An Overview

Black Women's Roundtable (BWR) is a signature program initiative of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

The BWR committee develops a national framework and theme that serves as a rallying call for women at the local level many of whom belong to a wide range of social justice, civic, corporate, labor and women's organizations.

BWR provides a nurturing environment where active women can focus on issues from a woman's perspective.

Black Women's Roundtable is an expanded network of women affiliated with the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation through its programs and activities, the Board of Directors, Staff, and local affiliates in 12 states including: Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

BWR seeks to bring together local women representing diverse views and interests within the Black community around the theme of women's advancement with a particular focus on motivating Black women to engage in all levels of civil society.

BWR seeks to:

- Educate members and others regarding the needs of Black women and the issues that significantly impact them;
- Inform the broader Black community, various branches of government and the general public of those needs and issues;
- Inspire increased participation of Black women in the electoral process in local, state and national elections;
- Mobilize to advance positive changes in policy, practices and programs that potentially or actually negatively affect Black women;
- Network with organizations and individuals on behalf of the Black community; and
- Promote health, economic security and wellness of Black women as key elements for successful, sustainable leadership and civic participation.

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Leslie Watson-Malachi
BWR Board Committee Chair
BWR seeks to connect women regardless of organizational or political affiliation in a broad network determined to impact public policy in the interest of the Black community.

**BWR Sister Circle Listening Sessions**

Sister Circle Listening Sessions are designed for a gathering of 15-30 women of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds who are prepared to make a greater commitment to healthy living, healthy families, and a healthy community. Listening sessions enable local women to identify and prioritize issues impacting women in their day-to-day lives. The listening sessions will enable the National Coalition to gather information from women around the country to produce a BWR Issues Platform, through facilitated dialogue. A collection of the perspectives on public policy issues relevant to the lives of Black women will include affordable housing and home ownership, health, technology, economic stability, business development, education, and family. BWR Sister Circle Listening Sessions will culminate with a National Symposium to be held in Washington, D.C., during National Women’s Month.

**BWR National Symposium: “Healthy, Wealthy & Wise”**

*For Me and My Community: Public Policy and the Black Woman’s Agenda*

The National Coalition will bring together BWR Sister Circle Listening Session participants from around the country to share outcomes, recommendations and concerns. Specific topics for this facilitated dialogue will be based upon priorities that emerge during Sister Circle Listening Sessions.

**BWR Health, Wealth & Leadership Retreat**

The BWR Bi-Annual Retreat will bring together BWR Sister Circles Listening Sessions participants to debrief and strategically plan for year round capacity building with all partners. This formal assessment process will help to determine success in meeting goals, identify numbers of women trained, effectiveness of communicating values, needs and concerns and the overall impact upon civic participation. Women participating in the retreat will help to establish the BWR issues agenda based on the identified anchors of need for the following year, and establish and refine goals, themes and messages for the future.