COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☐ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov*, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Vivian Creighton-Bishop ***OR*** ☐ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☒ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 7, 2025 Return: August 10, 2025
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
4. Departure City: Atlanta Georgia Destination: Tunica, MS Return City: Atlanta, Georgia
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Congressional Black Caucus Institute
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): Agriculture Roundtable to discuss the needs of Agriculture In the United States and the World. A forum with other members to discuss the issues of Voting Rights, Economic Development, Transportation and Infrastructure, Healthcare and Criminal Justice Reform.
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; ***and***
   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☐ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
   b. If not, explain: I participated in the Agriculture Roundtable Forum and the Members Forum to discuss Issues delineated in the line six of this form.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Date: 8-22-25

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☒ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip *within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Congressional Black Caucus Institute
2. Travel Destination(s): Tunica, MS
3. Date of Departure: 8/6/2026 Date of Return: 8/9/2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Please see attached list

   Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total **Transportation** Expenses	Total **Lodging** Expenses	Total **Meal** Expenses	Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	$40	$579	$235	$550 (waived registration fee)
Accompanying Family Member	$40	$579	$235	$550 (waived registration fee)

6. ☒ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Andrea S. Lee **Date:** August 18, 2026

Name: Andrea S. Lee **Title:** Executive Director

Organization: Congressional Black Caucus Institute

☒ ***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

Address: 413 New Jersey Ave SE; Washington, DC 20003

Telephone: 202.785.3634 **Email:** ALee@CBCInstitute.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   Congressional Black Caucus Institute (CBCI)

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☒ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): Refer to attachment

5. Yes ☒ No ☐ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: August 6, 2026 Date of Return: August 9, 2026
7. a. City of departure: At Members' discretion
   b. Destination(s): Tunica, MS
   c. City of return: At Members' discretion
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☒ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   CBCI's interest in the subject matter of the trip is to educate and engage policy experts and stakeholders in discussions on public policy issues impacting communities across the country. CBCI is responsible for fully organzing and conducting the conference.

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:***
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☒ (specify: Airport ground transportation only)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify: n/a)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted: _____

14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☒ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Gold Strike City: Tunica, MS Cost Per Night: $193 + taxes
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Cost and proximity
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$40	$579	$235
For each Accompanying Family Member	$40	$579	$235

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$550	Waived registration fee
For each Accompanying Family Member	$550	Waived registration fee

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Andrea S. Lee Date: May 12, 2026

Name: Andrea S. Lee Title: Executive Director

Organization: Congressional Black Caucus Institute

Address: 413 New Jersey Ave SE; Washington, DC 20003

Email: Alee@cbcinstitute.org Telephone: (202) 785-3634

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTE ON ETHICS
PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** HouseMembers and employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, providean explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
Members of Congress are invited to participate as panelists, moderators, and participants in the Congressional Members Forum and various policy discussions. As leaders of congressional committees and subject matter experts, their perspectives are invaluable in shaping meaningful dialogue on the critical issues facing our nation. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are invited to participate in recognition of their leadership and membership within the Caucus.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS INSTITUTE

CBCI Mississippi Policy Conference

August 6-8, 2026

Tunica, MS

Gold Strike Casino Resort

MEMBER TRAVEL: Members of Congress are expected to arrive on Thursday, August 6th late afternoon (3pm-5pm) and depart on Sunday, August 9th morning (6am-11:30am)

Rep. Yvette Clarke will be returning from the trip on August 8th.

MISSION GOALS:

The Mississippi Policy Conference convenes Members of Congress, policy experts, business leaders, educators, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders to examine current public policy issues affecting Mississippi, the South, and the nation. Through panel discussions and policy forums, the conference explores topics including economic development, artificial intelligence, education, healthcare, workforce development, voting rights, agriculture, infrastructure, public safety, and other issues of national and regional significance. The conference is designed to facilitate the exchange of information, encourage thoughtful policy dialogue, and provide participants with insights into emerging legislative and public policy challenges.

RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES:

The conference directly supports the official duties of Members of Congress by providing opportunities to engage with subject matter experts, public officials, and community leaders on policy issues that are the subject of federal legislation, congressional oversight, and constituent interest. The discussions are intended to inform Members' legislative responsibilities, oversight activities, and policy deliberations.

LOCATION:

The conference is held in Tunica, Mississippi, to bring together national, regional, and local leaders for substantive policy discussions focused on issues affecting Mississippi and communities throughout the South. The location provides an opportunity for Members of Congress to engage directly with stakeholders and learn from regional perspectives that may inform federal policymaking.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, August 6, 2026
12:00pm – 7:30pm: Conference Registration

3:30pm-5:30pm: USDA Presentation: Land, Title, and Climate: The Future of Black Farming (Content: USDA discrimination remedies, land loss, credit access, climate-smart agriculture, and opportunities in new federal and state programs.
Includes a brief spotlight on a Black farmers cooperative and a Mississippi-based success story)

PANELISTS: Thaddeus Fairley (Executive Director, National Policy Research Center Alcorn State University); others TBD

5:30-6:30pm: free time for attendees

6:30pm – 8:30pm: "Welcome to the Mississippi Delta" Reception and Townhall: Where are we now? An interactive conversation on the state of the nation, current policy challenges, and congressional priorities. This discussion will explore how federal policies are impacting communities and the work underway to address today's most pressing issues.

Friday, August 7, 2026
9:00am- 5:00pm: Conference Registration

9:00am – 10:30am: **Policy Panel 1(Education Access and the Next Generation)** This session will examine federal and state education policies affecting students from early childhood through higher education. Panelists will discuss access to quality education, school funding, higher education affordability, HBCU investments, academic freedom, and the evolving role of federal education policy in supporting student success.

PANELIST: Cedric Wiggins (President of Tougaloo College); Tiffany Willams (Consultant for STRIDE), Dr. Tracy Cooke (President of Alcorn State University)

10:30am-11:00am: Restroom break (room setup for next session)

11:00am – 12:30pm: **Policy Panel 2 (H.R. 1 and the Rules of Democracy: Policy Implications for Black Communities)**
This session will examine the key provisions of H.R. 1 and its potential implications for voting administration, campaign finance, ethics, and election governance. Panelists will discuss how implementation may affect communities, the role of federal and state governments in carrying out the law, and the legal and administrative considerations surrounding its implementation.

PANELISTS: Michael Curry (President and CEO of the MA League of Community Health Centers), April Verrett (President of SEIU), Sonya Barnes (State Policy Director for Southern Poverty Law Center)

12:30pm-1pm: Restroom break (line up for luncheon)

1:00pm – 2:30pm: Luncheon Fireside Chat w/ Rep. Jasmine Crockett (**Unapologetic Leadership: Governing and Public Service in 2026)**
A fireside chat examining the role of principled leadership, effective governance, and public service in addressing today's most pressing policy challenges. The conversation will highlight the responsibilities of congressional leadership and the importance of engaging constituents through the legislative process.

2:30-3pm: Restroom break

3:00pm – 4:30pm: **Policy Panel 3 (Maps, Power, and the Black South: Understanding Redistricting**) An examination of current congressional and state legislative redistricting, recent developments in Voting Rights Act litigation, and the federal government's role in enforcing voting rights protections. The discussion will explore how redistricting shapes representation and the legal and policy frameworks governing the process.

PANELISTS: Derrick Johnson (President of NAACP), Kristen Clarke (General Counsel of the NAACP), Kareem Crayton (VP of the Brennan Center Washington, DC), Carroll Rhodes (Civil Rights and Voting Rights Attorney in MS), Tracey Rosebud (MS State Representative)

4:30pm-6:30pm: Free time

6:30pm – 8:00pm: Dinner

Saturday, August 8, 2026
9:00am – 12:00pm: Conference Registration

9:00am – 10:30am: **Policy Panel 4 (Making the Best Use of AI)** This session will examine the opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence, including algorithmic decision making in employment, financial services, healthcare, and public safety. Panelists will discuss emerging federal and state AI policy, civil rights considerations, workforce readiness, and strategies for ensuring that AI innovation expands opportunity for communities across the country. **Feature:** A brief demonstration of practical AI tools highlighting applications for research, business development, education, and community engagement.

PANELIST: Cliff Worley (Sr Director of Portfolio Growth Marketing at Kapor Capital), Joi Harris (DTE Energy Chief Operating Officer), KeShaun Pearson (ED of Memphis Community Against Pollution), others TBD

10:30am-11am: Restroom break (room setup for next session)

11:00am – 12:30pm: **Policy Panel 5 (The Business of Sports: The SEC's Impact on Education, Communities, and Economic Growth)** This discussion will explore the role of Southeastern Conference athletics in driving economic development, expanding educational opportunities, strengthening local communities, and shaping the future of college sports. Panelists will examine evolving policies related to student athletes, NIL, workforce development, and the broader economic impact of collegiate athletics.

PANELISTS: TBD

12:30pm-1pm: Restroom break (line up for lunch)

1:00pm – 2:30pm: Policy Luncheon w/ Guest speaker TBD
A fireside chat exploring how thoughtful policymaking can expand economic opportunity, strengthen families, improve education, and support healthier, more resilient communities. The conversation will examine the role of Congress in addressing today's challenges while preparing for the future.

2:30-3:00pm: Restroom break

3:00pm – 5:00pm: **The Congressional Members Forum: Where Do We Go From Here? From Tunica to Tomorrow: Advancing Policy Through Partnership**
The conference will conclude with reflections on the key policy themes, ideas, and discussions from the forum. Members of Congress, policy leaders, and community partners will highlight opportunities for continued collaboration, knowledge sharing, and engagement on issues affecting communities across the country.

PANELISTS: MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (open to all members in attendance)

5pm-6:30pm: Free time

6:30pm- 8:00pm: Dinner

Tunica Mississippi Policy Conference

August 6-9, 2026

Members of Congress Attendance

- Rep. Wesley Bell
- Rep. Sanford Bishop
- Rep. Shontel Brown
- Rep. Troy Carter
- Rep. Herb Conaway
- Rep. Jasmine Crocket
- Rep. Jonathan Jackson
- Rep. Bobby Scott
- Rep. Nikema Williams
- Rep. Yvette Clarke

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 2407 Rayburn House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-225-3631

Email Address of Contact Person: Kenneth.Cutts@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: *travel.requests@mail.house.gov*.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Representative Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Congressional Black Caucus Institute
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Tunica, MS
4. a. Date of Departure: August 7, 2025 Date of Return: August 10, 2025

   b. Yes ☐ No ☐ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

   If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes ☒ No ☐ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

   (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Vivian Creighton Bishop

   (2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☒ Other (specify): _____

   (3) Yes ☒ No ☒ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes ☒ No ☐ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

   b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes ☒ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

   NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

   The conference will cover issues related to Voting Rights, Reauthorization of the Farm Bill, Transportation and Infrastructure Needs, Energy Issues, Health Issues, Veterans Issues and the Needs of Rural Americans.
9. **Yes ☐ No ☒ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ **Date:** 8-22-25

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip.** The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   Congressional Black Caucus Institute

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. *Check only one.* I represent that:
   a. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☒ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

   All CBC Members are invited to participtate in policy sessions as panelists, and moderators.

5. Yes ☒ No ☐ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: Aug 7, 2025 Date of Return: August 10, 2025
7. a. City of departure: At Members' Discretion
   b. Destination(s): Tunica, MS
   c. City of return: At Members' Discretion
8. *Check only one.* I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. *Check only one of the following.*
   a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. *Check only one of the following.*
   a. ☒ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   Interest in advancing public policy discussions supporting educational sessions. CBCI is cordinating the transportation to and from airport to event site. CBCI is planning and organizing the conference.

13. *Answer parts a and b.* ***Answer part c if necessary:***
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☒ (specify: Airport Ground Transportation)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☒ (specify: n/a)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. *Check only one.* I represent that either:
   a. ☒ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Horshoe Casino and Resort City: Tunica, MS Cost Per Night: $179 + tax
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Cost and Proximity
   Hotel Name: Goldstrike Casino and Resort City: Tunica, MS Cost Per Night: $169 + tax
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Cost and Proximity
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$40.00	$544.50	included in registration
For each Accompanying Family Member	$40.00		included in registration

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$400	waived registration fee
For each Accompanying Family Member	$400	waived registration fee

19. *Check only one:*
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Keya Barron Date: 5/27/2025

Name: Keya Barron Title: Interim Executive Director

Organization: Congressional Black Caucus Institute

Address: 413 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 200003

Email: kbarron@cbcinstitute.org Telephone: 202-785-3634

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
https://Ethics.House.gov

August 5, 2025

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to Tunica, Mississippi, scheduled for August 7 to 10, 2025, sponsored by Congressional Black Caucus Institute.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:mc

Agenda

12:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	**Conference Registration** *Horseshoe Hotel, Laurel Lounge*
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	**Agricultural Roundtable & Resource Workshop** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	**Welcome to the Mississippi Delta Reception** *Gold Strike Hotel, Live Oak Ballroom*
8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.	**Welcome Concert (Blues)** *Horseshoe Hotel, Bluesville*
10:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	**Cigar & Whisky Lounge** *Horseshoe Hotel, Founders*

TUNICA MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Agenda

7:30 a.m.	**James E Clyburn Golf Tournament** *Tunica National Golf Course*
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	**Conference Registration** *Laurel Lounge – Horseshoe Hotel*
8:00 a.m. – 8:05 a.m.	**St. Dominick's Health Remarks** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
8:05 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	**Project 2025: Public/Private Response** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	**2024 Lessons & the Art of the Pivot** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Resilient Cities, Powered by Waste: Communities, Innovation and Clean Energy Policy** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	**Luncheon: What are the People Expecting from Elected Officials?** *Gold Strike Hotel, Live Oak Ballroom*
3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	**HBCUs and the New Frontier** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	**Dinner** *Gold Strike, Live Oak Ballroom*
9:00 p.m.	**Entertainment/Themed Party** *Gold Strike, Live Oak Ballroom*

TUNICA MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Saturday, August 9, 2025

Agenda

7:00 a.m.	**Bennie G Thompson Sporting Clays Challenge** *DeSoto Rifle & Pistol Club*
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**Conference Registration**
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.	**Immigration Policy: Good or Bad** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	**Tariffs, Taxes, and Budget Cuts: America 2025** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	**Break**
11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	**Judicial Remedies as an Option** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	**Joy Reid Fireside Chat with Angela Rye** *Gold Strike Hotel, Live Oak Ballroom*
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m	**The Congressional Members' Forum** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	**Closing Dinner** *Gold Strike Hotel, Theatre*
9:00 p.m.	**Concert** *Horseshoe Hotel, Bluesville*
10:30 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.	**Poolside Party & Fireworks (No Swim Attire)** *Horseshoe Hotel, 2nd Floor*

TUNICA MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Panel Overview

Agricultural Roundtable & Resource Workshop

This interactive session brings together farmers, landowners, advocates, and resource providers to tackle key challenges and opportunities in Mississippi agriculture. From land access and funding to innovation and equity, the discussion will highlight practical tools and collaborative solutions to support sustainable growth and rural prosperity.

Panelists

The Honorable Sanford Bishop (GA-02)
U.S. House of Representatives

Homer Wilkes
Former Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

Dr. Trina George
Former Mississippi State Director for USDA Rural Development

Robert Bonnie
Former Under Secretary for Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation

Basil Gooden
Former Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

Thaddeus Fairley
Former Mississippi State Director for USDA Farm Service Agency

Date
Aug 7th

Time
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

TUNICA
MISSISSIPPI
POLICY
CONFERENCE

Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Sanford Bishop (GA-02)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. is the Ranking Member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. In addition, he serves on the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee and on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. He has represented the Second Congressional District of Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1993.

Dr. Homer Wilkes

Former Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

Dr Homer Lee Wilkes is an American conservationist and former government official from Mississippi. He served as the first African American USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. Dr. Wilkes worked with USDA for more than 41 years heavily contributing to engineering, natural resource and watershed projects, as well as forestry and working lands.

Dr. Trina George

Former Mississippi State Director for USDA Rural Development

A celebrated expert in her field, Dr. Trina George exhibits a rare blend of idealism and pragmatism in her approach to her role as the USDA Rural Development (RD) State Director for Mississippi. Her work began more than 30 years ago as the Special Projects and Community Outreach and Development Coordinator in the Office of Congressman Bennie G. Thompson. She went on to serve as the USDA RD State Director in the Biden Administration, following her eight years of service in the role under the Obama Administration. She has devoted her career to serving as an advocate for rural Mississippians and a force for change in her home state.

TUNICA
MISSISSIPPI
POLICY
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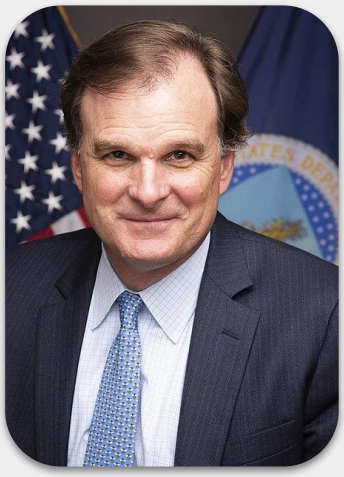
Meet the Panelists

Robert Bonnie

Former Under Secretary for Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation



During the Biden and Obama Administrations, Robert was Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at USDA. Prior to joining USDA, Robert was vice president for land conservation at Environmental Defense Fund where he focused on developing incentives to reward stewardship on private lands. Robert lives with his wife, Julie, and daughter, Lilly, in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Basil Gooden

Former Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development

Basil Ivanhoe Gooden is an American governmental executive whose career has advanced equitable food systems, agriculture policy, public health, and community economic development in rural America. Gooden served as the 3rd Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He became the first Black American to serve in this position and during his tenure from September 2016 until January 2018, he was the only Black American Secretary of Agriculture in any state in the United States. In his capacity as Secretary, he provided strategic vision and leadership to two of Virginia's largest private industries, Agriculture and Forestry, with an annual economic impact of $91 billion in Virginia.

Thaddeus Fairley

Former Mississippi State Director for USDA Farm Service Agency

Thaddeus Fairley, Sr. was appointed by the Biden Administration to serve as the State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Mississippi in November 2021. Fairley is a certified nonprofit professional and native of Sunflower, Mississippi. Previously, he served as a Field Representative for Congressman Bennie G. Thompson. During his time with the Congressman, Fairley served as an expert on broadband initiatives and constituent services, including working on resolving issues for farmers. Prior to joining the Congressman's office, Fairley worked in the banking industry for over seven years.

TUNICA
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Panel Overview

Project 2025: Public/Private Response

Almost 7 months into the Trump Administration and nearly 50 percent of Project 2025 has been implemented. The changes have been swift and have required a response from the public sector at the local and state level as well as the private sector.

How must these sectors work together to respond to disaster, mitigate harm, and prevent crisis?

Date
Aug 8th

Time
8:00-9:15 am

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

Panelists

Dr. Roger Mitchell
President, National Medical Association

Dr. Michael Curry, Esq.
President, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

John Fairman
CEO, Delta Health Center, Inc.

Warren Miller
Member, National Advisory Council, Federal Emergency Management Agency

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CBC Member

The Honorable Hank Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives, (GA-04)

Moderator

Hope Goins, Esq.
Staff Director, Committee on Homeland Security

TUNICA
MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Hank Johnson (GA-04)
U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Hank Johnson has represented Georgia's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2007 (110th Congress-Present). Johnson is a member of the Judiciary Committee. His Judiciary subcommittee assignments include Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet (ranking member); Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust; and Responsiveness and Accountability to Oversight. He also serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he is a member of the Aviation; Highways and Transit; Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials subcommittees.

Hope Goins, Esq.
Staff Director, Committee on Homeland Security

Hope E. Goins is a leading congressional strategist and negotiator, serving as Democratic Staff Director for the House Committee on Homeland Security. As Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson's top advisor, she oversees DHS and national security issues and coordinates all committee policy with House leadership. A thought leader in cybersecurity, tech policy, AI, and counterterrorism, Goins also served as Senior Advisor to the January 6th Select Committee. Hope is a bestselling author and proud graduate of Tougaloo College and the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Dr. Roger Mitchell
President, National Medical Association

Dr. Roger Mitchell is currently serving as President of the National Medical Association. A trusted voice on health equity, forensic pathology, and community-centered care, Dr. Mitchell has worked tirelessly to address the intersection of justice and healthcare. Through his leadership, he continues to push for structural change in how medicine is practiced and delivered, ensuring that all communities, especially the underserved, receive the quality care and dignity they deserve.

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Meet the Panelists

Dr. Michael Curry, Esq.
President, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Michael Curry, Esq. is currently serving as President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. With a legal background and a lifelong dedication to equity, Dr. Curry leads healthcare advocacy and policy with both strategic insight and a grounded understanding of community needs. He has been instrumental in advancing community health efforts at both the state and national levels, and his leadership continues to shape a more just, accessible, and people-centered healthcare system.

John Fairman
CEO, Delta Health Center, Inc.

John Fairman is currently serving as CEO of Delta Health Center, Inc., one of the nation's first and most historic community health centers. With decades of experience in healthcare leadership and economic development, Mr. Fairman has remained deeply committed to uplifting rural and historically underserved populations. His work is centered at the intersection of healthcare innovation and community resilience, anchoring Delta Health Center's role not just as a clinic, but as a vital pillar of empowerment for those residing within the Mississippi Delta.

Warren Miller
Member, National Advisory Council, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Warren Miller brings decades of insight and resilient leadership to his role as a member of FEMA's National Advisory Council. Known for his steady guidance in crisis planning, community preparedness, and emergency management, Mr. Miller advocates for inclusive approaches to disaster response, ensuring that equity is embedded in national resilience strategies. His work helps shape federal policies that support communities before, during, and after devastating emergencies.

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Panel Overview

Lessons from 2024 & The Art of the Pivot

2024 was a year of rapid shifts, unexpected challenges, and hard-earned insights. In this dynamic panel, Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Members reflect on the key lessons learned from the past year—from legislative battles to community resilience—and how those experiences are shaping new strategies moving forward.

Panelists will explore how they navigated moments of uncertainty, adapted to changing political and social landscapes, and embraced the art of the pivot to continue driving progress. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how leadership evolves in real time—and what it takes to stay effective, grounded, and future-focused in times of flux.

Date
Aug 8th

Time
9:30-10:45 am

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

Moderator

Vincent Evans
Executive Director, Congressional Black Caucus

Panelists

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II (MO-05)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Cleo Fields (LA-06)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Al Green (TX-09)
U.S. House of Representatives

Carroll Rhodes, Esq.
General Counsel, Mississippi State Conference, NAACP

Derrick Johnson
President, NAACP

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Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Cleo Fields (LA-06)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Cleo Fields represents Louisiana's 6th Congressional District and brings over 30 years of public service. Elected to the State Senate at 24 and later the youngest member of the 103rd Congress, he has long championed education, economic development, and community leadership. He authored the Delta Initiatives Act and founded what is now the Louisiana Leadership Institute. After a historic 1995 run for governor, he returned to state leadership, chairing key Senate committees and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. Now back in Congress, Fields remains focused on advancing Louisiana's priorities. He lives in Baton Rouge with his wife, Debra, and their two sons.

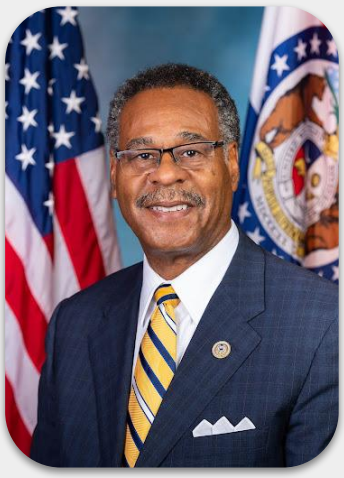
The Honorable Al Green (TX-09)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Al Green is serving his eleventh term representing Texas' 9th District. A lifelong civil rights advocate, he serves on the House Financial Services Committee and is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Before Congress, he practiced law, served 26 years as a Harris County Justice of the Peace, and led the Houston NAACP for a decade. A graduate of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Green has been widely recognized for his public service, including honors from the NAACP, AFL-CIO, and the City of Houston.

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-05)

U.S. House of Representatives



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II is serving his eleventh term representing Missouri's Fifth District. A senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, he serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance. Formerly Kansas City's first Black mayor, Cleaver led major redevelopment efforts and has remained focused on housing and economic development in Congress. He co-authored the bipartisan Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act, helped pass Dodd-Frank, and led COVID-era housing relief efforts.

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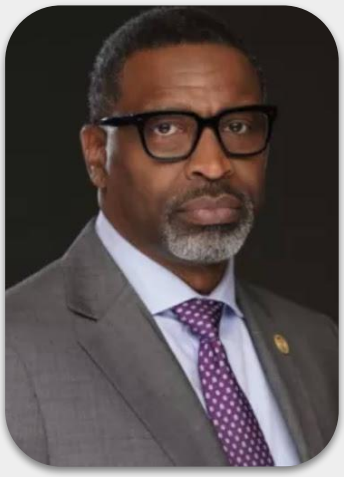
Meet the Panelists

Carroll Rhodes, Esq.
General Counsel, Mississippi State Conference, NAACP

Carroll Rhodes, Esq. currently serves as General Counsel for the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP, where he has long been a powerful legal advocate for civil rights and social justice across the state. With decades of experience practicing law and defending constitutional protections, Mr. Rhodes is known for his steadfast commitment to protecting voting rights, advancing educational equity, and challenging systemic discrimination. His work has helped shape legal strategies that empower communities and hold institutions accountable.

Derrick Johnson
President, NAACP



Derrick Johnson is the President and CEO of the NAACP, the nation's oldest and most influential civil rights organization. A fearless leader and strategic visionary, Mr. Johnson has guided the organization through a new era of activism, focused on racial equity, civic engagement, and justice in the face of ongoing systemic challenges. A Mississippi native and longtime community advocate, he brings a grounded understanding of grassroots organizing and public policy to his national leadership. Under his direction, the NAACP continues to be a driving force in shaping a more just and inclusive America.

Moderator: Vincent Evans
Executive Director, Congressional Black Caucus

Vincent Evans is the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, a role he calls “one of the greatest jobs in America.” Previously, he served as deputy director of public engagement in Vice President Kamala Harris’s office and was Southern political director for President Biden’s 2020 campaign. A Florida A&M graduate and longtime public servant, Evans brings deep political experience and a passion for strategic collaboration to his leadership of the CBC.

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Resilient Cities, Powered by Waste: Communitie
Innovation and Clean Energy Policy

Panel Overview

As cities work to adopt clean infrastructure solutions, waste is no longer the end of the line—it's the beginning of a new resource cycle. This panel explores how public-private partnerships are converting waste into clean energy and advancing the shift to circular economies.

We'll examine how strategic collaboration between industry and government is building cleaner, more resilient cities—and how communities are redefining the value of waste to ensure equitable environmental progress.

Date
Aug 8th

Time
11:15-12:30 pm

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

Panelists

Tequila Smith
EVP & Chief Sustainability Officer, Reworld

Abré Connor
NAACP, Director, Center for Environmental and Climate Justice

Lemia Jenkins
Chief of Staff, Mississippi Public Service Commission

Charles Finkley, Jr.
Economic Development, Tunica County

CBC Member

The Honorable Troy Carter
U.S. House of Representatives, (LA-02)

Moderator

Aisha Mills
Strategic Advisor, Communications & Public Affairs

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Meet the Panelists

Resilient Cities, Powered by Waste: Communities, Innovation and Clean Energy Policy

The Honorable Troy Carter (LA-02)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Troy A. Carter represents Louisiana's 2nd District, including New Orleans and the River Parishes. Now in his third term, he serves on the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Homeland Security, and holds leadership roles as Deputy Whip, 1st Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. He is a former New Orleans City Councilmember and State Senate Minority Leader. He holds degrees from Xavier University and the University of Holy Cross, and is married to Major General Ana Carter, with whom he has two sons.

Moderator: Aisha Mills

Strategic Advisor, Communications & Public Affairs

Aisha Mills is a seasoned advocate with over twenty years of experience fighting for underserved, underrepresented, and under-resourced communities. She has led and won campaigns at the forefront of major social justice movements and made history as the first Black woman to lead a national LGBTQ rights organization. Her influence extends to media and academia she's a regular commentator on MSNBC and CNN, formerly hosted a prime-time show on the Black News Channel, and has served as a resident fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics. Aisha is a University of Maryland alum, a trustee of The Century Foundation, and a member of Newburgh's Strategic Economic Development Advisory Council.

Abre' Connor

NAACP, Director, Center for Environmental and Climate Justice

Abre' Conner is a civil rights attorney and is currently serving as the Director of the NAACP's Center for Environmental and Climate Justice. With a sharp legal mind and a commitment to frontline communities, Conner fearlessly leads national efforts to address the disproportionate environmental burdens borne by Black and underserved communities. Abre' is shaping policies and building coalitions that put justice at the center of climate action.

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Meet the Panelists

Resilient Cities, Powered by Waste: Communities, Innovation and Clean Energy Policy

Tequila Smith

EVP & Chief Sustainability Officer, Reworld

Tequila Smith serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer at Reworld™, where she leads transformative efforts to build a more sustainable, circular economy. With a career rooted in environmental stewardship and corporate responsibility, she brings both technical expertise and strategic vision to her work. Tequila is widely recognized for advancing clean energy initiatives, community engagement, and ESG practices that prioritize both people and the planet.

Charles Finkley Jr.

President/CEO, Tunica County Chamber of Commerce

Charles Finkley Jr. is currently serving as the Economic Development Officer for Tunica County, MIssissippi. As a leader in economic development and community revitalization in Tunica County, Finkley's efforts towards attracting investments, expanding small business opportunities, and building pathways to prosperity for Tunica County residents is unwavering.

Lemia Jenkins

Chief of Staff, MIssissippi Public Service Commission

Lemia Jenkins is currently serving as the Chief of Staff at the MIssissippi Public Service Commission, where she plays a critical role in managing strategy, operations, and stakeholder engagement. With a background in public affairs alongside a strong sense of service, she supports the Commission's mission to ensure safe, reliable, and equitable utility services. Lemia's unique blend of policy knowledge and people-centered leadership towards the work of public infrastructure resonates with both her office's constituents and professionals alike.

TUNICA
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Meeting the Moment: What are the People Expecting from Elected Officials

Panel Overview

As the call for accountability and responsive leadership grows louder, this panel examines the evolving expectations communities have for their elected officials. Panelists will delve into the critical role leaders play in addressing social inequities, economic challenges, and systemic barriers, emphasizing the power of listening, transparency, and action in restoring public trust and advancing justice.

Date

Aug 8th

Opening Remarks

Attorney Scott Colom
Bident Nominee, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi

Time

1:00-3:00 pm

Panelists

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)
Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Yvette Clarke (NY-09)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

The Honorable Joe Neguse (CO-02)
Assistant Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable James Clyburn (SC-06)
Co-Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Assistant Democratic Leader Emerita

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

Location

Gold Strike, Live Oak Ballroom

TUNICA
MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02)

Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson represents Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District and is the longest-serving African-American elected official in the state. A deeply committed public servant, Rep. Thompson is widely respected for his decades of leadership on homeland security, civil rights, and rural economic development. As the former Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security and an anchoring voice on the January 6th Select Committee, his commitment to truth and accountability has been unwavering.

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)

Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries proudly serves as the Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives and represents New York's 8th Congressional District. Known for his sharp leadership, policy depth, and ability to unify differences across the country regardless of party lines. Leader Jeffries has become a defining voice in Congress on issues of justice, voting rights, and opportunity for all. As the first Black lawmaker to lead a major party in either chamber, his trailblazing work not only honors history, it's helping shape the future.

The Honorable Yvette Clarke (NY-09)

Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke represents New York's 9th Congressional District. Rooted in Brooklyn, she is a steadfast advocate for equity, innovation, and inclusive growth. A proud descendant of Caribbean ancestry, she brings an international lens to her leadership on issues ranging from tech policy to immigration reform. As a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Co-Chair of the Multicultural Media Caucus, Rep. Clarke is committed to making sure every community has a fair shot in the evolving digital era alongside full participation in our nation's democracy.

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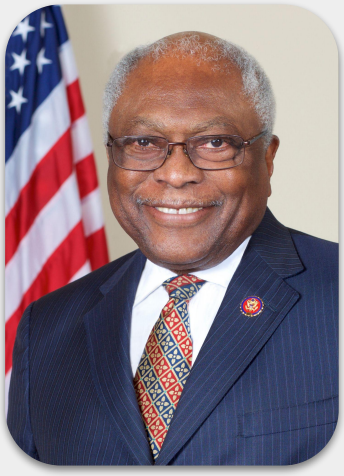
Meet the Panelists

The Honorable James Clyburn (SC-06)

Co-Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute,
Assistant Democratic Leader Emerita



James E. Clyburn is the U.S. Congressman representing South Carolina's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and Chairman of the Democratic Faith Working Group. He previously served as Assistant Democratic Leader from 2011 to 2018 and 2023 to March 2024, and House Majority Whip from 2019 to 2022 and 2007 to 2010, making him the first African American to serve multiple terms as Majority Whip. A native son of South Carolina, Clyburn has represented the state's Sixth Congressional District since 1993.

The Honorable Joe Neguse (CO-02)

House Assistant Minority Leader

Congressman Joe Neguse represents Colorado's 2nd congressional district and is the first Black Member of Congress in Colorado history, he is serving his third term and was unanimously elected House Assistant Minority Leader in 2024 the first Coloradan in nearly 90 years to hold a senior Democratic leadership role. Recognized as one of the most effective and bipartisan lawmakers in Congress, he serves on the Natural Resources, Judiciary, and Rules Committees, and is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. A child of Eritrean immigrants, Neguse is driven by a deep belief in expanding opportunity for all Americans and lives in Lafayette, Colorado, with his wife Andrea and their two children.

Opening Remarks by Attorney Scott Colom

Biden Nominee, U.S. District Court
for the Northern District of Mississippi

On October 14, 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Scott Colom to serve as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi to the seat vacated by Judge Michael Mills. A native of Mississippi, Mr. Colom has dedicated his life to justice in his home state with roles at the Mississippi Center for Justice, as a justice court judge in Lowndes County and the City of Aberdeen, as a private plaintiff-side attorney, and as the District Attorney of Mississippi's 16th District. He is serving as both the first Black justice court judge of Lowndes County and the first Black city prosecutor of his hometown of Columbus.

TUNICA
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CONFERENCE

Panel Overview

HBCUs and the New Frontier

HBCUs have been under assault—never receiving their fair (or even an adequate) share, but always going above and beyond to create opportunities for students with limited resources. In this era, our communities will have to return to what we know. So what role must alums, school administrators, corporate and nonprofit partners, and community members play to ensure their protection and survival?

Date
Aug 8th

Time
3:30-4:45 pm

Panelists

Becky Pringle
President, National Education Association

Dr. Christopher B. Davis
President, Lemoyne Owen College

Dr. Donzell Lee
President, Tougaloo College

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

CBC Member

The Honorable Bobby Scott, (VA-03)
Ranking Member, House Committee on Education & the Workforce

Moderator

Dr. John H. Jackson
President and CEO, Schott Foundation

TUNICA
MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

The Honorable Bobby Scott, (VA-03)

Ranking Member, House Committee on Education & the Workforce

Congressman Robert C. Bobby Scott has represented Virginia's third congressional district since 1993, following prior service in the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate. As the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia since Reconstruction and the first American of Filipino ancestry to serve as a voting member, Scott has championed equity in education, labor rights, healthcare access, and criminal justice reform. A Harvard and Boston College Law School graduate, he practiced law in Newport News, founded a legal aid center, and served in the National Guard and Army Reserve. In Congress, he has held leadership roles on the Education and Workforce Committee and the Budget Committee, spearheaded pandemic relief through the American Rescue Plan, and authored historic legislation.

Moderator: Dr. John H. Jackson

President and CEO, Schott Foundation

Dr. John H. Jackson, President and CEO of the Schott Foundation for Public Education, leads efforts to ensure all students regardless of race or gender have a fair opportunity to learn. Prior to this role, he served as National Director of Education and Chief Policy Officer at the NAACP (2000–2007) and was appointed by President Clinton as Senior Policy Advisor in the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Dr. Jackson has taught at Georgetown University, conducted civil rights research at Harvard, and served on numerous boards including Xavier University of Louisiana, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, and the Obama-Biden Education Policy Transition Work Group. A Southside Chicago native and public school graduate, Dr. Jackson holds degrees in political science, law, and multiple education disciplines from Xavier University, the University of Illinois, and Harvard University.

Meet the Panelists

Becky Pringle

President, National Education Association

Becky Pringle is a lifelong educator, and a nationally respected union leader known for her fierce commitment to social justice, racial equity, and the promise of public education. A former middle school science teacher with over 30 years in the classroom, Becky brings firsthand experience to her advocacy for students, educators, and communities of color. Since 2020, she has led the NEA through a global pandemic and a national reckoning on equity in education, championing policy change to dismantle systemic racism, end the school-to-prison pipeline, and build safe, just, and inclusive schools. A strategic and tireless advocate, Becky has advanced groundbreaking frameworks while helping shape national education policy through her service on President Obama's Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

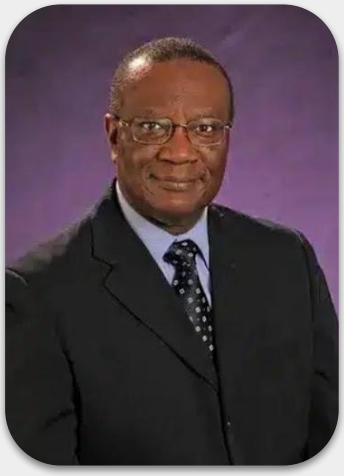
Dr. Christopher B. Davis

President, Lemoyne Owen College

Dr. Christopher B. Davis, the 14th President of LeMoyne-Owen College, brings decades of experience as a faith, business, and community leader, having previously served on the College's Board of Trustees and as President since July 2023. He has led a major institutional rebranding, emphasized LeMoyne-Owen's unique status as Memphis' only HBCU, and strengthened leadership. Before joining the College, Dr. Davis spent 17 years at Memphis Theological Seminary, where he oversaw significant program growth and academic innovation. He holds degrees from the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Baptist College, Memphis Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary. Dr. Davis also continues to serve as Senior Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, reflecting his enduring commitment to faith and community.

Dr. Donzell Lee

President, Tougaloo College



Dr. Donzell Lee, appointed President of Tougaloo College on July 1, 2023, brings nearly 50 years of leadership in higher education. His career began in 1974 at Alcorn State University as a music instructor, where he rose to serve as Department Chair, Director of the Honors Curriculum, Dean of Graduate Studies, Provost, and Interim President. At Alcorn, he expanded the Honors Program tenfold, secured federal funding for graduate studies, led key accreditations, and launched major campus developments—including laying the foundation for its first doctoral program. At Tougaloo, he has introduced new academic offerings, boosted scholarships, and formed national partnerships supporting first-generation students.

Panel Overview

Immigration Policy: Good or Bad

Immigration remains a contentious and deeply impactful issue shaping communities across the country. This panel brings together diverse perspectives to explore the benefits and challenges of current immigration policies, their effects on social equity, economic growth, and cultural vitality. Attendees will engage with nuanced dialogue aimed at moving beyond division toward practical, compassionate solutions.

Date
Aug 9th

Time
8:00-9:15 am

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

Moderator

Angela T. Rye Esq.
Principal/CEO, IMPACT Strategies

Panelists

The Honorable Yvette Clarke (NY-09)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

Jarvis Dortch
Executive Director, ACLU of Mississippi

David Huerta
President, SEIU-United Service Workers West

The Honorable Tami Sawyer
Clerk, Shelby County General Sessions Court

Nana Gyamfi, Esq.
Executive Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration

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Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Yvette Clarke (NY-09)

Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke represents New York's 9th Congressional District. Rooted in Brooklyn, she is a steadfast advocate for equity, innovation, and inclusive growth. A proud descendant of Caribbean ancestry, she brings an international lens to her leadership on issues ranging from tech policy to immigration reform. As a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Co-Chair of the Multicultural Media Caucus, Rep. Clarke is committed to making sure every community has a fair shot in the evolving digital era alongside full participation in our nation's democracy.

Moderator: Angela T. Rye Esq.

Principal/CEO, IMPACT Strategies

Angela Rye is an award-winning host, lawyer, social justice advocate, and CEO of IMPACT Strategies. A former Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus and Senior Policy Advisor on the House Homeland Security Committee, Rye has over two decades of experience in political strategy across all levels of government. She is the co-host of NAACP Image Award winning podcast, Native Land Pod and co-founder of Reasoned Choice Media with Lenard "Charlamagne tha God" McKelvey. She holds honorary doctorates from Wiley College and Lemoyne Owen College.

David Huerta

President, SEIU-United Service Workers West

David Huerta is President of the Service Employees International Union-United Service Workers West (SEIU-USWW) whose members are service workers predominantly from the commercial real estate industry. As a labor leader, David has worked to build an immigrant integration program that includes English classes for union members. Under his leadership, hundreds of SEIU-USWW members have become U.S. citizens. In addition, he has advocated for comprehensive immigration reform by empowering SEIU-USWW members to become their own advocates for change.

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Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Tami Sawyer

Clerk, Shelby County General Sessions Court

Tami Sawyer, the youngest person and first woman to serve as Shelby County General Sessions Court Clerk, is a prominent civil rights activist and former Shelby County Commissioner. With a master's degree in rhetorical communication, Tami brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her work. Throughout her career, Tami has held senior leadership positions in notable organizations such as the US Navy, Teach For America, Black Voters Matter, and Amazon. In 2017, she founded #TakeEmDown901, a highly successful movement dedicated to removing Confederate statues from Memphis. Her insightful commentary has appeared in outlines CNN, Essence, Forbes, and Time. Acknowledged for her outstanding public service, Tami was named Young Elected Official of the Year in 2022 by People For the American Way and earned a spot on the Reckon South List.

Jarvis Dortch

Executive Director, ACLU of Mississippi

Jarvis Dortch is a native of Jackson, Mississippi, and earned a Juris Doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law and is admitted to the Mississippi State Bar. Jarvis was elected to the Mississippi legislature in 2015 and served in the Mississippi House, representing House District 66. In the 2019 election cycle, Jarvis was unopposed and returned to the House for a second term. Prior to being elected to the Mississippi House, Jarvis served as Program Manager and Staff Attorney at Mississippi Health Advocacy Program. In July 2020, Jarvis stepped down from the legislature to become Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi.

Nana Gyamfi, Esq.

Executive Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Movement attorney for the past 25 years, Nana is co-founder of Justice Warriors 4 Black Lives and Human Rights Advocacy, both dedicated to fighting for human rights and Black liberation. She has served as the Executive Director of Black Women's Forum, an organization co-founded by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who serves as its President. Nana is also a former professor in the Pan African Studies Department at California State University Los Angeles. She has repeat appearances in documentaries and other media, including Tales of the Grim Sleeper and Democracy Now with Amy Goodman, and she hosts her own weekly radio show “Conversations On the Way: The Asafo Edition”.

TUNICA MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Panel Overview

Immigration remains a contentious and deeply impactful issue shaping communities across the country. This panel brings together diverse perspectives to explore the benefits and challenges of current immigration policies, their effects on social equity, economic growth, and cultural vitality. Attendees will engage with nuanced dialogue aimed at moving beyond division toward practical, compassionate solutions.

Date
Aug 9th

Time
9:30-10:45 am

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

Moderator

Keisha Bross
Director, Center for Race and Justice, NAACP

Panelists

The Honorable Gwen Moore (WI-04)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Derrick T. Simmons
Mississippi State Senate, (MS-12)

The Honorable Errick D. Simmons
Mayor, City of Greenville

Emil Ramirez
Vice President, United Steelworkers

Kirk Lewis
Chairman, Blue Springs Metal, LLC

Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Gwen Moore (WI-04)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman Gwen Moore has served as a representative of Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District since 2005. Before her tenure in Congress, Moore served in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1989 to 1992 and in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1993 to 2003. She was also a housing officer with the Wisconsin Housing and Development Authority. Moore serves on the Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Economic Committee in Congress. On the Ways and Means Committee, she is a member of the Tax Subcommittee, working to create a more fair and progressive tax code that provides Americans greater opportunity and financial security.

The Honorable Derrick T. Simmons (MS-12)

Minority Leader, Mississippi State Senate

Derrick Terrell Simmons is a trial lawyer and the Minority Leader of the Mississippi Senate. He has served in the Senate representing the 12th district since 2011. He Was nationally recognized as NBCSL's Legislator of the Year in 2022 and twice as "Top 50 Mississippi." He received the W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Association of Social and Behavioral Sciences and recognized as a Mississippi Bar Foundation Fellow. Simmons currently serves on the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, the board of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, and the Mississippi Association of Justice. Senator Simmons is a proud life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and the NAACP.

The Honorable Errick Simmons, Esq.

Mayor, City of Greenville, Mississippi

Mayor Errick D. Simmons is a nationally respected municipal leader and global voice for equity and innovation. Elected in a historic landslide, he began his third term in 2024. A proud graduate of Jackson State and Howard University, Simmons has delivered over $3.2 billion in transformative investments to Greenville, including major energy, infrastructure, and economic equity projects. His leadership drew national attention in 2022 with a visit from Vice President Kamala Harris. He is a passionate advocate who serves in key leadership roles including Chair of the Southern Municipal Conference and Treasurer of the African American Mayors Association. He is a proud life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and the NAACP.

TUNICA MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Meet the Panelists

Moderator: Keisha Bross

Director, Center for Race and Justice, NAACP

Keisha Deonarine is a prominent figure in the field of social justice work and community advocacy. She is currently leading as Director of Opportunity, Race, and Justice at the NAACP, where she oversees the organization's national inclusive economy strategy. Keisha's work centers around driving transformative change with a racial equity lens, specifically aimed at advancing the progress of Black and Brown economy.

Emil Ramirez

Vice President, United Steelworkers

Emil Ramirez was appointed International Vice President (Administration) of the United Steelworkers (USW) on October 13, 2023. He previously served as District 11 Director for a decade, representing over 34,000 members across nine Midwestern states. A USW member since 1986, Ramirez has led negotiations across industries including steel, mining, rubber, and natural gas. He also chairs key bargaining committees and serves as Secretary of the USW's Container Industry Conference. Rising from shop steward to local president and later to International staff, Ramirez has spent nearly four decades advancing workers' rights and union leadership.

Kirk Lewis

Chairman, Blue Springs Metal, LLC

Mr. Kirk J. Lewis is the Chairman and President of Blue Springs Metals, LLC, Georgetown Metal Processing, LLC and Madison Metal Processing, LLC. Blue Springs Metals is a supplier of steel products to the Automotive and the Oil and Gas Industry. Blue Springs is headquartered in Northeast Mississippi and has annual sales of $160 million. Previously, Mr. Lewis served as Deputy Mayor/Chief of Staff for the City of Detroit, serving under Mayor Dave Bing.

TUNICA MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Panel Overview

Judicial Remedies as an Option

When legislative and executive paths fall short, the judiciary can offer critical avenues for change. This panel explores the role of judicial remedies in addressing social and policy challenges, including civil rights, access to services, and systemic reform. Panelists will discuss the strengths and limitations of legal action as a tool for advancing equity and justice.

Date
Aug 9th

Time
11:15-12:45 pm

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

Moderator

Charles Coleman, Esq.
Civil Rights Attorney and MSNBC Contributor

Panelists

The Honorable Hank Johnson (GA-04)
U.S. House of Representatives

Everett Kelley
President, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)

Regina Wallace Jones
President and CEO, ActBlue

Patrice Willoughby, Esq.
Chief of Policy and Legislative Affairs, NAACP

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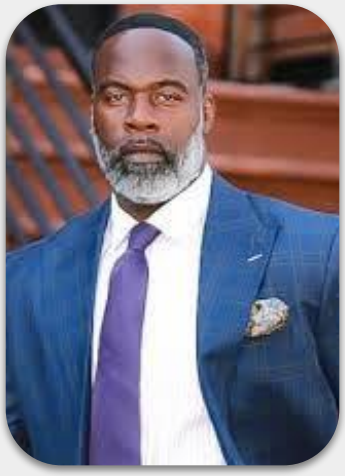
The Honorable Hank Johnson (GA-04)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Hank Johnson has represented Georgia's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2007. Johnson is a member of the Judiciary Committee. His Judiciary subcommittee assignments include Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet (ranking member); Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust; and Responsiveness and Accountability to Oversight. He also serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he is a member of the Aviation; Highways and Transit; Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials subcommittees.

Moderator: Charles Coleman, Esq.

Civil Rights Attorney and MSNBC Contributor



Charles F. Coleman Jr. is a seasoned civil rights attorney who specializes in EEO law, human resources solutions, and the support of diversity and inclusion efforts in the workforce. As a former Brooklyn, NY prosecutor turned civil litigator, Charles has extensive experience as a trial lawyer, and his courtroom acumen is matched only by his leadership abilities, which he displays through his community mobilization and civic activism efforts. Charles has appeared internationally on various media outlets as a legal and political analyst, writer, and orator. He has been branded as one of the brightest and most well-respected voices in conversations on law, civil rights, criminal justice, and other issues affecting communities of color.

Meet the Panelists

Everett Kelley
President, American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)

Everett Kelley is the national president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), the largest union representing federal and D.C. government employees, first assuming the role in 2020 and re-elected in 2022 and 2024. A dedicated AFGE member since 1981, he worked at Anniston Army Depot for 30 years, serving as president of AFGE Local 1945 from 2002 to 2011, where he more than doubled membership. A U.S. Army veteran from Goodwater, Alabama, he holds multiple theology degrees, including a doctorate, and taught at theological institutions. A former senior pastor for over three decades, He has received numerous awards, including the AFL-CIO's Eyes on the Prize Award and the Alabama AFL-CIO Labor Person of the Year. In 2022, President Biden appointed him to the Federal Salary Council.

Regina Wallace Jones
President and CEO, ActBlue

Regina Wallace-Jones, Vice Chairperson of the AACSA Board, is the CEO and President of ActBlue, a nonprofit digital fundraising platform for candidates, progressive organizations, and the small-dollar donors who support them. A dual-track career professional, Wallace-Jones brings a unique mix of experiences from the tech sector, public service, and the organizing community to her role. She has held executive leadership and positions at several leading tech companies and served as a city council member and mayor of East Palo Alto, CA.

Patrice Willoughby Esq.
Chief of Policy and Legislative Affairs, NAACP

Patrice Willoughby has over two decades of experience in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Executive Branch, and the private sector. She served as Chief of Staff to the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and later as Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, contributing to major legislative efforts including the Recovery Act, Dodd-Frank, and the Affordable Care Act. After her tenure on Capitol Hill, she served as an Obama Administration appointee General Services Administration. Patrice has earned numerous accolades, including Top Lobbyist honors and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Washington Government Relations Group.

Fireside Chat with Joy Reid

Date: Saturday, August 9th, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Gold Strike Hotel, Live Oak Ballroom

Joy Reid in conversation with Angela Rye

Joy-Ann Reid

Host, The Joy Reid Show

Joy-Ann Reid is an award winning journalist, and the host of *The Joy Reid Show*. She previously hosted MSNBC's *The ReidOut,* making history as the first Black woman to anchor a primetime cable news show. Known for her sharp political analysis, she is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Medgar & Myrlie* and *The Man Who Sold America*. Reid has been honored with NAACP Image Awards, taught at Syracuse and Howard University, and is widely recognized for her powerful commentary at the intersection of race, politics, and culture.

Panel Overview

The Congressional Members' Forum

Moderator

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Former United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Panelists

The Honorable Sanford Bishop (GA-02)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Troy Carter (LA-02)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver II (MO-05)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable James Clyburn (SC-06)
Co-Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Assistant Democratic Leader Emerita

The Honorable Hank Johnson (GA-04)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Gwen Moore (W-04)
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Bobby Scott, (VA-03)
Ranking Member, House Committee on Education & the Workforce

Date
Aug 9th

Time
3:30-5:00 pm

Location
Gold Strike Theatre

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Meet the Panelists

Moderator: The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge

Former United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Secretary Marcia L. Fudge was the 18th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Throughout her career, Secretary Fudge has worked to help low-income families, seniors, and communities across the country. Secretary Fudge served as U.S. Representative for the 11th Congressional District of Ohio from 2008 to March 9, 2021. She was a member of several Congressional Caucuses and past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. As a Member of Congress, Secretary Fudge earned a reputation for tackling the unique challenges of her district by working with her Congressional delegation and across political ideologies.

The Honorable Sanford Bishop (GA-02)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. is the Ranking Member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. In addition, he serves on the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee and on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. He has represented the Second Congressional District of Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1993.

The Honorable Troy Carter (LA-02)

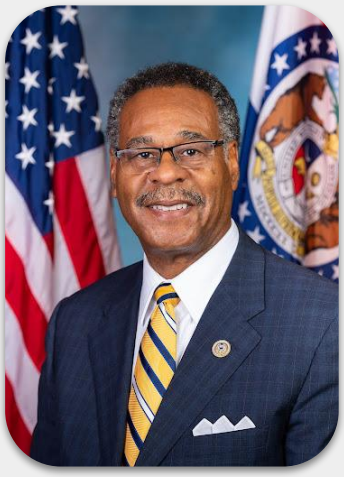
U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Troy A. Carter represents Louisiana's 2nd District, including New Orleans and the River Parishes. Now in his third term, he serves on the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Homeland Security, and holds leadership roles as Deputy Whip, 1st Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and member of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. A former New Orleans City Councilmember and State Senate Minority Leader, Carter has long championed civil rights, healthcare, and infrastructure. He holds degrees from Xavier University and the University of Holy Cross, teaches at Xavier, and is married to Major General Ana Carter, with whom he has two sons.

Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-05)

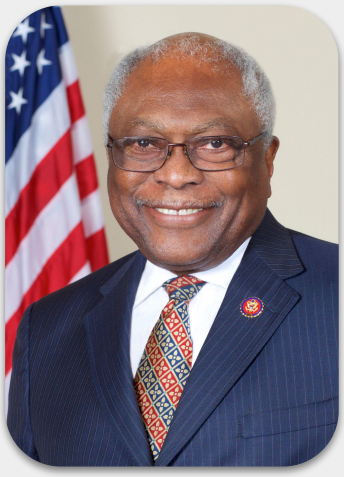
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance



Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II is serving his eleventh term representing Missouri's Fifth District. A senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, he serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance. Formerly Kansas City's first Black mayor, Cleaver led major redevelopment efforts and has remained focused on housing and economic development in Congress. He co-authored the bipartisan Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act, helped pass Dodd-Frank, and led COVID-era housing relief efforts.

The Honorable James Clyburn (SC-06)

Co-Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute
Assistant Democratic Leader Emerita



James E. Clyburn is the U.S. Congressman representing South Carolina's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and Chairman of the Democratic Faith Working Group. He previously served as Assistant Democratic Leader from 2011 to 2018 and 2023 to March 2024, and House Majority Whip from 2019 to 2022 and 2007 to 2010, making him the first African American to serve multiple terms as Majority Whip. A native son of South Carolina, Clyburn has represented the state's Sixth Congressional District since 1993.

The Honorable Hank Johnson (GA-04)

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet

Congressman Hank Johnson has represented Georgia's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2007. Johnson is a member of the Judiciary Committee. His Judiciary subcommittee assignments include Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence and the Internet (ranking member); Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust; and Responsiveness and Accountability to Oversight. He also serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he is a member of the Aviation; Highways and Transit; Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials subcommittees.

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Meet the Panelists

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson (MS-02)

Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Institute,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson represents Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District and is the longest-serving African-American elected official in the state. A deeply committed public servant, Rep. Thompson is widely respected for his decades of leadership on homeland security, civil rights, and rural economic development. As the former Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security and an anchoring voice on the January 6th Select Committee, his commitment to truth and accountability has been unwavering.

The Honorable Gwen Moore (WI-04)

U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman Gwen Moore has served as a representative of Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District since 2005. Before her tenure in Congress, Moore served in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 1989 to 1992 and in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1993 to 2003. She was also a housing officer with the Wisconsin Housing and Development Authority. Moore serves on the Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Economic Committee in Congress. On the Ways and Means Committee, she is a member of the Tax Subcommittee, working to create a more fair and progressive tax code that provides Americans greater opportunity and financial security.

The Honorable Bobby Scott, (VA-03)

Ranking Member, House Committee on
Education & the Workforce

Congressman Robert C. Bobby Scott has represented Virginia's third congressional district since 1993. As the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia since Reconstruction and the first American of Filipino ancestry to serve as a voting member, Scott has championed equity in education, labor rights, healthcare access, and criminal justice reform. A Harvard and Boston College Law School graduate, he practiced law in Newport News, founded a legal aid center, and served in the National Guard and Army Reserve. In Congress, he has held leadership roles on the Education and Workforce Committee and the Budget Committee, spearheaded pandemic relief through the American Rescue Plan, and authored historic legislation.

Mississippi Policy Conference
AGENDA

Thursday, August 7, 2025

12 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **Conference Registration**
Laurel Lounge, Horseshoe Hotel

Members will be arriving and checking in.

Friday, August 8, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Conference Registration**
Laurel Lounge – Horseshoe Hotel
Participants can check in, collect materials, and connect with fellow attendees at the Laurel Lounge in the Horseshoe Hotel.

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **Policy Panel:**
Title: State of Emergency: Public/Private Response
Explore how public and private sectors have collaborated in times of crisis and what this means for future emergency preparedness and response.

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Policy Panel:**
Title: Lessons Learned from 2024 & the Art of the Pivot
Reflect on the challenges and key takeaways from 2024, highlighting strategies that enabled leaders to pivot and adapt effectively.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **BREAK**
A short intermission for refreshments and networking.

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Policy Panel:**
Title: Resilient Cities, Powered by Waste: Communities, Innovation and Clean Energy Policy
Discuss innovative approaches to sustainability and clean energy, focusing on how waste-to-energy initiatives are shaping resilient urban communities.

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch**
Enjoy a midday meal while networking with fellow attendees.

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Policy Panel:**
Title: Education for All

Dive into pressing issues in education equity, access, and reform, with insights from policymakers and advocates.

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Dinner**

Saturday, August 9, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Conference Registration**

Participants can check in, collect materials, and connect with fellow attendees at the Laurel Lounge in the Horseshoe Hotel.

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **Policy Panel:**

Title: The Impact of Abusive Immigration Policy

This panel examines how harsh immigration policies affect families, communities, and the broader American social and economic landscape.

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Policy Panel:**

Title: Tariffs, Taxes, and Cuts: America 2025

Dive into the projected economic outlook for 2025, with a focus on how evolving tax policy, budget cuts, and tariffs are shaping national priorities.

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **BREAK**

A short break for rest and informal connection.

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Policy Panel:**

Title: All Roads Lead to the Courts: AGs in states

Explore the growing influence of state Attorneys General in shaping national policy through litigation and legal action.

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch w/Speaker**

Enjoy lunch while hearing from a featured speaker who brings insight and inspiration to the day's discussions.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **The Congressional Members' Forum**

Join members of Congress for a candid, solution-driven conversation about key issues facing the nation and the role of federal leadership.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Closing Dinner**

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Members will be departing and checking out.