Overview

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, America’s Black think tank, provides compelling and actionable policy solutions to eradicate persistent and evolving barriers to the full freedom of Black people in America. Founded in 1970 to support newly-elected Black officials who were moving from civil rights activism into governance, we evolved to become the trusted forum for leading experts and scholars to participate in major public policy debates and promote ideas that advance Black communities. We use evidence-based research, analysis, convenings, and strategic communications to support Black communities and a network of allies.

We ground our work in high-quality research to foster the creation of public policies that explicitly incorporate principles of racial equity. This work takes three primary forms: scholarship, convenings, and community connections.

2022 Summit

On Friday, Oct. 14, the Joint Center will host a one-day summit dedicated to exploring the current challenges facing Black communities and proposing solutions for the future. This event is designed as a precursor for a large-scale event in 2023. Details are as follows:

**LOCATION**
JW Marriott Hotel, Washington DC

**AUDIENCE**
The summit will be open to event sponsors or ticket purchasers with a focus on Joint Center funders and partners. Student pricing and scholarship tickets will also be available.

**FORMAT**
Hybrid of in-person and virtual
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET

**DATE**
Friday, Oct 14, 2022
VIP Reception will be held the evening of Thursday, October 13
Economic and Tech Policy Priorities for Black Communities
How do we ensure economic and tech policies serve Black communities?
As our economy recovers from the pandemic and grapples with inflation, Black communities face economic crises on various fronts — including a persistent lack of access to good jobs and workforce training; resources to grow businesses and wealth; and equitable tax policy. These challenges have been compounded by an emerging set of tech policy issues, such as discriminatory ad targeting, the misuse of data in employment and lending, and online disinformation and hate. One panel will focus on economic policy priorities and a second panel will focus on tech policy priorities.

Corporate and Philanthropic Investments in Racial Equity — The Promise and the Progress
Which companies and foundations are fulfilling their commitments to racial equity?
Many corporations and foundations made specific commitments to advance racial justice following the murder of George Floyd in 2020. Was this commitment a moment or a movement? Which companies and foundations have made significant progress and which have fallen short? How can allies within companies and foundations help move their institutions toward fulfilling commitments and effectively investing in Black communities? One panel will focus on equity in corporate investments and a second panel will focus on equity in philanthropic investments.

Prioritizing the Black Rural South
How do we ensure Southern state governments fairly deploy federal infrastructure funding?
Black communities in the rural South face higher poverty rates, lower employment levels and wages, and less economic growth than most other regions of the U.S. Black households in the Black Rural South are also among America’s most unserved by broadband. As federal workforce and infrastructure investments — including broadband infrastructure — are deployed, how do we ensure that state governments do not overlook the needs of the Black Rural South?

Advancing Black Agency
How can we improve racial diversity among top congressional staffers and presidential appointees?
For decades, companies and foundations have invested in important internship and fellowship programs that open doors to entry-level government positions for diverse college students and early-career policy professionals. Unfortunately, more needs to be done to ensure young staffers of color have opportunities for advancement, as people of color are woefully underrepresented among top congressional staff and in many presidential appointee positions. This lack of representation among top spots adversely affects communities of color in government decision-making, and also limits other opportunities for people of color, such as in private sector public policy positions. This panel will highlight recent advances and continuing challenges for Black representation among presidential appointees and congressional staff, as well as explore best practices to achieve better outcomes.

Other Features
Luncheon with keynote speaker — We will engage a high-profile, dynamic keynote speaker as part of a luncheon that includes opportunities to network with other professionals.

VIP reception with opportunities to interact with a philanthropy influencer — In 2020 the reception featured Hakeem Jeffries.