NEWS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey
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OCTOBER 30, 2026

Black voters keep delivering for N.J. Democrats. Leaders are asking what comes back.

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NJ.com | Jelani Gibson & Ande Richards | October 29, 2026

Black voters gave Gov. Mikie Sherrill 94% of their vote in her election as New Jersey governor last year. Nearly a year later, and with the midterm elections approaching, some of the state's most prominent Black leaders are asking what decades of overwhelming support for Democrats has produced in return.

On a chilly October morning in Trenton, Black elected officials, civil rights advocates, activists and business leaders gathered to demand greater progress on issues ranging from economic opportunity and representation to education and reparations.

"Today's rally is about respect, about equity and about reciprocity," said John Harmon, president of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, which organized the Oct. 15 gathering.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, who helped rally Black voters behind Sherrill after challenging her during the Democratic gubernatorial primary, was considerably blunter. "We don't want the crumbs anymore, and if they settle for the crumbs we can't be with them anymore," he said.

The message was not necessarily that Black voters were preparing to abandon Democrats. It was a demand for a different relationship with a party they have repeatedly helped elect, one in which votes are followed by measurable progress on the issues Black leaders say matter to their communities.

AACCNJ announces honorees for 17th Annual Circle of Achievement Awards Gala

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ROI-NJ.com | Staff | October 28, 2026

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) announced Oct. 27 the keynote speaker and honorees for the 17th Annual Circle of Achievement Awards Gala, which will be held on Feb. 18, 2027, from 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. at The Venetian in Garfield.

The theme for the 2027 Black History Month Gala is "Celebrating Legacy, Cultural Excellence and Impact," and Jeanette J. Epps, Ph.D., retired NASA astronaut and aerospace engineer, will serve as the keynote speaker.

"We are pleased to bestow the 'Presidential Award of Excellence for Exceptional Performance & Innovation' upon Dr. Jeannette Epps for 16 years of service with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and her expertise as a flight engineer on NASA's SpaceX Crew-8 science mission and crew rotation to the International Space Station (ISS)," said Dr. John E. Harmon, Sr., founder, president and CEO, AACCNJ. He will serve as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Each year during Black History Month, the AACCNJ recognizes a distinguished group of African Americans who have attained a significant level of personal accomplishment and/or recognition in business, education, public service, sports, entrepreneurship, entertainment or culture.

Guest Oped: Before we vote, ask how the city will work, part one

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The Trentonian | Gene Bouie | October 6, 2026

Trenton voters should judge mayoral candidates not only by what they promise but also by how they would manage the city to deliver those promises. A credible management plan should explain how an administration would set priorities, organize departments, control spending, eliminate waste, improve staff performance, reduce poverty, measure results, and hold officials accountable.

Residents experience government through timely inspections, functioning permits, reliable sanitation and water service, responsive departments, and answers to calls. Management determines whether those services work consistently and whether problems are corrected when they do not.

With about a month remaining before Trenton's mayoral election, I reviewed publicly available campaign materials for their attention to strategy, budgets, operations, staff performance, waste reduction, poverty, and accountability. This is an assessment of management commitments, not an endorsement or a ranking of candidates.

Jasi Edwards calls for reviews of city operations, modernization of outdated systems, better departmental coordination, performance goals, and public reporting. Her platform also promises to track service requests through resolution and fill critical vacancies within the first year.

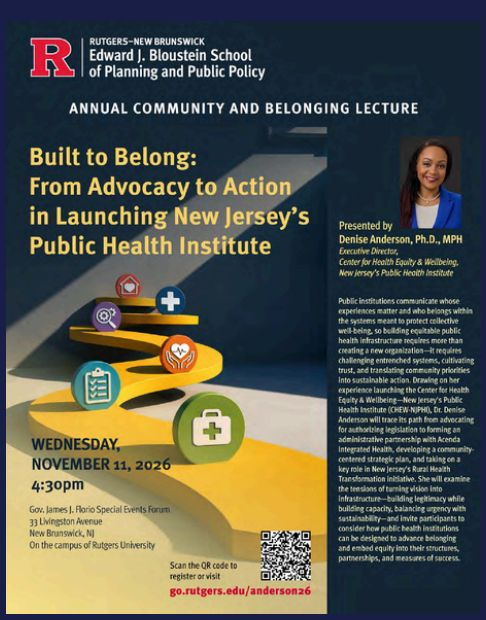
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