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(Photo by Erik McGregor/LightRocket via Getty Images)

Rights Era seem like a Golden Age. That’s why we need to channel the collective power of Black women to shine a light on the negative impacts of Project 2025 and fight at the polls to ensure it dies on the vine.”

She added that, on a personal note, Black women like her would be erased from the workforce if Project 2025 were implemented.

“Think about what we have done. Sisters from across the nation banded together to help propel the first Black woman into the vice presidency, saw Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson make history on the Supreme Court, and stood with organizations like the Fearless Fund as they’ve been under relentless attack,” Noerdlinger said. “Yet all of our collective accomplishments, and personal ones like [my] being the first and only Black female equity partner at a global consulting firm, will be erased if Project 2025 comes to fruition.”

The Heritage Foundation and Trump

President Joe Biden and his campaign have publicly denounced Project 2025 from the jump, but Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has had a back-and-forth relationship with the Heritage Foundation since his first run as president in 2016.

“As we’ve been saying for more than two years now, Project 2025 does not speak for any candidate or campaign,” said a Heritage Foundation spokesperson in a statement. “We are a coalition of more than 110 conservative groups advocating policy and personnel recommendations for the next conservative president. But it is ultimately up to that president to decide which recommendations to implement.”

As of late, Trump is attempting to distance himself from Project 2025. He reportedly posted on his social media website, Truth Social, that he knows nothing about the project and disagrees with its policies, even though several of his former administration staff are involved with Project 2025, such as his former housing secretary Ben Carson, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, and director of the Office of Management and Budget Russ Vought.

Major civil rights advocates do not believe Trump’s statements and are wary about the future should he win the presidency again this November.

“Donald Trump is trying to backpedal his allegiance with this agenda, but let’s look at the fact that it was written by several of his former appointees,” Sharpton said. “Let’s also take a wider look and realize it parrots a lot of what we’ve heard him say over nearly a decade. When you look at the control this would give a president over the Justice Department alone, this agenda would wipe hard-won civil rights off the books and effectively out of our history. Every American should be alarmed by these proposals, because the landscape of our country will be forever changed when we grant liberty and justice only for an elite few.”

Seeberger concluded that Project 2025’s agenda to consolidate power in the presidency, coupled with the recent Supreme Court immunity decision for Trump, is a dangerous combination.

“Essentially, what they did was pour gasoline all over American democracy,” Seeberger said. “What the Heritage Foundation has done is light a match.”

51 Texas school districts are not complying with state ban on hairstyle discrimination, ACLU says



by Asad Jung
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE



(EDUCATION) - The ACLU of Texas said Wednesday it found 51 school districts in violation of the Texas CROWN Act, which bans race-based hair discrimination, and urged them to update their dress code policies.

The Texas CROWN Act prohibits schools, workplaces and housing authorities from discriminating against hairstyles historically associated with race such as dreadlocks, cornrows or afros.

“All Texas school districts — including those that we have identified — must immediately comply with the Texas CROWN Act,” said Chloe Kempf, an attorney at the ACLU of Texas. “Not only is it the law — but it’s essential for ensuring that students of color are free to be themselves and to express their racial and cultural identity at school.”

The ACLU said it reviewed the dress code policies of every school district in Texas and sent letters to the 51 they found weren’t complying with the law. The ACLU said officials at one school district, Tolar ISD in North Texas, immediately responded to the letter Wednesday and said they intend to update their policies to comply with the CROWN Act ahead of the upcoming school year. It was not immediately known how other schools responded.

The CROWN Act was signed into law last year after receiving overwhelming support from the Texas Legislature. Social justice advocate Adjoa B. Asamoah first pitched the legislation in 2018.

In February, a Texas judge ruled that Barbers Hill ISD did not violate the CROWN Act when district officials punished a Black student for wearing his hair in long locs.

Darryl George, a junior at Barbers Hill High School, had been in-school suspension since August of last year because of his hairstyle. The months-long dispute came to a head when Judge Chap B. Cain ruled that Barber Hill ISD can enforce its dress code policy, which prohibits male students from wearing hair that exceeds a certain length.

The City of Austin is launching a new AB+C Portal

(AUSTIN, TX) – The City of Austin is excited to announce the launch of a new and redesigned Austin Build and Connect Portal (AB+C) scheduled for August 12. The AB+C Portal is used by community members and businesses to apply for permits, schedule inspections, and pay fees. The new portal features an updated interface with backend improvements enhancing security and reliability.

To prepare for the launch, the AB+C portal will undergo scheduled maintenance and be temporarily unavailable from 8 a.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2024, through 7 a.m. on Monday, August 12, 2024.

Customers using the AB+C portal are encouraged to complete any necessary activities before the portal goes offline on August 8 or wait until the portal is available again on August 12. Once the new portal is live, customers will log into the new system the same way they did before the change.

All AB+C user profiles, contact information, records, and billing information will be preserved. An image of the new portal is provided to help familiarize users with the upcoming changes.

City departments will be working with their customers to ensure access to services during the outage. Additional resources regarding support and access to information will be provided on the AB+C Portal website closer to the scheduled maintenance. For more detailed information on submitting applications, making payments, and scheduling inspections, please contact the appropriate department.

We appreciate your patience as we work to enhance our critical City-wide tools and services.

Save the Date: City of Austin's Small Business Connections Conference

(AUSTIN, TX) - It’s time to SAVE THE DATE for the most anticipated event of the year - the City of Austin's 2nd Annual Small Business Connection Conference taking place Wednesday, Sept. 25 at the Palmer Events Center. This year's conference, themed "Building Business, Building Community," offers an unforgettable experience filled with opportunities for growth, networking, and collaboration.

The conference will feature a mix of activities designed to empower entrepreneurs, professionals, and community leaders alike. From captivating workshops and interactive panel discussions to bustling trade shows and enriching networking sessions, there's something for everyone at this year's event.

But that’s not all—we want to hear from you! Fill out our form below to share your thoughts and suggestions on what you’d like to see at the conference. Your input will help us tailor the conference agenda to better serve your needs and interests; plus, you’ll be among the first to know when registration officially opens.

We can't wait to welcome you to the 2nd Annual Small Business Connection Conference - where business meets community, and opportunities abound!



BID OPPORTUNITY MBE/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS

Project: Elisabet Ney Museum Building Restoration & Site Improvements Reissue, Austin, TX. Proposals are to be submitted to Phoenix I Restoration and Construction LLC. no later than August 19, 2024, by 4:00PM. The submission email address is kmoncrief@phoenix1.org.

Call 214.902.0111 to request access to plans and specifications or contact Kyle Moncrief kmoncrief@phoenix1.org. Fax # 214.904.9635. Scopes of work include but are not limited to: Asbestos and Lead Abatement, Demolition, Earthwork, Concrete, Masonry, Metals, Wood Decking, Thermal and Moisture Protection, Window and Door Restoration, Plumbing, Mechanical, and Electrical.

Jamail & Smith Construction is soliciting W/MBE subcontractor participation for the following City of Austin project:

Austin Fire Department
Wellness Center Driveway Replacement
517 S. Pleasant Valley Road
Austin, 78741

Brief Scope Summary: Remove and replace existing asphalt parking lot, ADA parking and sidewalks
Pre Bid Walk: **July 29, 2024 at 10:00AM**

Parking – please park in the drill field lot by the softball fields
Bids are Due: **August 16, 2024 at 2:00PM**

Plans and Specs are available on the City’s SMBR Department Plan Room located at

4201 Ed Bluestein Blvd, Austin, TX 78721

or on the Plan Room’s website: www.austintexas.gov/smbr

You can also contact the Project Manager for a link to Procure
Jamail & Smith Contact:
Kyle Franz, Project Manager
kfranz@jamailsmith.com
512-832-392-8337

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Jamail & Smith Contact: Kyle Franz, Project Manager
kfranz@jamailsmith.com 512-832-392-8337.

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For information on the City of Austin’s Minority/Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-7600 or visit www.austintexas.gov/smbr.