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The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) Hosts Highly Successful NJ D-12 Congressional Forum at Mercer County Community College.

(TRENTON, NJ – May 7, 2026) Trenton, NJ – The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ), in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Lawrence Township (LWVLT) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), proudly hosted a highly successful NJ Congressional District 12 Candidate Forum at Mercer County Community College (MCCC). The event brought together voters, community leaders, and candidates for an engaging and informative discussion ahead of the upcoming primary election.

Twelve of the fourteen declared candidates participated in the forum, including Squire Servance, Dr. Adam Hamway, Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Matt Adams, Cohen, Jay Vaingankar, Mayor Adrian Mapp, Shanel Robinson, Kyle Little, Sam Wang, Sue Altman, and Gregg Mele. The strong candidate turnout provided attendees with a robust opportunity to hear diverse perspectives on key issues impacting New Jersey residents.

With over 70 attendees present and additional viewers tuning in via livestream on TrentonJournal.com, the forum demonstrated significant community interest and civic engagement in the race to fill the soon-to-be-vacant congressional seat. The seat is being vacated by retiring Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman after more than two decades of dedicated service.

Dr. John E. Harmon, Founder, President and CEO of AACCNJ, delivered impactful remarks addressing persistent inequities across the state. He highlighted concerns regarding New Jersey's auto insurance policies, emphasizing that rates are determined by factors such as income, credit score, and education level rather than driving record. Dr. Harmon also spoke on findings from the New Jersey Disparity Study and addressed the implications of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on equitable economic participation.

The forum was hosted by Carmen Gates, Vice President of Community Development and External Affairs Officer at AACCNJ, who facilitated a dynamic and informative discussion among candidates. Mr.

Earl Brown, Founder and Executive Director of Earl Brown Education Consulting (EBEC) served as the moderator for the day. Questions were randomly selected for each candidate giving each an equal amount of time with time for opening and closing statements.

As the election approaches, voters are encouraged to make their voices heard. Early voting will take place from May 26 through May 31, with Primary Election Day scheduled for June 2, 2026.

Community members who were unable to attend are encouraged to watch the full forum and hear directly from the candidates by visiting TrentonJournal.com.

About The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey

The AACCNJ performs an essential role in the economic viability of New Jersey. While providing a platform for New Jersey's African American business leaders to speak with a collective voice, the AACCNJ advocates and promotes economic diversity fostering a climate of business growth through major initiatives centering on education and public policy. The Chamber serves as a proactive advocacy group with a 501(c) 3 tax exemption, which is shared by the National Black Chamber of Commerce.