

# NJ Vote16 Youth Summit

Saturday, October 5, 2024 | 8:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Rutgers University – Newark, Paul Robeson Campus Center

## Event Agenda

<b>8:30 AM – 9:45 AM</b>	<b>Check-In and Welcome Breakfast</b> <b>Overview:</b> Participants will check-in and receive program materials. Enjoy a light breakfast and network with fellow attendees before the day's sessions begin.	<b>Location:</b> Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
<b>9:45 AM – 10:10 AM</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Overview:</b> Join us as we set the stage for an exciting day. The summit hosts will break down the day's goals, what's on the agenda, and everything participants need to know.  <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assatta Mann, Senior Community Organizer, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice</li><li>• Craig Drinkard, Executive Officer, Victoria Foundation</li><li>• Nakeefa Cilicia Bernard, Senior Program Director, Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies</li></ul>	<b>Location:</b> Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
<b>10:10 AM – 10:15 AM</b>	<b>Special Remarks</b> Congresswoman Lamonica McIver	<b>Location:</b> Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
<b>10:15 AM – 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Special Remarks</b> Governor Philip D. Murphy	<b>Location:</b> Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
<b>10:30 AM – 11:15 AM</b>	<b>Panel 1: Our Vote, Our Future: Why Lowering the Voting Age Matters</b> <b>Overview:</b> Learn the history and current state of youth voting rights in the U.S. Panelists will discuss current youth-led initiatives to lower the voting age, touch on various views on the issues, and explore the legal justifications behind these efforts.  <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anjali Krishnamurti, Founder &amp; Co-Executive Director, Vote16NJ</li><li>• Micauri Vargas, Associate Counsel, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice</li></ul> <b>Moderator:</b> Sasha Andrews, Youth Organizer, SHE Wins!	<b>Location:</b> Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)

<b>11:20 AM – 11:30 AM</b>	<b>Special Remarks</b>	<b>Location:</b>
	<i>Newark Mayor Ras Baraka</i>	Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
<b>11:35 AM – 12:20 PM</b>	<b>Panel 2: In Conversation with Leaders: The Inside Scoop from Public Officials</b>	<b>Location:</b>
	<b>Overview:</b> <i>Get the inside scoop from elected officials and election officials on the importance of lowering the voting age and the process of implementing such changes.</i>	Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
	<b>Panelists:</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark Councilman Patrick Council</li> <li>• Newark City Clerk Kecia Daniels</li> <li>• Senator Raj Mukherji</li> <li>• Assemblywoman Cleopatra Tucker</li> </ul>	
	<b>Moderator:</b> <i>Chris-Tina Middlebrooks, NAACP NJ Y&amp;C</i>	
<b>12:20 PM – 12:50 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Location:</b>
		Essex Room (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
<b>12:55 PM – 1:40 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session 1</b>	
	<i>Attendees select the workshop they want to join:</i>	
	<b>Workshop 1 - Young, Black and Elected</b>	<b>Location:</b>
	<b>Overview:</b> <i>Learn how local governments in NJ work and how you can make your voice heard in your community. From voting locally to testifying at public meetings, get the skills you need to engage with your local government.</i>	Bergen East 257 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
	<b>Presenter:</b> <i>County Commissioner A'Dorian Murray-Thomas</i>	
	<b>Workshop 2 - Know Your Rights: Student Activism 101</b>	<b>Location:</b>
	<b>Overview:</b> <i>Know your rights! This session will dive into the rights young people have when organizing and being civically engaged, especially when in schools.</i>	Bergen Central 256 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
	<b>Presenter:</b> <i>Mussab Ali, former Jersey City Board of Education President</i>	
	<b>Workshop 3 - Cracking the Code: The NJ Legislative Process</b>	<b>Location:</b>
		Bergen West 255 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Overview:** *Uncover how New Jersey’s legislative process works in this workshop. Learn how to research and track bills, find public meetings, and understand how to make your voice heard in the State House.*

**Presenters:**

- Ifemide Adebiji, NAACP NJ Y&C
- Kevin Bernard, NAACP NJ Y&C

**Workshop 4 - Power Up the Polls: Be Your Own GOTV Crew**

**Location:**  
Essex Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Overview:** *Discover how to make a difference in elections by getting your crew to the polls! Learn the best strategies to get your community registered to vote and create your own Get Out The Vote initiatives in this interactive workshop.*

**Presenter:** *Tomas Varela, Executive Director, NJ Black Empowerment Coalition*

**1:45 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Breakout Session 2**

*Attendees select the workshop they want to join:*

**Workshop 5 - Power Moves: Building Coalitions That Win**

**Location:**  
Bergen East 257  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Overview:** *Explore strategies for engaging with community leaders, media, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Learn how to map power and form strong coalitions.*

**Presenter:** *Nedia Morsy, Deputy Director, Make The Road New Jersey*

**Workshop 6 - Game Plan: How to Run a Winning Campaign**

**Location:**  
Bergen Central  
256 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Overview:** *Learn step-by-step how to plan a successful advocacy campaign. This workshop will cover key advocacy strategies and tactics such as lobbying, public demonstrations, social media campaigns, and more.*

**Presenter:** *Austin J. Edwards, Esq., Senior Policy Counsel, Salvation & Social Justice*

**Workshop 7 - Going Viral: Digital Tools for Change**

**Location:**  
Bergen West 255  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Overview:** *Explore the tools and techniques you need to master the digital world. This workshop will focus on*

leveraging social media and other digital platforms to build support for youth-led initiatives.

**Presenter:** Gabby Vice-Lamonica, Social Media Manager, NextGen America

**Workshop 8 – Youth Organizing Fundamentals: Building Movements for Change**

**Overview:** Join this workshop to learn how to identify pressing community issues, build coalitions, and mobilize for collective action. This interactive workshop will guide you through the organizing cycle and allow you to brainstorm solutions to contemporary issues, offering practical tools to create lasting change in your community. Whether you're new to organizing or looking to refine your skills, this session provides strategies for impactful youth-led movements.

**Location:**  
Essex Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Presenters:**

- Amanda Ebokosia, Founder and CEO, The Gem Project
- Victoria Hoegah, Volunteer, The Gem Project

**2:45 PM – 3:45 PM**

**Engagement Expo**

**Overview:** Check out what's happening in the world of organizing and civic engagement, register to vote, share your thoughts on elections, and explore opportunities to get involved with local organizations.

**Location:**  
Student Street  
(1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

**3:55 PM – 4:40 PM**

**Panel 3: Stories from the Vote16 Movement**

**Overview:** Hear firsthand from leaders who have successfully campaigned for Vote16 policy changes. Panelists will share their stories and provide insight into their successes and challenges.

**Location:**  
Essex Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Panelists:**

- Breanna Campbell, Fellow, The Gem Project
- Nathaniel Esubonteng, Fellow, The Gem Project
- Anya Khera, Youth Advisory Board Member, Vote16USA

**Moderator:** Leilani Taylor, NAACP NJCS Y&C

**4:45 PM – 5:00 PM**

**Special Remarks**

*LaJuan Allen, Director, Vote16USA*

**Location:**

Essex Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**5:00 PM – 5:25 PM**

**Closing Remarks**

**Overview:** *Wrap up the day with a celebration of your hard work. Receive your certificate, snap some group pics, and hear final thoughts from our hosts.*

**Location:**

Essex Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**Speakers:** *Assatta Mann, Senior Community Organizer, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice*

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Dinner Reception**

**Overview:** *End the day by joining us for dinner and light refreshments. This is a great opportunity to chat with new friends and discuss what's next for your activism journey.*

**Location:**

Essex Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)