

MISSISSIPPI POLICY CONFERENCE

Thursday, August 8 – Saturday, August 11, 2019

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:** *Roadhouse Casino and Hotel*
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** **USDA PROGRAMS PRESENTATION:** *Magnolia Room, Roadhouse Casino and Hotel*
- 8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.** **OPENING RECEPTION: “Welcome to the Mississippi Delta”**
(Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Buffet will close at 9:30 p.m.)
- 10:30 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.** **CIGAR LOUNGE:** *Founders Room, Horseshoe Tunica Hotel & Casino*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:** *Roadhouse Casino and Hotel*
(Registration will close at 12:45 pm and reopen after lunch)
- 6:00 a.m.– 9:00 a.m.** *Shuttles will loop from hotels to Tunica National and the Levee*
- 6:30 a.m.** **JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF TOURNAMENT: Continental Breakfast & Check-in**
Tunica National Golf Course | 1 Champions Lane | Tunica Resorts, MS
- 7:00 a.m.** **BENNIE G. THOMPSON SPORTING CLAYS CHALLENGE: Continental Breakfast & Check-in**
The Levee | Tunica Resorts, MS
- 7:30 a.m.** **JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF TOURNAMENT SHOTGUN START:** *Tunica National Golf Course*
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** **THE COUNTRY THAT RACISM BUILT: The Effects of Systemic Racism on African Americans**
Live Oak Ballroom, Gold Strike Casino Resort

This panel explores the overall effects of racism on African Americans and the path to overcoming.

Racism is an inextricable thread in the fabric of America, and has existed since the colonial era. White Americans have enjoyed legal and socially sanctioned privileges and rights that have been and continue to be denied to African Americans. While studies show that discriminatory and racist attitudes have changed significantly over the past several decades, large swaths of White Americans still hold prejudiced viewpoints that adversely affect African Americans' income, crime and incarceration rate, health, housing, and family-structure deficits when compared to the American white population.

Dr. Shawn Utsey, Professor of Counseling Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University; Patricia Crawford, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Director of Legislative Affairs; Georgette Dixon, Wells Fargo, SVP and Sr. Director of External Relations for National Constituents; Jean Paul Morrell, Louisiana State Senate, District 3, Orleans Parish; Portia White, National Education Association, Federal Lobbyist.

Moderators: Reps. John Lewis and Bobby Scott

- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** **THE POLITICS OF CANNABIS: The Racial Disparity in the Punishment and Profit of Marijuana**
Live Oak Ballroom, Gold Strike Casino Resort

This panel explores the barriers to African Americans entering the legal cannabis industry and disparities that persist in the criminal justice system

Cannabis is the most widely used illegal drug in America. The prohibition of cannabis results in arrests and prosecutions that punish millions of Americans, drives racial inequality, and reduces access to employment, education, and social services. While the legal cannabis business in the US is currently a multi-billion industry, less than a fifth of owners identify as racial minorities, which includes African Americans. However, Blacks are nearly four times likely to be arrested for marijuana offenses in America than their white counterparts.

Steven Hawkins, Marijuana Policy Project, Executive Director; Vince Canales, Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police, President; Wanda James, Simply Pure Dispensary, Co-founder & CEO; Shanita Penny, Budding Solutions, Founder & CEO; Jake Plowden, Cannabis Cultural Association, Co-founder and Deputy Director; Tracey Syphax, From the Block to the Boardroom, Author & Chief Executive

Moderators: Reps. Barbara Lee and Hank Johnson

- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** **POLICY LUNCHEON & PRESENTATIONS WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER—JOE MADISON, “The Black Eagle,” XM Radio:** *2nd Floor, Roadhouse Casino and Hotel*
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** **CONGRESSIONAL MEET AND GREET WITH ADDRESS BY REP. KAREN BASS, CBC CHAIR: Overview of the CBC Agenda:** *Live Oak Ballroom Foyer, Gold Strike Casino Resort*

- 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.** **LABOR MEETING WITH CBC MEMBERS (Invitation Only):**
2nd Floor, Horseshoe Hotel Oxford Room
- 5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.** **HEIRS' PROPERTY: The Biggest Threat to Black Land & Wealth**
Presentation by The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund
Magnolia Room, Roadhouse Casino and Hotel
- 8:00 p.m.- 12:00 a.m.** **FRIDAY NIGHT CELEBRATION: FEATURING DJ MARK BATTLE**
Live Oak Ballroom, Gold Strike Casino Resort

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

- 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** *Shuttles will loop from hotels to Tunica National and the Levee*
- 7:00 a.m.** **BENNIE G. THOMPSON SPORTING CLAYS CHALLENGE: Continental Breakfast & Check-in**
The Levee, Tunica Resorts, MS
- 7:30 a.m.** **RECREATIONAL GOLF:** *Tunica National Golf Course, 1 Champions Lane, Tunica Resorts, MS*
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** **THE CHURCH IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY: Faith, Politics and Empowerment**
Live Oak Ballroom, Gold Strike Casino Resort

This panel explores the evolution of the black church and the critical relationship between faith, community and civic engagement.

The Civil Rights Movement changed notions and expectations about the relationship between African American religion and politics. Failure to understand this relationship has obscured the important history of the decades of complaints and controversies on the question of how or whether African American churches could be a progressive political force.

Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Institute of Semitic Studies/Africa Peace & Development Center, Director; Rev. Dr. Charles Jackson, Brookland Baptist Church; Columbia, SC; Rev. Dr. Isiac Jackson, Liberty Missionary Baptist Church; Jackson, MS; Bishop Reggie Jackson, African Methodist Episcopal, Presiding Prelate; Sixth Episcopal District

Moderators: Reps. Emanuel Cleaver, Gwen Moore and Dwight Evans

- 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.** **THE UNFULFILLED POWER OF THE BLACK VOTE: Our Political Capital**
Live Oak Ballroom, Gold Strike Casino Resort

This panel explores why African Americans fail to actively engage in the political process as a civic duty or in their own self-interest.

Today, voter targeting can closely predict how a person will vote with 90% accuracy. But the black vote is not monolithic and has largely been taken for granted until recently. With such large numbers, women, minorities, and millennials harness intense electoral power as they have demonstrated in recent elections. Yet, we have collectively failed to exercise our political capital.

Melanie Campbell, National Black Civic Participation, President & CEO; Arekia Bennett, MS Votes, Executive Director; Beth Lynk, Census Counts Campaign, Director; Antjuan Seawright, Blueprint Strategies, LLC, President & CEO; Rebecca Thompson, Rebecca Thompson International, CEO

- 1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m.** **POLICY LUNCHEON: Golf & Shooting Awards & Presentations**
2nd Floor, Roadhouse Casino and Hotel

- 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** **THE CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS' FORUM**
2nd Floor, Roadhouse Casino and Hotel

The Effect of Black Congressional Representation on Political Participation

The election of African Americans to Congress is a primary achievement of the post-civil rights transition from protest to politics. And while Black congressional representation is at an all-time high, studies show that there has been no significant rise in political engagement by African Americans.

- 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** **CLOSING RECEPTION**
Founders Room, Horseshoe Tunica Hotel & Casino
(Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Buffet will close at 8:00 p.m.)

- 10:00 p.m.** **AFTER-PARTY: FEATURING DJ MANNY FRESH**
2nd Floor, Roadhouse Casino and Hotel