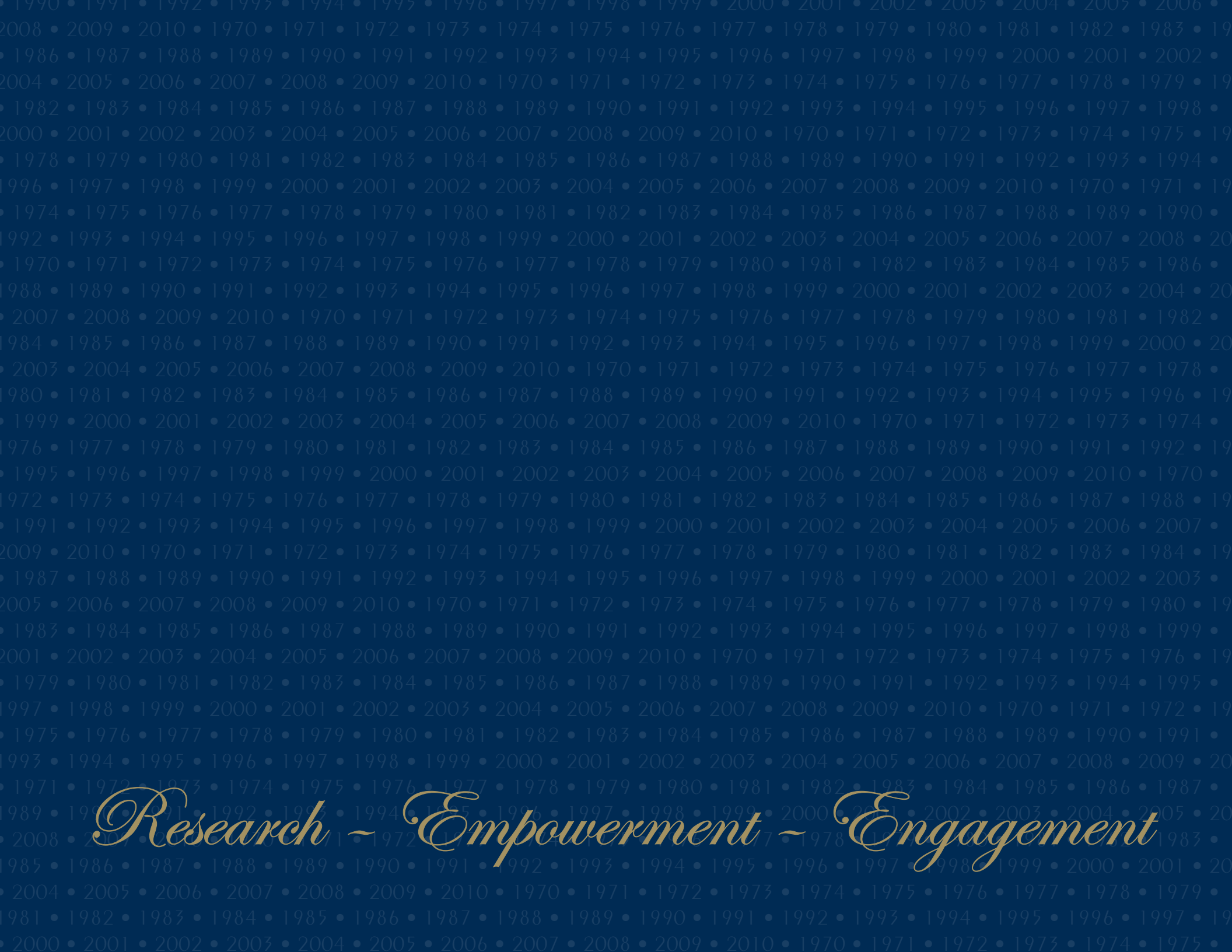




**JOINT  
CENTER**  
— FOR —  
POLITICAL  
AND ECONOMIC  
STUDIES

*40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*

*2009 Annual Report*



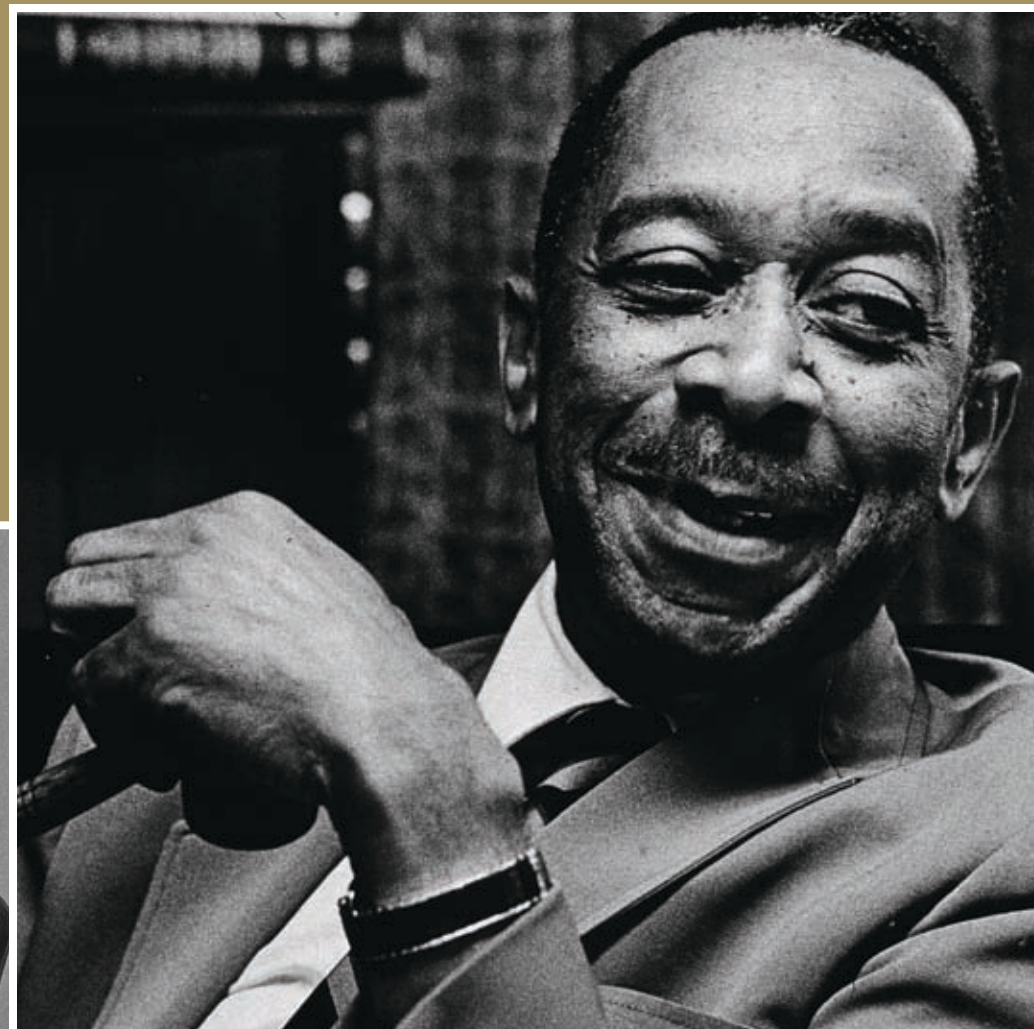
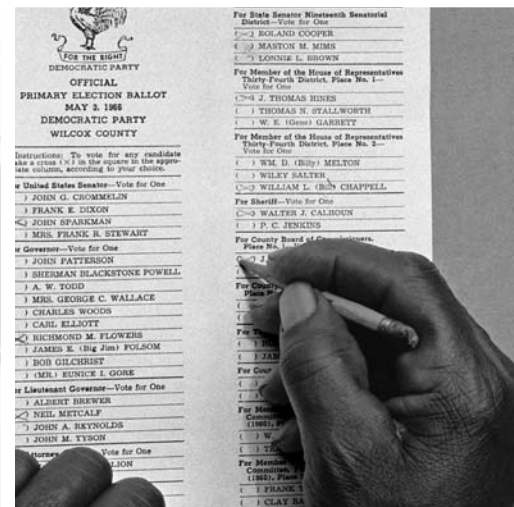
# Research - Empowerment - Engagement



The Joint Center was created in 1970 to lend a hand to black leaders as they traveled the uncharted road from civil rights activism to the political establishment.

*Two centuries of isolation and virtual exclusion from meaningful participation in the political process have resulted in a lack of interest, background, and training and practical politics on the part of the black community. Thus there is a frustration and disenchantment among Negroes which has led to the advocacy of separatism, confrontation, and violence rather than participatory democracy as the more effective means of achieving the Negro's legitimate role in our society.*

~ Excerpt from draft proposal to create an Institute for Black Political Education – later to become the Joint Center for Political Studies, 1969



*Elected Negro officials are now the only civil rights leaders who are representative of the aspirations, the desires, and the quest for answers posed by their constituents, and who are elected by the people to speak for them.*

~ Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, 1967



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As the spokeswoman for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Fannie Lou Hamer traveled to Atlantic City, NJ, with other activists for the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Although being denied official credentials, the symbolic party became a catalyst for independent black political organizations throughout the country.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is signed into law.

Residents wait in line to register to vote in 1965. In some jurisdictions, local officials made African Americans wait all day to try to deter them from registering.

Making his mark, one of the first African Americans to cast a vote under the new law exercises his right to vote in 1966.

Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, a founder of the Joint Center at a New York Times interview, 1975.

Rioting in urban centers in the 1960s was fueled in part by frustration and distrust of the political system among many African Americans.

A delegation from the Joint Center and Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. in a roundtable meeting with President Carter.

Louis E. Martin, a founder and the first chair of the Joint Center Board of Governors, with President Lyndon Johnson.





## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is the embodiment of both old and new. Its founding in 1970 was a nod to the long tradition of African American scholars and activists who fought to make our nation's most cherished ideals come alive for every citizen.

Given all the progress in American politics and governance over the past 40 years—especially in light of the Joint Center's legacy and original purpose to guide African Americans toward engagement, participation and influence in our political system—we can be justifiably proud of the Joint Center's contributions through scholarly research, economic studies and the sharing of information, that both remind and enable this great nation to live up to its promise for all people.

But simply looking back on achievements is not what the Joint Center is about. One look at our strategic work plan for the future shows that this organization is embracing the opportunities and the challenges of these somewhat uncertain times with a clear lens on the present, yet with uncanny foresight in participating in and informing the agenda of the future.

During 2009, the Joint Center brought fresh perspectives into national debates on the economy, health care, technology, and the environment, leveraging our time-tested principles and historic mission with innovative new approaches and initiatives that have kept us in the thick of the action on the vital issues of the day. We are making a difference.

And in 2010, we intend to continue moving forward to advance our research capabilities, create new and innovative perspectives to add to the policy mix, and nurture collaborations and networks to give them relevance and impact.

Always keeping faith with our mission to focus on the concerns of African Americans and other people of color, we are determined that our work and our success will touch every American household, make a practical difference in every life, and result in an America that is truly a better place for all.

The Joint Center has earned and needs your continued support now more than ever because America needs the Joint Center—now more than ever.

Roderick D. Gillum, Esq.  
*Chairman*  
Board of Governors



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For four decades, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has been driving America's progress toward that more perfect union envisioned in our nation's founding ideals. Always central to our mission has been to build relationships across racial and ethnic lines in order to strengthen the nation's pluralistic society. And in this current era of decision and debate on historic issues, we are determined as ever to offer ideas and initiatives that are grounded in the proposition that America does best as a nation—and people of all races benefit in practical ways—when we expand equity and opportunity in every community.

Throughout 2009, many of America's most influential policy makers took notice. The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and key members of Congress were proud to stand with the Joint Center and our Health Policy Institute as we unveiled research showing that greater health equity could bring down costs for everyone, adding a new element to the health care reform debate.

Similarly, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator and her team have worked closely with the Joint Center on our initiative to bring new voices to the work toward climate change. There is now fresh urgency to solving a problem that the scientific community warns is a threat to every human being.

As members of the Federal Communications Commission have grappled with the challenge of extending the latest broadband technologies to every American home, they have the Joint Center's Media and Technology Institute as a close partner in highlighting the vast potential of the Internet as an avenue of opportunity for people of color.

*Research - Empowerment - Engagement*—these are the critical elements of our approach as an organization, undertaken amid a 40 year legacy of bringing people of color into civic leadership and our political system, helping them develop pathways to influence and impact, and supporting them with the essential information and associations that they can employ to get things done.

This approach still has enormous relevance and value at a time of economic downturn, when the longstanding inequities still plague many of our communities, and when much work remains to be done. The Joint Center will continue to stand firm on our reputation for honestly assessing which policies are working and which have failed, and helping point the way to necessary and needed change.

Throughout 2010, we will continue our non-partisan commitment to strengthen the impact of our research and policy activities, and to seek innovative ways to generate an abundance of opportunity for all Americans to learn, to achieve health and happiness, and to live their dreams.

Ralph B. Everett, Esq.  
*President and CEO*

ORIGINAL BOARD  
OF GOVERNORS

Louis E. Martin  
*Board Chair and Editor,  
Michigan Chronicle and later  
the Chicago Defender*

Dr. Andrew Billingsley  
*Vice President for Academic  
Affairs, Howard University*

The Honorable  
Edward W. Brooke  
*U.S. Senate (R-MA)*

Dr. James E. Cheek  
*President, Howard University*

Dr. Kenneth B. Clark  
*Social Psychologist and  
Professor, City College of  
New York*

Eleanor Farrar  
*Director, Washington Office,  
Metropolitan Applied  
Research Center*

Sam C. Jackson, Esq.  
*Partner, Stroock & Stroock  
& Larson*

Frank Reeves, Esq.  
*Executive Director*

THE JOINT CENTER TURNS 40

CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY AND OUR IMPACT

The past four decades have been an era of enormous change and transformation in the U.S., as newly enfranchised communities moved into mainstream politics, asserted their aspirations in policy circles, propelled their leaders onto the national stage and began to exert their influence in our nation’s ongoing quest to achieve a more perfect union.

Through it all, the organization that is now the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has been there to lead, to guide and to influence the shape of things to come.

FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

The Joint Center was created in 1970 to lend a hand to black leaders as they traveled the uncharted road from civil rights activism to the political establishment. Its most prominent founders were Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, a renowned social psychologist, and Louis E. Martin, the legendary newspaper editor who had become a key presidential adviser on issues affecting black America.

As the heir to a rich legacy of activists and scholars—from the early abolitionists to the civil rights leaders—the nonpartisan Joint Center began its work with an emphasis on translating hard-won voting rights into practical improvements through political empowerment.

Coming in the wake of the social turmoil of the late 1960s, its founders established it as an advocate of using the nation’s political system to achieve racial equality.

*It seems to me that those of us  
who participated in this venture  
now have the responsibility  
to find permanent means to  
assist this group of over  
1,200 black elected officials  
to become more effective within their  
communities and more powerful as the  
representatives of their people.*

~ Eleanor Farrar  
Washington Director of the Metropolitan Applied Research  
Center and an original board member of the Joint Center

It was in this context that a group comprised of Clark, Martin, New York Borough President Percy E. Sutton, California State Senator Mervyn M. Dymally, who had organized a Conference of Black Elected Officials in his state, and Vernon E. Jordan, then director of the Voter Education Project, joined together to create a draft proposal for an institute for black political education, which was to become the Joint Center.

Frank Reeves, the Howard University Law School professor and political activist who would become the Joint Center’s first executive director, contended that the reason to focus on black politics was to improve “the conditions of the ghettos against which we rebel.” To Sutton and Reeves, increasing the number of black elected officials was a legitimate goal primarily because it also supported a better life for African Americans.



EMPOWERING BLACK ELECTED OFFICIALS

Known initially as the Joint Center for Political Studies, the organization began its work at a time when black politicians were just beginning to expand their representation on school boards, city councils and in state legislatures around the country—and when the total number of black elected officials numbered fewer than 1,500.

By creating a reliable foundation of information, technical assistance and networking activities, the Joint Center sought to strengthen the capacity of this emerging political class to further its influence within the system, as well as its own effectiveness in bringing lasting improvements to the communities they represented.

*Flood the precinct and ward meetings  
with persons loyal to our cause.  
We must become the new precinct captains and  
ward leaders. There is nothing wrong with the  
old politics when it is serving our interests.*

~ Frank Reeves, Esq., Executive Director  
Joint Center for Political Studies, 1972

Throughout the 1970s, the Joint Center built upon this foundation and set into motion other organizations such as the National Conference of Black Mayors and the National Conference of Black State Legislators. It sponsored seminars and technical assistance programs for elected officials, budding politicians and other civil rights leaders. It became the nation’s foremost authority on the black electorate and its elected leadership, regularly publishing the *National Roster of Black Elected Officials* and important guidebooks on black politics that are distributed at the major political party conventions.

As it matured, and under the leadership of longtime President and CEO Eddie N. Williams, the Joint Center sought to expand its focus beyond political training and into the world of policy research, ideas and debate—in fact, to become a first-rate think tank with a focus on the concerns of African Americans and other people of color.



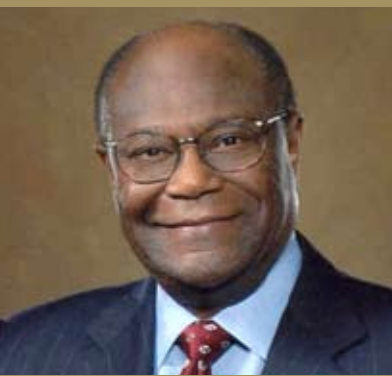
Frank Reeves, Esq.  
Executive Director  
1970-1972



The Honorable Togo D. West, Jr.  
President and CEO  
2004-2006

Above left:  
Black elected mayors attend  
Joint Center meeting to discuss  
issues of concern to cities.  
Left to right, Henry L. Marsh,  
III of Richmond, VA; Maynard  
Jackson, Atlanta, GA; Warren  
Widener, Berkeley, CA; and  
Edward Bivens, Jr. of Inkster, MI.





Eddie N. Williams  
President and CEO  
1972-2004

*Our aim is to identify public policy issues that have implications for [black America]... to be both a center for intellectual discovery and a wellspring of practical political knowledge.*

~ Eddie N. Williams

## THE JOINT CENTER TURNS 40 CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY AND OUR IMPACT

### BROADENING OUR APPROACH

*The most urgent problems facing excluded blacks can best be addressed by focusing on three areas: the progress of the economy, the condition of the black family, and educational opportunity.*

~ Joint Center Committee on Policy for Racial Justice  
Co-chaired by Drs. John Hope Franklin and Kenneth B. Clark, 1981

In 1990, the Joint Center added a word to its name, becoming the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. A new, heightened focus on social and economic issues was suited to the concerns of an emerging number of politicians of color who now represented racially diverse districts and, while still determined to advance civil rights, was also concerned about the bread and butter issues plaguing impoverished neighborhoods. To that end, the Joint Center has developed the capacity to produce reliable research and public policy analyses, yielding data that could be used by all politicians and policy makers to help all Americans in dealing with the issues of race, poverty and the disadvantaged.

### A LEADING SOURCE FOR INFORMATION

In the past decade, and most recently under the leadership of President and CEO Ralph B. Everett, the Joint Center has worked to create and strengthen policy institutes to serve as centers of excellence for specific issue areas of importance to communities of

color. Established in 2002, its Health Policy Institute has become a leading provider of research and policy analysis on identifying and reducing racial and ethnic health inequalities and, in the context of the 2009 health care reform debate, the Institute has provided important perspectives on the wider cost of those inequalities to our health care system.

The Media and Technology Institute, founded in 2008, has set forth a research agenda aimed at increasing knowledge of how people of color use of the new digital communications technologies and where gaps exist, as well as how expanding broadband access and adoption can lead to greater equality, opportunity and social progress in long-neglected communities.

In 2010, leveraging its 40 years of leadership in measuring and encouraging civic and political engagement in the black community, the Joint Center will add a new center for excellence—the Civic Engagement and Governance Institute—to continue serving as the nation’s leading source of information about the civic and political engagement in the African American community and be the catalyst to address critical issues, translate knowledge to solutions and deliver those solutions to appropriate constituencies.

Today, with the number of black elected officials having grown to over 10,000 nationwide, the Joint Center looks to its future as an essential resource for elected officials and other policy makers as they seek to identify and address America’s key social and economic challenges—ever mindful of its historic mission and its longstanding commitment to strengthen America’s commitment to justice and equal opportunity for all.





## FOUR DECADES AND A PAGE IS TURNED



At left:  
President Obama's Inauguration invigorated  
political interest and engagement among many.

Above:  
Ralph B. Everett, Esq., President and CEO, and his wife Dr. Gwendolyn H. Everett at the  
People's Inaugural Project Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon on January 19, 2009.  
The luncheon was one of several events The Stafford Foundation sponsored in Washington, D.C.  
during President Obama's Inaugural weekend for people from all over the country  
who would normally not have the opportunity to participate in inaugural activities.

Two hundred and thirty-three years after our country was founded on bedrock principles of human equality, an African American now occupies the highest elected office in the land. Behind that simple fact are many tales about the arc of our history and the people who have helped bend it toward this moment.

President Barack Obama has already begun to set a new direction to address the enormous burdens that have been placed on his shoulders. But for the rest of us, especially those who never thought they would live to see this day, it is a time to pause and reflect on the wonders of our democracy and the enduring power of the dream that has been carried through the ages from the founding fathers to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and into the present day. It is a time to teach our children about the new possibilities that are now theirs to behold.

And while the vision of a more perfect union now seems closer to our grasp, our new President has noted that there is a long road ahead of us. At the same time, he has spoken eloquently about a new spirit of service and responsibility in which each American is called upon to look after not only ourselves, but each other. We wholeheartedly endorse that message and pledge to carry it forward in every aspect of our work.

~ **Ralph B. Everett, Esq.**, President and CEO  
*From a statement issued for Inauguration Day  
January 20, 2009*





## *Who we are and what we do*

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is a catalyst for research on topics of concern to African Americans and other people of color. Initially founded to encourage African American political participation in the wake of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, the Joint Center continues to promote civic and political engagement—and support black leadership—as the primary route to greater equality and opportunity for people of color.



*The Joint Center is doing excellent and necessary work in helping drive the digital revolution into communities where technology can make an immense difference.*

~ Walter B. McCormick, Jr.  
President and CEO  
United States Telecom  
Association

Page 10:  
The Honorable  
Verna L. Jones Rodwell,  
State Senator,  
District 44, Maryland at the  
*Closing the Wealth Gap*  
Policy Forum in June.

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Research, empowerment and engagement are much more than the elements of the Joint Center's 40-year legacy. They go right to the heart of our agenda for the future.

Always assessing and adapting, and forever responding to emerging challenges with new ideas and approaches, the Joint Center has played a critical role over the years in guiding emerging African American leaders on their journey toward greater civic engagement and political empowerment, and building for them a foundation of cutting-edge research and policy analysis on which to extend their impact and success.

### A TRUSTED SOURCE

Uniquely focused on critical issues of concern to African Americans and other people of color, the Joint Center continues to be a trusted source of information on the critical issues of the day—health and health care equity, economic security, energy and climate change, digital opportunity and innovation, and civic engagement and governance. Our high-quality research, our distinctive analyses of the issues and our experience in assembling effective coalitions have been cited by policy makers as helping to generate innovative, practical solutions to America's most challenging issues.

Indeed, the Joint Center has made important contributions to every major policy debate that has occurred since our founding in 1970. And we are carrying on that work in the current era of intense activity in the legislative and policy arenas.

### OUR RECENT WORK

Over the course of 2009, our research on persistent racial inequities and their enormous cost to our health care system and society at large brought new considerations into the health care reform debate and were welcomed by top Administration officials and Congressional leaders. Our leadership and knowledge regarding how people of color use broadband has helped to empower a broad-based coalition to propel the formulation of a National Broadband Plan. Our strength in organizing policy initiatives is helping bring new voices and concerns into the debate over climate change and what to do about global warming.

In the worst economic downturn in generations—and one that is hitting especially hard in communities of color—the Joint Center is responding to the call for information and ideas on how the recovery effort can bring sustainable improvements to urban neighborhoods and rural areas that have not seen opportunity even in the best of times.

These and other Joint Center initiatives are discussed in greater detail within the pages of this year's annual report. Read about them and discover why so many elected officials, civic leaders, scholars and others involved in the policy arena look to the Joint Center for our unique perspectives and thought leadership on building a better and more just society.



*Over the past four decades, the Joint Center has played a vital role in supporting and advancing our country's racial progress with sound research and policy analysis that are undertaken through the lens of the African American community.*

*There really is no other organization like it.*

~ President William Jefferson Clinton





## *Research*

Today, the Joint Center's approach includes identifying critical and emerging issues and developing research parameters, as well as collaborating with well-known scholars and experts in designing and conducting rigorous investigations, studies and reports. We publicize our research findings in relevant policy circles and among targeted audiences through our publications and our strategic partners, and with the general public through traditional and new media.



*There is no question that reducing health disparities can save incredible amounts of money. The Joint Center's report, The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States, provides the evidence why eliminating health inequities can provide an important source of savings. More importantly, it saves lives and makes us a stronger and more prosperous nation.*

~ The Honorable  
Kathleen Sebelius  
U.S. Secretary of Health  
and Human Services

Page 14:  
U.S. Secretary of Health  
and Human Services  
Kathleen Sebelius  
addresses the briefing  
with Majority Whip  
James E. Clyburn (D-SC)  
and Ralph B. Everett, Esq.  
looking on.

## HEALTH RESEARCH

# SPOTLIGHTING THE COSTS OF HEALTH INEQUALITY

In the midst of the Congressional debate over health care reform, and with U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius looking on, the Joint Center released a groundbreaking report, *The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States*, that exposed the enormous costs of not addressing health inequalities that are a burden to the health care system and the public at large.

According to this new study, which was prepared by the Joint Center's Health Policy Institute and researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the University of Maryland, racial inequalities in health added more than \$50 billion a year in direct U.S. health care costs over a four-year period. The study also found that more than 30 percent of direct medical expenditures for African Americans, Asian Americans and Hispanics were excess costs linked to health inequalities.

Furthermore, the researchers estimated that the indirect costs of racial inequalities associated with illness and premature death amounted to more than a trillion dollars during the period from 2006 to 2009. Eliminating these inequalities would have saved the U.S. economy a grand total of \$1.24 trillion dollars.

The study was released as part of a discussion at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to an overflow audience. The panel included U.S. House of Representatives Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (D-SC), Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL), Delegate Donna M. Christensen (D-VI), key Administration officials, and representatives from advocacy organizations, academia and the health care industry.

*What the [researchers] found was striking. More than 30 percent of direct medical costs faced by African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans were excess costs due to health inequities—more than \$230 billion over a three year period. And when you add the indirect costs of these inequities over the same period, the tab comes to \$1.24 trillion.*

~ Ralph B. Everett, Esq.  
From the foreword to the report



## ECONOMIC RESEARCH AGENDA

# CREATING PATHS TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

As national, state and local leaders confront the current recession, the Joint Center looks to support the policy making process and to encourage understanding and dialogue. As a nonpartisan research institution, the Joint Center offers expertise in a variety of key economic areas and produces a body of work tailored to addressing emerging concerns with an eye toward expanding equality and opportunity.

## HOUSING AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Understanding the recent sub-prime mortgage meltdown and resulting banking crisis and particularly its impact on minority homeowners and their communities. Evaluate proposals for strengthening oversight of financial markets and predatory lending practices. Review the status and effectiveness of various federal and state housing policies, including Section 8 vouchers and public housing rehabilitation programs.



## TAX POLICY

Benefits and drawbacks of various tax reform proposals. Review tax incentives verses regular government programs as the best way of promoting social goals and the value and worth of economic stimulus programs undertaken via the tax code.

## ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Trends in economic mobility across racial and generational lines; how factors such as education, discrimination, health, family status, wealth and income volatility drive both upward and downward mobility.

## BENEFITS POLICIES

How public policies regarding social insurance, income support and child support influence the economic well-being of people of color, particularly the elderly, the disabled and low-income families. Research and analysis on Social Security and trends pertaining to employee retirement and other benefit programs.

## CONSUMER BEHAVIOR AND LIVING STANDARDS

Impact of economic gyrations and a particular focus on higher gasoline and food prices, on living standards in communities of color. Trends related to stability of family income, improving public infrastructure on quality of life, and employment opportunities, particularly in urban areas.



Throughout the years, the Joint Center's research has been used to inform key domestic policy issues. Here, U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich discusses unemployment data, 1995.

Page 16:  
Gina E. Wood, Deputy Director, Health Policy Institute highlights the Joint Center's recent research on the economic burden of health inequalities.

ASSET-BUILDING IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

White Americans have, on average, nearly seven times the wealth (or net worth) of African Americans and five times that of Hispanic Americans. The recent economic downturn has likely caused these gaps to widen, particularly as home values have declined. Narrowing these gaps by increasing asset-building in communities of color would constitute a significant step toward erasing the vestiges of past inequalities and creating a more equitable and prosperous future for our country.

The Joint Center, with generous support from the Ford Foundation, undertook a major initiative to increase knowledge regarding what fosters asset-building in communities of color, and what programs and policies states might consider helping narrow the racial/ethnic wealth gaps within their borders. To assess promising policies and programs, data were analyzed for two groups of states—states with success at fostering asset-building among low-income people, and states not identified as successful at improving asset-outcomes for their low-income residents.

Using this methodology, the Joint Center was able to shed light on policies and programs—such as Individual Development Accounts, state Earned Income Tax Credits, and expanded eligibility for income support programs—that states might consider to bring greater financial security to low-income families and thereby help narrow racial/ethnic wealth gaps.

*The inverse relationship between the overall ranking on asset-building outcomes and the percentages of people of color in a state likely reflects the inter-generational legacy of various federal policies (such as slavery of Africans brought to the United States and the forced removal of American Indians to reservations). The magnitude and intractability of the racial wealth gap in the United States suggest that this inverse relationship will indeed be difficult to change.*

~ Promising Practices in Asset-Building for Low-Income Communities of Color, FOCUS, vol. 37, Issue 3, November/December 2009

ECONOMIC RESEARCH AGENDA  
CREATING PATHS TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

WAGES AND INCOME

Research focused on state/federal minimum wage levels, and how minority workers are affected by increases. Trends in income inequality and measures aimed at narrowing wage gaps.

JOBS IN AN UNCERTAIN ECONOMY

Employment trends among African Americans and other people of color, with emphasis on improving job prospects for young people. Advancement prospects for low wage workers, status and effectiveness of welfare-to-work initiatives, potential of apprenticeship and school-to-work programs, and financing of unemployment insurance.



KEY PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL OPINION POLL ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY, RETIREMENT SAVINGS AND THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Over the years, numerous polls have been conducted to assess the views of the U.S. population about savings behavior, expected sources of retirement income, and the status of the Social Security system. The vast majority of these polls surveyed the general population, without disaggregation by race. To address this information gap, the Joint Center in 2009 conducted a survey of 850 African Americans and 850 members of the general U.S. population (including 721 white Americans) on the impact of the 2008-2009 economic downturn, retirement savings behavior, and perspectives on the Social Security system. Findings were compared with relevant information from a Joint Center survey in three publications:

AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM: 1998 AND 2009

Striking differences in perspectives about the Social Security system exist between African Americans and whites. African Americans are more likely than whites to expect that Social Security will be their major source of income during retirement, as well as to support the Social Security system as currently structured and to believe that the system should continue to provide the same type and level of benefits. African Americans are also more likely than whites to think that the level of Social Security benefits should be means-tested, while nearly the same percentage, roughly three-quarters, of each group opposed measures to invest Social Security funds in private equities.

RETIREMENT SAVINGS BEHAVIOR AND EXPECTATIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS: 1998 AND 2009

Among pre-retirees, confidence about having enough money to live comfortably throughout retirement typically reflects the state of one's current savings behavior, known savings vehicles and expected major sources of retirement income. African Americans and whites have differing assessments of their own retirement security, and their differing views suggest that the recent economic downturn may have constrained African Americans' ability to save for retirement to a greater degree than it has for whites. For example, African Americans (45 percent) are more likely than whites (37 percent) to say that they are not too confident or not at all confident that they will have enough money to live comfortably throughout retirement, and only a third of African Americans—compared to 41 percent of whites—reported “regularly saving” or “saving a lot.”

THE 2008-2009 ECONOMIC DOWNTURN: PERSPECTIVES OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

African Americans and white Americans differ in the type and magnitude of their asset holdings. Perhaps as a result of these differences, the two groups also have differing perspectives on and responses to the 2008 and 2009 economic downturn—although some similarities exist, such as the level of confidence each group has in the nation's financial institutions. During the downturn, African Americans (24 percent) are nearly twice as likely as whites (13 percent) to have prematurely withdrawn funds from their IRA's or 401(k)'s. They also expressed a greater degree of optimism about the 2009 economy, with African Americans more likely to think that the economy was getting better and less likely to think it was getting worse.

Below:  
The Joint Center published three briefs based on the findings of the National Opinion Poll in 2009.







## *Empowerment*

The Joint Center facilitates extensive analysis of facts and issues through the lens of the African American community, with the goal of ensuring its views are considered in the public policy development process. We do this by engaging elected and appointed officials with regard to our body of work on the racial and socioeconomic aspects of public policy.



*It is a must that we focus on how we get broadband out to those Americans who are not yet “passed” by it. We have to find ways to encourage investment, and consider if we should provide more universal service support for broadband.*

~ The Honorable  
Mignon L. Clyburn  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications  
Commission

Page 20:  
Community member speaks at  
Town Hall meeting on climate  
change in Houston, TX.

At right:  
FCC Chairman  
Julius Genachowski  
speaks at a Joint Center-  
sponsored forum on the  
National Broadband Plan.

At far right:  
Congressman G.K. Butterfield  
(D-NC) at the forum.

## EMPOWERING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

# BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE ONLINE WORLD

In 2009, the Joint Center's work had significant impact on the process of developing a National Broadband Plan for the country.

As the Federal Communications Commission was working to fulfill a Congressional directive to draw up a National Broadband Plan for extended broadband and Internet service to every American, three FCC Commission members, including FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski, brought their perspectives to a forum organized by the Joint Center's Media and Technology Institute.

Chairman Genachowski told the gathering that the development of the plan represents an enormous opportunity to help improve conditions in long-neglected communities. Commissioner Michael J. Copps followed up by stressing the importance of including a diverse range of voices to ensure that the plan and its recommendations can be easily implemented in any community.



The discussion included the release of a report, *Broadband Imperatives for African Americans: Policy Recommendations to Increase Digital Adoption for Minorities and their Communities*, which was a collaborative effort between the Joint Center and leading organizations representing black elected officials at the state and local levels. Congressman G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), a member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, was on hand to emphasize the importance of reaching all populations as the nation expands broadband availability.

The previous week, newly installed FCC Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn made her first policy speech as a Commissioner before another Joint Center-sponsored forum, where she called for the National Broadband Plan to address existing gaps in broadband adoption as well as access.



## INFORMING THE HEALTH CARE REFORM DEBATE

# RACE, ETHNICITY & HEALTH CARE: ACHIEVING EQUITY IN OUR LIFETIME

In the heat of the health care reform debate, the Joint Center's Health Policy Institute worked actively to raise awareness among legislators and other policy makers on the need to address equity in the context of national health reform legislation.

A key element of this work was a series of Joint Center issue briefs—unmatched by any other research and policy organization in their comprehensiveness—that analyzed the leading House and Senate health reform bills to assess their potential consequences for communities of color.

The briefs offered detailed examinations and comparisons of how major provisions of each bill would address longstanding health care inequities. Included in the analyses were the two leading Congressional health care reform proposals: *The Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009* (H.R. 3962) passed in the House of



Representatives on November 7, 2009; and *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009* (H.R. 3590), introduced in the Senate on November 18, 2009, as a merged version of the Senate Finance Committee's *America's Health Future Act* (S.1796) and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions' (HELP) *Affordable Health Choices Act* (S.1697).

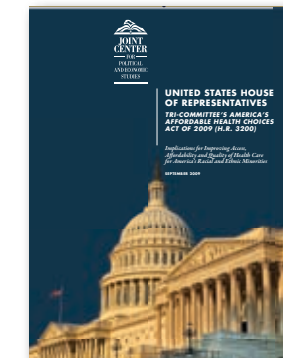
While finding that each of the major bills offered solutions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health, the report found that each one differed in the level of its commitment and approach. The reports discussed how each bill could decrease disparities and improve minority health, where each falls short in advancing these goals, as well as the transitional challenges and questions for the future should health care reform legislation be enacted.



Over the years, the Joint Center's work has included a focus on social, economic and political empowerment. Here, U.S. Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary discusses economic empowerment with the Joint Center in 1995.

At left:  
The Institute hosted briefings throughout the year, including this one at the National Press Club in September.

At right:  
The Institute published briefs analyzing the House (left) and Senate (right) health reform proposals.







## *Engagement*

Recognizing that complex issues require the interest, understanding and commitment of our wider society, the Joint Center is a convener where disparate interests can find common ground and move forward toward policy solutions. With our extensive polling of African American voters, we are the nation's key source of information on the black electorate and the elected and appointed officials who represent them at all levels of government. We are regularly asked to provide perspective on important political developments affecting African Americans and the nation at large.





*Young people today are living in the midst of an economy switch that will be as big, if not bigger than, the industrial revolution. I am honored to work with the Joint Center to mobilize young leaders who are embracing this movement from a variety of different perspectives.*

~ Kari Fulton, National Youth Climate Justice Coordinator  
Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative

Left:  
U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson addresses the forum at Howard University.

Right:  
A participant poses a question to the panel.

ENGAGING HBCUs

# CONNECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH CABINET MEMBERS

“There is no need to choose between green in our pockets and going green,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson told college students and members of the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change* at a regional meeting of the Commission held on the campus of Howard University.

The Joint Center hosted the meeting and invited students and faculty from the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, giving them an opportunity to join the discussion on issues related to climate change and its impact on the African American community.

In her remarks, Administrator Jackson explained that President Obama’s climate change plan will seek improvements in water and

air quality, both of which are necessary to reverse potential health and environmental problems. She said that every environmental choice has a cost, and one of the challenges of addressing climate change is how to manage such costs.

The Administrator also fielded questions from the students regarding the practicality and sustainability of green jobs and a green economy.

A key goal of the meeting was for students and faculty to jointly explore ways in which they and other campus stakeholders can collaborate and take action to reduce their carbon footprint and inform and engage others to become involved in climate change, as well as prepare to drive innovative solutions on a wider scale.



CONVENING DOMESTIC POLICY FORUMS

# CREATING ECONOMICALLY INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

With a policy focus on reinvigorating the nation’s black middle class, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) hosted a discussion on Capitol Hill that was organized by the Joint Center and the *More in the Middle* initiative of the Associated Black Charities. The event was held during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. Annual Legislative Conference. By partnering with community organizations, businesses, philanthropic organizations, and experts, the Joint Center and ABC are identifying state-of-the-art practices and alternatives for asset-building, as well as sponsoring events like this one to engage stakeholders in developing the policy reforms integral to confronting and closing the racial wealth gap.

INFLUENCING A WIDER SOCIETY

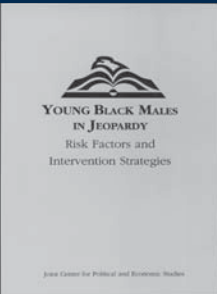
# OBSERVING THE CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

With its long experience of studying black political empowerment and civic engagement, the Joint Center is regularly asked by journalists, academics and civil rights leaders to interpret important political developments affecting African Americans and the nation at large. The year 2009 saw heightened interest in the Joint Center’s perspectives, especially given President Barack Obama’s election and the enduring significance of race in American political life, as well as the Obama presidency’s impact on African American institutions and emerging black leadership.

For many years the Joint Center has been the one organization that consistently surveys and reports on African American voters’ opinions with regard to their election candidate preferences and a wide range of policy questions, and it is widely regarded as the

nation’s foremost authority on the black electorate. Journalists, for example, not only report on the Joint Center’s surveys, but typically reach out to its scholars and its political analysts to interpret the findings from other pollsters’ surveys.

Members of the media also turned to the Joint Center to understand the new roles and powers of the Congressional Black Caucus in influencing policy. With the CBC at the peak of its power in the U.S. House of Representatives, and its members chairing major committees and subcommittees there, the Joint Center has been a leading source of information, interpretation and analysis regarding what this has meant for African Americans and the nation, as well as on black leadership at the state-level and the political prospects of a younger generation of black leadership.



Above:  
The Joint Center’s work has played an important role in engaging Americans on pressing social, political and economic policy issues. Its publications, *Turning Point: The 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer* by Frank R. Parker (top) and *Young Black Males in Jeopardy: Risk Factors and Intervention Strategies*.

Page 24:  
Dr. Michael K. Dorsey, Joint Center Visiting Scholar and Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Dartmouth College.





## HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

### INFORMING HEALTH CARE REFORM: SPOTLIGHTING INEQUITIES AND POINTING THE WAY TO SOLUTIONS

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*Through research and policy analysis, the Joint Center has contributed in the area of health inequities, and has clarified the critical links between addressing inequities and effective health reform legislation.*

~ **Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.**, *Executive Director*  
American Public Health Association

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African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities experience poorer health relative to national averages from birth to death—in the form of higher infant mortality, higher rates of disease and disability, and shortened life expectancy. These health inequities carry an enormous human and economic toll for the nation, and therefore have important consequences for all Americans.

Some of these health inequities are related to inadequate access to health care and inequitable treatment in health care systems. Others stem from conditions in which people live, work, and play, and differences in neighborhood conditions as a result of residential segregation.

With a focus on research, evidenced-based policy solutions and support to local health initiatives in communities of color, the Joint Center's Health Policy Institute works to center equity as a vital objective of health care reform.

#### LEADING THROUGH RESEARCH

The Institute's groundbreaking research on the economic consequences of health inequities has been cited on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, and it was raised as a key discussion point between President Obama and the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust Chair, Delegate Donna M. Christensen (D-VI) during a White House Forum on Health Reform.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- ACCESS Community Health & Research Center
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Black Women’s Health Imperative
- California Newsreel
- Center for the Advancement of Health
- CommonHealth Action
- Families USA
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Fund (NALEO)
- National Institutes of Health
- National Policy Alliance
- PolicyLink
- Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.
- National Medical Association (NMA)
- The Opportunity Agenda
- The Praxis Project
- The Virginia Network for Geospatial Health Research, Inc.
- Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Human Needs

INFORMING HEALTH CARE REFORM  
SPOTLIGHTING INEQUITIES AND POINTING THE WAY TO SOLUTIONS

The Health Policy Institute's analyses of how the leading House and Senate health reform bills would address health inequities have been widely circulated and cited by policy analysts, Congressional staff, and health care advocates.

Dr. Brian D. Smedley, HPI's Vice President and Director, appeared before Congressional committees multiple times to deliver testimony regarding health reform legislation. The Institute has organized or participated as panelists in nearly a dozen Congressional briefings on health equity. The Institute's research and expertise have been cited dozens of times in major news media reporting on health reform and health equity.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL FACTORS THAT DETERMINE CHILDHOOD OBESITY

The Institute's work focuses on identifying the root causes of disparities, which are often linked to differences in neighborhood conditions that contribute directly to obesity—beginning at an early age—by shaping behaviors such as diet and physical activity.

America's childhood obesity epidemic disproportionately affects children of color, who already contend with other disparities—such as not having health insurance or a regular doctor—that limit opportunities to enjoy good health. African American and Mexican American children and adolescents are more likely to be overweight, at 21 percent and 23 percent respectively, than non-Hispanic white adolescents (14 percent), while a national survey of Native Americans found that 39 percent of children were overweight or at risk for becoming overweight.

Many of the causes are rooted in community conditions. For example, many low-income communities lack access to a full-service supermarket. These so-called “food deserts” are often dominated by liquor, fast food, and convenience stores, where fresh produce is not only scarce but comparatively expensive and poor quality. Residents of these areas are more likely to rely on public transportation, further compounding the problem of access to better supermarkets that are further away. Many low-income communities also lack access to safe parks and recreational facilities that promote active lifestyles.

These root causes of poor health shape health behaviors, such as diet and physical activity, and are associated with residential segregation. Solving them necessarily must include a focus on mitigating negative environmental conditions, while at the same time improving the collective efficacy of communities to address the challenges that they face.

*When health measures for black, white and Hispanic children are examined by the socio-demographic characteristics of the children themselves or of the families in which they reside, three characteristics seem to have the greatest influence on the racial/ethnic disparities observed. These are educational attainment, poverty status, and Medicaid insurance coverage status.*

~ Trends in Child Health, 1997-2006:  
Assessing Racial/Ethnic Disparities – Executive Summary



IMPROVING PREGNANCY OUTCOMES

Infant mortality rates among African Americans are more than twice that of white Americans, and stem from multiple factors such as maternal stress, low-income, and inadequate pre- and post-natal care. Less well understood is the role of the father in helping to promote healthier maternal and child outcomes.

To address this concern, the Joint Center formed the Commission on Paternal Involvement to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes, an unprecedented effort to develop research, policy, and practice guidelines with the goal of improving the involvement of fathers (and expectant fathers) in birth and beyond. Composed of a dozen nationally-recognized experts in maternal and child health, and in involvement by fathers in pregnancy and child-rearing, the Commission is synthesizing research literature to develop policy

and practice guidelines specifically for the health professions. In addition, the Commission is organizing town hall meetings and Congressional briefings, and engaging news media, to educate policy makers and the public about the important role that fathers and fathers-to-be can play in reducing infant mortality.

*...large disparities exist between blacks and whites in the prevalence of low-weight births across many subgroups, even among children in families with relatively advantaged socio-demographic characteristics.*

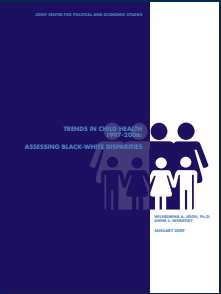
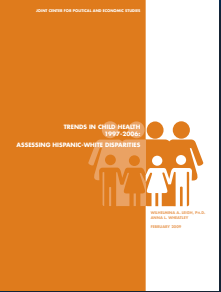
~ Trends in Child Health 1997-2006:  
Assessing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Low Birth-weight

*Seeking to ignite a fair health movement that gives all people an equal opportunity to live healthy lives, the Joint Center's Health Policy Institute focuses attention on the array of factors that limit health opportunities—ranging from the clustering of health risks in communities of color to insufficient access to quality health care.*

*The Institute works to raise stakeholder awareness and engagement and promote policy solutions to address these problems.*

Page 28:  
Dr. Brian D. Smedley, Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute, addressing the Health Equity briefing, September, 2009.





The Joint Center published the *Trends in Child Health* series of reports in 2009.



ASSESSING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN CHILD HEALTH CARE

With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Joint Center examined the differences among black, Hispanic, and white children on commonly used measures of child health—including low birth-weight, unmet dental care needs, ADHD/ADD, activity limitation and asthma—in order to further understand existing disparities and how to address them.

The result was a series of seven reports, each focusing on a particular health indicator or on disparities between races across the range of indicators. The findings were presented at an array of briefings and discussion events, and helped to inform policy debates related to the national health care reform effort.

*In particular, between 1997 and 2006, black children as a group were more likely than white children as a group to have been born low-weight, to be reported in “good, fair, poor or unknown” health, and to have ever been diagnosed with asthma. Black children also were less likely than white children to be reported in excellent health. Black children and white children in families in which the householder/spouse has less than a high school education, however, are equally likely to have been born low-weight and to be reported in “good, fair, poor or unknown health.”*

~ Trends in Child Health 1997-2006:  
Assessing Black-White Disparities

PLACE MATTERS  
ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF HEALTH PROBLEMS

Many factors contribute to health inequities, but some of the most important ones are related to socioeconomic inequality and differences in living conditions. A large and growing body of public health research demonstrates that to address health inequities, the social and economic contexts that shape health must be improved. The Joint Center’s Place Matters initiative seeks to improve community conditions for fair health by working intensively with interdisciplinary teams to build their capacity to identify, communicate about, and address social determinants of health in their communities.

The Place Matters initiative addresses these challenges by helping empower communities to identify and address neighborhood social and economic conditions that shape health. These include efforts to:

- Create incentives for better food resources and options in underserved communities (such as bringing in full-service grocery stores and “farmers’ markets” to areas where there are few options to purchase fresh and wholesome foods).
- Develop community-level interventions for promoting better health, such as improving children’s access to recreation centers.
- Address environmental injustice through aggressive monitoring and enforcement of laws aimed at preventing environmental degradation and safeguarding public health.



*Inequities in health [and] avoidable health inequalities arise because of the circumstances in which people grow, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. The conditions in which people live and die are, in turn, shaped by political, social, and economic forces.*

~ Report on the Social Determinants of Health  
World Health Organization, 2003





## MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

### ADVANCING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INFORMATION IN LONG-NEGLECTED COMMUNITIES

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*The Joint Center's Media and Technology Institute has become a critical source of policy ideas for turning broadband into an engine of hope and opportunity for people of color and marginalized communities. The contributions it has made to the development of the National Broadband Plan have been invaluable.*

~ The Honorable Julius Genachowski, *Chairman*  
Federal Communications Commission

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Issues surrounding media, technology, and access to the digital world have emerged as critical elements of opportunity with regard to communities of color. In 2008, the Joint Center created its Media and Technology Institute with the mission of studying how the emerging communications technologies can become avenues of advancement for the disadvantaged.

The Institute's research is focused on technologies related to new media and the trends they are spawning, the impact of existing policy and regulation, and the broader implications of media trends, particularly from a social justice perspective. It generates research reports and policy papers that inform dialogue within these areas, align with other Joint Center interests and influence action on the part of policy makers, practitioners, providers, and consumers. The Media and Technology Institute has engaged in a series of outreach activities including legislative briefings, conferences and stakeholder trainings that promote its groundbreaking publications.

In 2009, MTI staff participated on more than 40 industry, academic, and government panels and hearings on a broad range of media and technology issues. The Institute also contributed public comments on several requests to enhance the development of the National Broadband Plan.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Broadband Opportunity Coalition
- The Hispanic Institute
- Minority Media and Telecommunications Commission
- National Association of Black County Officials
- National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators
- National Black Women’s Roundtable
- National Conference of Black Mayors
- National Foundation for Women Legislators
- National Urban League
- NextGen Web
- NOBEL (National Organization of Black Elected Legislators) Women

Page 34:  
FCC Commissioner  
Mignon L. Clyburn is keynote  
speaker at the Institute’s forum  
on the National Broadband Plan.

At right:  
Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee,  
Vice President and  
Director of the Media and  
Technology Institute  
giving opening remarks.

MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE 2009 EVENTS

ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE AT ALL LEVELS

TOWARD A NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN

The Institute hosted the Honorable Mignon L. Clyburn’s first public address as a member of the Federal Communications Commission. More than 100 people came to hear Commissioner Clyburn present her policy agenda for her term on the FCC and her thoughts on the upcoming National Broadband Plan, and to participate in a subsequent discussion on how broadband expansion will shape opportunity in communities across the country.

GETTING AFRICAN AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITIES ONLINE

To highlight the release of the report, *Broadband Imperatives for African Americans: Policy Recommendations to Increase*



*Digital Adoption for Minorities and Their Communities*, the Media and Technology Institute organized a forum featuring Julius Genachowski, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission; Congressman G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Commissioner Michael J. Copps, Federal Communications Commission; Calvin Smyre, State Representative (D-GA) and President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and a broad range of government, agency, industry, and nonprofit leaders.

TECHNOLOGY SECTOR INNOVATION ROUNDTABLE

The event featured Andrew McLaughlin, Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer, Internet Policy, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President; Joint Center Board of Governors Member David C. Chavern, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, United States Chamber of Commerce; Anna M. Gomez, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and Deputy National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Administrator; and leaders from a broad cross section of industry and association leaders that included the National Black Chamber of Commerce, the National Black Women’s Roundtable, and the National Urban League—as well as government agency leaders from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the FCC.

More than 60 leaders participated in an off-the-record conversation on intellectual property and standards, while exploring strategies for increasing entrepreneurship and business development in minority communities in emerging growth sectors.

MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AGENDA

LEVERAGING NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR OPPORTUNITY AND ADVANCEMENT

Emphasizing how minority Americans use media, as well as the Internet’s potential to boost economic and social progress in long-neglected communities, the Joint Center’s Media and Technology Institute undertakes a broad range of research in the following areas:

BROADBAND RESEARCH

How do minority Americans use broadband? And what good can come of increasing broadband access and adoption in their communities? Through its broadband research program, the Institute engages in targeted research partnerships that create new models and highlight best practices for expanding access and adoption. Its staff advises government agencies, elected officials, academia and other policy institutes on major policy issues related to information technology and telecommunications.



TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION SECTORS

What are the implications of emerging technology growth sectors on minority communities?

Through a series of roundtables, the Institute convenes high-level government officials with a logical mix of stakeholders to discuss the following sectors: Smart Grid, Health Information Technology, Green Information Technology, Open Government and e-Media.

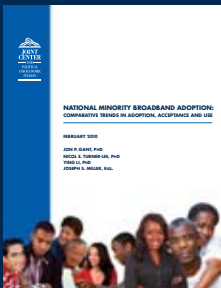
Leveraging a framework that explores the policy, regulatory, and legal frameworks, roundtable participants discuss how these sectors will benefit minority stakeholders and produce new opportunities for jobs and business development.

MASS MEDIA RESEARCH

The Institute engages in research and policy work aimed at shedding light on emerging policies that affect minority participation, representation, and ownership in broadcast, print, and new media.

COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL

The focus of this program is to inventory best practice models that have potential application in our other research areas (broadband, technology innovation sectors and mass media), engage Institute scholars in discussions on international applications and structure international partnerships to create a repository of best practice models.



The Institute published two groundbreaking reports on broadband adoption and access in 2009.





## CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

### BRINGING AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES INTO THE DEBATE

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*The Joint Center has been a credible and constant force in expanding the conversation on environmentalism. They've shown our communities the vital stake they have in taking action on climate change. Bringing African Americans to the debate to discuss the economic and environmental issues in our community is crucial to shaping policies that will impact our future and the future of our children.*

~ The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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African American communities are at the nexus of the climate change issue. Although African American households contribute 20 percent less than white households to the causes of global warming, research suggests they are more vulnerable to the types of extreme weather that science has shown is exacerbated by climate change, as well as to economic and social side effects of proposed mitigation strategies.

Sensing that African Americans care deeply about an issue that they believe affects them—and noting that African American perspectives were largely absent from the climate change policy discussions—the Joint Center in 2008 launched a Climate Change Initiative designed to leverage the organization's long tradition of encouraging black participation in public affairs, and enhancing knowledge of policy issues in the African American community.

To enhance the initiative effort, the Joint Center established the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*—bringing together leading experts from government, health, industry, civil rights, academia, labor, consumer protection and environmental interests—and gave it the mission of increasing understanding of climate change in the African American community and ensuring they have a voice and seat at the table when critical solutions are discussed and decided upon.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Alliance for Climate Protection
- American Association of Blacks in Energy
- American Public Health Association
- Bipartisan Policy Center
- Center for Budget and Policy Priorities
- Climate Equity Alliance
- Clinton Global Initiative
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Green for All
- Hip Hop Caucus
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)
- National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
- National Latino Coalition on Climate Change
- National Policy Alliance
- National Urban League
- Science Weekly
- U.S. Climate Action Network

CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE  
BRINGING AFRICAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES INTO THE DEBATE

In support of this mission, the Commission has conducted a variety of outreach and relationship-building activities, including advising the Administration and informing members of Congress and other key policy makers about the specific disproportionate impacts of climate change.

Areas of focus include providing pivotal research and support for public policy and outreach activities related to climate change; enhancing and improving scientific knowledge and public awareness regarding the impact of climate change on communities of color; expanding the voice and role of African Americans in the climate change discussion; connecting key stakeholders and experts to the decision making process; and increasing awareness among African Americans of the economic opportunities of the green economy.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES FOR EQUITABLE CLIMATE CHANGE

The *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change* has developed the following principles to promote equitable climate change legislation:

- Reduce emissions to prevent dangerous climate change and as a result improve overall air quality and public health;
- Shift America away from an over reliance on fossil fuels to a clean energy economy;

*While African Americans are under-represented in the public debates on climate change and environmental issues generally, they are as aware of these issues as other groups in American society, and committed to action—both personal and governmental—to deal with the problems associated with climate change.*

~ *African Americans on Climate Change and Conservation*  
Joint Center National Poll 2009

- Identify and curtail any adverse economic impacts resulting from the regulation of dangerous green house gases; and
- Ensure that vulnerable communities and ecosystems are not disproportionately impacted by climate change, while fostering international emissions reduction commitments.

These principles will continue to shape the Joint Center's work toward climate change policies that are fair and equitable.

CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE  
ENGAGING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN A DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

To fulfill its mission of encouraging wider participation in communities of color on the topic of global warming, the *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change* convened a series of regional meetings in 2009, with a focus on students and faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

At the February 2009 meeting hosted by Howard University, participants included U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and a roundtable with HBCU students from the mid-atlantic region. At the June 2009 meeting in Houston, Texas, over 300 members of the local African American and Hispanic/Latino communities participated in a public forum to discuss climate change and energy policy.

The Town Hall format focused on opportunities related to green jobs and green-related employment opportunities, and funding for projects to lessen the progression or impacts of climate change, including weatherization, building efficiency, transportation, alternative energy, and green spaces. Students from Casa Verde Builders, American YouthWorks, a national leader in affordable green building joined the discussion and highlighted their achievements to include adopting the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index, developed by the EPA to set uniform guidelines for home energy efficiency for their Energy Star program, utilizing a rating system in which a lower score is better.

The Houston event also included a luncheon discussion with elected officials, local business and industry leaders on the new green economy and building Houston's global market. In September 2009, an educational forum presented by the

Joint Center focused on the key issues of the United Nations Climate Change Conference process and prepared attendees planning to participate in the Conference of the Parties or COP15 meeting on the major issues and potential outcomes of the negotiations.

The Commission has also partnered with *Science Weekly* magazine, a publication targeted toward public school classrooms, to publish a series of issues on topics related to climate change and communities of color. The first Commission-sponsored issue was an edition that focused on climate change and global warming in kicking off the 2009-2010 school year.



Page 38:  
John M. Rudley, Ph.D.,  
President, Texas Southern  
University attends a meeting  
of the *Commission to Engage  
African Americans on Climate  
Change* on engaging HBCUs in  
the Joint Center's work.

At left:  
The Town Hall event during the  
Commission's June regional  
meeting in Houston, TX.



*With our communities at greatest risk of being harmed by the effects of global warming, the Joint Center's climate change initiative is responding to a need for a focal point around which African Americans can get involved, advance our own ideas and policy perspectives, and ensure we have a seat at the table where decisions are made.*

~ The Honorable Rodney Ellis  
Texas State Senate and  
Co-Chair, *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*

## CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AGENDA

# A HEALTHIER PLANET AND A HEALTHIER ECONOMY

Working with Joint Center Visiting Scholar Dr. Michael K. Dorsey, Dartmouth College Assistant Professor and noted Climate Justice Scholar, the initiative has developed a rigorous research agenda centered on the following:

- Ascertain black public opinion and knowledge of global warming.
- Assess the relationship between global warming and the following variables: asthma, air pollution, infectious diseases, and heat stress.
- Conduct a green finance assessment that will elaborate on the possibilities for African Americans to lead, participate and shape the emerging green economy across multiple scales: from wage work to finance and capital investments.
- Determine how global warming will impact African American communities in the U.S. and people of color around the world.
- Assess efforts that can be undertaken to engage African American communities in the climate change debate, and empower black elected officials who seek to ameliorate the problems associated with global warming in the U.S. and worldwide.

Output from these research activities will drive further policy activities for the Joint Center and its *Commission to Engage African Americans on Climate Change*.



## MEMBERS OF THE

# COMMISSION TO ENGAGE AFRICAN AMERICANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Co-Chairs Ralph B. Everett, Esq. and Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis lead a discussion with Commissioners at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 2009 Annual Legislative Conference.

**Ralph B. Everett, Esq., Co-Chair**  
President and CEO  
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

**The Honorable Rodney Ellis, Co-Chair**  
Texas State Senate and National  
Commission on Energy Policy

**Dr. Georges C. Benjamin**  
Executive Director  
American Public Health Association

**Dr. Robert D. Bullard**  
Director  
Environmental Justice Resource Center  
Clark Atlanta University

**Calvin G. Butler, Jr., Esq.**  
Senior Vice President  
Corporate Affairs ComEd, Inc.

**Milton Carroll**  
Chairman of the Board  
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

**Leslie G. Fields, Esq.**  
National Environmental Justice and  
Community Partnerships Director  
Sierra Club and Adjunct Law Professor,  
Howard University School of Law

**Carolyn L. Green**  
Managing Partner  
EnerGreen Capital Management, LLC

**Dr. Mary H. Hayden**  
Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Scientist  
Study for Society and Environment  
National Center for Atmospheric Research

**Benjamin Todd Jealous**  
President and CEO  
National Association for the Advancement of  
Colored People (NAACP)

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## CLIMATE CHANGE A MAJOR ISSUE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS



In 2009, the Joint Center conducted a major public opinion survey on climate change and found that a majority of African Americans believe it is a growing problem and that both government and individuals should take action now to mitigate the potential impacts.

The survey of 750 African American adults found that more than half of respondents identified the issue as a “major problem.” Only about ten percent in each group said global warming or climate change is not a problem.

A large majority of respondents said that government and individuals can do things to reduce global warming. About a third believe federal and state government can do a lot to mitigate the problem, while three-quarters believe government can at least do something.

A majority of African Americans expressed support for the cap-and-trade legislation passed earlier in the year by the U.S. House of Representatives, and a large majority said they would be even more supportive with strong provisions for green jobs and incentives to buy more energy efficient cars and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

A key finding in this year’s survey is that 26 percent of African Americans think they can do a lot to reduce global warming, and an additional 44 percent believe they can take at least some measures to combat the problem.

The survey results indicate that a majority of them recycle and purchase energy-saving appliances and light bulbs, while nearly half of them purchased products in the last year that were better for the environment even though the products were more costly than similar non-environmentally-friendly items.

## POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

### A HISTORIC MISSION IN GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES

---

*We look to the Joint Center for assistance in strengthening our engagement in policy debates, and to help us find the way to innovative and practical solutions to the problems we face here in rural America.*

~ The Honorable Heather McTeer Hudson, Mayor  
City of Greenville, Mississippi

---

Rooted in the Joint Center’s core mission since its founding has been its commitment to be the nation’s leading source of information and tactical guidance with regard to civic and political engagement in the African American community.

As one of the nation’s foremost authorities on the black electorate, the Joint Center continues to exercise its leadership on governance and engagement through its work in convening the National Policy Alliance, comprised of the representative organizations of black elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, with which it explores new avenues for increasing and enhancing the effectiveness of political participation by minority citizens, as well as providing them with tools for civic engagement and opportunities to advance their skills.

The Joint Center’s work on political participation is also centered on its strong polling and electoral analysis capabilities, through which it gathers and collates opinions and attitudes of African American voters with regard to key issues and concerns. The continual analysis of the views and voting habits of African Americans supports the Joint Center’s key awareness-raising activities and informs our other work in critical issue areas such as health care, climate change, and economic security.



NATIONAL POLICY ALLIANCE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Blacks in Government
- Congressional Black Caucus
- Judicial Council of the National Bar Association
- National Association of Black County Officials
- National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials
- National Black Caucus of School Board Members
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators
- National Conference of Black Mayors
- World Conference of Mayors

At top right: Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (D-TX) addresses a news conference about health care reform with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including Chair Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) (C) and Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI) (2nd R) at the U.S. Capitol September 9, 2009.

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE  
A HISTORIC MISSION IN GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION CONTINUES

NATIONAL POLICY ALLIANCE

As the convener of the National Policy Alliance, an organization that includes membership organizations representing more than 10,000 black elected and appointed officials from the local, state and federal levels, the Joint Center supports the policy making process by providing research and analysis on key issues of the day. Working together, the Joint Center and the National Policy Alliance bring to bear their collective influence as a force for change in our society.

A RESOURCE ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Since 1990, the Joint Center has been tracking all major party black nominees for statewide and federal office, as well as turnout levels and partisan preference of African American voters. This work has been widely cited and used by journalists, civil rights groups, academics, and political activists to understand and improve black participation in the political process.

It is especially useful in the voting rights area since racially polarized voting is a key element in decision-making in redistricting and voting rights litigation. It has also been an important resource to academics and graduate students studying campaign finance issues and the role of black voters and candidates in election outcomes.

This work also includes research on the two major parties and African Americans; every four years the Joint Center produces guides to the Democratic and Republican National Conventions which document black participation in the party structures.



Over time, this work has been expanded to include analyses of relevant trends such as the increasing importance and numbers of black women officeholders, as well as generational change among the ranks of black elected officials. In recent years, this work has focused on younger black leaders who aspire to elective offices where African Americans have typically gone unrepresented.

The fourth area of the political participation program is voting rights and redistricting. African Americans have been subject to discrimination in the electoral process, both at the ballot box and in the redistricting process. The *Voting Rights Act of 1965*, including the amendments made in 1982, has contributed to diminishing the level of discrimination, but it persists nonetheless. The Joint Center scholars have a long history of work in this area. The late Frank R. Parker worked at the Joint Center along with other scholars and the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. in

defending majority-minority districts in the wake of the *Shaw v. Reno* decision in 1993. Joint Center scholars and political analysts have served as expert witnesses in state and federal court.

Joint Center research has been used to document discriminatory behavior and outcomes, and that research has been used—often successfully—to force legal remedies to discrimination. Further, lawyers from the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice have regularly attended Joint Center briefings in this area, and the Joint Center has worked closely with legal organizations such as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Lawyers’ Committee and the ACLU, as well as state litigators such as Laughlin McDonald (Georgia) and Jim Blacksher and Larry Menefee (Alabama) in fighting discrimination.

PREPARING FOR THE 2010 CENSUS



IT’S IN OUR HANDS

Throughout its 40-year history, the Joint Center has provided policy-relevant data and analyses to black public officials and community leaders, to other policy makers and policy influentials, and to the scholarly community. The Joint Center is a Census Information Center and 2010 Census Partner.

In 2009, the Joint Center researchers helped the U.S. Census Bureau train over 50 organizations, most of which focus on minority issues, on how to use Census data to answer their research questions.

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE RESEARCH AGENDA

Widely recognized as the foremost authority on black politics and the electorate, the Joint Center examines the impact of frontline issues on people of color, and explores avenues for increasing and enhancing their civic and political participation. Our research agenda focuses on the following areas:

- To investigate and report on trends and issues related to elections, political party activities, and the staffing of government and other public institutions by people of color.
- To analyze voting patterns and party allegiances, as well as the degree of civic activism, among African Americans and other people of color.
- To assess the degree of minority participation in federal, state and local executive and legislative bodies—as well as their influence in committees and other governing organizations.
- To analyze developments, initiatives and activities related to voting rights and other issues of access, as well as to generate policy discussions to enhance voting rights for all Americans.
- To assess the effectiveness of civic and community organizations, as well as existing and emerging tools of political participation and civic advocacy, and to inform the policy process.



Since 1972, the Joint Center's FOCUS magazine has provided coverage of national issues to an audience of elected officials, private sector leaders and nonprofit stakeholders.

Nearly 16,000 readers, half of whom are black elected officials, value the magazine for its analytical, yet straightforward features on politics, as well as a broad range of economic and social policy concerns affecting African Americans and the nation at large.



2009 JOINT CENTER SURVEY REPORTS

Since the Joint Center began in-house polling in 1992, there have been 29 Joint Center surveys that have included interviews with almost 35,000 individuals. The Joint Center has surveyed more African Americans than any other non-profit organization in the country. These surveys have included general surveys of the U.S. population and the African American population, as well as targeted surveys of senior citizens, black churches, minority-owned businesses, black youth, social workers, black elected officials, Hispanics, black primary voters, state-level surveys, and black professionals.

Joint Center surveys have been widely distributed and cited in the media, books, academic journals, law review articles, and by elected officials.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The featured element for political participation would be polling, to include a national survey on climate change and conservation. This poll represents seminal work on African American views on global warming and climate change, since no other organization has sought to document the views of African Americans in this area. Climate change has been an area dominated by white organizations and white views in the past, and this work represents a first, where

the African American public’s views on climate change are documented.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND RETIREMENT

A national survey of 850 whites and 850 African Americans on Social Security and Retirement Security was also conducted. Opinions were expressed on how public policies regarding social insurance, income support and child support influence the economic well-being of people of color, particularly the elderly, the disabled and low-income families.



A PARTNERSHIP TO EXPLORE  
MILITARY-CIVILIAN ISSUES

For more than two decades, the Joint Center has hosted a series of fellows—officers from the U.S. Army War College—through its participation in the Army’s Senior Service College Fellowship Program.

During his or her year in residence at the Joint Center, the fellow conducts strategic research that is viewed as potentially beneficial to both the Army and to fulfilling the Joint Center’s mission. The program has been successful in generating opportunities for useful exchanges of ideas within the Joint Center, other Washington think tanks and among Department of Defense senior civilian and military leaders—thereby broadening the military fellow’s strategic understanding and educational experience within the public policy domain while providing an exceptional opportunity to work among respected researchers in the policy community.

In addition to leveraging the Joint Center’s research and expert knowledge, the military fellow participates in Joint Center forums and events, and plays an ambassadorial role by articulating the Army’s strategic endeavors, conveying personal experiences and acting as a conduit to the Department of Defense. This special collaboration enhances the strategic civilian-military experience and offers another perspective to the Joint Center. Past research topics have included: Major Factors Affecting Recruiting; Army-Congressional Relations; Strategic Managing of Diversity in the U.S. Army; Army Wounded Warrior Program; and Strategic Black Officer Capital Investment: Increasing Competitiveness for General Officer.





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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2009  
(With Comparative Totals for 2008)

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	Permanently Restricted Net Assets	Total	
				2009	2008
Revenue, Gains and Support					
Special events*	\$902,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$902,274	\$1,645,650
Less: Cost of special events	(464,147)	-	-	(464,147)	(386,724)
Special events, net	438,127	-	-	438,127	1,258,926
Grants and contributions	1,055,566	3,951,979	-	5,007,545	3,024,702
Investment income	273,326	-	-	273,326	(422,329)
In-Kind Contributions	106,542	-	-	106,542	205,098
Dues, fees and other income	370,056	-	-	370,056	309,160
	2,243,617	3,951,979	-	6,195,596	4,375,557
Endowment assets released from restrictions	1,200,000	-	(1,200,000)	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions	4,009,629	(4,009,629)	-	-	-
Total revenues and support	7,453,246	(57,650)	(1,200,000)	6,195,596	4,375,557
Expenses					
Program Services:					
President's Program	196,550	-	-	196,550	752,203
Media and Technology Institute	447,623	-	-	447,623	-
Economic Advancement	532,219	-	-	532,219	361,465
Health Policy Institute	3,595,793	-	-	3,595,793	3,340,673
Data Bank	49,121	-	-	49,121	252,831
Political Participation Studies	1,081,220	-	-	1,081,220	884,982
Communication and Marketing	359,764	-	-	359,764	263,857
Total Program Services	6,262,290	-	-	6,262,290	5,856,011
Supporting services:					
Management, Administration, net	195,796	-	-	195,796	371,447
Development	414,259	-	-	414,259	518,575
Total Support Services	610,055	-	-	610,055	890,022
Total Expenses	\$6,872,345	\$ -	\$ -	\$6,872,345	\$6,746,033
Change in net assets	\$580,901	(\$57,650)	(\$1,200,000)	(\$676,749)	(\$2,370,476)
Net assets, beginning of year	(129,849)	2,459,851	2,034,514	4,364,516	6,734,992
Net assets, end of year	\$451,052	\$2,402,201	\$834,514	\$3,687,767	\$4,364,516

\* Special events includes the costs of the annual dinner.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2009  
(With Comparative Totals for 2008)

	Total	
	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,350,979	\$3,242,621
Investments	729,406	1,814,034
Grants Receivable	505,076	117,000
Pledges receivable - annual dinner	-	5,000
Accrued interest receivable	1,241	2,800
Other receivables, net of allowances	-	20,860
Prepaid expenses and advances	58,284	44,526
Total assets	\$4,644,986	\$5,246,841
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$249,933	\$174,301
Accrued salaries, benefits, and taxes	233,583	210,476
Other accrued liabilities	43,863	59,681
Unearned grant revenue	429,840	438,867
Total liabilities	957,219	883,325
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted (Deficit)	451,052	(129,849)
Temporarily Restricted	2,402,201	2,459,851
Permanently Restricted	834,514	2,034,514
Total net assets	3,687,767	4,364,516
Total liabilities and net assets	\$4,644,986	\$5,247,841

The Joint Center is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Joint Center also qualifies as a publicly supported organization under section 170(b)(1)(vi) of the code.

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