

Arkansas
Black
Mayors
Association

UNITED FOR PROGRESS

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Our Mayors Lead

2026
MEMBERSHIP
OVERVIEW

ArBlackMayors.org

Founded 1972 | Little Rock, Arkansas

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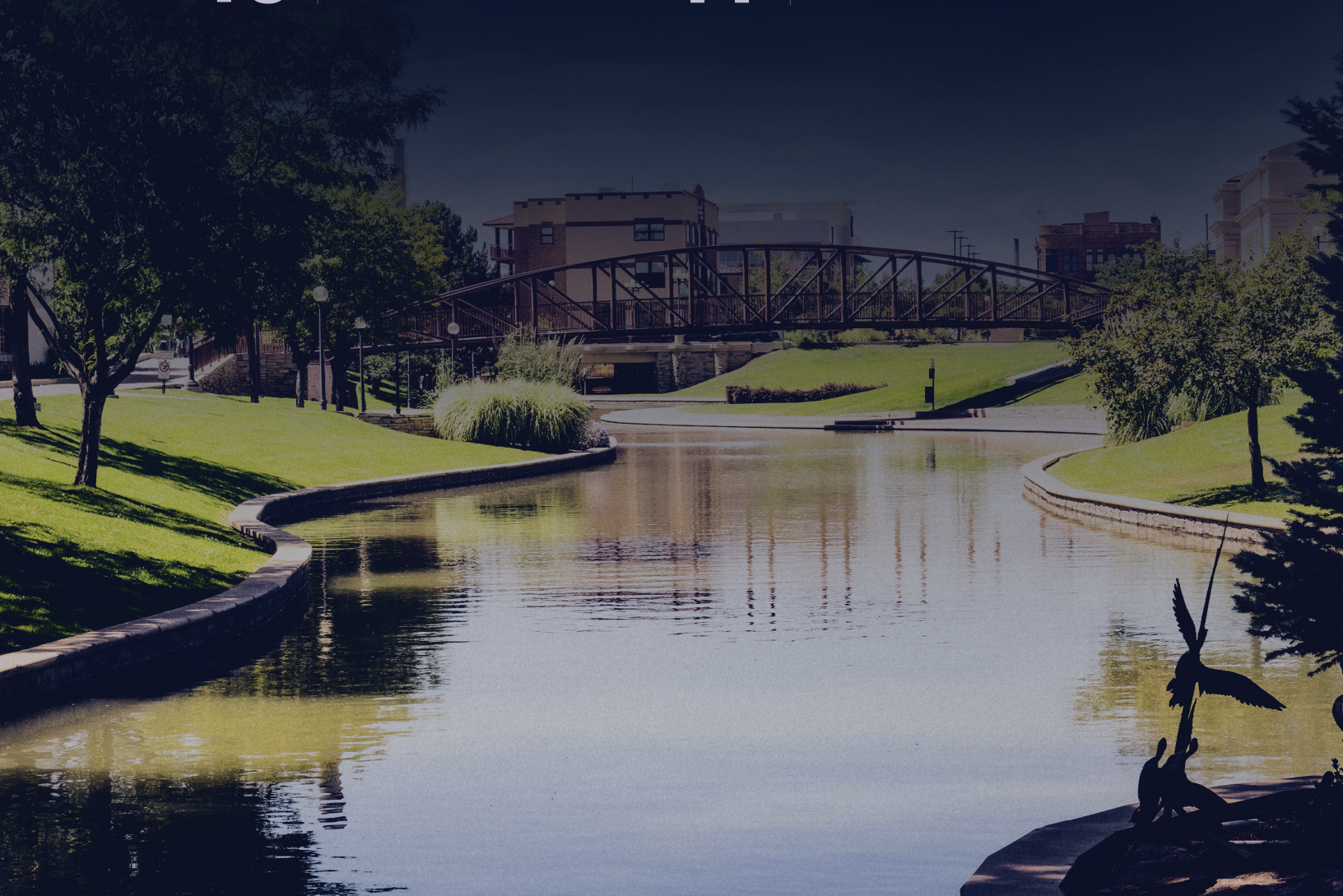
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A WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIRWOMAN



Mayor Tomeka Butler

*Chairwoman, ABMA Executive Committee /
Mayor of Eudora, AR*

Dear Prospective Member Mayor, _____

On behalf of the Arkansas Black Mayors Association, welcome. Whether you're a newly elected mayor or a long-serving leader looking for a network that understands the seat you sit in, ABMA was built for you.

For more than fifty years, this organization has stood alongside Black mayors across Arkansas, in large cities and small towns alike, as a source of shared knowledge, unified advocacy, and genuine peer support. We don't just talk about the challenges facing our communities. We've sat in the seat. And that experience is what makes ABMA different from any other network you'll find.

This packet will walk you through who we are, what we do, and what membership makes possible, from policy resolutions and leadership training to a peer network of mayors who understand exactly what you're carrying. I encourage you to read it closely, and to reach out with any questions.

We're glad you're considering ABMA.
We look forward to leading alongside you.

ABOUT ABMA

The Arkansas Black Mayors Association (ABMA) is more than an organization, it is a movement rooted in service, shaped by experience, and driven by the voices of the mayors who live it every day. Founded in 1972, ABMA is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to fostering an environment where Black mayors across Arkansas can grow, lead, and thrive, for the direct benefit of the communities they serve.

As a unified voice for Black municipal leaders in Arkansas, ABMA exists at the intersection of leadership and community. We connect our member mayors with the resources, relationships, policy tools, and platforms they need to lead boldly. We don't just understand the challenges our cities face, we've sat in the seat. And that makes all the difference.

MISSION STATEMENT

To foster an environment conducive to the development, growth, and sustainability of Black mayors in large and small municipalities across the state of Arkansas.



OUR WORK

ABMA engages its member mayors through signature events, policy support, and ongoing programming throughout the year. From the annual Leadership Summit and Gala to community forums and networking opportunities, ABMA connects Black mayors with peers, partners, and stakeholders who share a commitment to progress. Our leadership team provides ongoing support including newsletters, policy updates, and direct communication to ensure every member mayor has what they need to serve effectively.



OUR REACH

ABMA remains committed to elevating the voices of Black mayors across Arkansas and beyond. Through strategic partnerships, communications outreach, and collaborative initiatives, ABMA amplifies the work of its member mayors and ensures that the issues impacting Black communities remain at the forefront of statewide conversation.

WHY JOIN ABMA?



SHARED LEADERSHIP

Our members have a direct seat at the table, shaping the direction of the organization, submitting policy resolutions, and voting on decisions that impact Black municipalities across Arkansas. When you join ABMA, your voice doesn't just matter, it leads.



BEST PRACTICES & PEER LEARNING

Throughout the year, ABMA member mayors have the opportunity to connect at the Leadership Summit, Annual Meeting, and other events to exchange ideas and share what's working in their cities. Whether you're navigating infrastructure challenges, economic development, or public safety, ABMA connects you with mayors who've faced the same.



EQUITY-DRIVEN ADVOCACY

ABMA advocates for policies that are equitable and responsive to the needs of Black communities.

Through collective resolutions and unified communications, our member mayors speak with one powerful voice on the issues that matter most, from housing and healthcare to voting rights and civic engagement.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

ABMA's growing network of corporate and community partners brings added resources, insight, and opportunities to our member mayors. From the Business Council to partner organizations like Entergy and the Arkansas Municipal League, ABMA members benefit from relationships built on a shared commitment to community progress.



CONNECTIVITY

Stay connected to a statewide network of Black elected leaders through ABMA's events, social media platforms, and quarterly newsletter. ABMA keeps its members informed, engaged, and plugged into the resources and conversations shaping Arkansas cities.

WHERE WE FOCUS

ABMA member mayors speak with one voice on the issues shaping their cities. These are the priority areas where our collective advocacy is concentrated:



HOUSING

Supporting policies and resources that expand access to safe, affordable housing in Arkansas's cities and towns.



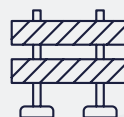
HEALTHCARE

Advancing equitable access to healthcare and wellness resources for the communities our member mayors serve.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Connecting member cities with partners, investment, and innovation that drive local economic growth.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Sharing best practices on infrastructure challenges facing large and small municipalities alike.



VOTING RIGHTS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Equipping mayors with tools and strategies to protect voting access and strengthen civic participation.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Providing a forum for mayors to exchange strategies that keep their communities safe.

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

ABMA is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) organization led by mayors and built for mayors, which means we understand firsthand the challenges cities face. Our growing network of partners and peers allows us to tackle those challenges from every angle, providing a space where Black elected leaders across Arkansas can share best practices and lead with confidence.



MEMBER BENEFIT	MEMBERS
Attend ABMA Leadership Summit & Annual Gala	✓
Discounted registration for ABMA events	✓
Access to ABMA member resources and policy toolkits	✓
Submit and co-sponsor policy resolutions	✓
Vote on resolutions at Annual Meeting	✓
Strategic communications support	✓
Monthly newsletter and policy updates	✓
Peer network of Black mayors across Arkansas	✓

DETAILED BENEFITS



EVENTS & ACCESS

Discounted Registration for the Leadership Summit & Gala —

The Summit and Gala are ABMA's premier annual events. Member discounts ensure every mayor can participate regardless of budget, keeping the full network engaged and connected.

Reserved Seating at ABMA Signature Events

Priority access ensures member mayors are always at the table where decisions are being shaped and relationships are being built.

Invitations to Exclusive Member-Only Receptions and Briefings

These closed-door sessions give mayors direct access to conversations, speakers, and stakeholders that aren't available to the general public.



RESOURCES & TOOLS

Members-Only Portal with Policy Guides and Templates

Governing a city requires constant access to reliable information. The portal gives mayors ready-made tools they can put to work immediately without starting from scratch.

Quarterly Newsletter

Staying informed on events, community engagement, and policy changes is critical for local leaders. The newsletter keeps member mayors ahead of the issues impacting their cities.

Access to ABMA's Legal and Administrative Resource Library

Municipal governance comes with complex legal and administrative challenges. Having a library of trusted resources saves time and reduces costly outside consulting.

DETAILED BENEFITS (cont)



RECOGNITION & VISIBILITY

Featured Listing on the ABMA Website

Being recognized as an active ABMA member signals credibility and commitment to constituents, partners, and the broader community.

Recognition in ABMA Publications and Social Media

Elevating the work of member mayors beyond their city limits builds their profile and amplifies the impact of the work they're doing on the ground.

Newsletter Spotlight Feature

A dedicated spotlight gives mayors a platform to share their story, highlight city initiatives, and inspire peers across the state.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Training and Workshops

Strong cities require strong leaders. ABMA's training opportunities help mayors sharpen the skills needed to govern effectively and lead with confidence.

Quarterly Workshops

Four times a year, member mayors come together for focused sessions on topics directly relevant to municipal leadership — from budgeting and infrastructure to communications and community engagement. Consistent touchpoints keep mayors growing year-round.

Access to Grant and Funding Opportunity Alerts

Funding is one of the biggest challenges facing small and mid-size cities. Early alerts on grant opportunities give member mayors a competitive edge in securing resources for their communities.

DETAILED BENEFITS (cont)



VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Access to Voter Engagement Resources and Strategy Support

Civic participation is the foundation of democracy. ABMA equips member mayors with tools, data, and strategies to mobilize their communities, increase voter turnout, and ensure every resident has a voice in shaping the future of their city.

Collaborative Voter Outreach Initiatives

Through collective action, ABMA member mayors can coordinate statewide voter engagement campaigns that amplify impact far beyond what any single city could achieve alone.



ADVOCACY & INFLUENCE

Ability to Submit and Co-Sponsor Policy Resolutions

Member mayors have a direct hand in shaping ABMA's policy positions, ensuring the issues that matter most to their cities are represented at the statewide level.

Voting Rights at the Annual Meeting

Active members have a vote — giving every mayor an equal voice in the direction and decisions of the organization.

Unified Advocacy Voice on Statewide Legislative Issues

One mayor speaking alone carries weight. Dozens of Black mayors speaking together carry power. ABMA unifies that voice to influence legislation that impacts every member city.

DETAILED **BENEFITS** (cont)



NETWORK & PARTNERSHIPS

Direct Access to ABMA's Corporate and Community Partner Network

ABMA's partners bring resources, expertise, and opportunities that individual cities often can't access on their own. Membership opens that door.

Connection to the ABMA Business Council

The Business Council bridges the gap between the public and private sectors, creating opportunities for investment, innovation, and collaboration in member cities.

Statewide Peer Network of Black Elected Officials

There is no substitute for the wisdom of someone who has walked the same path. ABMA's peer network connects mayors with leaders who understand the unique challenges of governing Black communities in Arkansas.

MEMBERSHIP DUES & HOW TO JOIN

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$150.00 Per mayor, per year
PAYMENT OPTIONS	[Check / ACH / online portal — list what's accepted]
MEMBERSHIP TERM	[Calendar year / fiscal year — specify renewal date]

HOW TO JOIN



QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU JOIN?

Contact Executive Director
Frank Bateman

Frank Bateman
Executive Director
Fbateman@ar-blackmayors.com
(501) 913-2136



Executive COMMITTEE

The ABMA Executive Committee is composed of elected leaders who bring vision, accountability, and a deep commitment to the communities they serve. As the governing body of ABMA, the Board provides strategic direction and ensures the association remains a powerful force for progress, equity, and opportunity across the state of Arkansas.



CHAIRWOMAN
Mayor Tomeka Butler
Eudora, AR-



VICE CHAIRMAN
Mayor Derrick Rainey
Wrightsville, AR-



TREASURER
Mayor Lisa Hicks Gilbert
Elaine, AR-



SECRETARY
Mayor Melissa Logan
Blytheville, AR-



PARLIAMENTARIAN
Mayor Terry Coleman
Menifee, AR-



CHAPLAIN
Mayor Leroy Wright, Jr.
Anthonyville, AR-



AT LARGE MEMBER
Mayor Carolyn Slaughter
Parkin, AR-

MAILING ADDRESS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Frank Bateman

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

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