

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee NAACP Announces Wisconsin AI, Energy & Environmental Justice Gubernatorial Forum and Citywide Voter Registration Day

October 27 initiative will challenge Wisconsin's gubernatorial candidates to address data centers, utility affordability, energy, water, environmental justice and the future of AI infrastructure

MILWAUKEE, WI — October 2026 — The Milwaukee Branch NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Committee, in collaboration with community and statewide partners, will host the **Wisconsin AI, Energy & Environmental Justice Gubernatorial Forum** on **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

The forum will be offered **in person and virtually**, allowing residents from Milwaukee and communities across Wisconsin to participate.

The evening forum will follow a coordinated **Voter Registration & Civic Engagement Day**, with voter-registration activities planned at participating nonprofit and community partner locations throughout Milwaukee.

The initiative will connect two fundamental components of democracy:

THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE CANDIDATES STAND.

Wisconsin is experiencing rapid growth in artificial intelligence infrastructure and large-scale data-center development. These developments raise major questions regarding electricity demand, household utility costs, water consumption, new energy infrastructure, environmental health, taxpayer incentives, employment, local decision-making and economic opportunity.

The Milwaukee NAACP believes Wisconsin voters deserve clear answers from candidates seeking to lead the state.

“AI and data centers are no longer simply technology issues. They are affordability issues, environmental issues, economic-development issues and civil-rights issues,” said **Montre J. Moore, Chair of the Milwaukee NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Committee.**
“Before voters choose Wisconsin's next governor, they deserve to know how that governor

intends to manage one of the largest energy and infrastructure transformations facing our state.”

Candidates Invited to Respond

Candidates for Governor will be invited to address a common set of questions concerning:

- AI and data-center development;
- residential utility affordability;
- responsibility for new energy infrastructure costs;
- Wisconsin's freshwater resources;
- environmental and public-health protections;
- renewable and clean-energy development;
- local government and community participation;
- jobs and workforce development;
- Black and disadvantaged-business participation;
- taxpayer incentives;
- transparency and accountability;
- Community Benefits Agreements.

To provide maximum opportunity for participation, candidates will be invited to respond **in person, virtually, through prerecorded video, or through written responses.**

All participating candidates will receive the same core questions and comparable opportunities to communicate their positions.

The Milwaukee NAACP does not endorse candidates through this forum. The purpose is to provide voters with information necessary to evaluate the candidates for themselves.

A Statewide Issue with Household Consequences

National NAACP has identified rapidly expanding data-center infrastructure as a major environmental and climate-justice concern and has called for greater transparency, community participation, environmental safeguards and accountability.

Earlier this year, National NAACP, the Wisconsin State Conference NAACP and a coalition of 42 organizations raised concerns before Wisconsin utility regulators about whether proposed data-center electricity arrangements could shift costs onto ordinary utility customers.

The Milwaukee forum will move that conversation directly into Wisconsin's gubernatorial election.

“The question is not whether Wisconsin will participate in the economy of artificial intelligence,” Moore said. **“The question is what rules Wisconsin establishes to ensure that**

innovation benefits our communities instead of leaving families with higher utility bills, increased pollution and infrastructure costs while the economic benefits flow elsewhere.”

October 27 — Voter Registration & Civic Engagement Day

Before the evening forum, the Milwaukee NAACP and participating community partners will conduct voter-registration and voter-education activities at multiple locations across Milwaukee.

Partner sites will provide opportunities for eligible residents to obtain nonpartisan information regarding registration and participation in the November election.

The Milwaukee NAACP is inviting nonprofit organizations, churches, neighborhood organizations, educational institutions, businesses and other community institutions to become **October 27 Voter Registration Partner Sites**.

Participating organizations may host registration activities, distribute nonpartisan voter information, recruit volunteers and promote the evening gubernatorial forum.

Additional participating locations will be announced.

Forum Information

WHAT:

Wisconsin AI, Energy & Environmental Justice Gubernatorial Forum

DATE:

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

TIME:

6:00 p.m.

FORMAT:

In Person + Virtual Statewide Broadcast

IN-PERSON LOCATION:

To Be Announced

VIRTUAL ACCESS:

Registration information to be announced

COST:

Free and open to the public

The Questions Wisconsin Must Answer

The Milwaukee NAACP believes Wisconsin's emerging AI economy requires a statewide conversation centered around several fundamental principles:

Ratepayer Protection

Families and small businesses should not unfairly subsidize infrastructure primarily constructed for multibillion-dollar technology companies.

Water Protection

Communities should understand how much water major facilities will use and what impact development may have on Wisconsin's water resources.

Transparency

Residents should know the infrastructure requirements, public incentives, environmental impacts and expected benefits associated with major developments.

Community Voice

Affected communities should participate before major decisions become irreversible.

Economic Opportunity

AI investment should create meaningful employment, apprenticeship, contracting and entrepreneurial opportunities for Wisconsin residents, including Black and historically disadvantaged communities.

Environmental Justice

Already overburdened communities should not become sacrifice zones for the digital economy.

Community Benefit

Large developments receiving substantial public support should produce measurable public value.

Invitation to Statewide Partners

The Milwaukee NAACP is inviting environmental, climate-justice, consumer, energy, labor, civil-rights, faith, voter-engagement, business, neighborhood and community organizations from throughout Wisconsin to participate.

Organizations interested in becoming a **Forum Partner, Community Partner, Voter Registration Partner Site, Educational Partner or Supporting Organization** are encouraged to contact the Milwaukee NAACP.

“This conversation is bigger than one organization and bigger than Milwaukee,” Moore said. “Whether someone lives in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Madison, Port Washington, Green Bay or rural Wisconsin, decisions about energy, water, infrastructure and affordability will affect them. We want people across Wisconsin at the table.”

Environmental Justice Is Civil Rights

The Milwaukee NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Committee believes Wisconsin can welcome technological innovation while protecting families, communities and natural resources.

Wisconsin should not have to choose between:

innovation and affordability;

technology and clean water;

economic development and environmental protection;

jobs and community health.

Responsible policy can demand all of them.

INNOVATION WITH JUSTICE.

NO DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT COMMUNITY BENEFIT.

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Media interviews, candidate participation and organizational partnership inquiries are welcome.