

THE President's Circle



NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

President's Circle Perspectives

President's Circle Supporters

Thank you. Your generous commitment fuels the fight for justice, opportunity, and equity every single day. Americans, especially Black Americans, are facing unprecedented challenges: jobs, education, housing, and health are all under threat, and the very tools of democracy that protect us are being undermined. The National Urban League is here to lead the resistance, ensure our communities' needs are met, and empower our people not just to survive these challenges but to thrive stronger than ever.

This issue of PC Perspectives shares more about how your support drives this critical work and the impact we are achieving together.

In solidarity,

Yours In The Movement, Marc H. Morial



IMPACT ON THE GROUND

Investing in Students' Futures

This back-to-school season, the National Urban League is proud to support children and young adults on their academic journeys. We launched the [Project Ready Scholarship](#), expanding our commitment to preparing students for college and careers by directly investing in their futures.



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Defending Democracy in the Face of Extremism

The National Urban League's [2025 State of Black America: State of Emergency](#)[®] report exposes an unprecedented extremist, anti-diversity movement seeking to erase 60 years of freedoms gained under the Voting Rights Act and undermine democracy itself. The Urban League Movement is



Meanwhile, the Urban League of St. Louis hosted its [Back-to-School Expo](#), distributing nearly \$400,000 worth of school supplies, food, groceries, toiletries, and protective equipment to families.



Making Every Voice Count

The National Urban League recently released the [American Community Survey Toolkit](#). The ACS is more than just data—it's a roadmap for equity, helping determine **how over \$1.5 trillion in federal funding is distributed**. From education and housing to healthcare and job training, these resources shape opportunity in Black communities. Yet undercounting threatens to strip away resources, representation, and visibility for African Americans, Afro-Latinos, and immigrants across the Diaspora.



Celebrating and Mobilizing at Conference 2025 From July 16–19, the National Urban League Conference brought together policymakers, thought leaders, activists, and community members in Cleveland, OH. Marc H. Morial, President and CEO, opened with the **State of the Urban League Address**, outlining priorities for the year ahead. The event featured major celebrations—the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Gala, Legacy Leadership Awards Luncheon, and Women of Power Awards Luncheon—along with plenaries on economic opportunity and civic engagement, plus community gatherings such as Career and Networking Fairs, Small Business Matters, and Community Day.

[Watch State of the Urban League Address](#)

[Access American Community Survey Toolkit](#)

fighting alongside Civil Rights leaders and communities nationwide as a leader in the resistance. [To read the full SOBA report click red button below.](#)

[Click here to watch the Opening Plenary event](#)



Standing Up for Fair Budgets

On June 26, the National Urban League and **eight legacy civil rights organizations** sent an urgent letter to Congress condemning the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.” Its cuts to health care, food assistance, tax credits, and other programs would devastate millions of Americans—especially Black families. [Click to read more.](#)

Protecting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Urban League is pushing back against the backlash to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Today, the Black unemployment rate has spiked to its highest level in four years—7.2%, nearly double the white unemployment rate of 3.7%. This misguided war on equity, combined with chaotic tariff policies, is weakening the entire U.S. economy.

[State of Black America Report](#)



Conversations on Giving Back

The National Urban League launched **Philanthropy in Action**, a new series highlighting mission-driven partnerships and the power of giving. In the first episode, Dennis G. Serrette, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer, sat down with Tim Murphy, Vice Chair of Mastercard and Chair of the National Urban League's Board of Trustees, to discuss impact, responsibility, and why giving back matters.

[Watch Philanthropy In Action Episode 1](#)



FACES OF THE MOVEMENT

HIGHLIGHT NUL STAFFER: Deja Redding

Partnerships & Advance recently sat down with **Deja Redding** to discuss her roles as **Manager, Operations and Finance at the National Urban League (NUL)'s Washington Bureau (WB)**.

P&A: What is the WB?

DR: I think of the WB as the NUL's heartbeat. Our team focuses on advocacy and policy to advance the NUL's agenda, building relationships with decision-makers on Capital Hill, and educating and supporting the UL Affiliate movement to advocate in their local communities and states.

P&A: Please tell us more about your role as Manager, Operations and Finance. How did you first learn about the NUL's WB?

DR: During graduate school, I worked for the Biden-Harris administration in The White House's Office of Public Engagement. As the "front door" of the administration, I met with stakeholders, including the NUL to see what's happening on the ground, what's the impact of our policy, and what people need. Following my time there, I joined the WB. I now am part of the team that is meeting with the administration to influence policy that is more equitable and advantageous to communities we serve.

P&A: What does a day in the life of Deja look like?

DR: I like to say that I am a Swiss army knife. My work focuses on special projects and policy research, as well as data analysis and executive support. One day, I might partner with Marc Morial and Tara Murray, the Washington Bureau's Executive Director, to research an urgent issue and develop correspondence to Congress. Another day, I might be working on stakeholder engagement. Throughout, I am developing systems, processes, and mechanisms to leverage data, identify the impact of our advocacy efforts, and make sure we are efficient and effective in representing our communities' needs.

P&A: When you think about driving change, what is your approach.

DR: There is a lot of discussion that change happens bottom up and top down. I also think it happens inside out. As individuals and at large as organization, we can only control what we can: our beliefs, our behaviors, how and when we take action, and what we fight for. We have the power to be disruptive spirits. With strong foundations and a willingness to stand firm and speak out, we can effect change.

P&A: Please share a memorable experience.

DR: This year's Empowerment Summit, which includes the annual Legislative Policy Conference and the Energy Summit. I played a key role in the development and execution of the event. It meant a lot to engage and convene members of the NUL's Urban Solutions Council, leaders from other civil rights organizations, and others around issues relevant to our community. You could see coalition building and change happening in real time. I personally met thought leaders and some of my personal role models including Congresswoman Yvette Clarke and Former Congresswoman, Stacey Abrams.

P&A: In your own words, why is it important to support the National Urban League and the Urban League Affiliate Movement?

DR: If not us, than who? Who is going to do it? In today's world right now, it is fight or flight. The National Urban League is – has always and will always– fight for you.

Connect, Support, and Get Involved!

Save The Date:

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: Nov. 19th | 2-3 pm ET: ***Together We Stand: A Year End Review of Equitable Justice and Civic Engagement*** To RSVP, please email tcruzcons@nul.org

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.

The **2026 National Urban League Conference** will be held on July 29-August 1 in Nashville, TN. The largest annual civil rights and social justice event 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. [Click this link to learn more, visit: nul.org/events](https://nul.org/events)

Donate to Defend Democracy, Demand Diversity, Defeat Poverty

Americans are facing an onslaught of critical challenges: rising unemployment, soaring costs of living, threats to free public education, and the erosion of government assistance for food, housing, and health care. The National Urban League is here to respond—and to win. We connect people to jobs, education, housing, and health care. We advocate in our cities, states, and on Capitol Hill for policies that expand opportunity and help families thrive.

Your support is urgently needed. Please make a gift to the 2025 Annual Fund today.

[Click to DONATE NOW!](#)

Donor Newsletters

Other Ways To Give