



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 16, 2025**

## **Faith and Community Leaders State of the State Policy Summit to Address Critical Issues Ahead of 2025 Gubernatorial Election**

**UNION, NJ** — The New Jersey Black Issues Convention (NJBIC), in collaboration with the Interfaith Action Movement (IAM), Kean University Faith-based Institute of Public Policy, the General Baptist Convention of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Convention of Progressive Baptists, is pleased to announce the **Faith and Community Leaders State of the State Policy Summit**. This pivotal event will take place on **Saturday, May 3, 2025**, at **Kean University's Skylands Campus** in Union, New Jersey.

The summit serves as a platform for faith and community leaders to engage in meaningful discussions on five critical policy areas identified during NJBIC's 2025 Annual Retreat:

- Homeownership and Financial Literacy/Empowerment
- Investment in Black Communities
- Black Maternal Health & Infant Mortality
- Education Reform
- Criminal Justice Reform

These discussions are particularly timely as New Jersey approaches its **gubernatorial election on November 4, 2025**, with primary elections scheduled for June 10, 2025. The summit aims to provide a platform for community leaders to voice their priorities and influence the policy agendas of gubernatorial candidates.

### **Confirmed Speakers Include:**

- **Dennis Zeveloff**, Chief Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
- **Justin Drews**, Chairman, NJ Clemency Advisory Board
- **Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter**, Chair, New Jersey Black Legislative Caucus
- **Kia King**, Chief of Staff, NJ Department of Community Affairs
- **Cara Wallace**, Senior Economic Justice Advisor to Rev. Al Sharpton & CEO, Optimized Diversity Solutions

“This summit is an opportunity for faith and community leaders to come together and shape the policy discussions leading up to the gubernatorial election,” said [Insert NJBIC or IAM spokesperson name and title]. “By aligning our collective voice, we can ensure that the needs and concerns of our communities are addressed by those seeking to lead our state.”

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