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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

100 DAYS

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100 DAYS

into Trump's Second Term

How Its Affecting Black America and What Needs to Be Done



During the first 100 days of President Donald Trump's second term, his administration has implemented policies that significantly impact Black Americans across various sectors. These actions have raised concerns among civil rights advocates and community leaders.

Benjamin Bates
Data News Weekly Contributor

Last week, President Donald Trump reached the 100-day milestone of his second term. His administration has enacted a series of policies that significantly impact Black Americans across various sectors, including civil rights, education, economic opportunities, and cultural representation.

Civil Rights and Legal Protections Rolled Back

One of the administration's most consequential actions is an executive order directing federal agencies to cease enforcement of civil rights protections under "disparate impact" guidelines. These guidelines address policies that, while seemingly neutral, disproportionately affect protected groups, such as Black Americans. Critics argue that eliminating these pro-

tections undermines efforts to address systemic discrimination in housing, education, employment, and criminal justice.

Education and the Return of Zero Tolerance

In education, President Trump signed an executive order reinstating and expanding "zero tolerance" discipline policies in schools. Histori-

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cally, such policies have disproportionately impacted Black and Latino students. For instance, in Texas, a 2021 study found that 65% of Black students faced disciplinary actions compared to 35% of White students. Advocates express concern that these policies may exacerbate the school-to-prison pipeline, particularly affecting Black boys.

Economic and Cultural Impacts: NEA Defunded

The administration's proposed elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has raised concerns about reduced support for minority-serving institutions and cultural programs that highlight diversity and inclusion. The NEA has historically funded community-based arts programs that uplift underrepresented voices, including African American artists and institutions. Shifting away from diversity-centered funding not only diminishes cultural representation but also undercuts local economies reliant on arts funding.



Dismantling DEI Initiatives

On his first day back in office, President Trump signed an executive order eliminating all chief diversity officers in the federal government, halting programs aimed at removing discriminatory barriers, and terminating contracts related to racial sensitivity training. These actions are part of a broader effort to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives across federal agencies. The administration argues that such programs constitute "immoral" and "illegal" discrimination.

Public Response and Polling

Public response to these policy shifts has been mixed. A Pew Research Center survey indicates that President Trump's approval rating stands at 40%, with 59% of Americans disapproving of his administration's tariff increases and 55% disapproving of cuts to federal departments and agencies. Among Black Americans, disapproval rates are notably higher, reflecting concerns over the administration's roll-back of Civil Rights and DEI initiatives.

What Black America Must Do

In response to these challenges, Black communities are encouraged to:

- 1. Engage in Local and State Elections:** State and municipal policies significantly influence daily life aspects such as education, housing, and policing. Active participation in local elections is crucial to ensure equitable leadership.
- 2. Support Advocacy Organizations:** Organizations like the NAACP, Color of Change, and the Black Futures Lab play vital roles in defending civil rights. Financial

and volunteer support can enhance their impact.

3. Invest in Youth and Education: Community Mentorship Programs, after-school initiatives, and parental advocacy are essential to support Black students, especially in the face of stricter school discipline policies.

4. Leverage Economic Power: Supporting Black-owned businesses and utilizing collective economic influence can serve as effective tools for protest and progress.

5. Preserve Cultural Narratives: With national arts and cultural funding under threat, it's imperative to protect and promote Black narratives through independent media, art collectives, and historical preservation efforts.

Looking Ahead

As the Trump administration continues to implement policies that roll back Civil Rights Protections and DEI initiatives, Black America stands at a pivotal juncture. The actions taken in response to these changes will shape the trajectory of racial justice and equity for generations to come.

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FIND MORE WAYS TO SAVE AT ROUSES

Jazz Fest 2025: Weekend Two Brings Thousands to the Crescent City for Music, Flavor, and Culture

Photos by Demian Roberts
Data News Weekly Contributor

The second weekend of the 2025 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival brought crowds, culture, and creativity to the Fair Grounds from May 1st – 4th, savoring local cuisine and celebrating the vibrant soul of New Orleans.

Headliners like Lenny Kravitz, Patti LaBelle, Maze Tribute to Frankie Beverly, and Trombone Shorty lit up the stages, while local legends Irma Thomas, and many others reminded everyone why this city remains a global music capital. Food lovers indulged in everything from Crawfish Monica to Cochon de Lait Po'boys and new vegan options. The arts and crafts marketplaces buzzed with handmade treasures reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the region. Data News Weekly: The People's Paper was on the scene, capturing the highlights, flavor, and unforgettable moments. Here's a look back at weekend two of Jazz Fest through our lens.



Deacon John

Fun was had by all at Jazz Fest 2025, where music, food, and culture came together to create unforgettable moments.



Terrance Blanchard

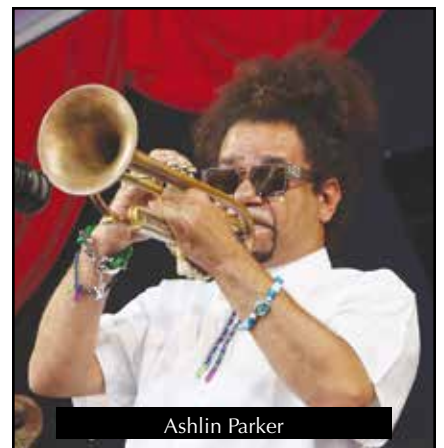


Morris Day,



Photo by Fleur De Lis

Big Chief Bo Dollis, Jr



Ashlin Parker



Julian Marley



Esperanza Spaulding



Kumasi Washington



Ledesi .

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Jazz Fest Weekend Two

Story and Photos by Fleur De Lis

Locals and visitors from across the globe gathered in New Orleans for the second weekend of Jazz Fest, immersing themselves in a vibrant celebration of food, music, culture, and community. With every stage, food booth, and artisan display, the festival captured the soul of the Crescent City, reminding all in attendance why New Orleans remains one of America's most beloved and culturally rich destinations.



Photo by Glenn Summers

Jazz Fest 2025 brought joy to thousands as performers like Lenny Kravitz and many others delivered unforgettable musical sets, filling New Orleans with the spirit, rhythm, and soul that made it a weekend to remember for all who were in attendance.



New Orleans Sheriff's Tax Narrowly Passes; Recount Demanded: A Powerful Reminder that Every Vote Counts

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly
Contributor

In a striking example of how every single vote matter, New Orleans voters narrowly approved a property tax renewal for the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, which oversees operations at the city jail. Out of more than 25,000 ballots cast, the measure passed by just two votes. The razor-thin outcome remains unofficial until verified by the Louisiana Secretary of State.

The tax, a 2.46-mill levy lasting 10 years, is not new—it has funded the sheriff's office for years. However, this renewal faced strong opposition from critics who rallied around a "no new taxes" message, urging



voters to reject what they viewed as continued financial support for a system in need of reform.

Despite the debate, the measure's narrow approval means the tax is expected to generate nearly \$14 million in annual revenue for the sheriff's office—funds that support jail operations, staffing, and infrastructure.

This outcome serves as a powerful civic lesson: elections, especially local ones, are often decided by the slimmest of margins. Whether it's a tax renewal, a school board seat, or a judicial appointment, every vote truly counts. The sheriff's millage results underscore the importance of being informed, engaged, and present at the polls—in every election, no matter how small it may seem.

State & Local News

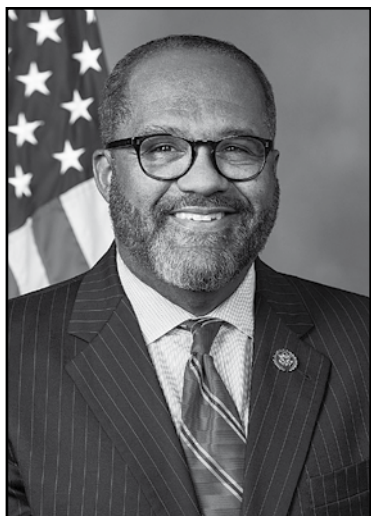
Statement from Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr., on Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Spill and Reckless DOGE Cuts

Data News Staff Edited
Report

Last week, Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA), a member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, issued the following statement:

"The reckless DOGE chainsaw cuts from the Trump/Musk administration are more than just numbers on a spreadsheet — they are a clear and present danger to the people, economy, and environment of Louisiana.

"The ongoing oil spill off Louisiana's Gulf Coast is rapidly contaminating our marshlands, threatening vital wildlife habitats, and endangering the fisheries that so many Louisiana families depend on. Yet at this critical moment, the federal teams we rely on for rapid response, like NOAA's Emergency Response Divi-



Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA) District 2.

sion, have been gutted. Over 1,000 NOAA staff have been laid off or forced into early retirement, including eight from the very unit tasked with addressing oil and chemical

spills. We are watching decades of expertise — innumerable years collectively — walk out the door.

"As oil shoots 30 to 40 feet into the air from a well that should have been permanently sealed years ago, we are left scrambling to contain a disaster with fewer people, fewer resources, and fewer answers. This week marks 15 years since the Deepwater Horizon Tragedy, and yet here we stand, once again, dangerously unprepared.

"As a Member of Congress representing Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I will explore every avenue to expose and reverse these short-sighted, penny-wise, pound-foolish policies. We owe it to our communities, our environment, and our future generations to safeguard Louisiana's coast before it's too late."



Diddy's Day in Court

Jury Selection Begins

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Jury selection began this week in Manhattan in the Federal Trial of Sean "Diddy" Combs, who faces multiple charges, including sex trafficking, transportation to engage in prostitution, and racketeering conspiracy. The music and business mogul has been held in custody since his arrest on September 16, 2024, at the Park Hyatt New York. The arrest, caught on hotel surveillance video, was widely circulated. Combs initially faced three charges, but in April 2025, a superseding indictment added two more, bringing the total to five. Despite a request from his defense team to delay the trial due to the new charges, U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian denied the motion. Opening statements are scheduled for May 12th. The trial is at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse in Manhattan. While open to the public, it will not be televised due to federal court rules.

Federal prosecutors accuse Combs of operating a long-running criminal enterprise within the entertainment, fashion, and music industries. The government alleges that Combs used his influence to lure women into his



The trial of music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs begins, drawing national attention as legal proceedings unfold around charges of sexual assault, sex trafficking, and illegal drug distribution—allegations that have sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry.

circle, where they were coerced into commercial sex acts—sometimes under the guise of romantic or professional relationships. Prosecutors argue that the acts meet the threshold of trafficking under federal law, even in cases where the exchange wasn't strictly monetary. The government's team includes six female prosecutors led by Assistant U.S. Attorney Maureen Comey, daughter of former FBI Director James Comey. The

defense is led by Marc Agnifilo and Teny Geragos, joined by Brian Steel, Alexander Shapiro, Anna Es-

tevao, and Xavier Donaldson.

Four alleged victims are expected to testify. Only one—singer and ex-partner Cassie Ventura—is publicly named. The others will testify anonymously under pseudonyms. Ventura filed a civil lawsuit in November 2023 alleging sexual abuse and trafficking, which Combs denied before settling the matter privately the next day. A central piece of evidence in the trial is hotel footage showing Combs physically assaulting Ventura in 2016. Prosecutors cited the footage as justification to deny bail. Combs' attorneys attempted to exclude the video, claiming it was edited and irrelevant to trafficking. The judge rejected that argument and ruled the footage admissible. Marc Agnifilo, Combs' lead attorney, said the video does not prove trafficking. "It's our defense to these charges that this was a toxic, loving 11-year relationship," Agnifilo stated during a pre-trial hearing.





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Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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