

THE GREENSBORO TIMES

Greensboro, North Carolina

July 2026

Free
Vol.2 No.73

The African American Voice - "Setting the Record Straight"

www.greensborotimesnews.com

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The Greensboro Times

Bob McAdoo
to receive Civil
Rights Museum
Trailblazer Award



GREENSBORO, N.C. — The National Basketball Association Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo will be honored as this year's Trailblazer by the International Civil Rights Center & Museum during its Annual Gala on July 18, 2026. The award recognizes persons who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to social progress by opening doors to minorities for new opportunities for success. The event is dedicated to raising crucial funds for the

Bob McAdoo - page - 4

Governor Josh Stein signs \$34Billion North Carolina budget with pay raises, lower taxes

Christine Zhu
Tue, July 7, 2026 at 2:07 PM EDT



North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein signs a historic \$34 billion budget on July 7, 2026. (Photo: Christine Zhu/NC Newsline)

Gov. Josh Stein signed a historic \$34 billion state budget Tuesday, July 7, enacting North Carolina's first comprehensive spending plan

since 2023.

Republican legislative leaders sent the long-overdue budget to Stein last week after more than a year of ne-

gotiations over items like income tax and teacher raises. The delay meant state agencies were running on budget levels approved nearly three years

NC \$34 Billion Budget - page 8

The Black woman on the train did not look away. How much longer will we?

Errin Haines
Mon, July 6, 2026 at 11:11



Black Woman Surrounded by White
Nationalists on D.C. Train Is Being
Called a Defining Image of America

This column first appeared in The Amendment, a newsletter by Errin Haines, The 19th's

editor-at-large.

It is an arresting image: On the Fourth of July, a lone, young Black wom-

an sits on a train filled with White nationalists headed to commemorate America's 250th birthday

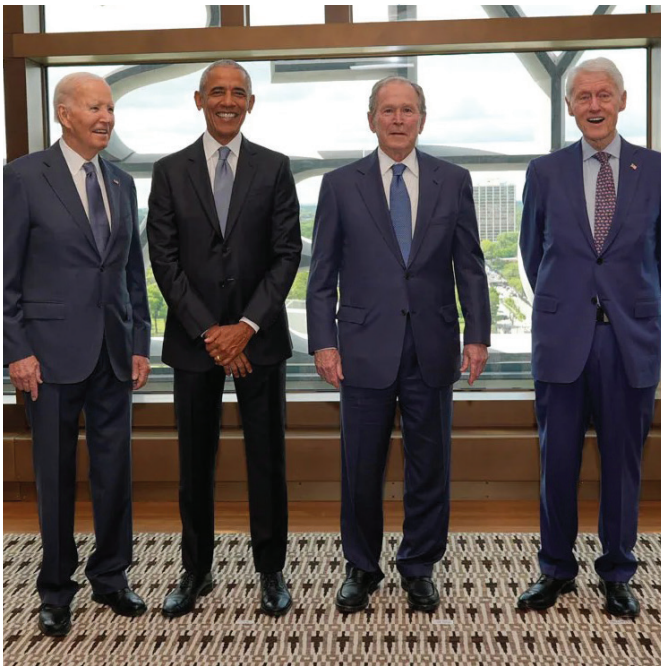
The Black woman on the train - page - 4

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NEWS
NOTES

A home for hope': Obama Presidential Center christened in grand opening ceremony

by Aidan Klineman and Medill Illinois News Bureau June 18, 2026 in Government



Former President Joe Biden, from left, former President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton, pose for a photo ahead of the dedication ceremony at the Obama Presidential Center, Thursday, June 18, 2026, in Chicago. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, Pool)



Former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama are introduced during the dedication ceremony for the Obama Presidential Center, Thursday, June 18, 2026, in Chicago. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

CHICAGO — Almost 250 years to the day of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, former President Barack Obama, the 44th and first African American president, officially opened his Obama Presidential Center before a star-studded crowd of supporters on the South Side of Chicago, where he launched his career.

With a good deal more grey hair than when he left the presidency almost a decade ago, Obama stood before thousands gathered in Chicago's Jackson Park to watch onscreen and hundreds of invited guests on the campus grounds to open his namesake Obama Presidential Center.

Underlying presentations and remarks throughout the hours-long ceremony at the center, which opens to the public Friday, were ideals set forth in our nation's founding document, Obama said, noting displays in the new museum would pay homage to the many chapters of American history and showcase the work of civil rights leaders.

"The story we tell in this building begins not with Michelle's origins or my origins, but with our nation's," Obama said. "With a founding era print of the Declaration of Independence, and a pen and inkstand used by Frederick Douglass. Lincoln's Bible and a pamphlet by Ida B. Wells. Suffragist button, and a hard hat worn by FDR's Labor Secretary Frances Perkins."

"The exhibits here focus not just on policies, but on the shared values that make democracy possible," Obama said.

The ceremony began with a performance by hip-hop band The Roots, followed by an introduc-

tion of distinguished guests. Former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and former Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj came to the stage first.

Special Guests included former President Joe Biden, former President George W. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton and former Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, the former presidents' first ladies. Also present on stage, the Obamas, their daughters, Sasha and Malia, who spent part of their childhood growing up in the public eye in the White House.

Additional VIP guests included Obama administration officials, former Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and former Attorney General Eric Holder, and a number of celebrities from the arts and entertainment world, including Stephen Colbert, Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg, David Letterman, Tom Hanks and Mark Hamill.

Notably absent from the ceremony was President Donald Trump, whom the Obama Foundation did not invite. Then-President Obama attended the dedication of the most recent presidential center to open, that of President George W. Bush, in 2013. Bush has become a friend of the Obamas, underscoring a once more bipartisan era.

CEO Valerie Jarrett and Chairman of the Board of Directors Marty Nesbitt, gave opening remarks. Jarrett, a longtime friend and advisor to the Obamas, spoke of the significance of housing the campus on Chicago's South Side and its inclusive vision.

"This center may be named for the Obamas, but it is built for you," Jarrett said.

Nesbitt donned a tan suit during his remarks, which he pointed out in reference to the now-infamous "tan suit controversy," in which the former president was criticized by opponents for wearing the color at a 2014 news conference.

Performances by local and superstar artists sprinkled the proceedings. Jennifer Hudson, Christina Aguilera, John Legend, Common, U2's Bono & The Edge, Marc Anthony, Tems, Eddie Vedder, Stevie Wonder and Bruce Springsteen were among the performers that had the crowd on their feet with moving music that often evoked the signature calls to hope of the Obamas.

Nearly two hours into the ceremony, First Lady Michelle Obama and President Obama delivered final remarks.

At the start of her speech, the former First Lady promised to "fully sing" her husband's praises. She reflected on her marriage, her family's roots in Chicago and lauded the accomplishments of her husband's administration.

"How absurd it is to imagine that you would have done anything but make our family and this country proud," Obama said, as her husband held back tears.

The former first lady, who grew up on the South Side, went on to applaud the historic contributions of working people and immigrant communities to democracy and appeared to push back on anti-immigrant sentiment, invoking language from the Declaration of Independence.

NAACP Launches Historic \$20M Campaign to Mobilize Black Voters For Midterms

The NAACP's largest-ever midterm investment aims to boost Black voter turnout in key states through organizing ahead of November's elections.

by Phenix S. Halley, July 8, 2026



SELMA, AL – NOVEMBER 01: College students on the NAACP's "Vote Hard" bus tour encourage people to vote in the George Washington Carver Homes housing project next to the historic Brown Chapel AME Church November 1, 2008 in Selma, Alabama. (Photo by Mario Tama/Getty Images)

The NAACP is making the largest midterm election investment in its 117-year history, unveiling a \$20 million voter mobilization campaign aimed at reaching millions of Black voters before the November elections.

The "Get Out The Vote" campaign marks a historic amount of spending for the organization during a non-presidential election year. NAACP leaders say the campaign aims to strengthen voter participation in communities disproportionately impacted by changes to voting laws and congressional maps following court decisions limiting provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Derrick Johnson, President & CEO of the NAACP, said in a statement, "We're launching this campaign on our nation's 250th anniversary — and investing more than we've ever invested in a midterm cycle — because this is a pivotal moment for our democracy." He continued, "The future of this country needs to finally serve the people, and not the wealthy at the top who couldn't care less about those who actually built this nation with blood, sweat, and tears."

The campaign will recruit 20,000 volunteers and target 6.5 million Black voters across 14 states and 33 congressional districts, according to the civil rights organization's an-

nouncement this week. The effort comes as the NAACP continues legal challenges to election policies it says have weakened voting rights and minority political representation.

The effort also coincides with the nation's 250th anniversary, which the NAACP said offers an opportunity to reflect on the country's democratic ideals and to encourage civic participation ahead of a pivotal election.

"America's 250th birthday comes at a dark time in our history, when hard-fought victories like the Voting Rights Act are being attacked, especially in the South," Dominik Whitehead, the NAACP's Chief of Field, Membership Growth and Unit Sustainability, wrote in a statement to *The Root*.

"When our community stands together, we have the capacity to change the course of history. We've taken on white nationalists, corporate overlords, and powerful interests, and we've won. I have no doubt we'll do it again," he continued.

The NAACP began laying the groundwork for the effort over a year ago, hosting town halls in states like Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, Wisconsin, California, Ohio and New Jersey. Those events focused on voter engagement and organizing ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

"By turning out the vote, we can

all help put an end to [President] Donald Trump's assaults on our communities and the rights we've secured through immense struggle, and begin to build a future that actually serves our needs — from having accessible healthcare, affordable housing, and getting a good education," Whitehead told us.

The organization has filed lawsuits over executive orders affecting elections and redistricting plans in states, including Tennessee, Missouri and Texas. It also recently announced a federal court ruling blocking implementation of a U.S. Postal Service policy tied to a Trump administration executive order on mail-in voting, according to the Legal Defense Fund.

The voter turnout effort will focus on registration, canvassing, community events and voter education through Election Day. The NAACP said it also plans to continue advocating for expanded voting access and policies addressing healthcare, education, housing and economic opportunity.

Whitehead continued, "We've got to vote in November, every single one of us. Together, we can put an end to these rollbacks and start building a future that actually serves all of us — not just the grifters at the very top."

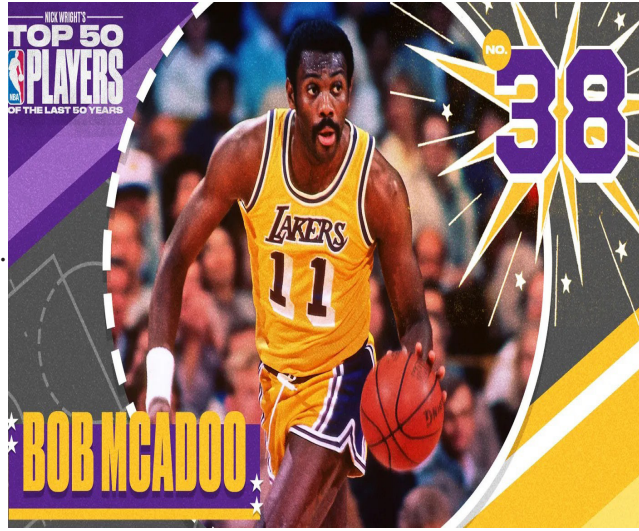
Bob McAdoo to receive Trailblazer Award from page 1

Museum's ongoing mission to promote civil and human rights.

The occasion, which has been scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. this year to accommodate major cultural performances later in the day, commemorates the historic Greensboro Sit-Ins, which began on Feb. 1, 1960. It is timed to mark the successful racial integration of the F.W. Woolworth's lunch counter on July 25, 1960, six months later. This year's program promises to be a momentous occasion, celebrating the remarkable contributions of McAdoo and other honorees to the ever-urgent cause of civil rights.

Bob McAdoo stands out as a Greensboro native son whose extraordinary journey from the hallways of Ben L. Smith High School to the pinnacle of professional basketball represents the very best of what determination, discipline, and striving for excellence can achieve. Like the principles that distinguished the civil rights movement itself, these qualities can render extraordinary success. Born on September 25, 1951, McAdoo came of age in Greensboro during one of the most transformative periods in American history. Not only was the game of basketball advanced during these years, but so was the social landscape of a city that sat at the very epicenter of the American Civil Rights Movement. And, in turn, McAdoo was shaped by these changes. The resilience and courage he witnessed in his hometown instilled in him a lifelong commitment to breaking barriers against equality

wherever he found them.



After his standout years in High School, McAdoo took his talents to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he starred under legendary coach Dean Smith. The professional career that followed for him was nothing short of historic. Selected by the Buffalo Braves in the 1972 NBA Draft, McAdoo quickly established himself as one of the most dominant forces the game had ever seen — earning three consecutive NBA scoring titles in 1974, 1975, and 1976, along with the NBA Most Valuable Player Award in 1975, and five NBA All-Star selections. He later captured back-to-back NBA Championships with the Los Angeles Lakers in 1982 and 1985, before taking his extraordinary talents to Europe, where he became one of the first American NBA stars to elevate the international game and open doors for generations of players who followed. In 2000, McAdoo received basketball's highest honor as he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Yet what makes Bob McAdoo the fitting recipient of the Civil Rights Trailblazer's Award extends far beyond his championships and accolades. He competed at the highest levels during an era when racial barriers in professional sports were still very much present, carrying the pride of Greensboro — a city synonymous with intrepid civil rights courage — on his shoulders throughout a legendary career. He integrated himself into spaces that were not always welcoming, excelled on the world's most coveted stages, and consistently demonstrated that talent and character know no racial color. His decades of mentorship, community engagement, and service to young athletes reflect a man who has never forgotten where he came from or the responsibility that comes with the high platform on which he stands.

"Bob McAdoo is one of Greensboro's greatest sons, and his story is inseparable from the story of this city and its enduring spirit of courage and excellence," said Hurley Derickson, a personal friend who was a high school basketball teammate with McAdoo and who has been a member of the Board of Directors of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum since it was founded. "To honor him here, in the city that shaped him, at the museum that stands on the ground where history was made, is a profoundly meaningful moment for our entire community. It is our privilege to celebrate his remarkable life and legacy at this year's Gala."

The Black Woman on a train - from page 1

in our nation's capital.

Her thousand-yard stare is one of dignified terror. It is a moment forced upon her, in a democracy still reckoning with its contradictions about who gets to belong, where patriotism and freedom are perverted and how a Black woman becomes an unwitting and unwilling passenger amid a sea of mostly white men.

Their identities are not known, but the fear the image evokes is familiar. A crowd of faces, sitting and standing, intentionally unseen behind sunglasses and scarves. And then, in their midst, a single face exposed: brown, female, eyes fixed in the direction of the camera. In this photograph, what was meant to intimidate became insight.

The men are masked. She is not.

Once again, a Black woman was captured in a moment where she must confront the worst of America with composure and become the mirror that shows the distance between who we are and who we say we are — or who we want to be — as a country.

We do not yet know the name or age of the woman in the visceral and now viral photograph taken Satur-

day by Reuters photographer Cheney Orr. But we know the look on her face.

We saw it on the face of 15-year-old Elizabeth Eckford as she calmly walked to class amid a racist, screaming mob en route to her first day at Little Rock High School on September 4, 1957. We saw it on the face of 23-year-old Diane Nash, one of the courageous Freedom Riders who did not know whether she would return home when she set out with other members of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee as leader of the 1960 Nashville sit-ins.

And now it has happened again. I do not need to know who she is to know who she is.

This was a young woman who was just trying to get to her destination: maybe running an errand, heading to work or going home after her shift. Maybe she was going nowhere in particular. She does not need a reason to be on the train; she is simply existing.

But then the train stops and the men boarding do have a reason for being there. We know them, too.

The men on the train were part

of Patriot Front, a white nationalist group formed in the aftermath of the deadly 2017 "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where masked white men carried tiki torches and marched in opposition to the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. The group has promoted the "great replacement theory" and on Saturday, hundreds of their members descended on Washington, chanting "Reclaim America!" and waving Confederate flags on the country's 250th anniversary.

The Black woman on the train was not physically harmed that day. But the specter of harm was present — and recognizable not only to her, but to many Black women. For them, at the least, such encounters are just another microaggression of the day; at worst, they can result in actual harm.

as a Black woman, you're just hoping to survive the moment — and hoping there isn't a next time. But there is always a next time, because to be a Black woman in America is to know that the indignity and inequality that come with racism and sexism are the train that is never late.

Attorney for Mississippi teen’s family recounts ‘altercation’ on boat

EMILY SHAPIRO, DEENA ZARU and SABINA GHE-BREMEDHIN
Thu, July 9, 2026 at 10:37 AM EDT



Attorney Ben Crump



Nolan Wells



Nolan Xavier Wells, an 18 year old student-athlete from Ocean Springs, Mississippi, went missing during a July 4th holiday trip with friends to Horn Island.

The family of Mississippi teen Nolan Xavier Wells will conduct an independent autopsy following the 18-year-old’s mysterious death, according to attorney Ben Crump, who revealed new details about what he says unfolded on the day Wells vanished.

“He was a good kid. He was beloved. He was a college athlete. He had everything going for him. And so to go on that island ... and then not to come back is what is concerning,” Crump told ABC News’ Linsey Davis.

Wells went missing on the 4th of July after going on a boat trip with his high school friends to the popular, undeveloped Horn Island, just south of Ocean Springs, Mississippi,

according to officials and Crump. The location is accessible only by private boat and doesn’t have facilities, drinking water or staff.

“[The friends] left [Horn Island] and went back without Nolan,” Jackson County Sheriff John Ledbetter said. “From what we understand, he chose to stay there.”

A body believed to be Wells was recovered Monday, officials said.

Authorities said they believe Wells drowned and don’t suspect foul play, but the sheriff’s office stressed Wednesday that investigators are “working diligently to determine exactly what occurred.”

Crump said investigators “continue to tell the family that ‘We don’t see any evidence of any foul play,’

even though you have students who recorded an altercation while they were on the boats.” Crump described the altercation as “Nolan and somebody yelling at one another on the boat.”

According to Crump, Wells’ friends took the teen’s phone with them when they left Horn Island. Crump said when Wells’ family got his phone back, messages had been deleted.

Crump also said Wells’ father described the 18-year-old college football player as “an elite athlete.”

“He said that his son could swim. And so, they’re just not accepting that Nolan drowned accidentally,” Crump said.



Courtesy of the Wells Family - PHOTO:



Byron Allen



Ocean Springs School District high school PHOTO: Nolan Wells

Days after a GoFundMe was launched to support 18-year-old Nolan Wells’ family with funeral costs and to ease their financial burden, Byron Allen has made a large donation to the fundraiser, helping raise even more awareness about the teen’s death.

On Saturday (July 11), Allen donated \$100,000 to the fundraiser, joining other notable donors, including comedian Lil Rel Howrey, Auburn football quarterback Deuce Knight and others. When theGrio first reported on the fundraiser on Monday, donations at the time had crossed over \$100,000 and counting. Allen’s donation initially took the

family’s GoFundMe across its goal of more than \$500,000.

The donation comes hours after a Friday news conference where civil rights attorney Ben Crump and the Rev. Al Sharpton flanked Wells’ mother and father in updating those in attendance about who had come forth to aid them in their quest for accountability regarding their son’s death. Wells’ missing body was found on Horn Island in Mississippi on Monday, two days after he was reported missing following a boat outing with friends.

At the news conference, Crump said that Colin Kaepernick would pay for an independent autopsy for

Wells and that film and television mogul Tyler Perry would cover the funeral costs. Sharpton will officiate Wells’ funeral service.

“We just want to know what happened and why our baby didn’t come home,” Christine Wonsley said during the news conference.

The teen, who was a football player at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Mississippi, would have turned 19 next month. He hoped to one day transfer to a high-level Division 1 program and potentially reach the NFL.

By Brandon Caldwell
Jul 11, 2026

*The
Greensboro Times
Newspaper*

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The Shout-Out Line

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Good afternoon, well, well, our president, oh sorry, I mean, their president, you know, those who don't know a con job when they see one. He can't get anything right. Wouldn't you know it. The Great American State Fair that occurred in Washington, DC during the week of the 4th of July, celebrating America's 250th Anniversary was a big flop, thanks to homeboy man child in the White House. The event was held from June 25 to July 10. The North Carolina booth drew controversy when a Confederate flag appeared in a video display. To his credit, Governor Josh Stein issued a statement condemning the display. The booth was operated by private companies and was not affiliated with North Carolina government officials. One of the companies affiliated with the booth withdrew from the event. You know the event wasn't to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary. It was of the egotistical dictator want a be President. You know, if you lay down with dogs you get up with fleas.

Shout-Out

What up, G-times, my brothers and sisters, listen up, Once we know who we are and our legacy as a people from the dawn of time, we walk different we talk different we eat different we treat each other different and we live different. Knowledge of self is powerful and builds confidence. Don't forget that.

Shout-Out

Hello, last month Winston Salem City Council approved a temporary curfew for teenagers. The curfew prohibits teens 17 or under from being in public from 10pm to 6am unless they are with their parents. There are exceptions such as coming to work or attending school activities. The curfew may be a way of trying to resolve teen criminal behavior, but studies have shown that they don't work and have a limited impact on crime as most crimes occur during the day. Curfews may push problems to other times or locations rather than eliminating them, and it can create distrust between law enforcement and youth, leading to more confrontations. Curfews are hard to enforce, making them largely symbolic. But U.S. juvenile curfews are ineffective at reducing crime and victimization, according to a review summarizing the findings of 12 studies that was published in 2016 by the Campbell Collaboration, an international social science research network. The review also found a slight increase in crime during curfew hours and no effect on non-curfew hours. The Winston Salem City Council should be commended for their effort to curb youth crime and violence in their city, and I hope for the best. The effort is worth it since the curfew is temporary. Once the results are in they will be in a better position to maintain the curfew or end it.

Shout-Out

Good morning, G-times, well the Iran War is beginning to drive gas prices and groceries up again with the Strait of Hormuz remaining close despite the best effort of our incompetent President and his amateur unqualified Cabinet advisors or I should say, yes Men. The bombs keep dropping, Trump's bullying and threatening a constant drumbeat and his lies keep babbling from his mouth and the Strait of Hormuz is still closed. If the American people don't rise in November and take their country back, the world will witness the fall of the modern-day Roman empire.

Shout-Out

Hello, I'm sending a shout out to the City of Greensboro, especially the members of the 2020 Greensboro Human Rights Commission for establishing the Morningside Awards. Greensboro City Council will recognize five Dudley high School students with the 2026 Morningside Awards next week. The Awards are presented to Dudley High School students each year in memory of the five labor rights activists that were ambushed and killed by the white supremacist group, the Ku Klux Klan at a worker's rights rally held at Morningside neighborhood on November 3, 1979. The five people killed on that day were Cesar Cauce, Dr. Michael Nathan, William Sampson, Sandra Smith, and Dr. James Waller. I commend the City of Greensboro for keeping alive the sacrifice they made for equality, justice, and a better quality of life for workers living here in the triad area of North Carolina.

Publisher's View



**Earl Jones, Publisher
The Greensboro Times**

Racists are using racism to continue racist policies to discriminate against African Americans



January 6th



January 6th

The Trump Administration's claim DEI that (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) policies based on bias against white people is not valid and is a public relations gimmick to lie and distort reality of African Americans' daily challenge to navigate institutional white supremacy. The President is a racist using non existent racism against white people to maintain America's race conscience ecosystem to continue to discriminate against Black people. Evidence from government agencies, courts, and decades of academic research indicates that African Americans continue to experience pervasive and systemic racial discrimination and not white americans.

From the White House to the North Carolina State House of Representatives, racism remains alive and well. The Trump White House and the State Legislature are on the same page and aligned in their efforts. In 1963, former Alabama Governor George Wallace declared, "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever." Today, from the White House to the State House, the message is clear: racism now, racism tomorrow, and racism forever. Numerous unlawful executive orders issued by Trump have been well documented as attempts to dismantle DEI and other policies designed to combat active racist practices. Last week, the NC State Legislature's \$34 Billion budget eliminated DEI Offices, staff, and programs. The White House creates a false narrative to justify dismantling DEI. They manipulate language to falsely portray the perpetrator of racism as the victim of racism and the victim as the perpetrator. Racists are using racism to discriminate against Black people who are the tar-

get and victims of institutional bias.

What is racism specifically? It is the belief that one race is superior to another. and it manifest in discrimination and prejudice against individuals based on their race. Racism in America is systemic affecting institutions and social, economic and political inequities. Let's be clear, combating racism requires awareness, education, and active anti-racist practices. DEI policies are designed to help combat prejudice, discrimination or antagonism directed against us as African American people. Individual racism is often easily identifiable, the racial slur, wearing or displaying a confederate flag, the Klansman in his robe. Institutional racism is not as easy to spot because its subtle. Racial gerrymandering strategies to deny African American voting rights, racial profiling in policing, redlining and steering practices against Black homebuyers, financial institutions-systematically denying loan or credit to African Americans who qualify, restricting their ability to purchase a home or acquire a business loan are just a few examples of systemic racism that continue to exist in todays America.

We must resolve to challenge anti- DEI executive orders from the White House and laws passed by the NC State Legislature that directly impact justice and equality at the local level here in Greensboro, Guilford County, and the Triad Area. Black organizations and communities must respond to anti-DEI policies and legislation through lawful, civic, and community action. We must advocate for state and local policies that promote equal opportunity initiatives. Political engagement is another important avenue.

we must also, vote and pressure local elected officials to fight and not cave to anti-DEI efforts from the State or federal level. What better way is there to protect the rights of their constituents.

African American individuals and organizations can bring legal challenges in court when policies allegedly violate US Constitutional rights and civil rights laws. What has gone unreported by a timid media because of the threats and bullying from the Trump Administration are court challenges to Trump Executive Orders ruled against the administration on US constitutional first Amendment, Fourteenth Amendment and Fifth Amendment Due Process to the constitution principles. Numerous successful cases include Chicago Women in Trade vs. US Department of Labor (2025) and Thakur vs. Trump (2026). Cities and counties can challenge unlawful and unconstitutional policies that violate the rights of their citizens if they have the resolve to do so.

Racism is a social construct that is used to divide working and middle class people by race weakening solidarity and making it harder to pursue shared economic interest such as higher wages and salaries, better working conditions and political power. It's in all of americans best interest to rid the country of this beast of oppression. Racism is a cancer on our society. It undermines trust, weakens democracy, waste human potential, and makes America less united and resilient. Confronting racism is not only a moral imperative but also a national security priority requiring all americans to work together to destroy it.

North Carolina \$34billion state budget - from from page - 1

ago.

The 634-page budget includes a 3% raise for all state employees and lowers the personal income tax rate from 3.99% this year to 3.49% next year. It marks the largest starting teacher pay raise in nearly 50 years and the largest overall teacher pay raise in the past 15 years. The plan also fully funds Medicaid and appropriates \$700 million towards Hurricane Helene relief in western North Carolina.

"The legislature has accepted many of my big-ticket budget recommendations, and having just celebrated America 250 this weekend, we remember that our democracy has always run on compromise for the common good," Stein said.

However, the governor's signature did not come without criticism.

The fine print: NC's \$34B budget includes DEI cuts, ferry tolls, AI, prison funds and more

The raises for most state employees don't keep up with inflation, Stein said, and the budget's "more meaningful" raises for law enforcement and corrections workers still leave North Carolina lagging behind its neighbors.

He called out the legislature for slashing more than 1,000 state government positions and eliminating the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, as well as the Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses.

"It's full of unconstitutional and petty provisions that strip power from the executive branch, politicize state government, and undermine its efficiency," Stein said.

While Stein could've vetoed the budget, enough Democrats in both chambers voted in support of it to make a veto override likely. The spending plan passed 88-21 in the House and 35-10 in the Senate.

Hannah Moon, a Wilmington English educator who was named the Southeast Region Teacher of the Year, said the budget is critical for classrooms and for retaining educators.

The pay increases show respect for the long hours and emotional weight that come with teaching, she said.

Still, there's work to be done. Under the plan, teachers receive either \$500 or \$1,000 bonuses depending on their experience. But North Carolina educators spend an average of \$1,632 out of their own pockets on their classrooms each year for classroom supplies like pencils, personal hygiene products, and winter jackets for students.

"Hope is what starts a teaching profession. Support sustains it," Moon said. "Every day, we're giving everything we've got, but quietly wondering how long we can afford to keep doing it."

State Secretary of Public Safety Jeffrey Smythe said the budget's provisions for law enforcement are essential.

The plan includes a 16.2% average pay raise for state law enforcement officers and an average of 15% for the state highway patrol.

"We must continue investing in officers' mental health and supporting behavioral health investments that enable law enforcement officers to focus on keeping people safe," Smythe said. "To do that, we should be incentivizing formal education and additional training."

For the Department of Adult Correction, the budget plays a significant role in recruiting and retaining staff, said Secretary Leslie Dismukes.

It provides funds for vehicles, cameras, body scanners, ballistic vests, and body armor for correc-

tion staff. It also includes money for technology to increase staff efficiency and for replacing aging medical equipment.

Over the course of this budget cycle, the agency lost more correctional officers than it had hired, Dismukes said.

"If we cannot adequately staff our prisons for safety and security, we cannot run the programs that will ensure that those in our custody are released in good health and with educational and vocational training that will allow them to safely reintegrate into society," she said.

Lawmakers and political observers were quick to make their voices heard on Stein's decision to approve the spending package.

House Speaker Destin Hall (R-Caldwell) called it the "best budget in decades."

"There is something in this budget for every North Carolinian, and the meaningful investments we've made will deliver real results that strengthen our communities, put more money back in people's pockets, and improve lives across our state," Hall said in a statement.

North Carolina Democratic Party chair Anderson Clayton applauded the General Assembly for finally passing a budget. While it isn't perfect, she said, it's a step in the right direction.

Clayton pushed for additional investments in public education, funding for behavioral and mental healthcare, and making life more affordable.

"This November, North Carolinians across the state have the opportunity to elect leaders who will champion those priorities," Clayton said. "After all, it's the hard working people across our state that make us so great."

Obama Presidential Center from page - 2

"A dangerous precedent that flies in the very face of our faith and of the founding promise of this democracy, that all of us, all of us are created equal," Michelle Obama said. "That each of us is a child of God with inherent value, and no one, and I mean no one, has the right to sit in judgment of who's American enough."

'American values we can all share, regardless of party'

Former President Obama made the event's final speech, which he began by tracking his journey from working as a community organizer on Chicago's South Side to meeting his wife, starting his family and running for office.

"This is where we bought our first home. This is where our kids

took their first steps. This is where I launched my candidacy for the Illinois State Senate over at the Ramada Inn on Lake Shore Drive, serving pretzels and soda, embarking on a path that ultimately and improbably led to this day," Obama said.

Obama served in the Illinois State Senate from 1997 until his election to the U.S. Senate in November 2004. He served alongside fellow Democrat Sen. Dick Durbin, who was seated in the audience beside Gov. JB Pritzker.

Obama continued by paying tribute to America's founding 250 years ago, explaining the hopes and values that underscore the purpose of his new center — including a call to the next generation to pick up the

torch to defend those values.

"Out of the fire and steel of a revolution, a different story took flight," Obama said. "That in the newly independent United States, there will be no kings or lords, no serfs or subjects, but only citizens, each of us free to pursue our own version of happiness and able to determine our collective fate through an elected representative government."

Obama concluded his remarks by telling the story of Reverend Theodore Parker, a 19th-century Boston-area abolitionist minister whose famous quote, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice," directly inspired Dr. Martin Luther King.

PUBLIC REVIEW

Draft Regional Impact's Assignment of Local Input Points

The Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) announces the availability of the Draft Regional Impact's Assignment of Local Input Points for public review and comment.

The assignment of local input points for regional roadway and rail projects is an important step in communicating the MPO's priority projects for funding consideration in the FY 2028-2037 TIP development process.

- The public comment period is open through **August 5, 2026**.
- The draft document and **associated public input survey** are available at www.guampo.org.
- Virtual Public Meeting: July 23 at 12 noon. Register at www.guampo.org.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will consider the plan for adoption at its August 12, 2026 meeting. Additional details will be posted on the MPO website.

For more information, to submit comments, or to view the plan, visit www.guampo.org, email guampo@greensboro-nc.gov, call (336) 373-3117, or write to:

Greensboro Urban Area MPO
Attn: Safety Plan
P.O. Box 3136
Greensboro, NC 27402-3136

Anyone in need of auxiliary aids or interpretive services may call (336) 373-3117.



Housing Connect GSO's homebuyer down payment and closing cost assistance program – referred to as DPA – is a source of financial assistance for first-time homebuyers purchasing homes within Greensboro city limits.

You could be eligible to apply for this program! Visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/DPA.

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GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

DUDLEY

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When Dudley High School opened in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1929, Black students in the city had no other option for secondary education. The school was built at a time when Greensboro maintained a rigidly segregated public school system, which meant that the quality of education Black students received depended entirely on what their own community demanded of itself. What Dudley's community demanded was extraordinary.

The school developed a reputation that extended far beyond Greensboro's city limits. Its graduates went on to North Carolina A&T, to HBCUs across the South,

and to careers in medicine, law, education, and public service. The faculty included teachers who held advanced degrees and who chose to teach at Dudley because they believed in what it represented. This was not unusual in the era of segregation, which produced a painful irony: the legal exclusion of Black professionals from white institutions concentrated extraordinary talent in schools like Dudley, giving students access to educators who in a different system might never have been in a classroom.

Desegregation changed the school's role in the community, but Dudley High survived where many comparable institutions closed or

were absorbed into other schools. It remained a comprehensive high school and continued producing graduates who went on to distinguished careers. The school's athletic programs became regionally prominent, its alumni network remained tight, and the identity the school had built during segregation proved durable enough to carry through to the present. Dudley High School is still open, still in Greensboro, and still a source of significant community pride. It has been operating continuously for nearly a century. Some institutions outlast the conditions that created them and become something greater.

by NC Backstory

SHAW UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NATION'S FIRST HBCU DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MORAL AGENCY

Shaw University has received approval to offer doctoral degrees and is launching the nation's first HBCU-based Doctor of Education (EdD) in Artificial Intelligence and Moral Agency.

As AI continues to shape healthcare, education, hiring, public policy, and more, Shaw is preparing leaders to ensure innovation is guided by ethics, accountability, and human dignity. This groundbreaking program will welcome its first cohort in Spring 2027.

This is what HBCU excellence looks like: leading conversations that will define the future.

Congratulations to Shaw University on this historic milestone.

#UNCF #ShawUniversity #HBCU-Excellence



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- Transportation Requests for Proposals
- Water Resources Contracts





Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett has two Black children, Vivian and John Peter, whom she and her husband, Jesse, adopted from Haiti. Today, she aligned with the conservative supermajority to permit the White House felon to revoke protected status for Haitians legally residing in the U.S., even as the country remains unstable. This is why I generally oppose transracial and international adoption. Such cases are quite common. Not a surprise, marrying someone or adopting children from a different race does not mean he of she is not racist.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

Together, these institutions are owed over **\$13,000,000,000** in funding that was legally promised—but never delivered.

THE 16 PUBLIC 1890 LAND-GRANT HBCUS & WHAT THEY ARE OWED

#	INSTITUTION	STATE	ESTIMATED AMOUNT OWED
1.	Alabama A&M University	AL	\$735,413,000
2.	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	AR	\$437,306,000
3.	Florida A&M University	FL	\$1,188,640,000
4.	Fort Valley State University	GA	\$1,035,067,000
5.	Kentucky State University	KY	\$254,968,000
6.	Southern University and A&M College	LA	\$1,485,512,000
7.	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	MD	\$250,689,000
8.	Alcorn State University	MS	\$912,909,000
9.	Lincoln University	MO	\$244,217,000
10.	North Carolina A&T State University	NC	\$1,552,735,000
11.	Langston University	OK	\$210,179,000
12.	South Carolina State University	SC	\$478,031,000
13.	Tennessee State University	TN	\$1,153,804,000
14.	Prairie View A&M University	TX	\$1,452,299,000

Federal researchers identified 16 land-grant HBCUs that have been systematically underfunded by their respective states. Together, these institutions are owed more than \$13 billion in funding that was legally promised but never delivered.

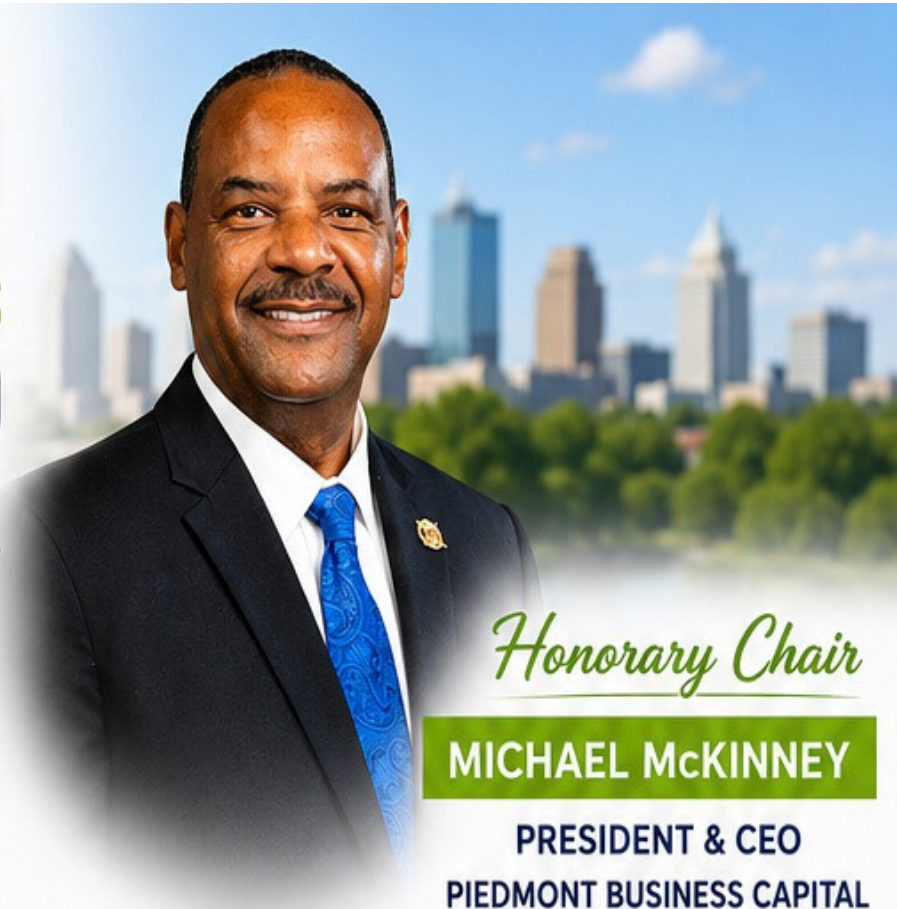




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FOR THE HONORARY CHAIR



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THURSDAY
JULY 16, 2026



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AUGUST 21, 2026



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GALA: 7:00 PM



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Panther Consolidated cook out comes to a close!

Photos by Howard Gaither



DEI Isn't Dead: New Research Finds Most Companies Still Back Workplace Inclusion

While companies may be changing the language surrounding DEI, the demand for fair and inclusive workplaces remains firmly in place.

by Selena Hill
June 22, 2026



Despite the Trump administration's crackdown on corporate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, a new report suggests that workplace inclusion efforts are far from disappearing.

According to a study released in May by Catalyst and New York University School of Law's Meltzer Center for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, 80% of U.S. organizations remain committed to workplace inclusion despite growing legal and political pressure surrounding DEI initiatives. The report, titled "A New Path to Inclusion: How to Overcome Legal and Cultural Constraints on Building Fair Workplaces," surveyed more than 2,000 employees and leaders and found that many companies still value and implement DEI.

The findings arrive as many corporations face increased scrutiny following President Donald Trump's executive actions targeting DEI programs and the continued fallout from the Supreme Court's 2023 affirmative action ruling in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*.

"Despite a high-risk legal environment, our research shows that DEI is not dying—it is evolving," said Joy Ohm, vice president at Catalyst, in a press release. "We see a

majority of organizations adjusting their strategies, so this is a story of adaptation, not a broad rollback."

The report found that 77% of organizations have altered their DEI investments over the past three years. However, those changes have not been uniform. Among federal contractors, who are subject to heightened government oversight, 51% reported reducing their inclusion efforts, while only 32% increased them. In contrast, 52% of organizations that are not federal contractors reported increasing their inclusion efforts, compared with just 20% that reported decreases.

"Even in the face of a concerted assault on the values of inclusion and fairness, many organizations remain deeply committed to this work," Ohm added.

David Glasgow, the executive director of the Meltzer Center, said the data illustrates how companies are adapting based on their legal exposure rather than abandoning inclusion altogether.

"It's been extremely challenging for organizations of all kinds to navigate the legal environment for DEI work over the past few years," Glasgow said. "Yet we are seeing companies adopt nuanced approach-

es to inclusion based on their specific risk exposure."

The report also suggests that many companies are rebranding or reframing DEI efforts around broader concepts such as workplace fairness, belonging, and opportunity while continuing to pursue inclusion goals internally. Researchers argue that the shift reflects a changing landscape rather than the end of corporate diversity efforts.

While companies may be changing the language surrounding DEI, the demand for fair and inclusive workplaces remains firmly in place.

"What organizations say publicly about their inclusion initiatives doesn't always tell the full story," said Christina Thomas, who serves as project director at the Meltzer Center.

"Organizations are responding to real legal and political pressure by changing their language and public posture. But the internal work is harder to undo," Thomas added. "It's embedded in people, processes, and culture in ways that don't shift as quickly as a public statement. These findings indicate that the reality inside organizations is more complicated than the headlines suggest, and that matters for understanding



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