

NEWS RELEASE

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COBRA Set to Host Inaugural Faith, Family, Freedom Forum in Jacksonville to Empower Black Leadership and Community Engagement

The event aims to foster dialogue and develop leadership among Black families in Duval County

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (July 22, 2024)—[The Coalition of Black Republican Americans \(COBRA\)](#), a leading advocacy group committed to the empowerment and advancement of Black Republicans through education and grassroots engagement, is thrilled to announce the inaugural [Faith, Family, Freedom Forum](#). This landmark event will occur on July 25, 2024, at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club at 1830 Epping Forest Drive in Jacksonville. The event begins at 6 pm with a social hour followed by an impressive lineup of speakers and workshops designed to inspire and mobilize community leaders and voters.

COBRA, since its inception, has dedicated itself to shaping a platform where Black voters and potential leaders can flourish by nurturing their leadership skills, confidence, and self-discipline. The organization emphasizes the core pillars of advocacy, policy, and leadership, striving to create a safe and supportive environment that respects and promotes the interests of the Black family and Black fathers.



The Faith, Family, Freedom Forum is set to highlight these themes with a robust agenda focused on responsible fatherhood, economic empowerment, and community leadership. Among the distinguished speakers are Councilman Terrance Freeman, Former Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll, COBRA President Shamari J. Lewis, and keynote speaker Lt. Col. Allen West, the current executive director of the American Constitutional Union Action Fund.

"The Faith, Family, Freedom Forum is not just an event; it's a catalyst for change," said Shamari J. Lewis, president of COBRA. "This forum is about empowering our community to lead, to speak truth to power, and to stand firm in our values of faith, family, and freedom. It's about building a future where our children can lead with integrity and wisdom."

In 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 7065, which aligns closely with the objectives of the upcoming forum. The bill supports educational and mentorship programs that encourage active and responsible fatherhood and includes nearly \$70 million in funding for family and youth support services through Florida's Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Families.

Since the bill's enactment, COBRA has played a significant role in increasing the registration of Black voters in Jacksonville by 16%, a testament to their effective grassroots strategy. The organization's efforts have spotlighted the economic disparities in predominantly Black neighborhoods, advocating for substantial investments to transform these areas.

"We are seeing a pivotal shift in our community's engagement and political alignment," added Lewis. "Our message is clear: we must prioritize our permanent interests, not transient alliances. The Democratic Party has too often maintained the status quo, but with focused Republican leadership, we can drive real growth and prosperity."

The Faith, Family, Freedom Forum promises to be a groundbreaking event for Black families in Jacksonville and beyond, fostering discussions that advocate for a strategic and principled approach to community and national leadership.

For more information about the Faith, Family, Freedom Forum and to register, please visit cobraduval.com/cobra-forum.

About COBRA

The Coalition of Black Republican Americans (COBRA) is an organization dedicated to empowering grassroots Republicans to achieve their full leadership potential through advocacy, policy, and leadership education. COBRA is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for voters and future leaders to grow in confidence and respect for others.