2025 Summary Program

The Committee's mission, engagement, and legislative agenda

Consistent with Grand Sire Archon Loren Douglass' mission to emphasize "the interplay between government, the financial markets and business" as the keys to the American system of wealth creation, preservation, and dissemination, the Grand Boulé Public Policy Committee has broadened its mission to include a focus on policies and programs designed to promote economic empowerment within the ranks of our organization and the broader African American community. While the existing MOUs of the Fraternity remain vitally important, this committee has been working on draft legislation consistent with the "fourth pillar" of our Fraternity.

Key Meetings

- Monday, June 3, 2024 — Hakeem Jeffries, House Democratic Leader.
- Tuesday, August 20, 2024 — Jaime Harrison, Chairman of the DNC; Congressman James Clyburn; Governor Wes Moore of Maryland; Steve Benjamin, Senior Advisor to the President; and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries.
- Wednesday, September 25, 2024 — Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina; Congressman Burgess Owens of Utah; Congressman Byron Donalds of Florida; Don Graves, Deputy Secretary of Commerce; and Steve Benjamin, Senior Advisor to the President.

These meetings have served as a sounding board on creating wealth in the Black community and on draft legislation focused in three areas — Business, Taxes, and Foreign Policy. The committee's goal is to help five to seven Black-owned businesses obtain $1 billion in federal government contracts.

Business

- Legislation to encourage the federal government to increase deposits with Minority Depository Institutions at mission-driven (below-market) rates.
- Legislation to provide incentives and access to low-cost capital to start or buy businesses utilizing the Small Business Administration.
- Legislation to provide greater incentives for the construction of affordable housing.
- Legislation to allow the government to accept best value instead of lowest cost for government contracts (already passed in the House).

Taxes

- Re-implement federal deductions for state taxes, so state tax income and investment is more meaningful.
- Allow the federal deduction of school-related expenses for families making less than $1 million, to encourage greater investment in education, including public education.

- Implement a firm line on tax increases for individuals making more than $500,000 and couples making more than $999,999, supporting movement from the middle class to wealth creation.
- Broaden Flexible Spending Accounts for childcare — allowing tax-free growth and raising contribution limits.

The committee continues to develop additional initiatives, including a foreign-policy agenda focused on trade and investment. The committee hosted a bipartisan meeting with congressional leadership and staff in Washington, D.C., on February 18, 2025; the featured speaker was United States Senator Tim Scott, Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee.