August 2026

# FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

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## President's Corner



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends!

As summer winds down, I hope this newsletter finds you refreshed and ready for an impactful fall. We have some exciting updates and important events coming up that I want to share with you.

The start of August marks "Back to School" for many of our students, families, and educators across Florida. This is a vital time for our communities, and as local elected officials, we play a crucial role in supporting our schools and ensuring a bright future for the next generation. Let's continue to advocate for the resources and opportunities our students need to thrive.

**August 26th** is a particularly significant date as we celebrate **Women's Equality Day** in the U.S. This day commemorates the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote—a monumental step towards a more inclusive democracy. It's a powerful reminder of the progress we've made and the work that still lies ahead in achieving full equality for all.

As we prepare the upcoming FBC-LEO Member Directory, members are encouraged to submit an updated professional headshot to ensure the directory reflects the outstanding leaders who serve our communities. Take advantage of the photo booths available at the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference or submit your own professional photo by September 15, 2026. Please note that only members whose 2026 FBC-LEO membership dues are paid and current will be included in the directory. We look forward to showcasing you in this valuable member resource.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and working together to empower our communities.

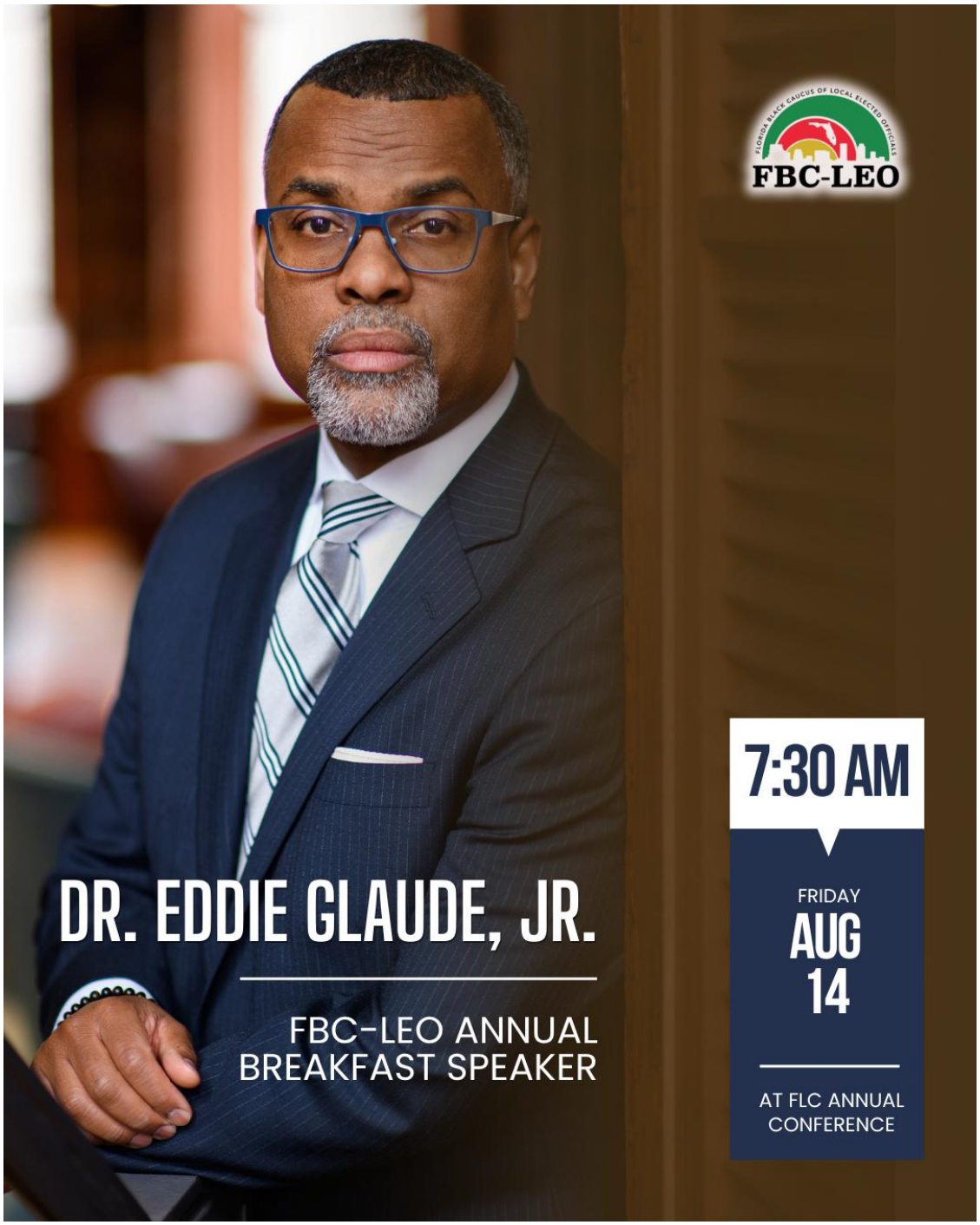
Warm Regards,



President Justin Campbell

Commissioner, City of Palatka

**2026 FLC Annual Breakfast**




**Join us for the 2026 FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast!**

**A signature gathering of leaders committed to service, collaboration, and community impact.**

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Eddie S. Glaude Jr., New York Times bestselling author, political commentator, and Princeton University Professor.

🗓️ Friday, August 14, 2026

⏰ Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. | Program & Keynote at 7:30 a.m.

📍 The Diplomat | Hollywood, FL

Start your morning with meaningful connections, inspiring remarks, and a shared commitment to advancing local leadership across Florida.

🎟️ **Secure your seat today as space is limited and be part of this impactful experience!**

Register Here

**Volunteer at the 2026 FLC Annual Conference!**




Volunteer opportunities for the **2026 FBC-LEO Booth Sign-up at the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference** are now open!

We'd love your help in making our presence a success.

It only takes a few seconds to sign up. **Click Here to Sign-Up**

Thank you for volunteering!

## Member Highlight



This month, FBC-LEO is pleased to spotlight Mayor Vernel Smith, Jr., of the City of Haines City.

As a municipal leader serving one of Central Florida's growing communities, Mayor Smith is committed to representing the interests of Haines City residents and supporting initiatives that enhance the quality of life for those he serves.

Mayor Smith's involvement in local government reflects a dedication to public service and community leadership. Through his work with the City of Haines City and his participation in FBC-LEO, he contributes to the advancement of municipal leadership and collaboration among elected officials across Florida.

As FBC-LEO continues to strengthen its network of leaders, members such as Mayor Smith play an important role in fostering civic engagement partnerships and helping shape a positive future for Florida's cities.

We thank Mayor Smith for his service and commitment to both his community and the mission of FBC-LEO. We are proud to recognize him and look forward to his continued contributions to local government and public service.

## New Member News




**Welcome the newest FBC-LEO Members:**

We are thrilled to have you as members of the FBC-LEO organization and look forward to getting to know you.

- Councilmember Sylvester Echols, City of Crestview
- Mayor Jamarien Moore, City of Madison
- Commissioner Lekia Johnson, City of Haines City

Please join us in welcoming our new members as we continue to strengthen our organization through advocacy, collaboration, and service.

**Regional Member Events**

We're excited to introduce new regional engagement events and a statewide membership campaign designed to bring members together, foster meaningful relationships, and expand the reach of FBC-LEO across Florida. These initiatives will

provide additional opportunities to connect, share ideas, and support one another in our service to communities throughout the state.

More details will be announced soon, so stay tuned for ways to participate and help spread the word.

Thank you for your leadership and unwavering commitment to FBC-LEO.

Together, we will continue building a stronger, more connected organization that advances excellence in local leadership and service.

**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.

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE FORM




**Be sure all of the upcoming FBC-LEO events are on your calendar.**

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| **FBC-LEO Annual Breakfast** | August 14, 2026<br>The Diplomat Beach Resort<br>Hollywood, FL<br>In conjunction with the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference |

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| | Click Here to Register |
| **FBC-LEO**<br>**Board of Directors Meeting** | October 13, 2026<br>via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. ET<br>Click Here to Register |
| **FBC-LEO**<br>**General Membership Meeting** | October 13, 2026<br>via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. ET<br>Click Here to Register |

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[Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials]