

# NAACP

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE



**AP:** [Racial equity in marijuana pardons requires states' action](#)

"How fair is it that you will legalize marijuana now, tax it to use those state taxes to fund the government, but forget all the people who are sitting in jails or were incarcerated when it was illegal?" NAACP President Derrick Johnson told the AP. "All those individuals who have been charged with marijuana crimes need to be pardoned, particularly those in states that have legalized marijuana."

**NPR:** [Biden's pot pardon will help reverse War on Drugs harm to Black people, advocates say](#)

"The failed policies on drug criminalization have ensnared many on nonviolent marijuana offenses," said Patrice Willoughby, Vice President of Policy and Legislative Affairs at the NAACP.

**Black Enterprise:** [A Step In The Right Direction: President Joe Biden's Pardon of Cannabis Possession Will Help Black Victims of War on Drugs](#)

Patrice Willoughby, the vice president of policy and legislative affairs at the NAACP, said Biden's pardon is a nice start to ending a drug war that has affected generations of Black Americans. "Too many people have been caught up as a result of that and have been denied jobs, opportunity, housing, and other benefits of this country because of a malevolent policy," Willoughby told NPR.

**The Root:** [Will Biden's Marijuana Executive Pardons Lesson the War on Drugs on Black Citizens?](#)

"The failed policies on drug criminalization have ensnared many on nonviolent, marijuana offenses," said Patrice Willoughby, vice president of policy and legislative affairs at the NAACP. "And this has derailed hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people for conduct which is legal and which is disproportionately applied to the African-American community."

**Flagler Live:** [A Passionate, Surgical Rebuke of "Stop Woke" Set at Flagler NAACP's Freedom Fund Awards](#)

Keynote speaker Leon W. Russell, the chair of the NAACP National Board of Directors, opened his talk by quoting some of the lyrics penned by James Weldon Johnson – before Russell delivered a passionate yet calm and surgical rebuke of the "stop woke" set. "Public policy can kill you," Russell said during his talk, speaking neither metaphorically nor histrionically.

**Buzzfeed:** [A Republican Senator Is Being Called "Ignorant" For His Racist Comments About Enslaved People's Descendants](#)

"Senator Tuberville's comments are flat out racist, ignorant and utterly sickening," said NAACP President Derrick Johnson. "His words promote a centuries-old lie about Black people that throughout history has resulted in the most dangerous policies and violent attacks on our community. "Next time the Senator wants to talk about crime, he should talk about Donald Trump's hate-fueled rally on January 6, 2021, and the attacks that followed," Johnson of the NAACP said. "Perhaps the real criminals are in his orbit."

**NBC:** [NAACP denounces 'flat out racist' remarks by GOP Sen. Tommy Tuberville at Trump rally](#)

"Senator Tuberville's comments are flat out racist, ignorant and utterly sickening," NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement. "His words promote a centuries-old lie about Black people that throughout history have resulted in the most dangerous policies and violent attacks on our community." Johnson, who noted that the far right has pushed such racist theories, added: "Next time the Senator wants to talk about crime, he should talk about Donald Trump's hate-fueled rally on January 6, 2021, and the attacks that followed. Perhaps the real criminals are in his orbit."

**HuffPost:** [NAACP Slams Sen. Tuberville For 'Utterly Sickening' Racist Remark](#)

Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville's comments comparing Black people to criminals were "flat out racist, ignorant and utterly sickening," the NAACP's president said Monday. "His words promote a centuries-old lie about Black people that throughout history has resulted in the most dangerous policies and violent attacks on our community," the organization's president, Derrick Johnson, said in a statement about the Alabama lawmaker.

**NPR:** [Alabama Sen. Tuberville equates descendants of enslaved people to criminals](#)

In a press statement, NAACP President Derrick Johnson called Tuberville's comments "flat out racist, ignorant and utterly sickening." "His words promote a centuries-old lie about Black people that throughout history has resulted in the most dangerous policies and violent attacks on our community," Johnson added.

**CBS:** [GOP Sen. Tommy Tuberville faces backlash for controversial comments on Democrats and crime](#)

NAACP President Derrick Johnson called Tuberville's claims "flat out racist, ignorant and utterly sickening." "His words promote a centuries-old lie about Black people that throughout history have resulted in the most dangerous policies and violent attacks on our community," Johnson said in a statement. "We've seen this before from the far-right, and we've seen what they can do when they take power. Next time the senator wants to talk about crime, he should talk about Donald Trump's hate-fueled rally on January 6, 2021, and the attacks that followed. Perhaps the real criminals are in his orbit."

**The Hill:** [NAACP blasts Tuberville for 'flat out racist' reparations comments](#)

NAACP president Derrick Johnson on Monday accused Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.) of spreading dangerous rhetoric after the senator claimed Democrats want reparations for minorities because they are "pro-crime." "Senator Tuberville's comments are flat out racist, ignorant and utterly sickening," Johnson said in a statement on Monday. "His words promote a centuries-old lie about Black people that throughout history has resulted in the most dangerous policies and violent attacks on our community."

**Washington Post:** [Democrats call Sen. Tuberville's comments about crime and reparations racist](#)

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson condemned Tuberville's comments and highlighted criminal activity by some Trump supporters. "Senator Tuberville's comments are flat-out racist, ignorant and utterly sickening," Johnson said Monday in a statement. "His words promote a centuries-old lie about Black people that throughout history have resulted in the most dangerous policies and violent attacks on our community. We've seen this before from the far right, and we've seen what they can do when they take power. "Next time the senator wants to talk about crime, he should talk about Donald Trump's hate-fueled rally on January 6, 2021. Perhaps the real criminals are in his orbit," he added.

**Washington Post:** [Suspect charged in Turks and Caicos death of Arlington NAACP leader](#)

Kent Carter, a vice president of the Arlington NAACP, was in the British Caribbean territory to celebrate his 40th birthday when gunmen ambushed a vehicle he was riding in and shot and killed him. Turks and Caicos police identified Andre De Souza, a resident of the territory, as “a person of interest in gang-related activities.” He was arrested Oct. 6 and charged on Monday with carrying a firearm and ammunition.

**CNN:** [Los Angeles City Council president resigns from leadership role after audio leaked of her racist remarks](#)

The California/Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP and the Los Angeles Branch of the organization are calling for the resignation of all council members involved in that conversation and asking the city to investigate “how far the racial animus has impacted hiring and other decisions of the City Council,” they said in a joint statement. “We will not sit idly by and allow our elected representatives to engage in these kinds of disgusting and racist behaviors,” said Latricia Mitchell, president of the Los Angeles branch of the NAACP.

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## STATEMENTS:

- [NAACP Commends President Biden for his Executive Order to Lower Healthcare Costs](#)
- [NAACP President Derrick Johnson on the January 6th Hearings](#)
- [NAACP President Derrick Johnson on Sen. Tuberville's Racist Comments this Weekend](#)

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## TOGETHER. POWER. VOTE.



### Voting Rights Training

In this training, you will learn more about national voting rights issues and national trends. Choose your preferred training date at the link below:

- October 19, 7 p.m. ET
- October 26, 7 p.m. ET
- November 2, 7 p.m. ET

Register

### Poll Monitor Training

Want to help your fellow voters at the polls during early voting and on Election Day? Join one of the Wednesday sessions listed below to learn how you can become a poll monitor in your community.

- October 18, 7 p.m. ET
- October 25, 7 p.m. ET

Register

## BLACK ENTREPRENEURS DAY



What do you call a special night honoring Black innovation, Black entrepreneurship, and Black excellence? Daymond John, founder and CEO of FUBU, calls it Black Entrepreneurs Day.

Since its inception, Black Entrepreneurs Day has raised more than \$500,000 in Black Business grants in partnership with the NAACP through the NAACP Powershift Entrepreneur Grant. For the third year, we're looking forward to seeing the ways that Black businesses are changing the landscape in industries like tech, beauty, travel, and retail and helping them scale through the grant.

Presented by Chase, this year's event will boast an exciting roster of celebrity guest speakers including:

- Spike Lee,
- Venus Williams,
- Tracee Ellis Ross,

- Shaquille O'Neal,
- Killer Mike, and many more.

Tune In

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## TAKE ACTION: JACKSON WATER CRISIS



For too long Jackson and countless other majority-Black communities around the country have lived with inadequate, unreliable, and unhealthy water. Swift, decisive action can begin to make this right.

Demand the EPA open the NAACP's call for a federal civil rights investigation into the State of Mississippi for its years of racially discriminatory neglect and underfunding of Jackson's water systems and to ensure that residents and plaintiffs are centered in the solutions.