

THE President's Circle

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

President's Circle Perspectives

Thank you for standing with the National Urban League during these challenging times. We know the road ahead is not easy—democracy is under attack, economic inequality is deepening, and the fight for justice demands our full strength. But thanks to your unwavering support, we are rising to meet this moment with bold action and unshakable hope.

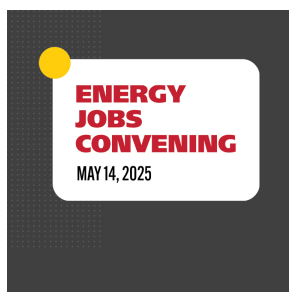
From advancing clean energy jobs and expanding financial empowerment to defending voting rights and amplifying Black voices, our movement is stronger than ever. Together, we are making real progress and building a future where every person can thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your commitment fuels our work—and our hope.

In solidarity,

Yours In The Movement, Marc H. Morial

President's Circle Supporters



IMPACT ON THE GROUND

Powering the Future

On May 14, the National Urban League convened top voices from public policy and the clean energy industry for our second annual **Energy Jobs Convening—a powerful day of dialogue, ideas, and action.** The conversations centered on a shared vision: ensuring the clean energy transition



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The Urban League Movement on Capital Hill

On May 15–16, the National Urban League and our Washington Bureau hosted the **22nd Annual Legislative Policy Conference (LPC)** — a cornerstone event that, for over two decades, has united members of Congress, state and local

becomes a driver of job creation and economic opportunity in the communities that need it most.

From panel discussions to policy solutions we spotlighted how programs like the League's **Urban Energy Jobs** initiative are expanding representation in energy careers and fueling inclusive economic growth—making sure no community is left behind in the energy economy of tomorrow.

To learn more, visit: <https://nul.org/program/urban-energy-jobs-program>



The Road to Financial Empowerment

In April 2025, the National Urban League—proudly partnering with DoorDash—took a major step forward in its fight for economic equity with the **launch of the Virtual Financial Empowerment Center (VFEC) App**.

This next chapter in our VFEC initiative brings trusted, practical financial guidance directly to the palms of people's hands—empowering individuals and families to manage debt, build savings, and plan for long-term success.

"By expanding access to free, practical financial education, we are equipping individuals and families with the tools they need to build a secure future."

GET THE VFEC APP

leaders, and grassroots advocates from across the country.

This year's LPC came at a pivotal moment. As congressional authority is tested, civil rights protections face rollbacks, and economic inequality widens, the League convened critical conversations on the fight to protect our democracy and advance equity.

Plenaries and breakout sessions focused on bold, actionable strategies for inclusive economic growth—including the launch of the **Main Street Tax Initiative**, a new campaign to ensure tax policies work for working families and underserved communities.



Making Our Voices Heard

The National Urban League is boldly standing up to defend democracy, demand diversity, and defeat poverty. Alongside our human rights partners, we have spoken out and taken decisive action against policies that threaten fundamental rights and progress.

We have firmly opposed the **Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (SAVE Act)**—a dangerous measure that jeopardizes our fundamental right to vote. We've challenged efforts to dismantle the **Department of Education**, which would strip away crucial federal protections ensuring every child receives a quality education. And we are fighting the shutdown of the **Minority Business Development Agency**, whose vital work drives economic equity and closes the racial wealth gap.

Our voices—and yours—are critical in this fight to protect the rights and futures of all Americans.

MAIN STREET TAX INITIATIVE



FACES OF THE MOVEMENT

Sweet Treat Hut, a healthy smoothies and vegan food restaurant with five locations in Philadelphia, came to the Urban League of Philadelphia looking to expand its business in low-income neighborhoods. Since Fall 2022, the Entrepreneurship Center has worked with the company, providing coaching and training in marketing, strategic planning, procurement, and loan preparation.

Interested in opening a sixth location in North Philadelphia near Temple University's campus, **the Entrepreneurship Center assisted Sweet Treat Hut to secure a \$575,000 loan to fund its expansion.**

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERVICES



HIGHLIGHT NUL STAFFER: Isabelle Verdini

Isabelle Verdini serves as Manager, Compliance for Affiliate Services at the National Urban League. In this role, Isabelle supports the 92 Urban League Affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

P&A: Isabelle, tell us more about your role?

IV: As part of the Compliance Team, I make sure that each of the UL Affiliates lives up to their obligations in the terms of the UL Affiliate Agreements. One thing that I work on almost every day is the uploading of reports, including monthly and quarterly financial reports and KPI (Key Performance Indicators), and each UL Affiliate's annual audit and Form 990. We also conduct the Annual UL Affiliate Census, tracking programs and people served. In addition to the Compliance, we conduct professional development training for the CEOs, CFOs, Board members, and other leaders, as well as making recommendations where needed. We want to keep track of how each UL Affiliate is doing – how they are serving the community and managing their finances – to help them succeed.

P&A: Why is the accountability of the UL Affiliates so important?

IV: The UL Affiliates are devoted to the same values – civil rights, social justice – of the National Urban League. Through this shared mission, the UL Affiliates provide programs in their communities, including workforce development, education, and entrepreneurship. Our team makes sure the UL Affiliates are run well to deliver critical services to the people who need them.

P&A: You have a unique background. What was your professional journey to the League?

IV: Prior to the National Urban League, I worked in compliance on Wall Street for 18 years. Before that, I worked for state legislature, and so the transition to the nonprofit sector in many ways was a natural fit. I explored fundraising at first until I learned of the compliance role from a recruiter. We are one of the few national organizations conducting compliance on our affiliate network, so I knew this job was rare. I was also familiar with the National Urban League and its leadership – Whitney M. Young, Jr., Vernon Jordan – and their role in the fight for civil rights.

P&A: What is one of your most memorable moments at the League?

IV: Conducting the performance assessment for the Urban League of Greater Atlanta. It was a real eye-opener of all the work that the Affiliates do. Under Nancy Flake Johnson's leadership, the Affiliate grew phenomenally to include programming – Financial Empowerment, Health, Housing, Justice. It was fantastic to see.

P&A: Why is it important to support the League?

IV: The National Urban League provides services to everyone – Black Americans, White Americans, Immigrants. It is the oldest and longest serving civil rights and social justice organizations. It has been able to withstand time and work with every administration to continue to serve people. That's what we do.

Connect, Support, and Get Involved!

You Are Invited ...

The Virtual Conversation Series Inside the Movement is an exclusive opportunity to join the National Urban League's leadership team, as well as your fellow philanthropic leadership, the President's Circle, to discuss topics central to our mission of economic empowerment and social justice. The 2025 schedule includes:

- June 18 | 2-3 pm ET: Driving Our Work on the Ground: Urban League Affiliates, Guild and Young Professionals
- October 1 | 2-3 pm ET: The Next Generation: Whitney M. Young, Jr. Youth Summit, Business Executive Exchange Program, Digital Career Service Series
- November 19 | 2-3 pm ET: Together We Stand: A Year End Review of Equitable Justice and Civic Engagement

To RSVP, please email tcruzcons@nul.org

Upcoming Signature Events

- The 2025 National Urban League Conference will be held on July 16-19 in Cleveland, OH. The largest civil rights and social justice event of 2025 brings together leaders in government, business, culture, media, and grassroots advocacy to explore the challenges confronting Black communities and create opportunities for professional and economic advancement.
- The 2025 Equal Opportunity Dinner will be held on November 13 in New York City. The annual fundraising event celebrates trailblazing leaders in industry, media, the arts, and government who personify the National Urban League's mission of equal opportunity for the underserved. To learn more, visit: <https://nul.org/events>

Support our mission of opportunity and equity.

Please consider donating to the 2025 Annual Fund.

To donate, visit: <https://nul.org/donate>

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