



A COLLECTIVE VOICE  
IN SUPPORT OF A BETTER UTAH

[www.utahblackroundtable.org](http://www.utahblackroundtable.org)

## FACT SHEET

- **What is *Utah Black Roundtable*?**

The first of its kind, the *Utah Black Roundtable* (UBR) is a statewide coalition of individuals, groups and organizations established to work on issues impacting the lives and well-being of Blacks and African Americans in Utah. Through advocacy, and in collaboration with others, UBR members work to enhance quality of life while eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in several key areas. We believe change can happen when we speak in one voice about critical issues.

- **Why is the *Utah Black Roundtable* necessary?**

Utah faces issues of racial and economic divide just like any other state in the Union. However, because the number of Blacks or African Americans in the state is low, many statistical reports simply code specific data on Blacks as an asterisk. The asterisk simply hides the problem, but the problem still exists.

In recent years, a concentrated effort has evolved through town meetings, panel discussions, and surveys to identify, discuss, and seek solutions to improve the quality of life of Blacks in Utah. The Utah Black Roundtable is the result of this effort, and perfectly encapsulates the theme of the 2018 Juneteenth celebrations: reclaim, restore, rebuild.

- **What are the areas of concerns of the *Utah Black Roundtable*?**

The following are the key components that comprise the Utah Black Agenda:

- **Education:** Black students lag at significant rates both in pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, and at the post-secondary/higher education levels.
- **Juvenile & Criminal Justice:** Black students (K-12) are more frequently disciplined, and receive harsher punishments than their White counterparts for the same infractions. Likewise, Black adults are disproportionately overrepresented in the criminal justice system.
- **Health & Environment:** Major health disparities persist and are associated with the lack of health insurance and other social determinants of health.
- **Political Action:** There are few Blacks and people of color in policy-making positions in the state, which makes it more difficult for specific concerns of Black Utahns to be heard and addressed.

- **Community & Economic Development:** This initiative is focused on building communities with affordable healthy food options, viable transportation and safe environments to live, play and work. It will also focus on providing avenues for entrepreneurship training and business opportunities.
- **Special Populations:** There are rising numbers of youth and seniors in the Black Utah community and specific systems must be in place to support these groups.
- **Communication & Outreach:** There is a lack of specific representation of Black voices in the mainstream news and information platforms in the state.

For more information about the *Utah Black Roundtable*, visit [www.utahblackroundtable.org](http://www.utahblackroundtable.org)