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NEWS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 20, 2026

‘What are we doing here?’ Baraka’s challenge to Black New Jersey

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BINJE | Tom Bergeron | November 19, 2026

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, after watching what happened on election night in the South — in Georgia, in Mississippi — said he came to Atlantic City envious.

Not angry, he insisted. Envious.

“You probably be better off if I was angry, but I have clarity,” he said. “I’m clear on what needs to happen and where we are. And I’m a little envious of what I saw in the South that did not happen here in New Jersey.”

Standing in the sanctuary of St. James AME Church on New York Avenue in Atlantic City, before an overflow crowd at the 2nd Annual New Jersey Statewide Black Agenda Convening, Baraka said Black voters in the South showed what a community can win when it moves together. In New Jersey, he said, too many are settling for leftovers — and spending their energy fighting each other instead of fighting together.

“We’re fighting each other for concession prizes,” he said. “We’re at each other’s throat for third place. To be the emissary, the voice for somebody else.”

An unscripted question. An honest answer. What we learned in AC about the new LG

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BINJE | Tom Bergeron | November 18, 2026

It was the type of moment every elected official faces. And almost certainly hates. The random question from a constituent they couldn’t possibly be prepared for.

After giving a 20-minute or so address to a hundred or so people in a small conference room during the first day of the League of Municipalities conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Shirley Emehelu offered to take questions. T.C. Cuthbertson, a small-business owner and caterer in the greater Trenton area, was the first to step up to the open mic — and did so with comments that clearly have been on his mind for years.

He wanted to know when the state will award an open concession permit at the War Memorial in Trenton, a permit he says has been open since 2012. A permit he said he has been trying to land since 2019. Those facts are Cuthbertson’s. As was this remark: that the Secretary of State — the job Emehelu also holds — is the person who awards it.

BINJE can’t confirm any of this. And it’s fair to say it appeared to be the first time Emehelu had heard of the situation.She gave an honest answer.“It’s week two on the job for me,” she said.

Who’s better equipped to lead Trenton, New Jersey? Public safety is a major focus of the runoff election in early December

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WHYY | David Matthau | November 18, 2026

From Camden and Cherry Hill to Trenton and the Jersey Shore, what about life in New Jersey do you want WHYY News to cover? Let us know.

Public safety is front and center in New Jersey in the Dec. 8th runoff election for Trenton mayor between incumbent Reed Gusciora and challenger Corey McNair.

Neither candidate secured a majority in the six-person mayoral race on Nov. 3, triggering the runoff. McNair, a Trenton police detective and political newcomer, was the top vote-getter, receiving 37% of those cast. Gusciora finished second with about 23% of the vote.

Both candidates are touting themselves as the best choice to make Trenton safer.But data shows that crime has actually been falling. The most recent CitiStat crime data for the state’s capital city shows homicides down 57% for the first five months of this year compared to the same time last year. Robberies have dropped 58%, and overall reported crime has dipped 20%.

But according to FBI data, Trenton remains more dangerous than most other cities in New Jersey and across the nation.

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