard.

The 2005 town hall occurred a few weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated the New Orleans metropolitan area and caused 1,392 fatalities and \$186.3 billion.

During the event, Obama said: "All of us are complicit in the long-term poverty in this nation."

"Our priority should be whatever works, not what our own party believes," he emphasized.

Clinton said she introduced a bill to examine what happened during Katrina and why the federal government came up short during the crisis.

"We must re-instill confidence in our government," she said 19 years ago during the Town Hall. "America has to be strong at home in order to be strong around the world."

Charles Ogletree, a Harvard legal scholar in the field of criminal justice, served as the moderator of the panel. At the time, he brought down the house when he suggested the Clinton-Obama presidential-vice presidential candidate ticket.

While that particular ticket never came to pass, Ogletree publicly ignited flames for the then senator, who later became a history making president, and the then New York senator, who would become secretary of state and a barrier-breaking Democratic presidential nominee.

Dr. Michael K. Fauntroy is the associate professor of policy and government and the founding director of the Race, Politics, and Policy Center at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Fauntroy said the annual meeting serves an important purpose.

"Anytime you can get people together to explain what is going on is positive and important," Fauntroy, 58, said. "There is so much misinformation out there. The town hall meeting can correct the record."

■
@JamesWrightJr10





Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation

**Lifting Up,
Leading Forward**

HELP US ADVANCE OUR MISSION

Your donation supports the CBCF mission to develop leaders, inform policy, and educate the public.



cbcfinc.org/donate

**DONATE
TODAY**

VISIT [CBCF INC. ORG/ALC](https://cbcfinc.org/ALC) TO LEARN MORE

#ALC53



CBCF



**Big hearts
deserve a
big hand.**

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

We applaud you for all the truly meaningful work you do in our community.

Member FDIC, ©2024, TD Bank, N.A. and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.
The TD logo and other TD trademarks are owned by The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its affiliates and are used under license.



America's Most Convenient Bank®

CBCF/17



THE WASHINGTON INFORMER / CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CBCF) 53RD ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE / SPECIAL

**THE WASHINGTON
Informer**

ALC 53



Pepco Supports The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 53rd Annual Legislative Conference

Serving the Communities We Live in: How Pepco is Finding New Ways to Mobilize Diverse Perspectives

By **Valencia McClure**
Regional President

Valencia McClure, Pepco's regional president, leads legislative initiatives and community engagement efforts for the company, which provides energy to the District of Columbia and Maryland.

We all have a role to play to ensure that diverse communities can thrive, and Pepco recognizes the impact we can make in the communities we serve. As the energy provider to 944,000 customers in D.C. and Maryland, we play a critical role for customers to keep the lights on. Access to reliable energy is at the core of what we do, and we are preparing for a stronger, cleaner energy future by investing in modernized infrastructure to ensure the grid can withstand what is next. Social equity is a cornerstone of this and of Pepco's mission and values. As such, we are prioritizing vulnerable and under-resourced communities in the energy transformation by reducing barriers and making energy technologies that help combat climate change more



accessible.

We are also investing in the communities we serve and recognize the importance of our role as a corporate citizen to the D.C. and Maryland area. Both Pepco and our parent company, Exelon, are walking the walk when it comes to supporting the communities we live and work in. In 2023, Exelon invested more than \$18 million across 90 workforce de-

velopment programs and delivered over 800 employee resource group initiatives. It also spent \$2.2 billion with diverse suppliers and granted \$6 million through their Community Impact Capital Fund (CICF), an initiative that helps businesses in our communities grow and prosper by expanding access to capital.

Pepco has followed suit, driving notable investments in our communities through our partnership with the Public Sector Solutions Group (PS2G), which received \$600,000 in funding through the Exelon CICF in 2023. PS2G is a Black-owned company providing technology driven IT consulting services and innovative solutions to state and local government partners. The company also trains residents in the District and Maryland in cybersecurity and information technology through the Walter Reed IT Infrastructure Academy and in partnership with Exelon and Pepco.

Pepco was also a proud industry leader in spending on diverse suppliers in 2023. By the numbers, we purchased \$387 million in goods and services from diversity-certified suppliers in 2023, accounting for 44 percent of our total purchases for the year. This expenditure, a \$35 million increase from 2022, is the most spent with diverse suppliers in our nearly 130-year history. This investment reflects our ongoing efforts to support local and diverse communities. It also ensures that businesses are given the opportunity to flourish and become stronger for the future.

We also have the privilege of partnering with two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the District – Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). Pepco and our sister company, Delmarva Power, have made commitments to our HBCU partners to provide \$7.3 million in scholarships, research, faculty and teacher trainings, workforce development, and certification pro-



▲ Aja Moon's first major solo exhibit at Pepco's Edison Place Gallery on Aug. 2 (Courtesy Photo)

grams over the next three years. In fact, through our "Power Scholars" programs, ten students from both Howard and UDC are awarded need and merit-based scholarships each year. This program for rising sophomores interested in STEM-related majors are offered mentorship, summer internships, and preparation for potential entry-level positions within Pepco.

Through UDC's Developing America's Workforce Nucleus (DAWN) Initiative, they aim to create a talent pipeline to support local economic development. Identification, readiness, and development are core to rethinking and identifying new ways to leverage the talents of students of color and those in under-represented communities. We share this vision with the university and are proud to support long-lasting career opportunities and shape a future workforce that is reflective of the diverse communities we serve.

Pepco's Edison Place Gallery is another way we are investing in our communities. The Gallery provides exposure and recognition oppor-

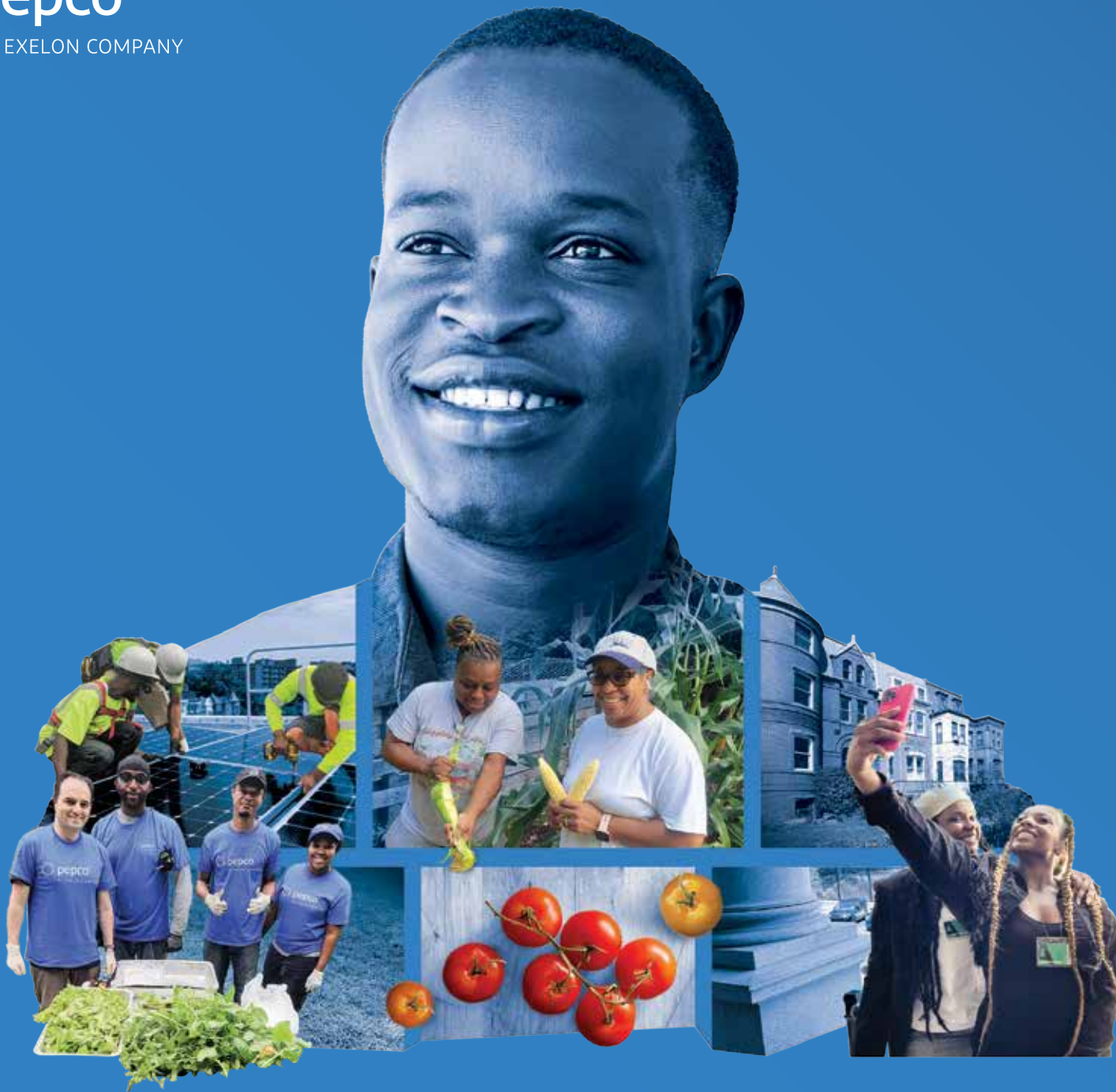
tunities for our nonprofit partners and the talented artists they represent. We are currently showcasing local artist, Aja Moon, and her body of work, entitled "The Aja Moon Collxn." Moon came to our attention last fall when we sought the community's input to identify a local artist to design a mural along a fence adjacent to our new Mount Vernon substation. The result is "Illuminated Legacy," a 67-foot-long mural featuring 32 portraits of notable Washingtonians. The permanent public art installation will be unveiled this fall and "The Aja Moon Collxn" is on display through mid-September.

Each of these initiatives is part of Pepco's broader efforts as an anchor institution and community partner in D.C. and Maryland. Through our efforts, we will continue to show the communities we serve that Pepco provides more than energy -- we provide equitable access to opportunities and resources to amplify diverse voices and help the places we call home reflect, support, and illuminate the people who live there. ■



▲ Public Sector Solutions Group (PS2G), along with leaders from Pepco and Exelon, celebrate with graduates from their Cybersecurity Training Program in June. (Courtesy Photo)





More support for our community.
More possibilities for the future.

At Pepco, we're committed to supporting local non-profits as they open more doors for people in our community. It's another way we're delivering more than energy. Learn more at **pepco.com/PowerOfCommunity**

© Potomac Electric Power Company, 2024

ALC 2024: A Crucial Turning Point for Black America Amid High-Stakes Elections

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

As the 2024 election season intensifies, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) is preparing to host its 53rd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), and officials said the gathering has never been more critical for Black America. With the theme “From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices,” this year’s conference arrives at a moment when the stakes for Black political and social progress are at their highest, and the future of the nation hangs in the balance.

The CBCF’s mission is clear: to advance the global Black community by cultivating leadership, informing policy, and educating the public. Through its annual legislative conference, the CBCF creates a platform where ideas are exchanged, and solutions are crafted to address the most pressing issues facing African Americans today. This year’s ALC will feature more than 100 in-person issue forums and established brain trusts, with select virtual programming designed to propel Black voices from vision to victory in the fight for social justice, economic equality, and political representation.

“This year’s Annual Legislative Conference theme, ‘From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices,’ is an intentional call to action,” said Nicole Austin-Hillery, CBCF’s president and CEO. “It embodies our ongoing march toward progress and our dedication to fostering innovation, advocacy, and collaboration. With equality and opportunity as our pillars, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation is proud to host this annual convening that advances prosperity, ignites passion for change, and amplifies voices that will shape the future for us all.”

Key Democratic political figures like Maryland Reps. Kweisi Mfume and Glenn Ivey and New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, have all made statements that highlight the significance of ALC 2024. Speaking to The Washington Informer during the 2024

Democratic National Convention in Chicago this August, these leaders emphasized the upcoming election’s critical nature and the ALC’s role in shaping its outcome.

“I think it will be exciting and energized; all of the accomplishments of the Biden-Harris team—it’s going to be exciting to build on that momentum,” Booker remarked, highlighting the significance of the conference in galvanizing support and building on the successes of the current administration.

Ivey stressed the urgency of mobilizing the Black electorate in the face of potential rollbacks on critical issues.

“It’s critical from the standpoint of making sure people understand what the issues are and how important these elections are. The Trump people have been cutting back on so many programs, and if he wins, any kind of affirmative action will be cut. At the end of the day, this is a time to frame the issues that should decide what happens in November for African Americans,” Ivey told The Washington Informer.

Mfume emphasized the role of Vice President Kamala Harris in energizing the electorate and the importance of the ALC in maintaining that momentum.

“I think we’ll see how much

Kamala Harris has brought joy back, and these last days (leading up to the election) will show it,” Mfume said. “It becomes the last organized external push by an organization. “Fortunately, the [Congressional Black Caucus] (CBC) has the opportunity to send off Harris and Walz to get momentum to sustain them. Our job in the ALC is to make sure to remind people that this isn’t a popularity contest and not to pay attention to the polls. We’re going to win this on the margin, so it’s important that the CBC does everything it can to help push her through.”

The recent inflammatory comments from the twice-impeached and 34-times convicted felon and former president further amplify the significance of ALC 2024. At the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) convention, also in Chicago in August, Trump launched a baseless attack on Harris, questioning her racial identity in a move that many saw as a desperate attempt to sow division.

“The hostility Donald Trump showed on stage is the same hostility he has shown throughout his life, throughout his term in office, and throughout his campaign for president as he seeks to

regain power and inflict his harmful Project 2025 agenda on the American people,” Michael Tyler, communications director for the Harris for President campaign, responded.

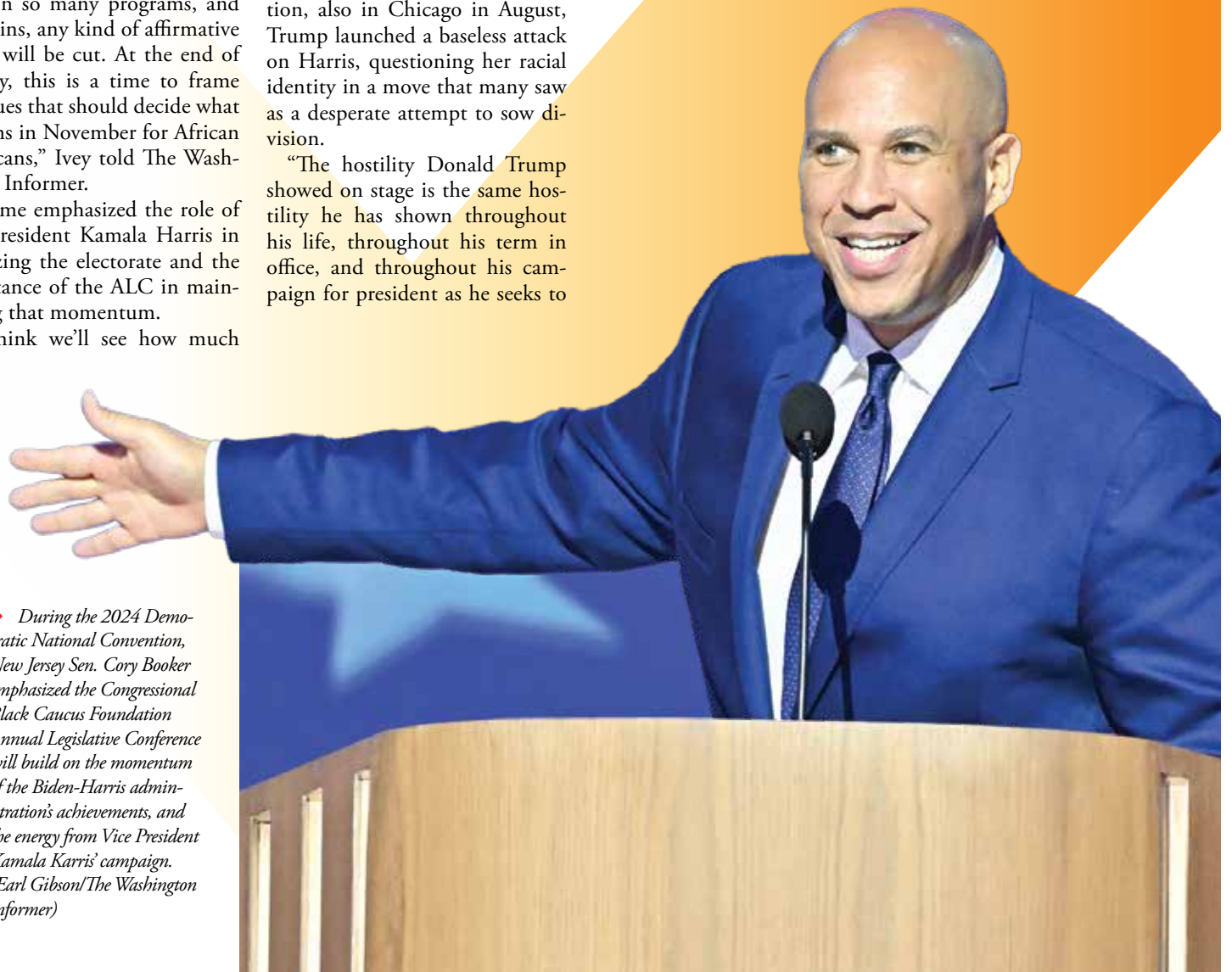
As the ALC convenes this year, lawmakers and others say it is a rallying point for Black leaders, policymakers, and community members dedicated to advancing a vision of equality and justice. The conference’s theme is a declaration of the resolve needed to confront the challenges ahead and secure a future where Black voices are heard and instrumental in shaping the nation’s destiny.

“The collective power of Black voices guides our journey from vi-

sion to victory,” said Rep. Terri A. Sewell, chair of CBCF Board of Directors. “Together, we champion progress, prosperity, and justice for all.”

■
@StacyBrownMedia

► During the 2024 Democratic National Convention, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker emphasized the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference will build on the momentum of the Biden-Harris administration’s achievements, and the energy from Vice President Kamala Harris’ campaign. (Earl Gibson/The Washington Informer)





PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL JOINS



IN CELEBRATING 53 YEARS

OF AMPLIFYING BLACK VOICES

WE WELCOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION AND COMMEND YOUR IMPORTANT WORK PROMOTING PROGRESS AND EQUITY.



Krystal Oriadha
District 6

Wala Blegay
District 7

Edward Burroughs III
District 8

Calvin Hawkins, II
At-Large

Tom Dernoga
District 1

Wanika Fisher
District 2

Sydney Harrison
Vice Chair,
District 9

Jolene Ivey
Chair,
District 5

Eric Olson
District 3

Ingrid Watson
District 4

To attendees of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 53rd Annual Legislative Conference:



Welcome to Washington, DC! It is my pleasure to welcome you to my hometown, home to nearly 700,000 Washingtonians, and the place where people from across the country and around the globe come to change the world. Each year, it is a privilege for our city to bring together leaders, advocates, and activists at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference to address the many critical issues facing our nation.

Over the coming days, we will unite in the spirit of this year's theme, "From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices." Together, we will strategize and turn ideas into action.

Of course, the work to amplify Black voices must include the work to realize the will of DC voters and finally make Washington, DC the 51st state. We know that our fight for statehood cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice. For more than 220 years, the voices of Washingtonians have been silenced in the halls of Congress. We pay taxes – more federal taxes per capita than any other state – and fulfill all the duties of citizenship, but still lack voting representation. This disenfranchisement is to the detriment of not only DC residents, but the millions of Americans who share our values and our vision for a more equitable and prosperous future.

That shared vision of what our future can—and should—be, is one where all Americans get a fair shot, where we have autonomy over our own bodies, where our children can grow up without the fear of gun violence, where we address the realities and dangers of climate change, and where we build stronger and more resilient communities. It is a belief that together we can build a more perfect union.

This week – which I know will be filled with camaraderie and joy – is a call to action, and I know we are all ready to do the work. Thank you for your service, and once again, welcome to Washington, DC.

**Sincerely,
Muriel Bowser
Mayor of Washington, DC**

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



WASHINGTON, DC PATH TO STATEHOOD

GET TO KNOW DC

- ✓ Washington, DC is home to nearly 700,000 people, including 30,000 veterans.
- ✓ DC residents pay more in federal taxes per capita than all 50 states, yet have zero voting representation in Congress.
- ✓ DC has passed 29 balanced budgets in a row, funded mostly by locally raised revenues. However, Congress regularly interferes with how we raise and spend our local dollars.
- ✓ Congress has the final approval of all laws passed by the locally elected Council. They have the power to block any laws that they don't like. In many cases, it is a single member from outside of DC who blocks local initiatives.

PATH TO STATEHOOD

- ✓ DC is following the Tennessee Plan to statehood. We have completed many of the steps already.
- ✓ In 2016, 86% of DC voters voted in favor of making Washington, DC.
- ✓ Residents developed and approved a State Constitution.
- ✓ Established State Boundaries. Committed to a representative form of government.
- ✓ Passage is needed in both houses of Congress as well as the signature of the President of the United States. The bill to make DC the 51st state passed the House of Representatives in the 116th and 117th Congress.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

- ✓ Do you know if your members of Congress support DC Statehood legislation (HR51 & S51)?
- ✓ Will you support our effort locally and across the country?
- ✓ Polling suggests that nearly 80% of Americans are unaware of DC's lack of access to full democracy.
- ✓ We need you to tap into your network to help spread the word.
- ✓ We need all Americans to write, email, post on social media, and call their Members of Congress to support democracy and full representation for residents of Washington, DC.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

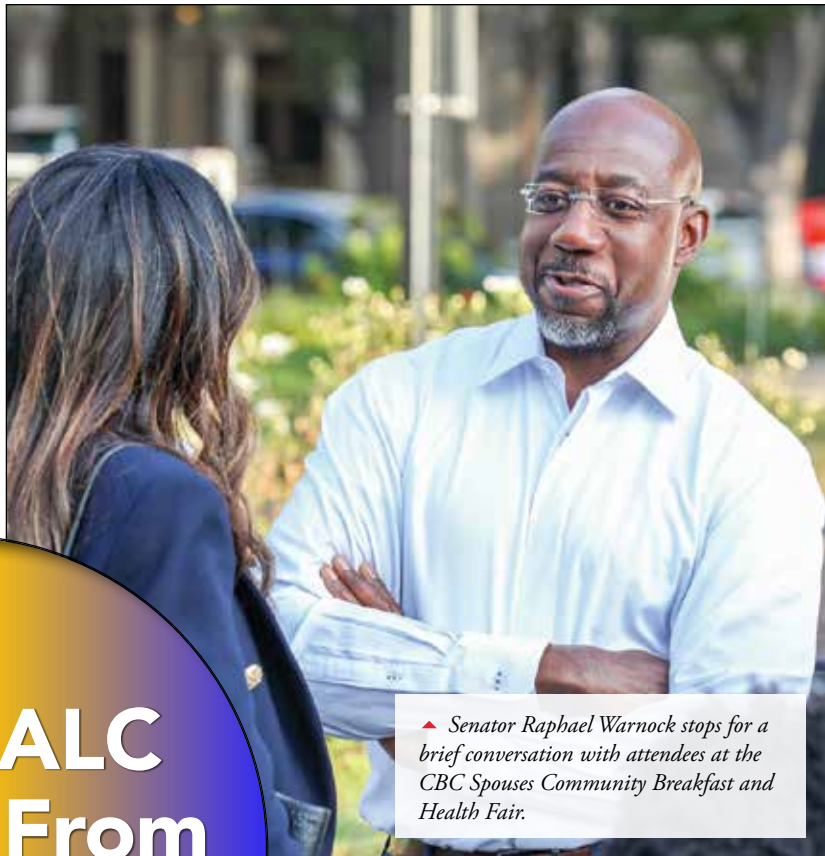
- ✓ Visit statehood.dc.gov or democracynowdc.org and register your support for DC Statehood.
- ✓ Contact us for information and tools to aid our efforts to promote and educate your network and members of Congress about DC Statehood.
- ✓ Join or create a local or national group that supports statehood today!
- ✓ Use #DCStatehood on social media to share your support of DC statehood.



WE ARE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



▲ Representative Justin Jones touches on the importance of protecting voting rights and the policy changes sweeping U.S. southern states at the 2023 National Town Hall.



▲ Senator Raphael Warnock stops for a brief conversation with attendees at the CBC Spouses Community Breakfast and Health Fair.

CBCF ALC Scenes From Last Year



▲ Karen Clark Sheard at the 2023 Day of Healing.



▲ CBCF partners with Amazon to bring exposure to emerging Black-owned businesses in the ALC Exhibit Hall.



▲ Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff share a smile at the 2023 Phoenix Awards dinner.



▲ Rapper Juvenile brings the energy to the 2023 Alumni Network Reception for previous CBCF interns, fellows, and scholarship recipients.



▲ Actress Taraji P. Henson discusses the stigmas around mental health in the Black community at the ALC mental health session hosted by Walmart.



▲ Rapper LL Cool J attends the 2023 Phoenix Awards to receive an award for his contribution to culture.



▲ Senator Raphael Warnock hosts a timely discussion on ending gun violence with Representative Lucy McBath and rapper Quavo.

◀ CBCF Board Chair and Representative Terri A. Sewell pauses for a photo and discussion with emerging leaders at ALC.

From Vision to Victory: How Hakeem Jeffries is Amplifying Black Voices in Washington

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

With the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 53rd Annual Legislative Conference's theme "From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices," Hakeem Jeffries stands as a central figure in the ongoing effort to elevate and empower Black communities across the nation. As House Democratic Leader, Jeffries embodies the vision and resolve that have driven the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for over half a century.

At the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Jeffries delivered a powerful speech that showcased his rhetorical brilliance and his commitment to challenging the forces that seek to undermine progress. With characteristic wit, he likened former President Donald Trump to an "old boyfriend" who "just won't go away," using this metaphor to underscore the resilience of the American people in moving beyond a tumultuous chapter in history.

"Donald Trump is like an old boyfriend who you broke up with, but he just won't go away," Jeffries quipped to roaring applause. "He has spent the last four years spinning the block, trying to get back into a relationship with the American people. Bro, we broke up with you for a reason."

With even more biting critiques, Jeffries took aim at Trump's 2018 tax bill, branding it a "scam" that benefited the wealthy at the expense of working families. He condemned Trump's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as a catastrophic failure and denounced his role in the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol as an assault on democracy itself. Jeffries reminded the audience that Trump's tenure represented a step backward, particularly for marginalized communities.

But Jeffries did more than critique—he inspired. In a moment that captivated the con-

vention, he laid out a plan of action that was infused with hope and resilience, calling on his audience to "Strategize on Sunday, meet the moment on Monday, take it to 'em on Tuesday," and continue this cycle until "joy, joy, joy comes in the morning."

The call to action reflects Jeffries' broader legislative agenda and commitment to justice and equality.

Representing New York's diverse Eighth Congressional District, which includes parts of Brooklyn and Queens, Jeffries has steadfastly advocated for policies that uplift Black Americans and other underserved communities. His rise to Democratic Leader in November 2022 marked a significant moment in American politics, as he became the highest-ranking Black lawmaker in the House of Representatives.

Throughout his six terms in Congress, Jeffries has championed issues central to the CBC's mission, from criminal justice reform to economic equity. He

played a pivotal role in the passage of the FIRST STEP Act, a landmark bipartisan criminal justice reform bill that addresses sentencing disparities and expands re-entry programs. His peers noted that the work is emblematic of Jeffries' dedication to dismantling systemic racism and creating pathways to opportunity for all.

Jeffries' influence extends beyond the halls of Congress. He has been instrumental in securing critical funding for projects in his district, particularly those that serve Black and brown communities. His efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, including securing billions of dollars for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and expanding testing in hard-hit neighborhoods, highlight his commitment to health equity

and economic justice.

Jeffries' leadership will undoubtedly be a focal point as the CBC Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference kicks off on Sept. 11. The conference, which brings together thought leaders, legislators, and activists, is a powerful platform for amplifying Black voices and advancing the vision of a more just and equitable society.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Jeffries now counts as a formidable force in Washington.

His leadership represents a new generation of Black political power rooted in community, driven by justice, and committed to securing a better future for all Americans.

■
@StacyBrownMedia

ALC 53



► Hakeem Jeffries is a central figure in the ongoing effort to elevate and empower Black communities across the nation. (WT File Photo/Roy Lewis)

Connect IN WASHINGTON, DC

There's only one place that elevates your meeting
with industry experts, local experiences and social impact.



WASHINGTON
DC
WASHINGTON.ORG

THERE'S ONLY ONE DC



#ONLY1DC 📍 National Mall



CBCF/27



THE WASHINGTON INFORMER / CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CBCF) 53RD ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE / SPECIAL

The Washington Informer

ALC 53



Washington Gas Salutes the CBCF 53rd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC)



Our Energetic Future

As the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) gathers in 2024, the "From Vision to Victory" theme reminds us that advocacy and action are needed to convert big ideas into real-world wins.

Serving as a DMV community partner for over 175 years, Washington Gas understands that providing affordable, reliable, and safe energy is one of our most powerful tools for achieving energy equity. This commitment is crucial as we navigate today's needs while preparing for the complexities of the emerging energy landscape.

ACCESSIBLE, DEPENDABLE ENERGY REMAINS ONE OF OUR MOST URGENT GOALS.

As recently as 2020, studies confirmed that up to 27% (34 million) of U.S. households face some level of energy insecurity. Twenty percent of U.S. households had to reduce or forego necessities to pay for heating and cooling, highlighting the critical need for equitable energy solutions.

Achieving equity requires thoughtful conversations and collaborative actions to break down barriers. As part of this collective goal, we're focused on implementing programs that make a real difference, especially for those whose situations may put them at greater risk.

For example, the Washington Area Fuel Fund (WAFF) program has assisted more than 320,000 people with almost \$34 million since 1983. We take pride in offering a program that helps offset the discomfort, danger, distractions, and discouragement faced by households struggling with utility bills. Paired with assistance programs and options such as Gift of Warmth, we are working to bridge the challenging times that can affect all of us, particularly our most vulnerable neighbors.

WE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING POLICY ADVOCACY THAT PROMOTES RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Supporting infrastructure projects that modernize our delivery systems helps our customers benefit from reliable and diverse options. In turn, this proactive approach contributes to a favorable regulatory environment that fosters innovation and long-term planning.

Supporting balanced policies is also critical to addressing the interrelated challenges we must resolve to help make our energy ecosystem cost-effective, stable, and equitable. This is particularly relevant as energy use continues to grow. Estimates predict that primary demand will increase between 16% and 57% by 2050. Providing choices and options is key to meeting these expanding needs.

Washington Gas has committed \$1.7 billion over the next five years to proactively address these growing needs to modernize our pipelines through approved and filed accelerated pipe replacement programs. Initiatives such as DC Safe (D.C.), SAVE (Virginia), and STRIDE (Maryland) are enhancing system safety and efficiency by replacing cast iron and bare steel pipes with new corrosion-resistant high-density polyethylene pipes.

THE NEED FOR STABLE, DEPENDABLE ENERGY SPANS ALL SEASONS.

Even during the dog days of summer, natural gas plays a significant role in cooling by generating much of the electricity that powers today's air conditioners. In 2023, about 44% of the electricity that powered homes in the PJM region came from natural gas-fired power plants. Additionally, natural gas fuels absorption chillers vital to hospitals, pharmacies, universities, supermarkets, hotels, and restaurants, providing cooling during peak summer months.

Washington Gas is part of a vast U.S. network that spans about three million miles of mainline and other pipelines, linking natural gas production areas and storage facilities to consumers. In 2022, this transportation network delivered approximately 29.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas to about 78.3 million consumers. Our local distribution network boasts a 99% reliability rate, ensuring critical systems like absorption chillers remain operational even in the hottest summer months.

Discussions about future needs move us from envisioning equity to celebrating the victories of delivering real-world solutions. By offering effective energy options, we help empower all of us to live our best lives.

INNOVATION SPARKS EXCITING CONVERSATIONS. THE ACTIONS BEHIND THOSE IDEAS LEAD TO REAL-WORLD SUCCESS.

We're continuing our legacy of partnering with local communities, advocacy groups, and policymakers to explore how advancements can benefit everyone in our region. And we're excited about building a future that steadily supports our daily lives. With more than 189 million Americans and 5.6 million businesses already choosing natural gas and over 100 years of available supply, our industry is poised to support our communities and fuel exciting opportunities ahead.

The journey from vision to victory is paved with challenging moments. However, having worked alongside customers, constituents, and communities for over 175 years, we know first-hand how powerful collaboration can be. Today's partnerships will create success that will benefit the generations to come.



Brandon Todd is the Senior Director of Corporate Public Policy for Washington Gas (WGL). He leads the government affairs and public policy team and is responsible for developing and managing public policy positions. He previously served six years on the Council of the District of Columbia, representing Ward 4. Brandon is active across the metropolitan Washington region, serving on business and philanthropic boards.





Home Mortgage



Build your homeownership future sooner with a Dream. Plan. Home.SM mortgage

Your family's future may continue in the neighborhood you and your family have called home for generations.

Or expand to a different city or state to pursue new opportunities.

Either way if you want to continue this legacy, Wells Fargo can help simplify your home buying journey.

The Wells Fargo Dream. Plan. Home.SM Mortgage is a way to purchase your home with as little as 3% down on a fixed-rate loan. With a low down-payment, mortgage insurance will be required, which increases the cost of the loan and will increase your monthly payment. Talk with a home mortgage

consultant about loan amount, type of loan, property type, income, first-time homebuyer, and homebuyer education requirements to ensure eligibility.

Dream. Plan. Home. offers flexible underwriting and streamlines the approval process if you have little to no credit history, established credit with strong credit scores, or less-than-perfect credit¹.

Wells Fargo is here to help you plan and build your homeownership future.

Call 1-866-383-5345 to start your homebuying journey with Wells Fargo.

1. The Dream. Plan. Home.SM mortgage is designed for consumers with income at or below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI) where the property is located. Information is accurate as of date of printing and is subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
© 2023 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. NMLSR ID 399801. AP5887381 1/2/24 7697241-7 MOD: 1869



Love for Each Other and Love for Service Binds CBC Spouses

**By Muriel Hairston-Cooper
Congressional Black Caucus
Foundation**

Just about the time when the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses was established in 1976, Stan Foushee was on a personal mission— working on building a permanent relationship with the woman who he had been courting since “the sandbox.”

Little did he know, the girl he grew up with in Orange County, North Carolina, escorted to junior high school prom, and attended the same high school with, would end up with the title Congresswoman Valerie Foushee (D-NC). Further, he never would’ve imagined he would become a congressional spouse.

Foushee is one of 34 CBC Spouses, composed of the husbands and wives of the African American members of Congress.

“When you give your support to your spouse as a political candidate, it is not about just sup-

porting their career decision,” said Foushee.

Established 48 years ago as a part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF), the Spouses laid the groundwork for the establishment of the CBCF’s stellar Leadership Institute. The group has worked side by side with the CBCF and its donors to establish educational opportunities for high school, college, and graduate level students.

Today thousands of African American scholars have reaped the benefits of receiving funds raised by the CBC Spouses, allowing them to matriculate and go forth as a new generation of leaders.

Much has changed since the founding of the CBC and its spouses.

In 1971, when the Congressional Black Caucus was established by 13 African American congressional leaders (before the CBC Spouses were officially established), almost a dozen women were included in the elite group of spouses as well as U.S. Rep Shirley Chisholm’s (D-NY) husband Conrad Chisholm, who she divorced in 1977.

Today, however, the demographic has shifted, with almost half of the spouses now male.

The Rev. William Coleman, spouse of Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) is the chair of the CBC Spouses. While part of his responsibilities are creating motivational activities and building spousal support to further CBCF’s mission to develop leaders, inform policy, and educate the public, he also has a strong commitment to providing health and wellness check-ins and boosting professional skill-sharing outreach.

Foushee said he and Coleman have shared meaningful conversations around their unique roles.

“I can’t speak for my wife because that is her job to speak for herself. My job is to give her 100% of being supportive, understanding, patient and just listening,” Foushee explained. “Valerie loves serving and has done so from the church to local politics to now the Congress,” he said of his mate of 47 years.

One of the events that encapsu-

lates the public and private blending of congressional spouses is the Mervyn L. & Stephanie Tubbs Jones Memorial Scholarship Classic – a family-themed weekend that has raised more than \$10 million in scholarships. The couple, married for almost 30 years until Mervyn’s premature death in 2003, were devout public servants, who also understood the importance of family balance. It is a model that is mirrored in the daily lives of congressional families.

“When we said, ‘I do’ I knew my life would never be the same, but I never imagined that my wife would run and then win a Congressional seat,” said Corlie McCormick, the 2023 Scholarship Classic chair, who is an attorney and spouse of U.S. Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-Fla.) “It was a whirlwind to enter politics. I do believe being in Congress has helped us to develop a closer relationship as a husband, and a family, and we support the congresswoman and are very proud of all she has accomplished.”

While CBC members have earned the moniker as “the conscience of the Congress,” the Spouses have deep roots in their collective communities. The group serves as reviewers for the Spouses Essay Contest competition for high school students and hosts a yearly community service project. The group also connects Washington, D.C. residents who are facing housing and health challenges to a community breakfast and health fair during the Annual Legislative Conference (ALC).

It is the marriage of local and national public service that solidifies the strength and endurance of the spouses and CBC members.

“Growing up, my parents instilled love for my country and pride in service,” recalled Major Gen. Andree “Ana” Carter, wife of this year’s ALC Co-Chair U.S. Rep. Troy Carter (D-La). “I knew there had to be work being done on Capitol Hill to be the most powerful country in the world, but the view behind the curtain as a Congressional spouse opened my eyes.”



▲ Major Gen. Andree “Ana” Carter, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses, with her husband Louisiana Democratic Congressman Troy Carter. (Courtesy Photo/Rep. Troy Carter, Instagram)

CBC SPOUSES COMMUNITY BREAKFAST AND HEALTH FAIR

Thursday, September 12, 2024 | 7:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Franklin Park | 1332 Eye St. NW | Washington, D.C.

Founded by the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses, this partnership between the CBCF and a local transitional center provides services to 300 men and women who are unhoused and/or low income in Washington, D.C.

At this event, CBC members, CBC spouses, sponsors, and CBCF staff serve breakfast while community partners provide health screenings to the attendees. The attendees receive a care package of toiletries at the end of the event.

The event is part of the CBCF 53rd Annual Legislative Conference and will include: HIV/AIDS testing; screenings for blood pressure, prostate, diabetes, and glaucoma; flu shots; and dental and podiatry exams. Also included are wellness services including chair massages and haircuts.

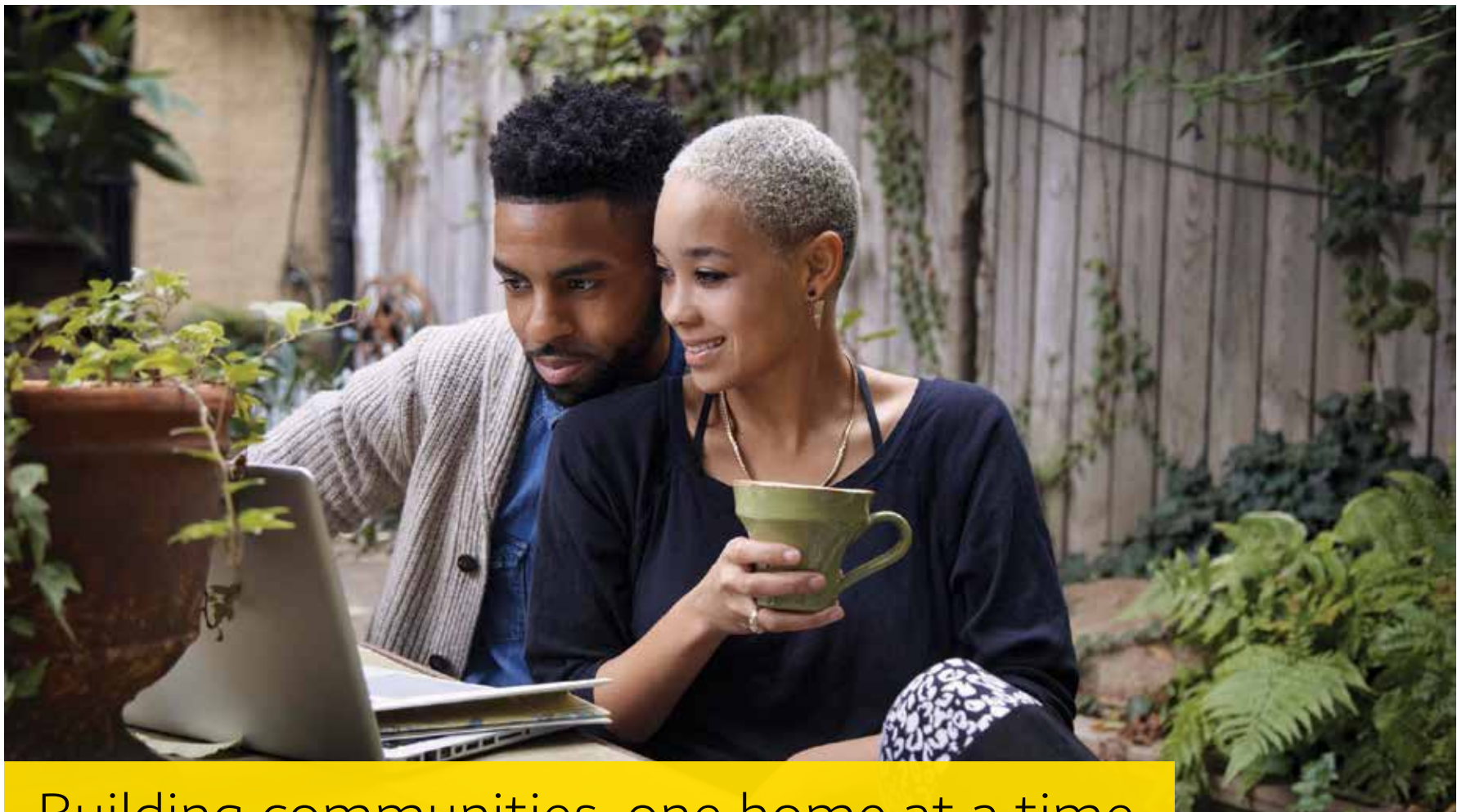


VISIT [CPCFINC.ORG/ALC](https://cpcfinc.org/alc) TO LEARN MORE | #ALC53





Home Mortgage



Building communities, one home at a time

At Wells Fargo, we believe that strong communities start with stable homes. That’s why we’ve pledged our support to help grow homeownership in diverse communities across the country.

Through our investments in affordable housing initiatives and financial education programs, we’re working to make homeownership accessible to everyone.

Join us in building a brighter future for our communities, one home at a time.

Ready to be a part of something bigger? Learn more about Wells Fargo’s commitment to homeownership and how you can get involved in building stronger communities.



Scan to learn more at wellsfargo.com/mortgage/buying-a-house

Information is accurate as of date of printing and is subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
© 2024 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. NMLSR ID 399801. AP5985680 5/7/24 7848802-4 MOD: 1969



CBC Chair Steven Horsford Says Battle for the Nation's Future Starts with Lifting Up Black America



▲ Nevada Democratic Congressman Steven Horsford, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, stands at the forefront of an unrelenting campaign to protect democracy and ensure that African Americans are at the center of the nation's progress. (WI File Photo/Robert R. Roberts)

By **Stacy M. Brown**
WI Senior Writer

Congressman Steven Horsford (D-Nev.), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), stands at the forefront of an unrelenting campaign to protect democracy and ensure that Black Americans are at the center of the nation's progress. With the November elections looming, Horsford's focus is clear:

- Engage Black voters.
- Secure the White House.
- Reclaim the House to pave the way for Hakeem Jeffries to become the next Speaker.

"Everything is important between now and November," Horsford said with determination. "We have to protect this election; we're doing the work every day, making sure we're talking to voters—Black voters in particular in all key battleground cities and states."

According to Horsford, his party's leadership is characterized by a potent "Day-one agenda" that places Black America at the center of its national vision.

In his role as CBC chair and in the House, Horsford doesn't just talk about change—he demands it, with an agenda focused on wealth creation, fair wages, and opportunities for work.

"We understand that to lift up America, we have to lift up Black America," Horsford proclaimed, emphasizing the critical need for an ownership economy that rewards work and fosters entrepreneurship. "The best way to do that is to have an ownership economy that incentivizes and rewards work, that allows us to grow our wages, whether it's as workers or as entrepreneurs, and to ensure that we have the opportunity to build wealth through home ownership and access to capital that helps small businesses not just survive but thrive."

As the country faces a crossroads, Horsford told *The Informer* the upcoming election is a battle between two starkly contrasting visions for America's future.

"This is about two different visions and how they will move America forward, with Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, versus the vision of Donald Trump that just

wants to take us backward," Horsford said, adding that the stakes couldn't be higher.

Horsford also praised President Joe Biden for his selfless dedication to the nation.

"President Joe Biden has put the country over his own personal interest... passing the baton to the future, to the next generation of leaders with Kamala Harris at the top of our ticket," he said, highlighting Biden's commitment to the future.

But Horsford's ambitions extend beyond just the presidential race. He is laser-focused on ensuring that Democrats are elected at every level, from the White House to local government.

"Beyond electing Kamala Harris and Tim Walz to the White House, we also have to elect Democrats up and down the ballot," Horsford explained.

With the campaign season in full swing, Horsford remains undeterred as he faces his reelection battle in Nevada's 4th District against John J. Lee, Russell Best, and Timothy Ferreira.

His extensive experience on the Financial Services Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, as well as his roles as chair of the CBC, co-chair of the Labor Caucus, and vice chair of the Equal Rights Amendment Caucus, make him a formidable leader.

Independent Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders recently endorsed Horsford's campaign for re-election.

"We need Steven Horsford's voice in Congress. He is a powerful champion for workers and has been leading the fight in Nevada to make housing safer and more affordable," Sanders wrote in a social media post. "I urge Nevadans to join me in supporting his campaign."

Horsford declared that he's a man on a mission and unwavering in his conviction that Black America's success is crucial to the future of America.

"We have a day-one agenda, a Black agenda around wealth, wages, work... to lift up America, we have to lift up Black America," he said.

■
@StacyBrownMedia

ALC

53

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

130

conference sessions

700

registered speakers

300+

signs/screens in convention center

1000+

questions prepared & answered

50+

fliers created for CBCF sponsored panels

93K

subscribers across social media platforms

88.3M

people reached

6400+

work hours

the scenes

ONBOARDED

60+

INTERNS

FROM OVER

20

STATES AND

30

SCHOOLS

12

FELLOWS

10

different types of scholarship opportunities

6

MIGHTY, DEDICATED CBCF TEAMS

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

FROM VISION TO VICTORY

AMPLIFYING BLACK VOICES

BECAUSE THEY'RE
FUNNY
COMEDY FESTIVAL

**WASHINGTON D.C.
@ THE ANTHEM
SEP. 27-29**

2024
**BREAKOUT
COMEDIAN
OF THE YEAR
COMPETITION**



**SEP. 28
@8PM
HOSTED BY
DEON COLE**

**LESLIE
JONES**
Live



**SEP. 29
@8PM**



FOR TICKETS & FULL FESTIVAL LINEUP VISIT
BECAUSETHEYREFUNNY.COM

Presented by
NICECROWD

Presenting Partner
eventsDC

Healthy Eating That Embraces Our Culture

By Brenda C. Siler
WI Contributing Writer

African Americans are often celebrated for their cultural appreciation of food— from seasoning fare well to ensuring meals are filled for special occasions. While food is important to Black culture, ensuring African Americans feed their souls and bodies with proper nutrients is important to combating chronic illnesses and further challenges.

This year at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference, “High on the Hog: Exploring Black Food Traditions to Improve Black Health” will take attendees on a different approach to cooking and making food choices without compromising what we have grown to love.

“To improve our health, we need to be more conscious of what we put in our bodies,” said Dr. Jonathan M. Cox, Ph.D., vice president of the Center for

Policy Analysis and Research at the CBCF. “With this particular session, we want to showcase that we can use food to improve Black Health.”

Confirmed panelists are Dr. Kera Nyemb-Diop, Ph.D, a health equity advocate and founder of The Black Nutritionist, and Chris Bradshaw, founder and executive director of Dreaming Out Loud. Tamika Smith, senior news anchor for National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered,” will moderate the panel.

Nyemb-Diop wants to ensure audiences do not feel that the foods that show up frequently for Black people are not bad.

“I want to address the misconception that Black food culture is incompatible with health. That narrative often marginalizes traditional Black foods,” said Nyemb-Diop. “It’s important to emphasize how, contrary to this belief, Black food traditions are a powerful asset in improving health outcomes.”

Through Dreaming Out Loud, Bradshaw wants to ensure fresh foods are available for stores and restaurants. His company is a food hub and incubator that grows food at two Farm spaces

“It’s important to emphasize how, contrary to this belief, Black food traditions are a powerful asset in improving health outcomes.”

- Nyemb-Diop

under the DC Department of Parks and Recreation.

Dreaming Out Loud also supplies food to DC Central Kitchen locations and area schools and

works with children to help them better understand and develop an appreciation for freshly grown fruits and vegetables.

“We work with young people in a couple of different ways. We work with the horticulture program at River Terrace Education Campus, in Ward 7, to provide training and job exposure,” said Bradshaw. “They get to see what they learn in the classroom and their greenhouse, then they see and work on the farms.”

Both Bradshaw and Nyemb-Diop want to connect people with

an understanding of sourcing food.

“We work holistically and connect with different parts of the food system, then tie all those things together to provide not just food access but education and economic opportunities,” said Bradshaw.

The session “High on the Hog: Exploring Black Food Traditions to Improve Black Health” is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 13, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Exhibit Hall D, Main Stage. ■

bcscomm@gmail.com




▲ Preparing healthy meals has always been a welcome feature in the exhibit hall during CBCF-ALC. Chef Huda, an award-winning celebrity chef, and founder of Chefs for Kamala, hosts a cooking demonstration. (WI File Photo/Robert R. Roberts)

GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, September 12, 2024 | 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

United House of Prayer | 601 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001



VISIT CBCFINC.ORG/ALC TO LEARN MORE | #ALC53 |  CBCF



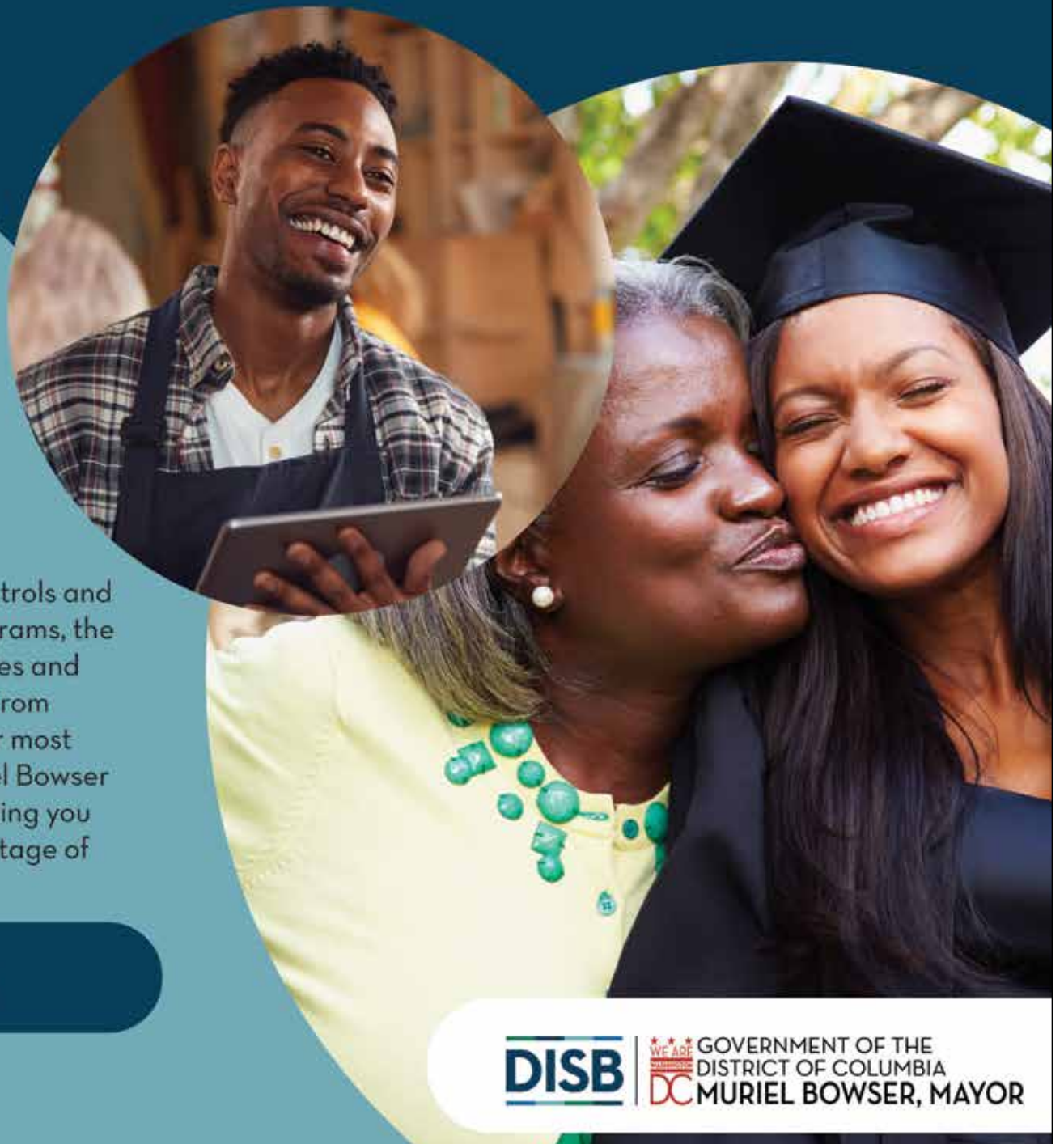
BRIDGE

Scan to learn more.



DC DEPARTMENT OF
INSURANCE, SECURITIES
AND BANKING

EMPOWERING PROTECTING AND ADVANCING YOUR FUTURE.



With sophisticated regulatory controls and targeted financial education programs, the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) has DC covered. From students to business owners to our most vulnerable residents, Mayor Muriel Bowser and DISB are committed to providing you with the tools you need for every stage of your financial journey.

Learn more at [DISB.dc.gov](https://disb.dc.gov).



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

'Day of Healing' Serves as a Very Important Event During a Critical Time

By **Hamil R. Harris**
WI Contributing Writer

As the Nov. 5 general election quickly approaches, this year's Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference (ALC), will hold many events to encourage voters toward the booths and emphasize togetherness during this divisive time. The conference's annual 'Day of Healing' event, on Sept. 14, serves as a moment to celebrate the role and power of faith in African Americans' continued fight toward justice, unity and peace.

As in years past, thousands will flock to Walter E. Washington Convention Center early Saturday morning for a 7:30 a.m. event that feeds stomachs and souls. This year's special guests are Bishop Paul S. Morton, Pastor Beverly Crawford, and gospel singer Zacardi Cortez.

"Day of Healing is not just a celebration—it's a gathering of hearts and minds, coming together to reflect on our shared history and to draw strength for the work that lies ahead," CBCF wrote in an announcement about this year's gathering.

Historically, faith has been a critical part of working toward justice for the African American community. A decade after the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) was founded in 1971 during the 92nd Congress, leaders realized that certain issues could only be addressed through faith.

Forty-three years after its inception, Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, who, along with her husband Tom Skinner, co-founded the first prayer breakfast in 1981, explained the annual faith celebration is still necessary today.

"If there was ever a time that as African Americans we need to be all engaged in the mission of seek-



ing justice and hope at a time of uncertainty, that time is now at the prayer breakfast," Skinner-Williams said in an interview following the Democratic National Convention.

The Rev. Derrick Harkins, of American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York told The Informer her plans to come to D.C. for the annual faith event.

"The Day Healing helps us be effective in educating people to what the critical issues are: having a plan, mobilizing people, from phone banks to carpools and we have to have our strength," he said.

Harkins also noted the Day of Healing allows attendees to reflect on their past in hopes of strengthening the future.

"We have to come from somewhere deeper than ourselves, and it's encouraging to what our ancestors did," Harkins told The Informer. "From Nat Turner to Vernon Johns., The prayer breakfast reminds us of how prevailed in the past."

The Rev. Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, pastor of Adams Inspirational African Methodist Episcopal Church said that she plans to be at the annual event on Saturday,

Sept. 14 to pray for a better nation and world. "I am one who truly believed that prayer changes things," said Anderson Holness, who was a D.C. delegate at the Democratic National Convention.

The local faith leader and District Democratic delegate said with the general election quickly approaching, this is a time of prayer and action. "I have prayer calls twice a week that involve hundreds of people around the world," she said. "But faith without works is dead."

Major Gen. Carter emphasized she is inspired by watching how hard her husband and other congressional leaders work. As she enjoys her work in the military, she also noted that supporting her husband's service in the House has strengthened their relationship at home.

"My husband and his fellow colleagues in Congress love what they do, and it shows in their work ethic and compassion for the people they represent," she said. "Our ironclad relationship is stronger because of it. He loves what he does. I love what I do in the military. We both love each other and love to serve our country. It doesn't get any better than that!"

SPOUSES from Page 30

However, the CBC Spouses aren't the only ones doling out support in their relationships. Just as she supports her husband as a CBC Spouse, Congressman Carter has publicly cheered on his barrier-breaking wife.

"Words can't express how proud I am of my wife, Ana Carter, who has been promoted to Major General in the [U.S. Army]. As the first woman in our nation's history to serve as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)... she is leading the way for generations of young girls who will come after her," the Louisiana congressman wrote on Instagram on Aug. 15.





A DAY OF HEALING

PRESENTED BY THE *Coca-Cola* COMPANY

KEYNOTE REMARKS BY
Bishop Paul S. Morton

Saturday, September 14, 2024 | 7:30 AM
WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER

**HELP US CELEBRATE THE FAITH THAT
HAS COMFORTED, ENCOURAGES
AND NOURISHED OUR SOULS**

TICKET PER PERSON	\$85
PATRON TABLE	\$850
LEADERSHIP TABLE	\$1,500

PERFORMANCES BY
**Pastor Beverly Crawford
and Zacardy Cortez**



Purchase tickets at cbcfinc.org/ALC

#ALC53





BLACK DOCTORS, NURSES, CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS, FAITH LEADERS AND MANY MORE SUPPORT ELIMINATING MENTHOL CIGARETTES.

For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted Black communities and kids with marketing for menthol cigarettes, their most addictive flavor. Cigarettes kill 45,000 Black Americans each year – it's the number one cause of preventable death. We support eliminating menthol cigarettes to save Black lives.

100 BLACK MEN OF
AMERICA, INC.
AFRICAN AMERICAN
TOBACCO CONTROL
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
AFRICAN AMERICAN
WELLNESS PROJECT
ALPHA PHI ALPHA
FRATERNITY, INC.
ASSOCIATION OF BLACK
CARDIOLOGISTS

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK
WOMEN PHYSICIANS
BLACK MEN'S HEALTH
INITIATIVE
BLACK WOMEN'S
HEALTH IMPERATIVE
BLACK WOMEN'S
ROUNDTABLE
CHURCH OF GOD IN
CHRIST SOCIAL JUSTICE
MINISTRY
MOCHA MOMS, INC.

NAACP
NATIONAL BLACK
EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL
NATIONAL BLACK
NURSES ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CAUCUS
AND CENTER ON BLACK
AGING, INC.
NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.
NATIONAL MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

SAVE A GIRL, SAVE A
WORLD
THE ARC OF JUSTICE
THE CENTER FOR
BLACK HEALTH & EQUITY
THE NATIONAL
COALITION ON BLACK
CIVIC PARTICIPATION
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE CHURCHES OF
CHRIST IN THE USA

PAID FOR BY TOBACCO-FREE KIDS ACTION FUND

CBCF Announces the Second Cohort of Social Justice Ambassadors

NREI Task Force to Bring an Array of Perspectives and Expertise

By Muriel Hairston-Cooper
Congressional Black
Caucus Foundation

An intergenerational and interdisciplinary group of social justice leaders who magnify and strengthen Black voices and engage the disenfranchised Black community were recently selected to serve as the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) National Racial Equity Initiative (NREI) Social Justice Ambassadors.

The NREI Task Force of Social Justice Ambassadors work in collaboration with the initiative's staff to disseminate research and information, advance policy and community-based solutions, develop relevant programming, share best practices, and raise awareness through media and mass movements for change with attention

to youth activism, community organizing, and grassroots mobilization.

The newly appointed NREI Task Force for Social Justice Ambassadors are:



Dr. Uché Blackstock, best-selling author and founder and CEO of Advancing Health Equity:

ing Health Equity:

A prominent advocate for health equity, Blackstock recently published her memoir, "LEGACY: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine," which became an instant New York Times bestseller.



Darrell Booker, corporate affairs specialist and Microsoft's Racial Equity Tech lead:

A seasoned leader in Microsoft's Philanthropy division, Booker is celebrated for his pivotal role in spearheading the Nonprofit Tech Acceleration for Black and African American Communities initiative.



Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw, co-founder and executive director of the African American Policy Forum:

Forum:

A distinguished scholar and pi-

oneering legal theorist, Dr. Crenshaw is renowned for her groundbreaking work on intersectionality, illuminating the complex ways in which race, gender, and other identities intersect to shape individuals' experiences and opportunities.



Marley Dias, activist, author, producer, and creator:

Recognized for her #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign, Dias is a trailblazing advocate for diverse representation in literature, inspiring young readers worldwide to embrace their identities and stories.



Tylik McMillan, the Democratic National Committee's Youth Coalitions director:

A prominent voice in civic engagement, McMillan is committed to empowering and advocating for social and economic equality, amplifying the voices of young people in the fight against systemic injustice.



Robert Rooks, criminal justice reform advocate:

With a lifelong commitment to criminal justice reform and community empowerment, Rooks has been instrumental in advocating for policies that address the root causes of

systemic inequities and promote rehabilitation over punishment.

"The NREI Task Force Ambassadors represent a diverse array of perspectives and expertise, reflecting the complexity of the challenges we face in achieving racial equity," said NREI Senior Director Olajumoke Obayanju. "Their collective leadership across multidisciplinary and intergenerational platforms will be instrumental in driving the critical work of the NREI and inspiring positive change to further empower communities across the country."

The ambassadors will serve for two years.

Created in 2020 in response to the historically unlevel playing field for minorities and international protests around the murder of George Floyd, NREI employs an evidence-based approach to combat systemic injustice and advance racial equity, human rights, education and community/economic development opportunities for the Black community.

"The NREI framework supports CBCF's organizational mission of developing leaders, informing policy, and educating the public," explained Obayanju. "In addition to the Ambassadors, NREI houses John R. Lewis social justice policy fellows, awards social justice scholarships for HBCU students, publishes research on critical issues impacting the Black community, and hosts a variety of programs and events that connect our work to the people and communities we represent."

NREI program components include local community conversations, social justice summits, recognition of HBCU scholars and the Ambassador series.

For more information about NREI, visit cbfinc.org/nrei.



(Courtesy Photos/Congressional Black Caucus Foundation)





Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

Lifting Up, Leading Forward

HELP US ADVANCE OUR MISSION

Your donation supports the CBCF mission to develop leaders, inform policy, and educate the public.



DONATE TODAY

cbfinc.org/donate

VISIT CBCFINC.ORG/ALC TO LEARN MORE | #ALC53 |  **CBCF**



"THE **BLACK PRESS** OF AMERICA IS **MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER**"

The NNPA Salutes the 2024 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is a trade association representing the Black Press with 235 African American member newspapers across the nation in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Since NNPA's inception, eighty-three years ago, its publishers have provided excellent reporting. Black newspapers are the trusted voice of the Black community, reporting the news from a Black perspective.

Celebrating 197 Years of The Black Press in America

The Key to Behind the Scenes of ALC - One Day At A Time

By Muriel Hairston-Cooper

How do you serve as the convener of the premier Black public policy conference that maintains space as a “family reunion,” while accommodating the needs of thousands of diverse attendees who spend almost a week discussing and offering solutions about issues impacting the global Black community? One day at a time for almost 365 days.

The planning never ends for the small staff at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) for the premier public policy conference for African Americans - the Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). Scheduled every September since 1971 in Washington, DC, the conference has grown from its origins

at the Washington Hilton Hotel as “CBC Weekend,” acknowledging the original 13 founders of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), to the former convention center to its present home at 801 Allen Y. Lew Place— the site of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. And with its expansion, ALC now attracts thousands of multi-generational attendees, spills into almost a dozen hotels, and generates thousands of dollars in food, beverages and merchandise purchases throughout the city.

The ALC is a mixture of stakeholder and advocacy engagement, educational instructions, and family reunion. “We will take a few days off to relax after the conference and then we will begin planning for ALC 2025,” said Re-

nata Allen, vice president of Strategic Events. “We will conduct an intense staff debriefing session to review every single aspect of ALC from security to room assignments to menus to production and set design. Everything is evaluated for its success or its improvement, and we work from October through the following September. It is an ongoing process.”

In addition to its daily responsibilities to fulfil CBCF’s mission to develop leaders through its Leadership Institute, (LI) which offers internships, fellowships, and scholarships; inform policy and educate the public through its Center for Policy Analysis and Research, (CPAR) the staff starts gathering collateral and officially begins its outreach late in the

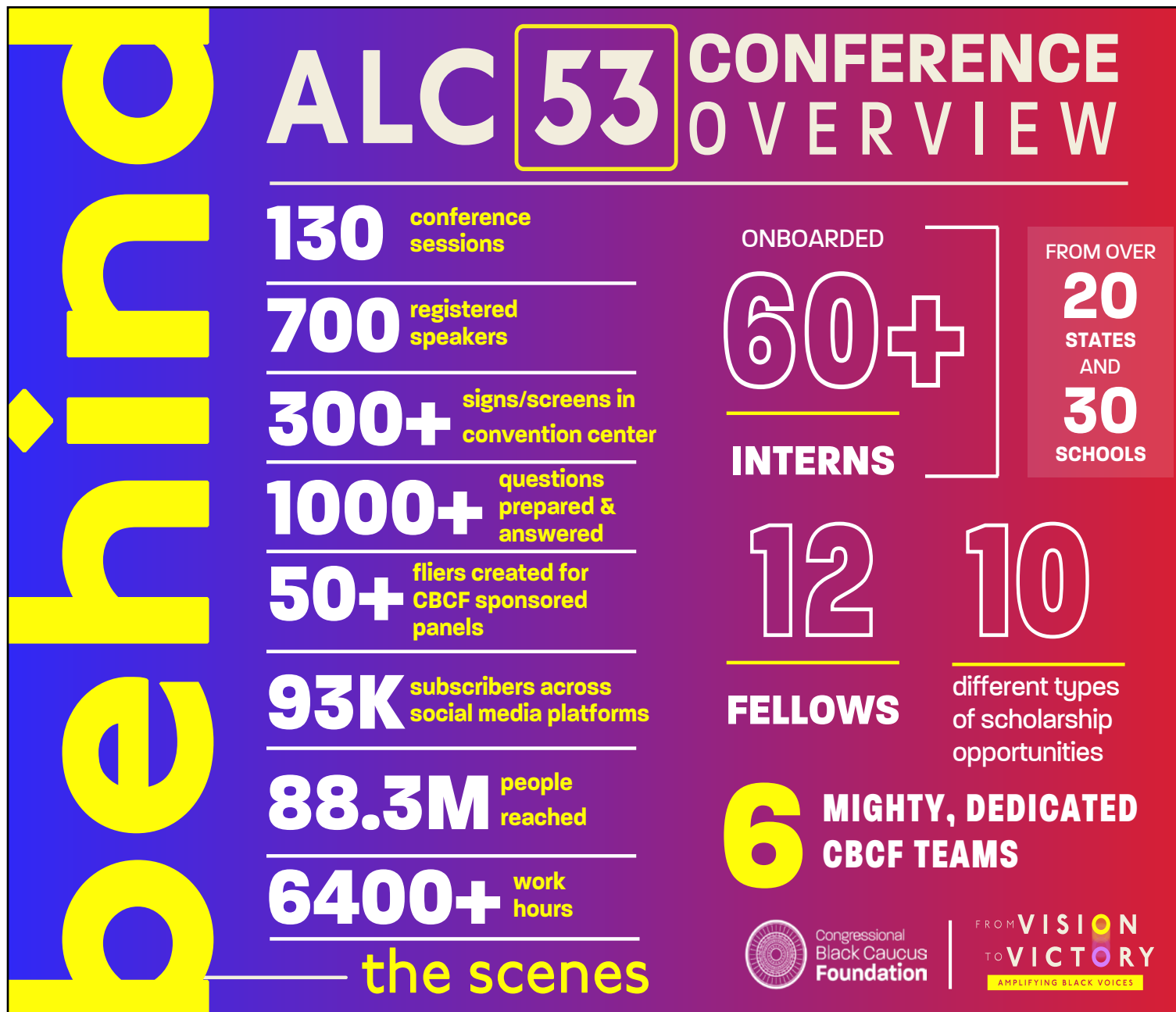
fourth quarter. By the end of the next quarter, the Communications team has started developing its marketing campaign, the Resource Development staff has shared ALC partner opportunities, and CPAR and LI have put thoughts into content sessions. “All departments are heavily involved in the planning and execution of ALC,” said Allen. In between the overall planning, the staff receives CBC member session submittals, reviews food and beverage selections, creates set designs and branding materials and of course, many meetings. “It is critical that we keep everyone apprised because one conference change can have a domino effect, which can cause a shifting of a session, or additional publicity that needs to be shared, or bring-

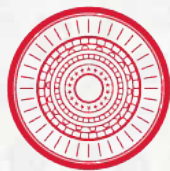
ing in a new partner donor. One of the most important aspects is the sharing of information,” said Allen. “The best part of planning ALC is the opportunity to continue to improve the conference while considering attendee and staff feedback to make it better.”

This year attendees will be greeted with a pep rally welcome as they enter the convention center by a cadre of individuals who describe their passion as serving others. “We seek diverse volunteers from all age groups, backgrounds, and skill levels,” said Candice Willmore, director of CBCF Human Resources. “We intentionally recruit volunteers to reflect our wide attendee demographics, with the caveat that they must have an affinity for service.” This year more than 300 individuals applied. “Our volunteers are key to the ALC experience,” said Willmore. “Every volunteer is needed in some capacity.”

After being welcomed by cheering volunteer supporters, attendees will see several touch screen, interactive devices in the lobby, brought in to enhance the attendee experience. As they ride up the two-level escalator, registrants will see multi layered displays of banners and signage depicting the diversity in the Black community. The noise level exceedingly rises as snatches of conversations are amplified around commitments to unity and progress. As attendees move through the 2.3 million square foot hall where more than 100 public policy sessions are staged, they will have the opportunity to advocate for economic prosperity and social justice for the global Black community.

“This year’s ALC’s theme, ‘From Vision to Victory: Amplifying Black Voices,’ is an intentional call to action,” said Nicole Austin-Hillery president and chief executive officer of the CBCF. “It embodies our ongoing march toward progress and our dedication to fostering innovation, advocacy, and collaboration. With equality and opportunity as our pillars, the CBCF is proud to host this annual convening that advances prosperity, ignites passion for change, and amplifies voices that will shape the future for us all,” she said.





Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation

Vision & Mission



Vision

We envision a world in which all communities have an equal voice in public policy through leadership cultivation, economic empowerment, and civic engagement.



Mission

Our mission of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) is to advance the global Black community by **developing leaders, informing policy, and educating the public.**

We achieve this by:



Facilitating the exchange of ideas and information to address critical issues affecting our communities.



Promoting public health and financial empowerment for all communities through innovative programs.



Providing leadership development and scholarship opportunities to educate the next generation of leaders.



Developing strategic research and historical resources for the public, academics, educators, and students.

Homeowner Alert! Protect your Investment and Legacy Today

By Marcia Griffin

A home is more than a roof over our heads. It's where we make memories with our loved ones. Our place of refuge from the day-to-day. And our pride as we invest in its comfort, utility, and beauty.

Homeownership is also a cornerstone of closing the racial wealth gap. At HomeFree-USA, we have been advancing economic equity since 1994 through financial education and homeownership.

Here are top tips from our decades of experience to get the best and most out of your most valuable asset.

7 ways NOT to get ripped off by a contractor.

1. Get a quote that's too good to be true? It probably is.

Some contractors will under-bid to land the job or because they don't have the skill to know better. Compare at least three quotes to get an accurate expected cost baseline.

2. Make sure they get any required permits.

Some contractors try to claim that permits are unnecessary or your responsibility. Don't be fooled! Most jurisdictions require permits for large construction projects, and the party doing the work must obtain them.

3. Don't pay a big deposit up front.

A scammer might ask for 30-50% of the job cost up front... then disappear. "Never prepay more than \$1,000 or 10% of the job total, whichever is less," Angie's List recommends.

4. Don't take their word for it.

Verbal agreements don't cut it. Require a written contract that includes who's responsible for what, timeline, terms, and a detailed description of work, materials, warranties, and sub-contractors.

5. "Unforeseen problems" spike your job cost?

Get a second and even a third opinion before moving forward. Consult a building inspector, especially if your contractor is claiming structural issues.

6. Don't hire an unsolicited contractor.

If they "happen to be in the neighborhood" or can "give you a great deal on materials" from a nearby job... Be wary. Don't hire anyone without doing your due diligence.

7. Do your homework before hiring a contractor.

Check their reviews, industry associations, and references—and for their suppliers. Confirm licensing, insurance, and bonding, if applicable.

Is a reverse mortgage safe?

If you or someone you know are considering a reverse mortgage, you may be worried that they're a scam, preying on elderly folks on a fixed income.

There are a lot of misconceptions about reverse mortgages. It's a loan that doesn't require payments... which can be especially confusing.

"When you get a reverse mortgage, you're converting your home equity into cash," explains Jen Cosentini, Housing Director at Cambridge Credit Counseling, a HomeFree-USA affiliate.



Are reverse mortgages safe? Yes. Are they for everyone? No. We recommend:

- Choose a home equity conversion mortgage (HECM) which is federally insured.
- Determine whether you can continue to pay real estate taxes, utilities, and maintenance throughout the mortgage term.
- Work with an impartial educator like Cambridge, who will fully inform and prepare you. (Most legit lenders require this counseling.)

Although reverse mortgages are not risk-free, there are ways to ensure it's safe—by being well-informed before making the decision.

Need help paying your mortgage?

Denise nearly lost her home when she found herself hospitalized, unable to work. "I had no income coming in," she said. She fell behind on her mortgage.

Denise asked her lender for help but didn't get the support she wanted. She attended one of our foreclosure prevention webinars. After a few months of working with us, not only did Denise catch up on her mortgage, she could pay a month ahead.

"If it wasn't for my Homeownership Advisor at HomeFree-USA, I think I would have lost my house," she said.

If you find yourself falling behind on mortgage payments, whether because of a job loss, illness, or any other reason, the good news is that there are trusted ways to get mortgage help:

- Apply to governmental programs that prevent people from losing their homes.
- Access state grants and representatives that help homeowners pay down

their mortgages.

- Negotiate better terms with your mortgage servicer.

"There's an answer out there and a company willing to help," Denise advises. "Keep moving until you get the answer you need."

HomeFree-USA has helped people of color buy and keep homes for almost 30 years, with a remarkable 0% foreclosure rate among families served. Whether you are wrestling with any of the issues in this article or looking for sound, impartial advice you can trust on refinancing, home equity loans, or purchasing another home, we are here for you.

Get quick answers to your questions at no cost or obligation to you. Schedule a free homeownership consultation at 855-493-4002 or HomeFreeUSA.org.

About Marcia Griffin

Marcia Griffin, Founder and CEO of HomeFree-USA, is a recognized homeownership expert and featured guest speaker, serving as a bridge between financial institutions and 4.5 million diverse families nationwide.



Homeowners: Behind on your mortgage? Want to refinance?

Get candid answers to your mortgage, refi, and home equity loan questions.

Schedule a FREE, no-obligation consultation with a certified Homeownership Advisor:

HomeFreeUSA.org/mortgagehelp
(301) 891-8400

"HomeFree-USA gave us good advice and great people to work with."
— George D, Happy Client

 HomeFree-USA





Home Mortgage



Build your homeownership future sooner with a Dream. Plan. Home.SM mortgage

Your family's future may continue in the neighborhood you and your family have called home for generations.

Or expand to a different city or state to pursue new opportunities.

Either way if you want to continue this legacy, Wells Fargo can help simplify your home buying journey.

The Wells Fargo Dream. Plan. Home.SM Mortgage is a way to purchase your home with as little as 3% down on a fixed-rate loan. With a low down-payment, mortgage insurance will be required, which increases the cost of the loan and will increase your monthly payment. Talk with a home mortgage

consultant about loan amount, type of loan, property type, income, first-time homebuyer, and homebuyer education requirements to ensure eligibility.

Dream. Plan. Home. offers flexible underwriting and streamlines the approval process if you have little to no credit history, established credit with strong credit scores, or less-than-perfect credit¹.

Wells Fargo is here to help you plan and build your homeownership future.

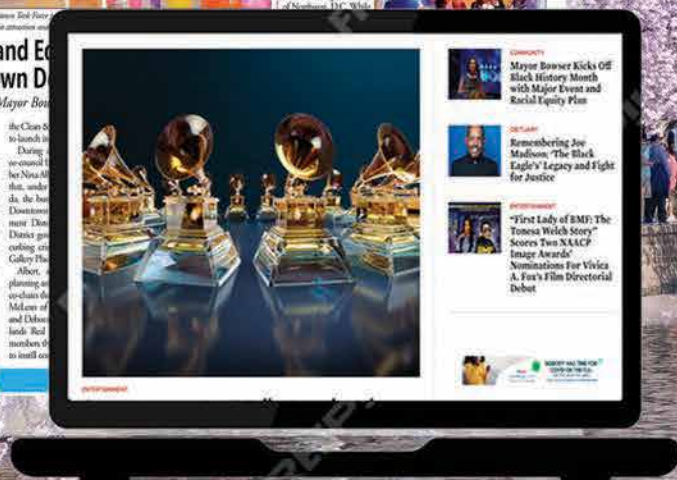
Call 1-866-383-5345 to start your homebuying journey with Wells Fargo.

1. The Dream. Plan. Home.SM mortgage is designed for consumers with income at or below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI) where the property is located. Information is accurate as of date of printing and is subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
© 2023 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. NMLSR ID 399801. AP5887381 1/2/24 7697241-7 MOD: 1869



THE WASHINGTON *Informer*

Your Link To The
African American Community




"Empowering Voices, Elevating Communities"

At The Washington Informer, we pride ourselves on being more than just a newspaper. We are a vibrant platform that empowers African American communities by amplifying diverse voices and elevating the stories that matter most.



www.washingtoninformer.com





**WE AMPLIFY
THE VOICES
THAT *BRIDGE*
OUR CULTURE
& OUR FUTURE.**

WIBRIDGEDC.COM

follow us:  

info@wibridgedc.com
Advertise with us. Email us.



Support The Washington Informer as we Celebrate **59 Years.**

***Founded October 16, 1964, and
Still Serving our Community***

The Washington Informer appreciates you, our loyal readers, for supporting our journalism since we opened our doors on October 16, 1964. We remain committed to being the voice for the Black community in the Washington, DC region and telling your stories.

Who we are:

- Founded in 1964 by Dr. Calvin Rolark, Sr., a renowned community activist and philanthropist.
- Established with a clear mission to serve the Black community by highlighting positive news to educate, empower, inform and inspire.
- Led today by Dr. Rolark's daughter, Denise Rolark Barnes, a second-generation publisher and long-time Washingtonian.
- Reaches 1 million+ readers and community members each year through our weekly newspaper and digital news products.

Support our journalism with your tax-deductible donation to Washington Informer Charities.

**My news
matters
to me.**

Photo: Ketut-subiyanto

#supportblackjournalism

Please clip and send in the attached form:

Name _____ Email Address _____
Address _____ Phone Number _____
Contribution Amount _____ (Monthly) _____ (One time) _____
Credit Card Number _____ Exp. _____ CVV _____

Or mail check payable to Washington Informer Charities to
The Washington Informer 3117 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Washington, DC 20032

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$58 – Bronze Anniversary Champion | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 – Honorary Reporter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$580 – Silver Anniversary Champion | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 – Honorary Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,800 – Gold Anniversary Champion | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 – Honorary Publisher |



Donate today online @ wicharities.org and keep your voice going strong.

Purchase an ad to support our education programs Email: rburke@washingtoninformer.com.



THE TAKEAWAY

Each year the Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Legislative Conference provides days of innovative sessions, enriching dialogue, and necessary calls to action for attendees. Most amazing events generate goals lists and provide opportunities to network that bring about real, lasting positive change. To ensure you keep track of your goals, new friends (and potential colleagues) and points of inspiration, here is a handy page for your notes. - WI

Key Things I've Learned...

I Will Apply this Information to Daily Life By...

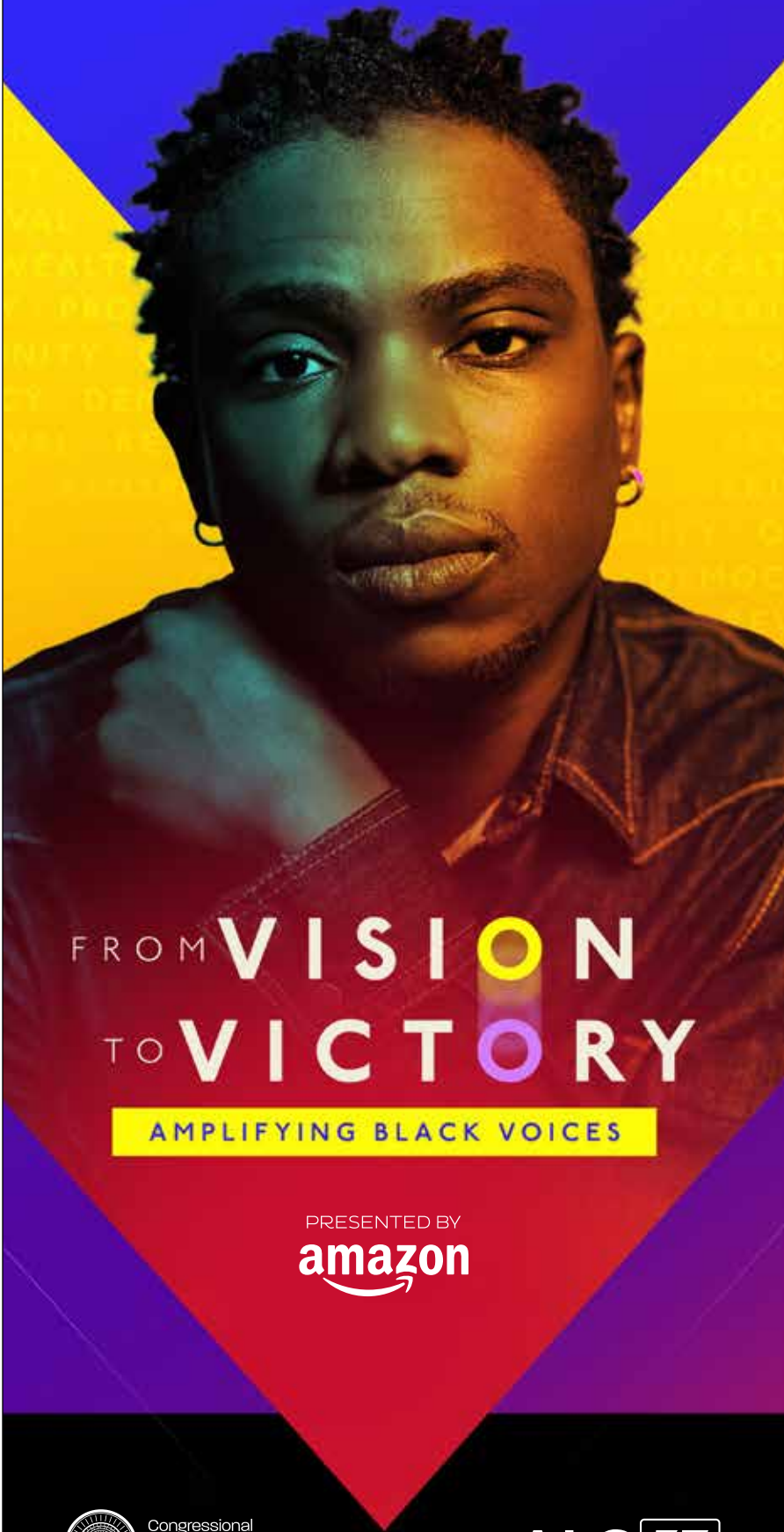
Large Goals:

Small Goals to Move Towards My Large Goal Based on What I've Learned...

Methods to Achieving those Goals...

VAL · R
RITY · P
ORTUN
RACY
VAL · R
RITY · P
ORTUN
RACY
VAL · R
LACK V
RITY · P
ORTUN
RACY
VAL · R
RITY · P
ORTUN
RACY

WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER
September 11-15 2024



FROM **VISION**
TO **VICTORY**

AMPLIFYING BLACK VOICES

PRESENTED BY
amazon



Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation

ALC 53



A DAY OF HEALING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
7:30 A.M.



PHOENIX AWARDS
SERVICE IGNITED

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
7 P.M.

#ALC53

**Let's shape a future of
equality and opportunity.**

cbcfinc.org/alc



ALC 53

*The Washington
Informer*

THE WASHINGTON INFORMER / CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CBCF) 53RD ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE / SPECIAL



CBCF / 48