



Media Kit

Congressional Black Caucus of the 111th Congress

The Honorable Barbara Lee (CA)
Chairwoman

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Chairwoman's Message



Dear Friends,

I bring you greetings on behalf of the 42 members of the Congressional Black Caucus of the 111th Congress. I am so honored and proud my colleagues elected me to serve as chair at this moment in our nation's history—it is a time filled with many challenges, but challenges that are imbued with the hope and promise of better days to come.

Forty years ago the Congressional Black Caucus was founded “to positively influence the course of events pertinent to African Americans and others of similar experience and situation.” In the years since, we have earned the moniker “the conscience of the congress” because of our unyielding commitment to our communities and our country. We know that our mission is to help our country become a more perfect union.

The Congressional Black Caucus leads on each and every issue with intelligence, commitment and power, yet continues to be the voice of the voiceless.

Today, our ranks have swelled more than three-fold beyond the original 13 founding members. With powerful and dedicated leaders such as Majority Whip James Clyburn, our 4 standing committee chairs, Chairmen John Conyers, Jr., Charlie B. Rangel, Bennie G. Thompson and Edolphus Towns, our 18 subcommittee chairs, the Congressional Black Caucus continues to fulfill the mission established by our founders.

I thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee

Members of the 111th Congress

By Seniority in The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate

Hon. John Conyers, Jr., MI-'65	Hon. Charles B. Rangel, NY-'71
Hon. Edolphus Towns, NY-'83	Hon. John Lewis, GA-'87
Hon. Donald M. Payne, NJ-'89	Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC-'91
Hon. Maxine Waters, CA-'91	Hon. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., GA-'93
Hon. Corrine Brown, FL-'93	Hon. James E. Clyburn, SC-'93
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings, FL-'93	Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson, TX-'93
Hon. Bobby L. Rush, IL-'93	Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, VA-'93
Hon. Melvin L. Watt, NC-'93	Hon. Bennie G. Thompson, MS-'93
Hon. Chaka Fattah, PA-'95	Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee, TX-'95
Hon. Jesse Jackson, Jr., IL-'95	Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, MD-'96
Hon. Donna M. Christian Christensen, VI-'97	Hon. Danny K. Davis, IL-'97
Hon. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, MI-'97	Hon. Gregory W. Meeks, NY-'98
Hon. Barbara Lee, CA-'98	Hon. Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr., MO-'01
Hon. Diane E. Watson, CA-'01	Hon. Artur Davis, AL-'03
Hon. Kendrick B. Meek, FL-'03	Hon. David Scott, GA-'03
Hon. G.K. Butterfield, NC-'04	Hon. Emanuel Cleaver II, MO-'05
Hon. Al Green, TX-'05	Hon. Gwen Moore, WI-'05
Hon. Yvette D. Clarke, NY-'07	Hon. Keith Ellison, MN-'07
Hon. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., GA-'07	Hon. Laura Richardson, CA-'07
Hon. André Carson, IN-'08	Hon. Donna F. Edwards, MD-'08
Hon. Marcia L. Fudge, OH-'08	Hon. Roland Burris, IL-'09

About the Congressional Black Caucus

Officers of the 111th Congress



Hon. Barbara Lee (CA), Chairwoman

Hon. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO)
First Vice-Chair

Hon. G.K. Butterfield (NC)
Secretary

Hon. Donna M. Christian Christensen (VI)
Second Vice-Chair

Hon. Yvette D. Clarke (NY)
Whip

Mission

Since 1971, the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have joined together to strengthen their efforts to empower America's neglected citizens - including but not limited to Americans of color - by more effectively addressing our legislative concerns. The Congressional Black Caucus is committed to utilizing the full Constitutional power, statutory authority, and financial resources of the Government of the United States of America to ensure, insofar as possible, that everyone in the United States has an opportunity to live out the American Dream.

The legislative agenda of universal empowerment that the Members of the Caucus shall collectively pursue shall include, but are not limited to: the creation of universal access to a world-class education from birth through post secondary level; the creation of universal access to quality, affordable health care and the elimination of racially based health disparities; the creation of universal access to modern technology, capital, and full, fairly-compensated employment; the creation and or expansion of US foreign policy initiatives that will contribute to the survival, health, education, and general welfare of all peoples of the world in a manner consistent with universal human dignity, tolerance, and respect, and such other legislative action as a majority of the entire CBC membership from time to time may support.



Quick Facts About the CBC of the 111th Congress

- ◆ Rep. Barbara Lee is the 21st chair of the Congressional Black Caucus
- ◆ CBC members are regularly referred to as the “conscience of Congress.”
- ◆ Sen. Barack Obama is the first CBC member elected president
- ◆ The CBC is home to 42 Members of Congress
- ◆ Four CBC Members serve as chairs of full committees
- ◆ Eighteen CBC Members serve as chairs of subcommittees
- ◆ Two Founding Members of the CBC continue to serve in Congress: Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (MI) and Rep. Charles B. Rangel (NY)
- ◆ Fourteen CBC Members are women
- ◆ CBC Members average 5 terms of experience
- ◆ Seventeen CBC Members attended historically black colleges or universities
- ◆ During the 109th Congress CBC Members voted together 95.04% of the time
- ◆ Two Delegates serve as Members of the CBC: Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC) and Del. Donna M. Christen Christensen, M.D. (VI)
- ◆ CBC Members make up 10.6% of the House of Representatives
- ◆ During the 110th Congress there were two African American women who chaired committees; the late Juanita Millender-McDonald (CA) – House Administration, and Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (OH) – Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics)
- ◆ Six freshmen joined the ranks of the CBC in the 110th Congress: Rep. Hank Johnson (GA), Rep. Keith Ellison (MN), Rep. Laura Richardson (CA), Rep. Yvette Clarke (NY), Rep. Andre Carson (IN) and Rep. Donna Edwards (MD).
- ◆ Two freshmen joined the ranks of the CBC in the 111th Congress: Sen. Roland Burris (IL) and Rep. Marcia Fudge (OH)

A Brief History of Blacks in Congress



- ◆ In 1870, Hiram Rhodes Revels (R-MS) and Joseph H. Rainey (R-SC) were the first African Americans to serve in the House and Senate, respectively.
- ◆ Twenty two Black lawmakers served in the House and Senate in the two decades after the Civil War, also known as the Reconstruction era.
- ◆ From 1901 to 1928 no African Americans serve in Congress.
- ◆ Since the election of Rep. Oscar Stanton De Priest of Illinois in 1928 there has been a permanent African American presence in Congress.
- ◆ In 1949, Rep. William Levi Dawson became the first African American to lead a full committee when he assumed the leadership of the Government Operations Committee. Blacks have chaired committees ever since, when Democrats controlled the House of Representatives.
- ◆ In 1969, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman to serve in Congress after being elected to represent New York's 12th district in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ◆ Only 27 of the over 240 women elected or appointed to Congress have been African American. Only one, Carol Moseley-Braun, has served in the Senate.
- ◆ After the election of 1970, the Congressional Black Caucus was formed with 13 founding members.
- ◆ The election of 1996 ushers in the 100th African American Congressperson, in addition to a record 41 African American members seated in the 104th Congress

Congressional Leadership

In addition to Congressman James Clyburn who serves as Majority Whip, the third highest office in Congress directly below the Speaker and Majority Leader, CBC Members occupy the ranks of several crucial leadership positions within committees. Four Members chair full committees with jurisdictions from Trade and Taxes to Constitutional protections. Eighteen Members chair crucial subcommittees, rounding out the Caucus's wealth of experience.



Hon. James E. Clyburn (SC)
Majority Whip, U.S. House of
Representatives



Hon. John Conyers, Jr. (MI)
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary



Charles B. Rangel (NY)
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means



Hon. Bennie G. Thompson (MS)
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security



Hon. Edolphus Towns (NY)
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

Congressional Leadership (Cont.)

Sub-Committee Chairs

Hon. John Lewis (GA)

Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight, Committee on Ways and Means

Hon. Donald M. Payne (NJ)

Chair, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, Committee on Foreign Affairs

Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)

Chair, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Hon. Maxine Waters (CA)

Chair, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, Committee on Financial Services

Hon. Corrine Brown (FL)

Chair, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Hon. Alcee L. Hastings (FL)

Chair, Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, Committee on Rules;

Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)

Chair, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Hon. Bobby L. Rush (IL)

Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection

Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)

Chair, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security

Hon. Melvin L. Watt (NC)

Chair, Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology, Committee on Financial Services

Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)

Chair, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure Protection, Committee on Homeland Security

Hon. Elijah E. Cummings (MD)

Chair, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Hon. Wm. Lacy Clay Jr. (MO)

Chair, Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Hon. Yvette D. Clarke (NY)

Chair, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, Committee on Homeland Security

Hon. Diane Watson (CA)

Chair, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement, Committee On Oversight and Government Reform

Hon. Hank Johnson (GA)

Chair Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, Committee on Judiciary

Hon. Gregory Meeks (NY)

Chair, Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, Committee on Financial Services

Hon. David Scott (GA)

Chair, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry, Committee on Agriculture



Taskforce Structure & Leadership

In order to address the plethora of issues facing our nation, the Congressional Black Caucus maintains over twenty taskforces to provide leadership within various issue jurisdictions. These taskforces serve as working groups for events and information brought to the CBC and provide recommendations for CBC movement on

Budget, Appropriations & Taxation

Hon. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)

Prioritizing Federal Funds to Meet the Needs of Our Nation.

Defense, Veterans & Homeland Security

Hon. Charles B. Rangel (NY), Hon. Bennie G. Thompson (MS) & Hon. Sanford Bishop (GA)

National Security, Veterans Support

Economic Security

Hon. Maxine Waters (CA), Hon. Gregory W. Meeks (NY) & Hon. Keith Ellison (MN)

Housing, Banking, Minority Business, Agriculture, Gaming

Community Reinvestment

Hon. Danny K. Davis (IL) & Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)

Education, Labor & Federal Workforce, Science & Technology, Multimedia, Transportation & Infrastructure, Gulf Coast Recovery, Service

Energy & Environment

Hon. G.K. Butterfield (NC), Hon. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO) & Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)

Green Jobs, Climate Change, Energy, Alternative Energy Options, & Environmental Justice

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Hon. Donna M. Christensen (VI) & Hon. Danny K. Davis (IL)

Health Care Reform, Health Disparities, HIV/AIDS, Families: Parents & Children, Nutrition, Women’s Issues, Seniors, Disability Rights

Foreign Policy & International Relations

Hon. Donald M. Payne (NJ)

Africa, the Caribbean, General Diplomacy, Health, HIV/AIDS, Education, Development, Trade

Judicial & Civil Rights

Hon. Melvin L. Watt (NC), Hon. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA) & Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)

Census, Elections, Judicial Appointments, Immigration, Re-Entry & Restoration, Ethics & Government Oversight, Nominations, Criminal Justice Reform

CBC Outreach

Hon. Elijah E. Cummings (MD)

Faith Communities, Families: Women, Men, Teens & Young Adults (16-25), Emerging Leaders: Young Elected Officials, Young Professionals, State & Local Governments, Congressional TriCaucus, Academia, Entertainers & Athletes, Executive Leadership Council/Business Community

CBC Affiliated Organizations

The Congressional Black Caucus is affiliated with other organizations by name, as well as general missions. Because of legal constraints, many activities are exclusive to one organization.



CBC Foundation

Chair: *Hon. Kendrick B. Meek (FL)*

CBCF Mission: With focus on Leadership Education, Public Health, and Economic Development, CBCF is the premier organization that creates, identifies, analyzes and disseminates policy-oriented information critical to advancing African Americans and people of African descent towards equity in economics, health, and education.

www.cbcfinc.org



CBC Institute

Chair: *Hon. Bennie G. Thompson (MS)*

CBCI Mission: To develop and train political candidates, leaders and tacticians. To research and analyze data related to the redistricting process and the preservation of minority voting representation, and to increase the presence of African Americans in the public policy and service sectors.

www.cbcinstitute.org



CBC Political Action Committee

Chair: *Hon. Gregory Meeks (NY)*

CBC PAC Mission: To increase the number of African Americans in Congress; to support non-Black candidates who champion our interests; and to promote African American participation in the political process with a special emphasis on young voters.

www.cbcpac.com



CBC Staff

Patrice Willoughby, Executive Director
J. Jioni Palmer, Communications Director
Irene B. Schwoeffermann, Coalitions Director

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