

# NAACP WEEKLY NEWS RECAP



**Red Cross:** [NAACP Board Chairman Leon Russell Champions Change for Sickle Cell Patients](#)

Leon Russell still remembers those four-hour drives from his small hometown to the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville during the late 1950s and early 60s. His brother Amos was having another sickle cell crisis, and getting care meant navigating segregated facilities—carefully planning where a Black family in crisis would be welcome.

**TheGrio:** [Trump photographed with young Republicans who called Black people monkeys, joked about watching people 'burn'](#)

As theGrio previously reported, Black leaders, including NAACP President [Derrick Johnson](#) and Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman and U.S. Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, [slammed the shocking text messages leaked from a group chat](#) among young Republican leaders from New York, Kansas, Arizona, and Vermont.

**AdWeek:** [Beyond Efficiency: How AI is Rewriting the Rules of Brand Strategy](#)

The panelists agreed the industry is still in a state of experimentation, as it tests and learns what the tools can do. “AI, in some ways, is the new Blackberry,” said Aba Blankson, chief marketing and communications officer of the NAACP. “We’re playing with it, in some ways. Every day you say, ‘What can I ask this thing? What can I do with this thing?’”

**WKTV:** [NAACP Rome Branch Hosts Local Election Candidates](#)

The Rome branch of the NAACP is hosting a “Meet the Candidates” event on Monday night. The event seeks to inform the public about the candidates and their platforms.

**Capital B Atlanta:** [Voter Engagement Groups Stepping Up as New Georgia Project Shuts Down](#)

Black voter engagement is “stronger than it’s ever been,” according to Georgia NAACP President Gerald Griggs, who said it’s misleading to compare 2024 turnout to the levels it reached in 2020 during the pandemic, which [boosted mail-in voting](#).

**Port City Daily:** [New Hanover NAACP hosts ‘Souls to the Polls’ ahead of municipal elections](#)

This weekend one local organization is encouraging people to get out and vote early in the Wilmington municipal election. The NAACP of New Hanover County continues its election season Souls to the Polls event on Saturday, Oct. 26, 1 p.m.

**The National Law Review:** [Florida State Conference of the NAACP Joins Dental Advocacy Coalition to Address Florida's Oral Health Crisis](#)

“The NAACP believes everyone has a right to good health, and we are committed to ending racial health disparities,” stated Donald Hart, president of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP. “We disrupt the status quo by working at the intersection of policy and systems change to drive sustainable impact for all.”

**WCTV:** [‘Tallahassee WAKE UP’: NAACP opposes FSU-TMH merger, country club](#)

### [golf course sale](#)

The Tallahassee branch of the NAACP has officially denounced the Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Florida State University merger, along with the sale of the country club golf course.

### **USA Today Network:** [NAACP salutes NY education commissioner Betty Rosa for championing East Ramapo kids](#)

New York State Commissioner Betty Rosa was given the President's Award of Excellence during the Spring Valley NAACP's 70th Freedom Fund celebration at the Crowne Plaza on Sunday, Oct. 19.

### **Loudoun Times-Mirror:** [Youngkin petitions Virginia Supreme Court amid NAACP's challenge over voting rights restorations](#)

Bailey, of the NAACP, emphasized that as his organization engages in the legal process, he remains hopeful that more Virginians will eventually be able to engage in the democratic one.

### **Virginia Mercury:** [Youngkin petitions Virginia Supreme Court amid NAACP's challenge over voting rights restorations](#)

The NAACP had filed FOIA requests in 2023 to learn more about the restoration process under Youngkin's watch, citing a lack of transparency as their key concern.

### **Second Wave Media:** ['The Fierce Urgency of NOW': Battle Creek NAACP Hosts 90th Freedom Fund Dinner to inspire action](#)

The NAACP Battle Creek 90th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner will bring community leaders together to celebrate civil rights achievements, honor local heroes, and inspire immediate action on today's most pressing social justice issues.

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## **NAACP NEWS AND UPDATES**

- [NAACP Announces Newly Elected State Conference Presidents to Strengthen the Fight to Defend Democracy Across the Country](#)
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## NEW YORK FIGHTS FORWARD RALLY



Following New York Attorney General Letitia James' plea of "Not Guilty," the NAACP will hold a rally featuring leaders and advocates from across New York to push back against the weaponization of the federal government. Join the **NAACP New York State Conference** and partners for the **New York Fights Forward Rally** as we defend Attorney General James, our communities, and our democracy.

### Event Detail:



**When:** Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 3 p.m. ET



**Location:** First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, 450 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11225



**Subway:** 2/3/4/5 to Franklin Av–Medgar Evers

**RSVP**

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## TRAIN, EQUIP, PROTECT!



Empower yourself to support voters this election season! In this [interactive webinar](#), you'll learn voter-rights essentials, tackle ID and registration issues, master vote-by-mail and ballot curing, and more. From accessibility to disinformation response, we'll equip you with the tools and strategies to make a real impact.

Don't wait. Our time is now! Discover hotline protocols, checklists, and GOTV alignment, and learn how to join or strengthen state and county election protection efforts. Together, we can ensure every vote counts this year and beyond.



**When:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 | 8 p.m. ET



**Where:** Zoom

**RSVP**

# THE PEOPLE'S PARTY

PRESENTED BY **THE PEOPLE'S PARTY** LOS ANGELES  
**CIVICS IS SEXY** + **NAACP** *A Festival of Art + Action*



A two-day fusion of film, art, and music, advancing civic learning and action – allied with a united front of justice and media organizations.

SEE FULL PROGRAM AND GET TIX AT [PEOPLES PARTY.LA](https://PEOPLES PARTY.LA)

ATTENDING ORGS: **HOppy POPpy FOUNDATION**, **NAACP**, **SIERRA CLUB**, **LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**, **HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES**, **GOLD HOUSE**, **CAUSE**, **STREETLIGHTS**, **AAM**, **EICOP**, **MANAA**, **nhmc**, **CALIFORNIA Film Commission**

SPONSORS: **WME**, **MPAC**

**Nov 1 – 2** **NAACP Hollywood Bureau**  
**Saturday & Sunday** 5757 Wilshire Blvd, LA 90036  
Same building as SAG

Co-presented by the NAACP and Civics Is Sexy, [The People's Party](#) is a powerful two-day festival that fuses art, culture, and civic purpose.

Through film, music, and storytelling, it makes civic knowledge accessible, engaging, and actionable, amplifying the NAACP's enduring commitment to equity, political rights, and social inclusion.

Together, we're building a cultural movement that inspires participation, advances justice, and reminds us that democracy thrives when everyone has the tools and the creativity to take part.

Early Bird discounts are available now! Learn more and register today.

[RSVP](#)

## BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT: THE HEALTH EQUITY ENGINE

NAACP | sanofi | AFROTECH™

# BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT: THE HEALTH EQUITY ENGINE

**DERRICK JOHNSON**  
President & CEO, NAACP

**DR. CHRIS PERNELL**  
Director, Center for Health Equity

**DR. CRAIG WATKINS**  
Ernest A. Sharpe Centennial Professor and Executive Director of the IC2 Institute, University of Texas at Austin

**ASHLEE WISDOM**  
Founder and CEO, Health In Her Hue

**TANISHA SULLIVAN, J.D., M.B.A.**  
Head, External Engagement & Health Equity Strategy, Sanofi

**DR. CHRIS GIBBONS**  
CEO, The Greystone Group, Inc.

**DR. CHETAN KARYEKAR**  
Global Medical Head, Next Gen Immunology, Sanofi

**DR. TONY PRICE JR.**  
Senior Fellow, Center for Health Equity, NAACP

Technology is rapidly transforming healthcare, and everyone should benefit. This isn't just about code – it's about power, access, and ensuring AI helps us remove barriers in health. Come learn how to innovate and lead, not just to keep pace.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 28TH | RECEPTION 6PM | PROGRAM 7PM**  
Marriot Marquis Houston | Houston Ballroom, Salon 4 | 1777 Walker St. | Houston, TX 77010

**RSVP AT NAACP.ORG/EVENTS**

Explore the future of health equity with the NAACP, Sanofi, and AfroTech™. Join us for this deep dive into the connection between health equity, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML).

Highlights include a Power Hour Reception, an exclusive preview of the ACE Your Health AI Task Force White Paper, and a “Ask A Doc” segment featuring lead author of the White Paper, Dr. Craig Watkins, Dr. Chris Gibbons (The Greystone Group), and Ashlee Wisdom (Health In Her Hue). Don't miss this opportunity to learn, lead, and shape the future of healthcare.

**Event Details:**



**When:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 | 6-8:30 p.m. CT | Power Hour Reception starts at 6 p.m. CT. | Program begins at 7 p.m. CT



**\*New Location:** Marriott Marquis Houston, Houston Ballroom Salon 4, 1777 Walker St., Houston, TX 77010



[View our list of speakers](#)

**RSVP**

**NO HEALTHCARE. NO VOTE.**

**Our Health is**  
**NON-NEGOTIABLE**

**Tell Congress:**  
**NO healthcare. NO vote.**

**NAACP.**

**NAACP.ORG**

While the federal government remains shut down, the health and well-being of millions of Americans hang in the balance. Let us be clear: Healthy people = a healthy country.

There can be no funding that doesn't protect healthcare.

**We're calling on Congress to:**

 Pass a funding bill that protects affordable healthcare for ALL Americans.

 Reopen the government ASAP.

Join us in urging lawmakers to put the well-being of the American people first.

**Take Action**

**NAACP**

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