

Dr. Lance McCarthy, Ph.D.

Global Economist | Public Policy Advisor | Entrepreneur | Urban Economic Empowerment Strategist

Dr. Lance McCarthy, Ph.D., is a global economist, public policy advisor, entrepreneur, and urban economic empowerment strategist whose career has spanned economics, public policy, faith-based economic development, urban revitalization, entrepreneurship, technology, capital formation, workforce development, and Republican political engagement. His work has consistently focused on how business ownership, access to capital, employment, private investment, and technology can be used to build sustainable wealth in African American and urban communities.

McCarthy's early public-policy work included service on the Board of Directors of the National Public Policy Institute, a Black Republican public-policy organization, where his work centered on economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, faith-based economic development, and strengthening African American communities through public policy. His writings included *State of Black America: Economic Empowerment Through the African American Church*, which explored how churches and community institutions could serve as engines for business formation, investment, employment, and neighborhood economic development.

His Republican political engagement has extended across local, congressional, statewide, and national politics. Over the course of his career, McCarthy has worked with or advised Republican candidates, elected officials, political organizations, and policymakers, while maintaining a particular focus on entrepreneurship, minority business development, urban investment, access to capital, and community wealth creation.

A significant part of McCarthy's career has centered on translating economic ideas into practical community development. Following the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, he worked with businessman and former gubernatorial candidate Dave Spence through Ferguson 1000, an initiative designed to connect residents with employers, workforce training, minority business-development opportunities, technology, and economic resources.

McCarthy also served as President and CEO of the Metropolitan Orlando Urban League, where his leadership combined traditional civil-rights programming with economic development, entrepreneurship, workforce initiatives, housing, investment, and community development.

His economic philosophy is further reflected in his book, *Wall Street to the Hood*, which examines strategies for rebuilding urban communities through job creation, Black wealth development, entrepreneurship, technology transfer, investment, capital formation, business ownership, and private-sector development. The work emphasizes the importance of expanding opportunities for African Americans to participate in the economy not only as workers and consumers, but also as owners, investors, entrepreneurs, employers, and creators of capital.

McCarthy's political philosophy remains grounded primarily in economics. Across his work, he has consistently connected political participation with questions of ownership, access to capital, job creation,

investment, real estate, technology, and long-term wealth creation. His professional record extends beyond electoral politics into partnerships with nonprofit organizations, churches, corporations, entrepreneurs, investors, universities, cities, and community-development initiatives.

His work has also expanded nationally and internationally. McCarthy has lectured at Harvard University, spoken at universities and institutions across the United States, and delivered a TED Talk focused on African Americans and technology. His work has increasingly explored the role of emerging industries, innovation, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and technology in expanding economic opportunity.

In 2026, McCarthy traveled to South Africa, where he addressed approximately 50 traditional kings and royal leaders on economic development, investment, technology, entrepreneurship, and collaboration between Africa and the African American community. He has also worked internationally with business leaders, nonprofit organizations, entrepreneurs, investors, and community institutions on economic development, capital formation, business expansion, and community wealth creation.

Today, McCarthy serves as Chairman of The Black Agenda, an initiative focused on economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, technology, education, access to capital, business development, and wealth creation. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of the Beverly Hills Black Chamber of Commerce, extending his work into business advocacy, investment, capital access, and expanding opportunities for Black-owned and minority-owned businesses.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lance McCarthy has connected political participation with economic empowerment, emphasizing that sustainable community advancement requires more than civic engagement alone. It also requires ownership, entrepreneurship, access to capital, employment, investment, technology, education, business development, and generational wealth creation.