

Weekly News Recap



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BAY STATE BANNER: ['The Fierce Urgency of Now' — NAACP opens 116th annual convention](#)

Under the theme "The Fierce Urgency of Now," the NAACP opened its 116th annual convention on July 12, with the intent of both safeguarding and advancing the civil rights gains and social justice efforts under ruthless federal attack. ... "We are steeling the organization for the future," said Dominic K. Hawkins, the NAACP's vice president of communications. "We are mobilizing, gathering, strategizing moving forward. That's one of the main purposes of the convention."

WBTV: [116th NAACP National Convention underway in Uptown Charlotte](#)

VIDEO: Aba Blankson, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, NAACP

The Convention is the gathering place for all our branches and units to come together, strategize, and talk about the work we need to do in our communities. We know this is a challenging time in our nation. Laws are changing. That's why it's so important for our grassroots to come, hear from leaders, and learn how to drive change.

CNBC: [Elon Musk's xAI permits challenged by NAACP, environmental groups in Memphis](#)

NAACP CEO Derrick Johnson said in a statement that, "Our health shouldn't be threatened at the hands of billionaires who circumvent the law."

Action News 5: [SELC, NAACP appeal Health Dept. approval of xAI turbines](#)

Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) and the NAACP are challenging the Shelby County Health Department's decision to approve xAI to construct [natural gas-fired combustion turbines](#).

WATN: [SELC files appeal with pollution board over xAI permits](#)

"We hope the Shelby County Health Department sees this appeal as a second chance to prioritize the health of the people in the community," said NAACP Director of Environmental Justice Abre' Conner. "The NAACP and community members have repeatedly shared concerns that xAI is causing a significant increase in the pollution of the air Memphians breathe. The health department should focus on people's health—not on maximizing corporate gain."

WBTV: [116th NAACP Convention underway in Uptown Charlotte](#)

VIDEO: Dominik Whitehead, Chief of Field, Membership Growth and Unit Sustainability at the NAACP

We're excited that we have thousands of delegates and NAACP members from across the country here engaging on all things

advocacy and policy for the betterment of not just Black America, but civil and human rights.

WFAE: [Climate advocates take the stage at NAACP convention in Charlotte](#)

Abre' Conner, the NAACP's director of environmental and climate justice, hosted a panel on renewable energy solutions. She said that cutting carbon pollution at home — whether that's through energy-saving retrofits, installing residential solar or even purchasing an electric vehicle — could help communities who are often on the frontlines of extreme weather:

"This is one of the ways that we ensure that our communities do not continue to experience as frequent and severe climate-related disasters," Conner said.

WFAE: [The modern NAACP: Civil rights in a new era](#)

AUDIO: The 116th NAACP national convention is underway in Charlotte, and the theme is "the fierce urgency of now," a phrase taken from speeches about justice for all by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We step back from the convention to explore the work being done in between gatherings — examining how the country's oldest civil rights organization is evolving to meet the moment and what it means to move with urgency.

GUESTS:

Dominik Whitehead, chief of field, membership growth and unit sustainability at NAACP

Trovon Williams, senior vice president of marketing and communications at NAACP

Charlotte Observer: [NAACP 'Be In The Biz' seminar helps locals find paths in the entertainment industry](#)

NAACP Hollywood Bureau Senior Vice President Kyle Bowser said he looks forward to expanding the program's reach and creating lasting relationships with local community members. "Writers, producers, executives all come from different markets, but they are not plugged into the latest breaking information coming out of the industry," Bowser said. "Now we are on the road sharing that information with others." The room was filled with eager professionals looking to bridge the gap between their own careers and the ever-changing media world.

Queen City News: [NAACP leaders argue progress has regressed under Trump administration as national convention gets underway](#)

As the NAACP meets for its National Convention in Uptown this week, leaders say now is the time to refocus their work and ensure the organization is advocating for all those who are marginalized. "This is the year that we need to talk about the value of humanity, the value of all humanity," said NAACP Chair Leon Russell.

Charlotte Observer: [NAACP events call for pro-union voting in the NC midterm elections](#)

During the peak of a 90-degree day, labor union speakers on Monday called for attendees to vote for candidates who are in favor of labor unions in the upcoming North Carolina midterm elections. "It may be hot outside but we're going to turn up the heat," said Jamal Watkins, senior vice president of NAACP's strategy and advancement, as attendees swatted handheld fans and AFL-CIO members passed out bottles of water.

WSOC-TV: [NAACP Convention honors youth leaders driving social justice and change](#)

"When we think about youth leaders and who they are, they are the moral compass of the world, but the question is, are we listening to them?" said Derrick Lewis, interim director of the NAACP's Youth and College Division.

WFAE: [PHOTOS: The NAACP National Convention in Charlotte](#)

The NAACP's 116th National Convention opened in Charlotte last week. The theme is "the fierce urgency of now," a phrase borrowed from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that organizers say speaks even more strongly to what's happening in our country today.

NAACP NEWS AND UPDATES

- [Hey, Black America: It's a Wrap: 116th NAACP National Convention](#)
- [NAACP and Advocacy Groups Appeal Permit for xAI's South Memphis Data Center, decisions around unpermitted methane gas turbines](#)

UNTIL NEXT YEAR...

Now that the [116th NAACP National Convention](#) has come to an end, we reflect on the powerful moments, inspiring conversations, and collective action that have defined this year's gathering. Together, we've celebrated progress, confronted challenges, and reaffirmed our commitment to justice, equity, and empowerment for all.

To every attendee, speaker, volunteer, and supporter: thank you for making this convention a resounding success. Your voices, ideas, and passion are the driving force behind our movement. While this chapter concludes, our work continues. Let's carry the energy and momentum from this week into our communities, our workplaces, and our daily lives.

SEE YOU IN CHICAGO



The 116th NAACP National Convention has officially wrapped, and what an unforgettable journey it's been, but the momentum continues.

Save the date: the 117th NAACP National Convention is heading to Chicago in 2026! Let's make history together once again.

Stay tuned for more details. We can't wait to see you in the Windy City!

THE HUB



[The HUB](#) was definitely the place to be at the [116th NAACP National Convention](#).

From Inspiring panel discussions and entertaining games to incredible Black-owned brands and dance breaks, a time was had by all.

If you couldn't make it to Charlotte or just want to revisit some of the standout moments from The HUB, we've got you covered. [Visit the NAACP YouTube Channel](#) to catch our recap of this one-of-a-kind experience.

Watch Our Recap

116TH NAACP CONVENTION RECAPS



The 116th NAACP National Convention has wrapped, but we've captured all the key moments just for YOU. Visit the [NAACP YouTube Channel](#) for highlights.

- [ACT-SO Awards Ceremony](#)
- [Public Mass Meeting](#)
- [Monday Plenary](#)
- [Resolutions Plenary](#)
- [Closing Plenary](#)
- [An Evening of Excellence Awards Dinner](#)
- [Day 2 Recap](#)
- [Day 3 Recap](#)
- [Day 4 Recap](#)
- [116th NAACP Convention Recap](#)

Watch Our Highlights

OUR CULTURE, OUR STORIES PODCAST

OUR CULTURE, OUR STORIES
AN NAACP IMAGE AWARDS PODCAST SERIES

NAACP

NEW EPISODE

WITH

ACTOR
YVETTE NICOLE BROWN

EP. 19

EXCLUSIVELY ON...   [YOUTUBE.COM/NAACPPLUS](https://www.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. 19 - Yvette Nicole Brown](#): Beloved actress and cultural voice Yvette Nicole Brown joins us for a deeply heartfelt conversation about what it truly means to live with purpose, integrity, and love.

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

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