

# NAACP

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE



**Newsweek:** [Key Biden Voters Demand He Cancel \\$50,000 in Student Debt at NAACP Protest](#)

Black voters, a key group for President Joe Biden, demonstrated outside the White House on Thursday morning as part of an NAACP effort demanding that Biden cancel \$50,000 in student loan debt—a figure five times larger than what the president may be considering. The demonstrators arrived at the corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue around 9 a.m. to urge the president to make student loan debt cancellation a legacy of his administration.

**Fortune:** [Student loan forgiveness is the overlooked remedy that could help close the racial wealth gap](#)

“President Biden promised to address the student loan crisis, and in my opinion forgiving student loans in the amount of at least \$50,000 per borrower is the only way to genuinely address equity,” Ivory Toldson, Howard University professor and Director of Education Innovation and Research for the NAACP, told Fortune. “According to Brookings the average white family has roughly 10 times the wealth as the average Black family. Reducing student loan debt for Black borrowers could help them begin their lives after graduation without the burden of debt.”

**The Hill:** [Ro Khanna presses Biden on student loans: ‘If he can suspend interest payments, he can forgive the principal’](#)

A long list of lawmakers and organizations, including the NAACP, have pressed Biden to forgive all federal student loan debt. “The best way to start the new school year for everyone saddled with crushing student loans would be for Biden to free them of this burden,” Khanna concluded.

**Huffpost:** [Don't Be Stingy, President Biden. Forgive As Much Student Loan Debt as Possible](#)

According to a 2020 NAACP report, among 2016 graduates, almost 40% of Black students left college with \$30,000 or more in debt, compared with 29% of white students, 23% of Hispanic students and 18% of Asian students. And according to a 2016 Brookings report, the average Black graduate owes \$52,726 four years after graduation

compared with \$28,006 for the average white graduate.

**CNN:** [Majority-Black town reaches agreement with Tennessee to avoid state takeover](#)

The town of Mason, Tennessee, and the NAACP reached an agreement this week with the Tennessee Comptroller's Office to settle a lawsuit filed after the state attempted to gain financial control of the majority-Black town. Mason, which is just northeast of Memphis, was thrown into the national spotlight in March after officials claimed the state comptroller's threat to take over was discriminatory. Last month, CNN reported that they accused the state comptroller of violating the Equal Protection Clause and going beyond his authority under state and federal law. The NAACP was representing the town and helped it file a lawsuit alleging that the state comptroller exceeded his authority and racially discriminated against the town in its financial dealings.

**Time:** [A Small Tennessee Town Is at the Center of a Big Lawsuit Involving Race, Power and Money](#)

The NAACP has gotten involved because, as they see it, the issue goes beyond the money. It's also about the racial dynamics between the town and the region. "This case involves a rural town in Tennessee that is on the verge of great financial growth. Mason is predominantly African-American and under predominantly African-American leadership," the lawsuit says. "If Mason were to surrender its charter, Mason would essentially dissolve into the surrounding majority-white county with predominantly white leadership."

**BET:** [Majority Black Tennessee Town Reaches Agreement To Avoid State Takeover](#)

"They had no right to take over Mason, so we took them to court and we won. Similar injustices are happening all across the country, and the NAACP knows all too well that if we don't put out small fires across America, they quickly become wildfires. This settlement is a significant victory for all those who believe in justice and fairness," NAACP General Counsel Janette McCarthy Wallace said in a statement announcing the settlement.

**The Guardian:** [Protests swell across major cities as US reckons with supreme court decision draft – as it happened](#)

Protests have been building across the country as women demand that their reproductive rights are protected. Barack Obama has said the provisional ruling was "a blow not just to women, but to all of us who believe in a free society," while Michelle Obama has recognized Americans "fearing that their essential freedoms under the constitution were at risk". And Elizabeth Warren has taken to the streets of Washington, screaming "I am angry!" Porchse Miller, a community organizer for the Atlanta NAACP speaks in downtown Atlanta.

**Variety:** [Webby Awards: Laverne Cox to Be Honored for LGBTQ Advocacy Work](#)

"Laverne Cox understands the true power of showing up by example," Webby Awards president Claire Graves told Variety exclusively on Tuesday morning. "She is a clear, consistent and powerful voice advocating in defense of Black trans lives, and we are so proud to recognize her as the 2022 Webby Advocate of the Year, selected by a committee chaired by the NAACP and IADAS."

**Colorado Politics:** [Federal judge allows voter intimidation lawsuit to proceed against Colorado group](#)

Earlier this year, three civic groups filed a federal complaint asking that a judge order the U.S. Election Integrity Plan — a group that believes there were illegal votes cast in the 2020 election — to halt its alleged harassment of voters. The Colorado Montana Wyoming State Area Conference of the NAACP, the League of Women Voters of Colorado and Mi Familia Vota claimed that USEIP's activities violate the federal Voting Rights Act and the Ku Klux Klan Act's prohibitions on voter coercion.

**Windy City Times:** [Plaque unveiled in NYC to honor headquarters of NAACP, other progressive groups](#)

No. 70 Fifth Avenue, a 1912 Beaux Arts—style office building, served as headquarters of the NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil-rights organization, from 1914 to 1925. This was during the organization's early campaigns against lynching, employment discrimination, voting disenfranchisement, and defamatory representations in the media, including the film The Birth of a Nation.

**CBS Denver:** [Bill To Ban Flavored Nicotine In Colorado Passes In The State House](#)

Bill supporters say communities of color and kids are especially at risk. President of the Denver branch of the NAACP

Sondra Young said that African Americans have been disproportionately hurt by the tobacco industry. “One of the leading causes in the death of African Americans is tobacco-related chronic illness,” she said at the rally. She said that the industry has targeted Black smokers with menthol cigarettes. Fields said the vaping industry has targeted kids with flavored vape juices.

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## STATEMENTS:

- [NAACP Statement on President Biden's Plan to Lower Internet Costs](#)

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## APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



The poster features a colorful background with silhouettes of people celebrating. The text reads: "INSPIRE INITIATIVES SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES". Below this, it states: "Funding available for exceptional students interested in STEM, Marketing, Communications, Art, and more!". The application period is listed as "APPLY: APRIL 11-MAY 20, 2022". A small note at the bottom says: "\* Scholarships available for high school seniors, current college students, and grad students." At the bottom of the poster, the website "NAACP.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS" and the "NAACP" logo are displayed.

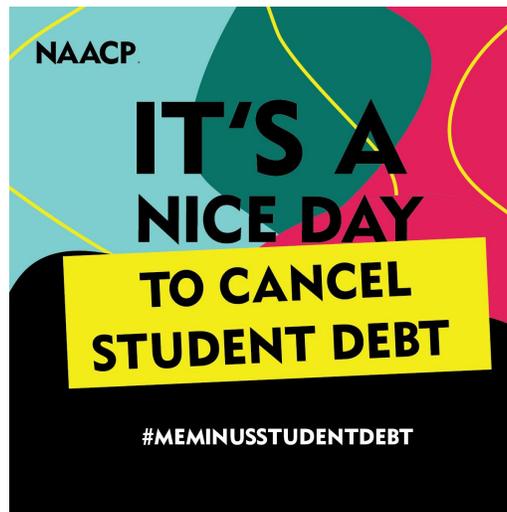
Each year we offer need-based and merit scholarships to outstanding and qualified Black students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees as part of our NAACP Inspire Initiatives. Through the generosity of our donors, we advance efforts to ensure equity in educational opportunity that prepares students for success in school, work, and life.

Our scholarships range in award amount, academic interests, and age. Whether you are a graduating high school senior or early in your professional career, we are pleased to provide financial opportunities and recognition to assist with collegiate and post-educational endeavors. Please be sure to review individual scholarship eligibility requirements and deadlines.

[Learn More](#)

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## TAKE ACTION: URGE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO CANCEL STUDENT DEBT



There is no plan to close racial wealth gaps that does not include addressing the student debt crisis. Student debt relief is the much-needed policy solution in the midst of this economic crisis.

**\$10,000 is not enough.** Data suggest that cancellation policies beyond \$50,000 without means-testing would benefit all demographics, eliminate racial disparities in student debt, and boost our struggling economy. This will:

- Provide Black borrowers with opportunities to pursue homeownership
- Develop economy-boosting discretionary income
- Fuel upward mobility in the Black community and equitable efforts to close the racial wealth gap

Take Action

## SAVE THE DATE: 113TH NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION



Visit [NAACP.ORG](http://NAACP.ORG) [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#) [@NAACP](#)

Our collective voice is power. Our community is power. And when we gather? Powerful. The 113th NAACP National Convention is the perfect setting to strengthen civil rights and every form of socio-economic equality. Join us online or

in Atlantic City from July 14-20 as we convene to progress policies that impact Black America.

[Learn More](#)



**NAACP**

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