

Weekly News Recap



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Date 2025-07-11 18:56





QCity Metro: [Charlotte's moment: What leaders are saying about the NAACP convention and why it matters](#)

"Our political landscape is hostile and divided, and civil rights are in danger," said Derrick Johnson, president & CEO of the NAACP.

"During convention, we come together to organize, to strategize, and to show that our power is not just in numbers but in our purpose."

He added, "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, 'We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now.' Words from 1963 still ring true in 2025."

WSOC-TV: [Q&A: What inspired the NAACP National Convention's theme, and explaining the name](#)

Vanessa Mbonu, Vice President of Marketing, NAACP: What inspired that theme is really about the moment that we're living in right now, and that there has never been a time in our generation where it is more important to take power back into our own hands and really see what we want to see in the world that we live in. So whether that be civic engagement, whether that be economic equity, whether that be social impact, we want people to understand that we are truly living in perilous times, and the fierce urgency of now is what really the only way we can explain how important it is that we all get, you know, activated, and we all put power back into our own hands.

WFAE: [NAACP president says fight for democracy and justice will continue](#)

Thousands of people are arriving in Charlotte for the NAACP's national convention, which kicked off Wednesday. The convention, which has not been held in Charlotte since 1996, is expected to generate about \$17 million for the local economy.

WSOC-TV: [Schedule: NAACP brings 116th National Convention to Charlotte](#)

Dominic Hawkins, Vice President of Communications, NAACP:

This year's theme for the convention is The Fierce Urgency of Now, a phrase popularized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Join us at the Hub, the ultimate community experience, for food, fun, and games. Free to the public.

Charlotte Observer: [NAACP National Convention in Charlotte a 'substantial boost' to the local economy](#)

Charlotte is gearing up to host one of its biggest events of the year — the 116th annual [NAACP National Convention](#), expected to draw thousands of attendees from across the country, delivering the city an economic boost.

Power 98: [NAACP Brings National Convention to Charlotte With Travel Plans Ready](#)

The Charlotte Convention Center will host the NAACP's 116th National Convention this July 9-16. Thousands will gather at this mix of public and private sessions focused on civil rights work. ... At The Hub, a free public space, visitors will find job fairs and music shows, plus spots to shop at Black-owned businesses. Saturday morning brings a special meet-up for young professionals at a nearby venue.

WFAE: [The NAACP National Convention comes to Charlotte](#)

Thousands are expected to gather in the Queen City for the NAACP's 116th National Convention. The convention takes place at the Charlotte Convention Center in uptown from July 12-16. This year's theme is "The fierce urgency of now," a phrase coined by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963 when he spoke at the March on Washington. His words were meant to remind a divided nation that we are stronger together — and remain relevant to this day.

Charlotte Observer: [With NAACP in Charlotte, many want to see it embrace 'the fierce urgency of now'](#)

The NAACP kicks off its 116th national convention at the Charlotte Convention Center beginning Saturday. Its theme evokes a call to action and conference organizers hope it will be a place where the organization can learn new ways to be an influential national voice in the face of Trump's actions.

WBTV: [Looking ahead: 116th NAACP National Convention to be held at Charlotte Convention Center](#)

VIDEO: It's one of -- if not the -- largest convention in the Queen City.

Black Enterprise: [Reshaping the Civil Rights Landscape](#)

Derrick Johnson, the distinguished 19th president and CEO of the NAACP, assumed command of the venerable civil rights organization in October 2017, initiating an era of profound revitalization and strategic overhaul. His leadership, cultivated through a long and impactful history within the NAACP — including prior service as vice chairman of the National Board of Directors and president of the Mississippi State Conference — has placed him at the vanguard of national endeavors to deconstruct systemic injustices and amplify the voices of Black communities across the nation.

NPR: [Boston-based effort reminds Black people of rights when confronted by law enforcement](#)

With sweeping ICE arrests taking place, some Black residents worry the color of their skin could make them susceptible, and they're taking steps to prevent negative encounters. ...

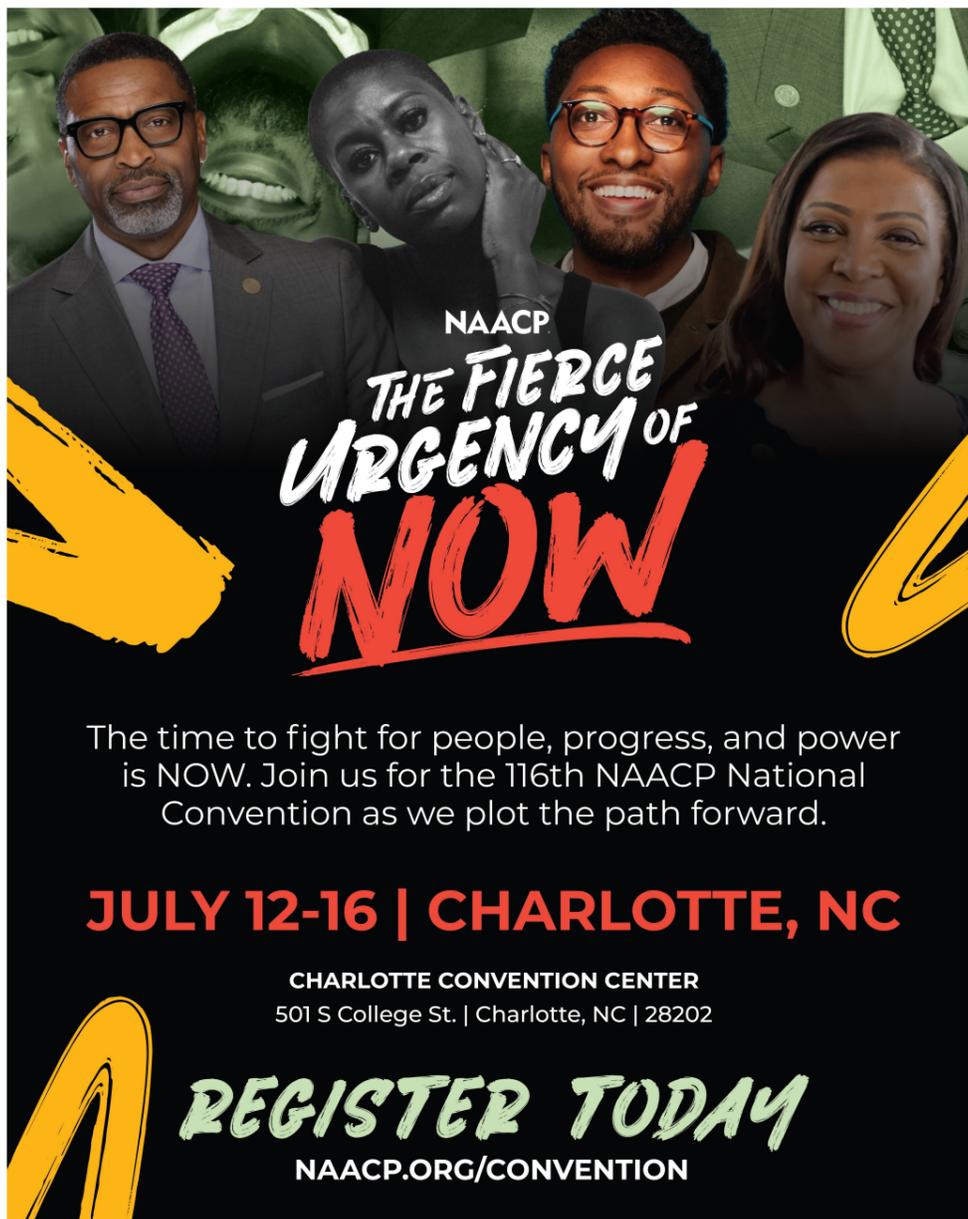
WISDOM COLE: This is a situation that has been going on for the entire history of the organization.

SINGER: That's Wisdom Cole, the NAACP's senior national advocacy director. He says the immigration crackdown is an opportunity for communities of color to unite.

NAACP NEWS AND UPDATES

- [NAACP, LDF Declares Victory in Successfully Advocating for the County Commission in Fayette County, Tennessee to Draw a New, Fairer Electoral Map](#)

116TH NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION

A promotional graphic for the NAACP National Convention. It features a black background with a collage of four diverse professionals in business attire. The text 'NAACP' is at the top, followed by 'THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW' in large, stylized white and red letters. Below this, a white text block reads: 'The time to fight for people, progress, and power is NOW. Join us for the 116th NAACP National Convention as we plot the path forward.' The dates and location are listed as 'JULY 12-16 | CHARLOTTE, NC' in red. The venue is 'CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER, 501 S College St. | Charlotte, NC | 28202'. At the bottom, it says 'REGISTER TODAY' in green and 'NAACP.ORG/CONVENTION' in white. There are yellow brushstroke accents on the sides.

NAACP
THE FIERCE
URGENCY OF
NOW

The time to fight for people, progress, and power is NOW. Join us for the 116th NAACP National Convention as we plot the path forward.

JULY 12-16 | CHARLOTTE, NC

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER
501 S College St. | Charlotte, NC | 28202

REGISTER TODAY
NAACP.ORG/CONVENTION

The [116th NAACP National Convention](#) is taking over Charlotte **July 12–16, 2025**. Will we see you there?

Here's what's happening:

Plenaries

From policy to pop culture, we'll be welcoming a host of powerful speakers during our plenary sessions.

Career Summit and College Fair

Bring your resumes! From July 11-12, top employers and college recruiters will be at [The HUB](#) for our Career Summit and College Fair to provide resources for career advancement, scholarships, and mentorship programs. Participating companies include: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Duke Energy, Wells Fargo, Food Lion, AFLAC, Mecklenburg County, Dominion Energy, Huntington Bank and Samet Corporation.

Download the App

Make the most of your Convention experience with the NAACP National Convention app — now available in the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#). Use it to explore the agenda, learn more about speakers and sessions, and stay up to date in real time. Just sign up with your name and email on first open to get started.

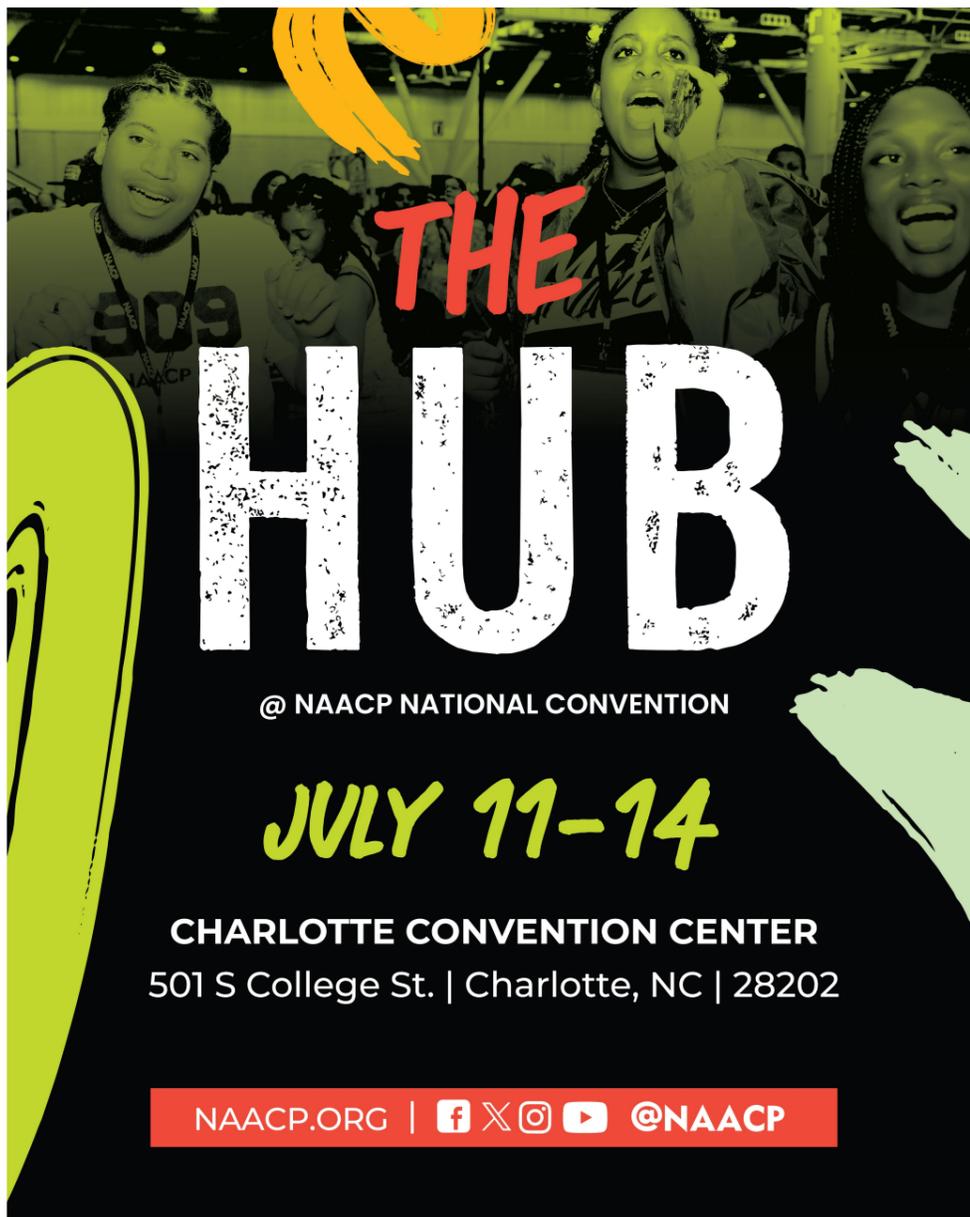
Couldn't make it to Charlotte?

We've got you covered! Catch up on the 116th NAACP National Convention by tuning into our livestream this week at naacp.org/convention.

RUN IT BACK: Later on, revisit all of our favorite moments through our [Convention playlist](#).

[Learn More](#)

The HUB



Step into a world where Black culture meets social impact at [the HUB](#) during the [116th NAACP National Convention](#).

This immersive experience goes beyond the ordinary, blending art, sports, entertainment, and technology in one vibrant space.

Support Black-owned brands, engage in inspiring conversations about wealth-building, wellness, and mental health, and discover cultural programming that celebrates innovation and community.

The best part? It's completely **free and open to the public** from July 11-14.

Don't miss this dynamic gathering of entrepreneurs, creatives, small businesses, and major brands. Make plans to experience The HUB.

[Meet us at the HUB](#)

OUR CULTURE, OUR STORIES PODCAST



OUR CULTURE, OUR STORIES
AN NAACP IMAGE AWARDS PODCAST SERIES

NAACP

NEW EPISODE

WITH

WRITER & SPEAKER
IJEOMA Oluo

EP. 18

EXCLUSIVELY ON...   YOUTUBE.COM/NAACPPLUS

Step into the world of Black excellence, creativity, and activism with [Our Culture, Our Stories](#) — the official NAACP Image Awards Podcast Series. Bringing the spirit of the Image Awards all year round, this podcast is your go-to space for unfiltered, inspiring conversations with today's most influential actors, musicians, authors, activists, and civic leaders.

✨New Episode✨

 [Ep. 18 - Ijeoma Oluo](#): Writer and speaker **Ijeoma Oluo** breaks down the emotional and systemic weight of White supremacy, and how we reclaim power.

Watch & Listen: [Our Culture, Our Stories on the NAACP+ YouTube channel](#).

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