

**September 2025**



**FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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**A Message From President Campbell**



## Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends!

September is a month of meaning and momentum. It marks the beginning of fall, Labor Day, National Hispanic Heritage Month, and National Voter Registration Day, and it serves as a reminder of the importance of civic engagement and community leadership.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to each of you who attended our Annual Breakfast. Your presence and energy made it a meaningful gathering. A special thank you to those who volunteered at this year's membership booth. Your time and commitment helped us welcome new members and showcase the strength of our organization.

To our new members, welcome to the FBC-LEO family! We're excited to have you join us and look forward to your contributions and leadership.

As we continue building momentum, I encourage all members to share updates from your city, town, or village. Whether it's a new initiative, a community success story, or an upcoming event, we want to celebrate and learn from each other.

Let's also keep expanding our reach—invite fellow elected officials to join FBC-LEO. Your voice matters, and so does theirs. Together, we can strengthen our network and amplify the impact of local leadership. Your outreach helps expand our impact and ensures that more voices are represented across Florida.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to public service.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Campbell".

President Justin Campbell  
Commissioner, City of Palatka

**Thank You**



Thank you  
for participating!

Thank you to everyone who  
attended the 2025 FBC-LEO  
Annual Breakfast and participated  
with tabling in the FLC Exhibit Hall!

**You are appreciated!**

## In Memory of



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We mourn the passing of Commissioner Esther Berry—a devoted public servant, respected community leader, and cherished friend. Her life was a testament to unwavering dedication, guided by a profound sense of purpose and an enduring love for the people she represented.

Commissioner Berry formerly served as Mayor, where her leadership, integrity, and compassion left a lasting impact on her community. She also held the role of Treasurer for several years, returning to that position with her signature grace and tireless work ethic.

A longtime and dedicated member of the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, Commissioner Berry exemplified the values and mission of our organization. Her presence, insight, and advocacy helped shape our collective efforts and strengthen the voices of Black elected officials throughout the state.

Her legacy will continue to inspire us all.



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Dr. Joe Lee Smith, a respected educator, civic leader, and longtime Rockledge City Councilman, passed away on September 1 at age 89. He served the City of Rockledge for 36 years, including terms as council chairman and deputy mayor, and was deeply committed to public service.

Beyond his political career, Dr. Smith was a champion for education and community development. He held leadership roles at Eastern Florida State College and served on numerous boards, including the United Way, Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club, and Circles of Care. He co-founded the Central Brevard Recreation Association and was instrumental in advancing youth and minority initiatives across Brevard County.

Dr. Smith's legacy lives on through facilities named in his honor, including the Joe Lee Smith Recreation Center in Cocoa and the Dr. Joe Lee Smith Teaching Center in Melbourne. His impact is felt in the lives of those he mentored, including Commissioner Michael Cadore, and in the many communities he uplifted through decades of service.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Altamese, two children, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

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Mable Butler was a trailblazing public servant and community advocate. She made history as the first African-American woman elected to both the Orlando City Council (1984–1990) and the Orange County Commission (1990–1998). Born in Gainesville and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, Butler studied social service at New York City College before relocating to Orlando in 1957.

Her civic engagement began early, serving on Mayor Carl Lanford's biracial committee, where she led the Housing Committee and played a key role in establishing the Orlando Human Relations Department. A founding member of the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, Butler was a passionate champion for affordable housing and community empowerment.

In recognition of her lifelong contributions, she received the John Young History Maker Award from the Orange County Regional History Center in 2021.

## Member Highlight



Curtis Johnson, Jr., Fort Pierce City Commissioner (District 1), is a passionate advocate for leadership and community service. He serves as the 2nd Vice President of FBC-LEO, supporting local elected officials across Florida.

As founder and CEO of The Cuvey Group, LLC, Curtis brings over 20 years of experience in sales, marketing, and performance coaching. He actively serves on three City of Fort Pierce committees and leads The Phrozen Pharaoh Foundation, a nonprofit focused on mentoring youth in St. Lucie County.

A proud graduate and National Board Officer of Florida A&M University's Alumni Association, Curtis is committed to education, mentorship, and civic engagement.

## New Member News



### **Welcome the Newest FBC-LEO Members!**

We are thrilled to welcome the newest members of the FBC-LEO organization.

Your dedication to public service and leadership is deeply appreciated, and we look forward to getting to know each of you and working together to strengthen our communities.

- Planning and Zoning Board Member Ramel Ford, City of Fort Meade
- Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant, City of Sanford
- Council Member Demetrius D. Washington, City of Arcadia
- Commissioner Jaret Landon Williams, City of Fort Meade

Welcome aboard!

## Events

National Voter Registration Day

**Hosted by:** Faith in Florida  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
2729 Lipscomb Street  
Melbourne, FL 32901

**For more information, contact:**  
Rico Jackson – (321) 266-8535

Melbourne, FL 32901

Rico Jackson – (321) 266-8535

## FBC-LEO Membership Inquiry Form



## **FBC-LEO Membership Inquiry Form**

FBC-LEO strives to continuously enhance and serve our members. We kindly request that you fill out our Membership Re-Election Inquiry Form. Completing the short form will significantly impact the initiatives set by the FBC-LEO Board of Directors.

All information provided will be kept confidential and used solely for the purposes intended.

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[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE FORM](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**



**SAVE** *the*  
**DATE**

**2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**April 15-17, 2026**

Embassy Suites by Hilton Tampa  
USF Near Busch Gardens | Tampa, FL



## Find Us on Social Media



**Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter!**



**Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials**