

# *The Langston*

Vol 21 Iss 2

Tabor 100 Newsletter

## Tabor 100's **Black History Issue**

From TV to the Department of Justice, Washington's own Nick Brown, the First Black U.S. Attorney

FEBRUARY 2022

"I Don't want a Black History Month. Black History is American History."

- Morgan Freeman

  
Tabor



## Message from the President

Ollie Garrett | CEO and President

As we celebrate the birth of Martin Luther King and enter Black History month, as the President of Tabor 100, I reflect on the progress African Americans have made in Washington State.

I am pleased to report that Black people have elevated themselves in the private sector and government to have substantial individual influence. All that aside, we must ask the question: "With all the 'progress,' what is the state of the Black community in this state?"

Like it or not, the basic gauge of well-being in this county is family net worth. It is tied to better health care, the ability to pursue higher education, a longer life expectancy and, of course, basic quality of life. The net worth of Caucasian families in King and Snohomish Counties is \$456,000. Hispanic Households are way behind at about \$90,000, but African American families are worth about \$23,000. Yes, the

average net worth of a Black family in this region is 1/20th that of a Caucasian household. It is felt acutely in every aspect of our lives.

While in this liberal region of the country Black family net worth is 1/20th that of Caucasians, elsewhere in the nation, including the deep south, African American net worth is only 1/10th that of their White counterparts.

I will not belabor the why's of this phenomenon, but will offer ways to address this disparity. Business ownership is the best way in this country to improve a family's net worth because not only does the business owner benefit, but she or he tends to employ others from their community.

Let me offer some thoughts on how public and private sector entities can aid Black businesses in Washington state:

- 1) Contribute to the Tabor 100 Black Business Equity Fund:** We have provided more than \$500,000 to Black Businesses in the first six months of the Fund's existence and hope to be able to make \$5 million available in the next two years. Since the Covid pandemic began, 41% of Black businesses have closed, double the rate of closure for Caucasian-owned firms.
- 2) Rethink Opportunity:** When there is a need for goods and services in your business, use a Black business.
- 3) ReExamine labor policies:** Whenever a group of small minority businesses in the construction arena begin talking about barriers to their success, they regularly point out "Project Labor Agreements" and "Community Workforce Agreements." Most King County government agencies tout these agreements as helping the community, but are they really?
- 4) When Commitments are made, follow-through:** In the wake of George Floyd's murder more than \$50 billion nationally was pledged to assist Black-owned businesses, including here in Washington state. According to Creative Investment Research, a leading group analyzing social impact investing, less than \$250 million has went to Black-owned businesses.

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Visit our website: [www.tabor100.org](http://www.tabor100.org)  
Social Media Handle: @Tabor100

### Tabor 100 Economic Development Hub

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## Our Board

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**Tabor 100 Visitor Report (Door Swings)**

Total Visitors January 2022 – 349

Visitors 2022 YTD – 554

Visitors are stopping by to attend outreach events, meetings, get vaccinations, receive technical assistance, and so much more.

**New and Renewing Members**

**January 2022**

**Zealem Kebede**

HiQ Sign Co

**Tyler Burt-McLaughlin**

iUrban Teen

**Jean Paul**

iUrban Teen

**Alex Pierott**

iUrban Teen & Black Women in STEM 2.0

**Kevin Freeman**

iUrban Teen

**Phillip Robinson**

PFR, S.P.C.

**Toyia Taylor**

We Act. Present. Perform. (We.APP)

**February 2022**

**Tony Puloka**

Three Guys Construction LLC

**Rodolfo Torres**

Bellevue Quality

**Jose M Nunez-Hernandez**

PKBJ Partitions, LLC

**Mikkell Jackson Roeland**

NextDeavor

**Vicky Schiantarelli**

Schiantarelli Associates

**Marty White**

M City Empire LLC

**Rahsaan Freeman**

FLPA002 LLC DbA LED Trail

**Troy L Hubbard**

Omega Community Policing

Service Inc

**Bridgette Washington**

WithStyle Catering, LLC

**Shyan Selah**

Brave New World

**Darcel Perkins**

Therapy Visuals

**Marcus Cola**

Apex Electrical

**Nicole Battles**

Fluffy Girl Creations, LLC

**David Benson**

Benson Filter Maintenance



**Marilyn Strickland**

Congresswoman  
Washington State



**“Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland**

proudly represents Washington’s 10th Congressional District, which covers Pierce County, Thurston County and parts of Mason County. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Strickland is the first African-American to represent Washington State at the federal level, and one of the first Korean-American women elected to Congress in its 230-year history.

Raised in the South Sound, Strickland graduated from Tacoma Public Schools and earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Washington. She went on to earn an MBA from Clark-Atlanta University, a Historically Black College and University.

Strickland’s father, who fought in World War II and Korea, met her mother while he was stationed in Korea after the war. Strickland’s parents endured discrimination and hardships that she could never imagine. They wanted her to have opportunities they were denied and taught her to work hard, fight for what’s right, serve the community, and to stand up for the underdog. Those values continue to inspire Congresswoman Strickland every day as she advocates for Washington’s 10th Congressional District in Congress.

Prior to Strickland’s election to Congress, she served as Mayor of Tacoma, where she helped transform a city economy crippled by a deep recession into a destination for families, workers, artists, tourists and entrepreneurs. In addition to attracting over \$1 billion in investment for housing and businesses, she was instrumental in investing over \$500 million in infrastructure for roads, bridges, transportation, and the Port, creating over 40,000 new jobs in the Tacoma region.

A firm believer that there is dignity in all work, Strickland led successful efforts to raise the minimum wage and pass paid sick leave, paving the way for statewide action. Her city-wide Environmental Action Plan set goals to improve our air, water, and health. She launched an award-winning summer jobs program for high school students that led to the Tacoma Tideflats Certification Program, creating a pipeline for students to fill high-demand jobs in the maritime and construction trades. She and her team raised the high school graduation rate in Tacoma from 55% to 89% by making education a

civic priority. Strickland was proud to stand with the LGBTQ community in support of Marriage Equality and transgender rights, and pass background checks for gun sales in Tacoma before statewide action.

As a Freshman Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Strickland carries with her the experience of rebuilding an economy after an economic recession. She will always be a strong voice for change so that our most vulnerable community members are served as we re-build an economy that works for all of us.

Strickland serves as a Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in addition to the House Armed Services Committee. She is also a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus, Democratic Women’s Caucus, and the New Democrat Coalition.

Congresswoman Strickland resides in Tacoma, Washington with her husband.”

**SAVE the DATE**

08

MARCH

Workshop

International Women’s Day

17

MARCH

SBA Lunch and Learn

15

MARCH

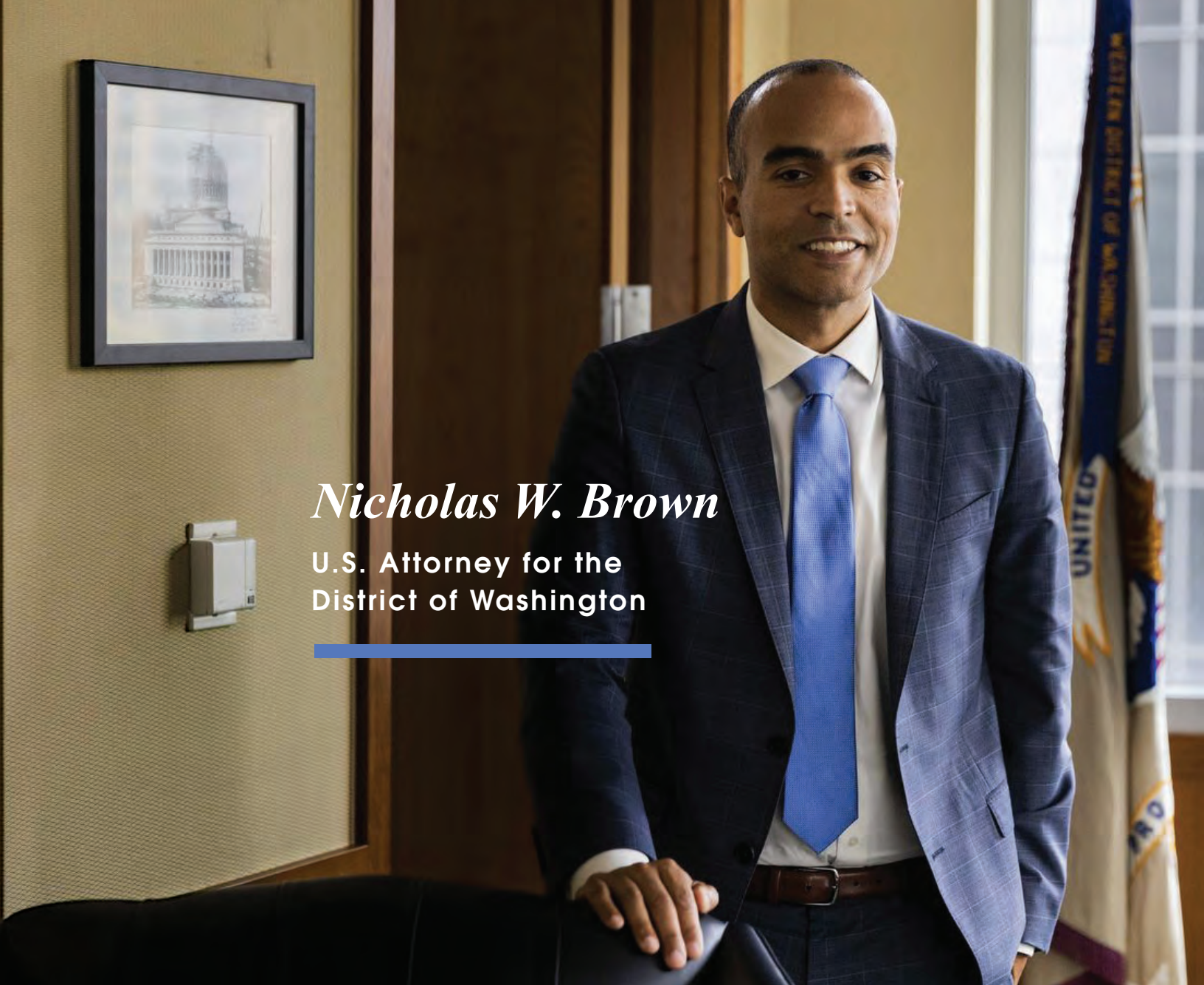
BIPOC Job Fair

26

MARCH

General Membership

Meeting



## Nicholas W. Brown

U.S. Attorney for the District of Washington

**Y**ou don't have to look hard to find examples of black excellence and **Nicholas W. Brown, the first black US attorney in Washington State**, is exactly that. He has certainly earned the right to brag and boast about his bewilderingly brilliant list of accomplishments, achievements and accolades; but Nick Brown is a humble man who embodies the phrase **surviving to serve and thriving in service**.

Born April 2, 1977 in Steilacoom, Washington USA, Nick would later grow up and attend Morehouse College

and attain a BA in Political science and Government from 1995 to 1999. Ever achieving, Nicholas went to Harvard Law school the same year he graduated in 99' and attained a Doctor of Law (J.D) in 2002.

While at Harvard, Nick was on the 2nd season of the megahit reality show **Survivor: The Australian Outback**. He lasted 30, out of the 42 days and was voted out for his strength in challenges, being the only member his tribe that won a challenge after the merge. His appearance on Survivor was

made particularly memorable by his ingenuity and "craftsmanship".

On Friday, October 8, 2021, Nick Brown was sworn in as U.S. Attorney for the District of Washington after his nomination had been approved by the full U.S. Senate roughly a week earlier on September 30, 2021. **Nicholas W. Brown** was the best choice for the job and the obvious pick for President Biden. He went from Judge Advocate General in the U.S. Army, to Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Department of Justice, to General Counsel to Governor Jay Inslee of the State of Washington, to a Partner at Pacifica Law Group LLP. In all his experience this is what Nick Brown says were the two most significant moments professionally to him: **"I can think of two. The first was a case I prosecuted three sisters who were children they were assaulted by their cousin. It was a very hard and difficult case and the victims were functionally traumatized. One of them in particular was close to mute, I had to call her to the stand and I was not sure if she would even speak and she took the stand; and we got her to testify in attempts to get her accuser prosecuted. The jury was hung but she got a chance to tell her story and I think that was the most important part."**

**"The second was from my first week on the job at Governor Inslee's. The person who had the job prior to me left her to do list, one of the to-do's was a death penalty case. I spent a year touring facilities, meeting inmates on death row and championed this bill. Eventually Governor Inslee**

*"Tabor is a good place for us to connect the black community and black leadership. Bringing the private sector and government together. Tabor has been and is an important voice and leader in the community."*

– Nicholas Brown

**got the death penalty moratorium passed in his first year which is extremely surprising."**

Tabor recognizes Nicholas W. Brown as a beacon of inspiration to black and brown peoples of his and our community, humble and brilliant. Despite being nominated by President Biden himself and confirmed by the Senate, his response to this was, **"I think about remaining authentic to who I am, grounded, not get caught up in the accolades. Being the US attorney of Western Washington is a title, it's what I do, it's not me."**

We had an opportunity to speak with him and are blessed to have had him say **"Tabor is a good place for us to connect the black community and black leadership. Bringing the private sector and government together.**

**Tabor has been and is an important voice and leader in the community... Most importantly I'm a husband and a father. At the end of the day, I come home, I see my kids, I play video games with them and help them with their homework. They don't care that I'm the US attorney and I just want to be present. I'm local,**

**I'm from Washington I'm a reader I'm a family man with a little bit of an adventurous streak."**

From us here at Tabor, we would like to thank **Nicholas W. Brown, the first black US attorney in Washington State** for demonstrating what black excellence is through his humility in the face of his bewilderingly brilliant list of accomplishments, achievements and accolades.

# T'wina Nobles

## Senator Washington State

**T**wenty-four years ago when Tabor 100 was created, our goal was to recognize and celebrate persons in the African American community who are doing what needed to be done to advance the cause of the Black community and community at large. In keeping with that theme, Tabor 100 dedicates this tribute to State Senator T'wina Nobles.

“If there’s one thing I’ve learned in life, it’s the power of using your voice,” Mrs. Obama wrote in *Becoming*.



When Michelle Obama wrote these words in her bestselling biography, she was speaking directly to the life and work of State Senator T'wina Nobles. Nobles’ “voice” has influenced many in her legislative district in South Pierce County and beyond because she has used it effectively throughout a life of foster care, homeless shelters, wife, mother, executive, philanthropist and elected official.

At the same time she was raising four successful children, Senator Nobles earned both an undergraduate and Masters Degree at the University of Puget Sound. She began full-time work in local Tacoma high schools and finally became President and CEO of Pierce County’s legendary Urban League, the premier civil rights organization in all of South Puget Sound.

Nobles used her passion for education and ensuring “the least” among us “succeed,” to lend her voice to the University Place School Board. After being elected, she vowed to not just be a Board member, but to create opportunity for her community. Prior to serving on the School Board, she founded Ladies First, an in-school and after-school program to empower young women to use their voices and carried her desire to improve lives at the grassroots

level. She worked diligently to ensure that every voice was heard and every child succeeds, by focusing on equality, inclusion and transparency.

The UP School District positioned Senator Nobles to hone her skills in the political arena,

a place sorely lacking in the presence of Black women. Finally, in 2020 she made a decision to lend her voice to a larger venue and declared her candidacy for the state Senate, against a long-time incumbent Senator. Her race became one of the most publicized in the state that year, but resulted in her being the second African American woman to ever be elected to the Washington State Senate. Senator Nobles succeeded in having her voice heard in her South Tacoma legislative district and was now stepping onto a statewide stage that often did not pay much attention to people of color.

The Senator, in keeping with her commitment to the Black community, co-founded the Black Futures Coop Fund, a nationally recognized philanthropic organization dedicated to community-led philanthropy investing in Black well-being, celebrating Black culture, and connecting Black communities across Washington in order to generate sustainable progress that propels Black prosperity for generations to come.

***“The Black community has always been entrepreneurial. We have always found ways to use our skills, talents, and trade knowledge to meet the needs of our community. We have transformed the ways in which we do business in this nation. Black businesses are key to jobs and wealth creation all across this***

**Twina Nobles’ race became one of the most publicized in the state that year, but resulted in her being the second African American woman to ever be elected to the Washington State Senate.**

***country. Our community is among some of the fastest growing number of small businesses and our entrepreneurial endeavors are vast. However, we continue to be significantly underfunded. As a state Senator and community member, I deeply value the partnerships of organizations like Tabor 100 in building up our communities. It takes partnership across many fields to ensure that the success of our community is amplified to its maximum potential.”***

Today, Senator Nobles is using her voice in the halls of Olympia, advocating to improve the education experience for children in foster care, a place where, from personal experience, she understands needs work. She is also engaged in mental health sentencing alternatives and expanded access to college scholarships, not to mention her work on the

Higher Education and Workforce Development and Transportation Committees and the Behavioral Health Subcommittee.

Tabor 100 applauds the life and work of Senator T'wina Nobles. Her dedication to ensuring members of our community do not get left behind is an inspiration to all of us. She is truly using the “power of her voice” to make life better for the Black community and the community at large for now and into the future.

## John Lovick

Senator  
Washington State

**T**abor 100 has worked tirelessly to create and recognize African Americans who have made significant contributions to the state of Washington. To celebrate Black History, we feature Washington State Senator John Lovick, a man whose contribution to this state and country in and out of political office is astounding.

John Lovick became the second African American man to become a Washington State Senator since the body was created in 1889. His qualifications are unparalleled, having dedicated his life to public service over the last 50 years, serving 13 years in the US Coast Guard and another 31 in the Washington State Patrol. Lovick's credentials as an elected official are substantial, having served 5 years on the Mill Creek City Council, 5.5 years as Snohomish County Sheriff and nearly three years as the Snohomish County Executive.

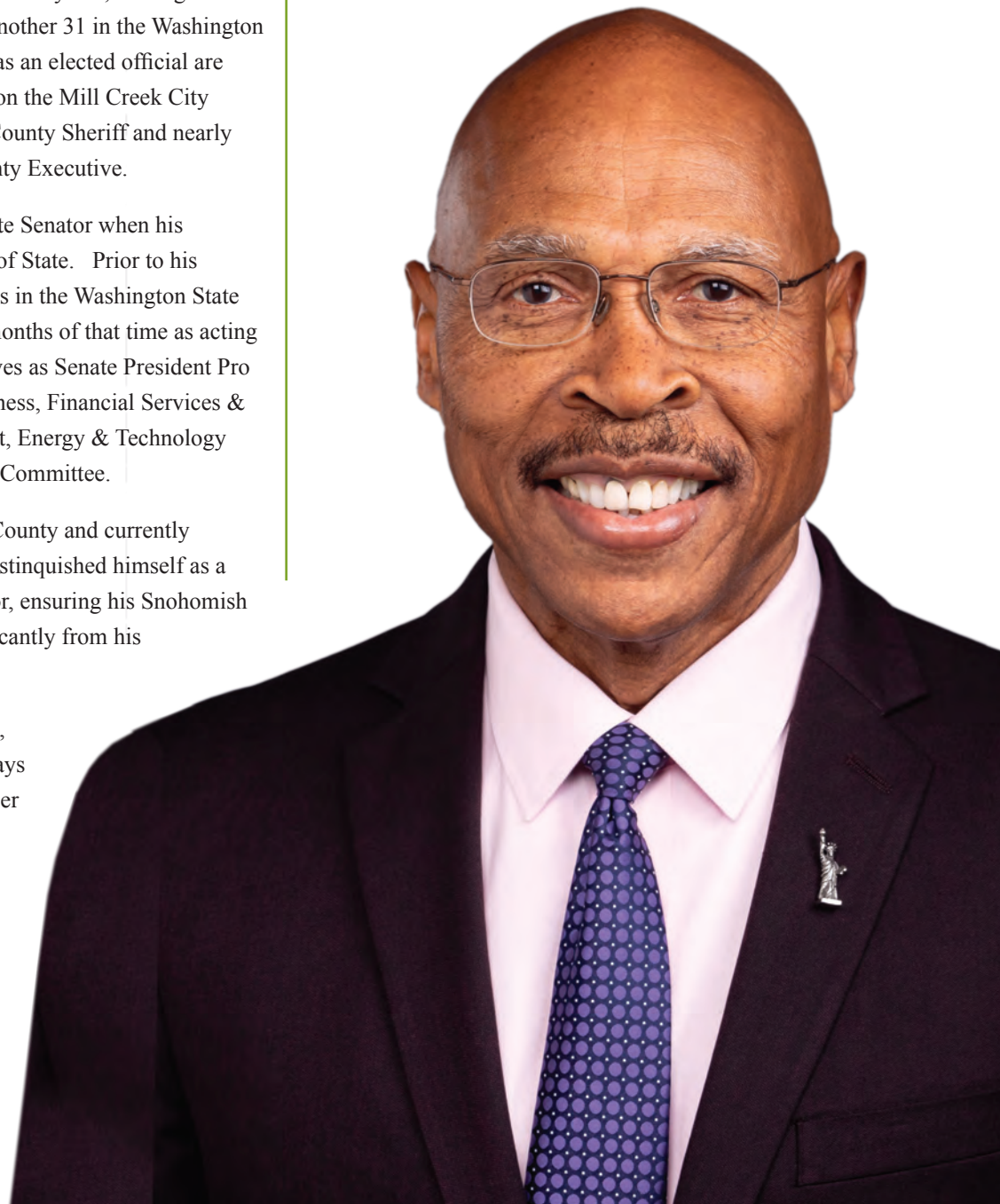
Lovick was recently appointed State Senator when his predecessor became the Secretary of State. Prior to his appointment, he served for 15 years in the Washington State House of Representatives with 8 months of that time as acting Speaker of the House. Lovick serves as Senate President Pro Tempore and is seated on the Business, Financial Services & Trade Committee, the Environment, Energy & Technology Committee and the Transportation Committee.

A 44-year resident of Snohomish County and currently living in Mill Creek, Lovick has distinguished himself as a charismatic and effective Legislator, ensuring his Snohomish County community benefits significantly from his presence in Olympia.

Senator Lovick is a proud husband, father and grandfather and some days will find him continuing to volunteer at the schools where his children attended. He enjoys cooking and traveling and is best known for his famous Cajun deep-fried turkeys.

"I am proud to partner once again with a great organization like Tabor 100 that focuses on bringing people together. We are navigating tricky times where unity should be a part of every conversation. Tabor does that" said Lovick.

Tabor 100 is proud to feature Senator John Lovick in this issue of the Tabor 100 newsletter. We applaud his long and successful history as a public servant in Washington State and recognize his leadership in federal, state and local government elected and non-elected posts.



## Jamila B. Thomas

Chief of Staff  
Washington Governor's Office

**T**abor 100 is pleased to see over its 24-year history, the numbers of members of color, and especially African American legislators, increase dramatically. The presence of allies of color in the legislature, some active members of Tabor 100, is refreshing and we are pleased that these individuals have been stalwart supporters of our organization. We are also pleased to observe the many people of color serving on legislative staff, and recently, the appointment of an African American woman as the Governor's Chief of Staff.

As Governor Inslee's Chief of Staff, Jamila B. Thomas, directs his Executive Team and performs a wide range of duties to shape and implement the Governor's policies, management initiatives, and agenda. Her ascension to one of the highest-level positions in Washington State government makes her the first African American to serve as Chief of Staff to a sitting Governor. In addition, she has blazed many trails along the way, serving in a variety of the state's most influential positions in preparation for her current role where her decisions are critical to the smooth functioning of the entire state.

Prior to joining the Governor's team, Jamila served as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the state agency that oversees Washington's 295 public school districts. In that role she was advisor to the state Superintendent, ran the day-to-day operations of the agency including budget, legal, human resources, information technology, and communications, among other responsibilities. Jamila successfully managed a staff of 500 and oversaw a multi-billion-dollar budget.

Prior to joining OSPI, Jamila served nearly seven years as Chief of Staff to Frank Chopp, former (and longest serving) Speaker of the Washington State House of Representatives. In that role she was chief policy and strategic advisor to the Speaker and members of the House Democratic Caucus. She managed a highly motivated team of policy and communications professionals and legislative assistants.

At age 25, Jamila was the youngest serving Policy Advisor to former Governor Gary Locke. Her career path began by working for organized labor on farmworker housing and low-wage worker issues. Over the years her policy areas grew to include labor and workplace issues, criminal justice and corrections, transportation, and K-12 education.



Jamila is a lifelong Washingtonian who loves all the natural beauty this state has to offer. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, baking, and spending time with family. Jamila loves the sound of Harley-Davidson motorcycles and enjoys singing loudly and dancing wildly (mostly to embarrass her children ☐).

Jamila was raised to stand up for others and to be a voice for those who society often overlooks. Her career reflects her belief that in work there is purpose. Work provides an opportunity to learn, to grow, and more importantly, to give.

"Tabor 100 is a vital resource and asset to our community, creating economic opportunity and access for black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs. They provide tools and support for our community's young people—equipping our next generation of leaders and mentors to rise up and flourish. Tabor 100's pursuit of and commitment to excellence within our communities through advocacy, education, and empowerment is admirable and something all organizations should aspire to.

We here at Tabor 100 recognize Jamila for her accomplishments as an African American woman, mother, leader, and role model. Her presence in the most hallowed halls of government makes life better for all of us.



## Bridgette Washington

CEO  
WithStyle Catering, LLC

**B**ridgette Washington, CEO of WithStyle Catering, LLC, the only African American owned Private and Corporate Inflight catering company in the U.S., has big plans for how catering across this country is delivered – challenging establishing standards and then immediately raising the bar.

After years establishing herself as the caterer who consistently prepares and serves deliciously beautiful food, along with unique tablespaces, thoughtful service, and meticulous attention to detail, it was clear, as former U.S. President Bill Clinton told his staff, “That was not ordinary catering.” This level of sincerity in business has allowed WithStyle Catering and staff to travel far and wide to prepare a meal (or twenty-five) from Washington to Monterey, Los Angeles, Houston, New Orleans, Atlanta and beyond. It was at this point Bridgette realized it was time to step it up. She looked to the skies, literally. “Have spatula, will travel!”

In the last seven years WithStyle Catering, LLC has grown by leaps and bounds to amazing successes, as her team of eight work tirelessly and with intent, to be continually listed among the top five caterers in the U.S. market for Private and Corporate Inflight Catering for five years straight! WithStyle Catering’s brand has set a new standard and has brought 40%

of Fortune 500 CEOs and ELT, International dignitaries, businessmen and women, former U.S. Presidents, Saudi princes, a who’s who of celebrities, to call upon her team repeatedly as they traverse the globe for business and leisure.

Bridget says, *“Understanding the necessity of minority business owners to rally and support one another as we all strive to contribute and create legacies of our own, it was vital that I connected with such a collective. In 2013 I found myself at Tabor 100 looking for some handholding to make sure that unnecessary mistakes were avoided, so that the teachable moments and mistakes were not devastating. In my time at Tabor 100 I have met many genuine, honest souls who truly know that only together will we win, members who believe as I do, “if we all cannot eat – no one does.” Never shall a few be full while others stand outside watching and wishing for crumbs from those who look like us. Tabor 100 has established itself as a gathering place for minority businesses to advance as they dream and have support for the entire ride. During my time there I was the in-house caterer and it was a pleasure to do what I love for some pretty awesome folks who met over creamy grits and French toast to make a difference that changed things for me and others.”*

Being around motivators encouraged Bridgette to open her second Inflight kitchen in Arizona in May 2021, WithStyle Inflight Catering, LLC, serving current and new clients flying out of Phoenix and Scottsdale with the same brand of catering they have come to know and love.

Hopefully you can see a theme here – Bridgette has an affinity for all things aviation! For the past three years Bridgette has served as the elected Chairwoman of the Board at the King County International Airport (KCIA). She leads a group of CEOs, aviation related businesses, and community members interested in making recommendations to airport administrators, King County Executives and Council on a wide range of issues related to airport operations, management, community relations and all things focused on the airport’s efficiency and public image. The future is bright, and Bridgette knows that it is our responsibility in our community to reach up, reach sideways, reach down to anyone we can to bring along. Bridgette plans on starting a business consulting company focusing on supporting Black and Brown business owners and developing a higher standard in all areas of their business. It has always been a mission to provide, honest, fair support, without conditions, to aid in the success as a new leader/owner. Now that this is her time to affect the lives of others who need help, she intends to make a difference – as her Nana told her, “do good”.

**Every Individual Black Family’s Legacy Starts With Unity, or We All Lose.**



# Feel the Power, Join Tabor!

**Tabor 100** is an association of entrepreneurs and business advocates who are committed to economic power, educational excellence, and social equity for African Americans and the community at large.



General Members Meeting

# TABOR 100

Photography by Keith Williams | [www.flyrightproduction.net](http://www.flyrightproduction.net)



Hub Events



## Don't Miss an Issue

Be sure to add our email address; [communications@tabor100.org](mailto:communications@tabor100.org) to your address book, so important news from Tabor doesn't end up in your spam folder.

## Share Tabor

Do you know someone you feel is a great fit for Tabor 100 membership? Take this opportunity to expand our territory by sharing Tabor with a friend or colleague who could benefit from all the great business opportunities, connections, and networking Tabor has to offer.

Check out three ways you can share Tabor right now:

- 1 Forward a copy of the electronic version of The Langston news magazine.
- 2 Click the three dots at the top of the Tabor 100 Facebook page and click share on the pull-down.
- 3 Invite a friend or colleague to have breakfast with us at our next monthly meeting.







# Access to Equal Opportunity

The Port of Seattle is committed to building a strong, inclusive economy. With the Diversity in Contracting Resolution, we're making sure that includes businesses like yours.

Our goal is to triple the number of women and minority-owned businesses that contract with the Port by 2024 and remove barriers to expand the development of other disadvantaged business enterprises.

## **GROW YOUR BUSINESS AND SKILLS WITH THE PORT:**

### **1. Bid on open contacts**

Register your business in our database, and search and apply for contracts through a clear and fair process on <http://bit.ly/Facts19>.

### **2. Train with PortGen Workshops**

Excited for opportunities but not sure where to start? We're here to support you. Join quarterly workshops to learn how to do business with the Port, get certified as a vendor, and network with representatives.

### **3. Learn on our site**

Access resources year-round on the site. From video how-tos to lists of upcoming opportunities and events, you can find all the information you need for success.

[Learn More](#)

<http://bit.ly/Facts19>