

Davis seeks to become 1st Black governor of Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - U.S. Rep. Artur Davis, an early supporter of Barack Obama with uncanny similarities to the new president, announced his Democratic candidacy for governor Friday in a bid to become the first Black to win Alabama's top office.

Davis, a Harvard-educated lawyer in his 40s like Obama, ended months of speculation with his announcement, attended by a crowd of at least 100 people, made up largely of Whites. That voting bloc will be crucial for Davis to win in 2010.

"Yes, this will be hard, but if we find our way, we can

build a state like we have never known, not at some distant point called one day, but right now, in our season," said Davis, 41, who chaired Obama's campaign in Alabama.

Davis said his campaign will focus on the economy, not race.

"One of the things I have learned about race is if you talk about race, if you fixate on race, other people will join you in fixating on it," Davis said.

"If you don't fixate on race, all the other issues that people want to hear about will come to the forefront."

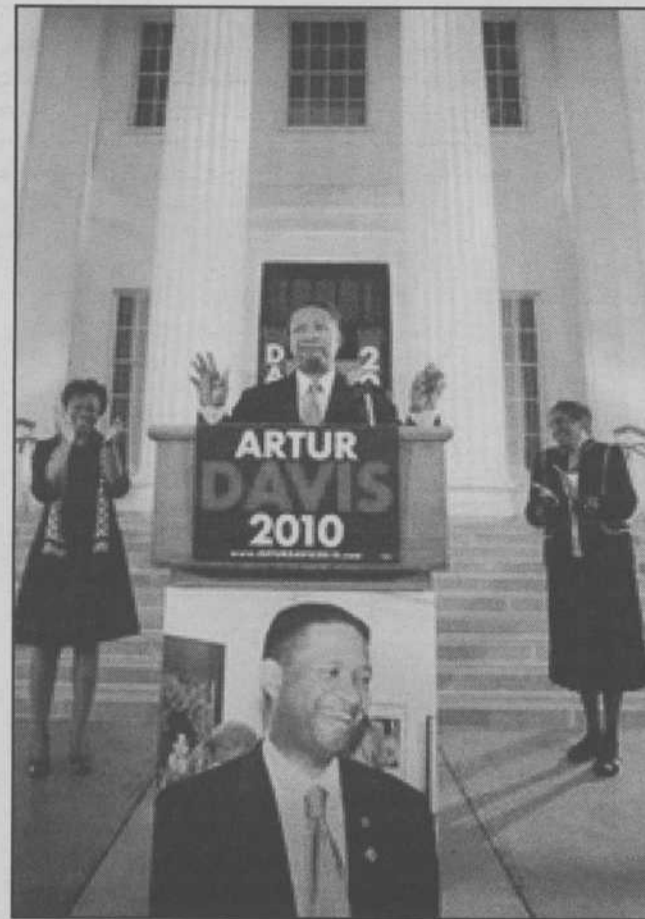
Davis has more than \$1.1

million in his congressional campaign account that he will use for his gubernatorial bid.

He will face a Democratic field that's likely to include Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom Jr., who served a partial term as governor during the early 1990s, and possibly Ron Sparks, Alabama's agriculture commissioner.

Both are White.

Like the new president, Davis overcame long odds to make it in politics. He was raised in Montgomery by a single mother and grandmother yet went on to graduate from Harvard University's law school,



Rep. Artur Davis, D-Ala., announces his candidacy for governor during a press conference in front of the Archives and History Building in Montgomery, Ala. recently. At left is Davis' wife Tara Johnson Davis, with his mother Arthur Mae Davis. Davis is a friend of President Obama.

where he met Obama.

A skilled orator, Davis upset a Black incumbent to win Alabama's 7th Congressional District. He has either won easily or had no opposition in re-elections to the mostly Black district, which extends from Birmingham to rural west Alabama. He has

styled himself as a moderate pragmatist who looks out for the needy in his district, but also has business interests in mind.

Davis can't win unless he attracts large numbers of White supporters in a state where, in a 2000 referendum, 40 percent of voters opposed

ending a constitutional ban on mixed-race marriage.

Exit polls in November showed Obama got fewer than 20 percent of the White vote. Republican John McCain easily won the state.

Voter registration among Blacks than Whites grew before the Nov. 4 election, but Whites still make up almost three-quarters of registered voters in Alabama, which is about 70 percent White.

In last year's Democratic presidential primary, about half of those voting were Black. If he wins the party nomination, he would still need nearly all the Black vote and about 40 percent of the White vote in the general election.

"That has been very difficult for even White Democratic candidates in recent election cycles," said Jess Brown, a political scientist at Athens State University in northern Alabama.

Blacks hold scores of local offices and make up about 25 percent of each chamber in the Alabama Legislature, but no other minority candidate has previously had a real chance to win the governor's office.

Republican Gov. Bob Riley is barred from seeking a third term. The GOP race to succeed Riley is expected to be more crowded than the Democratic contest.

NAACP

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said, "We've had a riot in Oakland in the winter. We've had a riot in an American city in the winter because of the BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) police killing."

Jealous said the NAACP has local affiliates dealing with high profile police killings in at least a half dozen states.

Jealous said he would release specific policy proposals in a "white paper" on Wednesday this week, the day before the 100th Anniversary celebration of the organization founded in 1909. A white paper is an authoritative report or guide that outlines problems and suggests ways to solve them from expert perspective.

Jealous said proposals in the white paper would include:

—That the Department of Labor beef up staffing in their solicitors office that handle discrimination. Also that they beef up staffing in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs so that as the stimulus dollars flow through, there won't be the same tattered infrastructure left by the Bush administration "and we won't see a repeat of the sloppiness that we saw in Iraq and that we saw in New Orleans."

—That the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division be rebuilt to enforce a wide spectrum of civil rights laws.

—That every stimulus-created job that is awarded to a general contractor or to sub-contractors be contracted through the federal employment service so that federal authorities will monitor who gets the jobs. "We need to send a clear message that tax payer dollars should create jobs for everybody. We don't want people discriminated against based on age, gender, race or anything else," Jealous said.

—Greater oversight for banks, brokers and a major investment in public education "because we're tired of Black people with good credit and assets being fleeced. We want them protected."

The white paper will include the NAACP's Agenda pertaining to the Obama administration for the first year. He said the Goals of the NAACP for the next 25 years of the 21st century will be released at its 100th annual convention in July in New York.

Issuing the white paper to the Obama administration is only one major action taken by the civil rights organization

amidst the economic havoc in the Black community.

The organization is moving ahead with a federal lawsuit to force 15 major financial institutions to cease alleged racial discrimination and rogue sub-prime home mortgage lending.

A federal Judge last month denied a joint motion filed by the institutions to stop the NAACP from moving ahead with the suit. The lenders are now required to release information and documents regarding their mortgage policies and practices, according to an NAACP news release.

The mortgage lenders named in the lawsuit include: Accredited Home Lenders, Inc.; Ameriquest Mortgage Co.; Bear Sterns Residential Mortgage Corp.; Encore Credit; Chase Bank USA; Citimortgage; First Franklin Financial Corp.; First Tennessee Bank; First Horizon National Corp.; Fremont Investment & Loan; GMAC Mortgage Group, LLC; GMAC ResCap; J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.; Long Beach Mortgage; Option One Mortgage Corp.; SunTrust Mortgage; and WMC Mortgage, LLC.

Jealous speaks with the confidence of the past 100 years of successes by the NAACP, which led and won campaigns for voting rights, against lynching, Jim Crow, and campaigns to equalize the political playing field.

The NAACP headquarters, based in Baltimore, has 1,700 units nationwide and will host celebrations and observances throughout the year ending on February 12, 2010.

At the organization's star-studded Image Awards to be broadcast from Los Angeles on Feb. 12, will be Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai and Former Vice President Al Gore. Also, Halle Berry, Tyler Perry, Sean Diddy Combs, Jennifer Hudson, Beyonce, Russell Simmons and the legendary Stevie Wonder and Muhammad Ali.

"As we set out at this moment, we have a lot to celebrate," Jealous said. "What makes this organization different than virtually every other great organization in this country is that we've practiced one formula for a hundred years with great success and transformed this country again and again, not just for Black people or Brown people, but for all people."



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The Housing Authority of the County of Clark, Nevada does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

Public Housing is a program created by HUD to help low-income families who meet both HUD and HACC's eligibility requirements to obtain, safe, decent and affordable housing. The HACC is pleased to announce the following wait lists will open on the date indicated.

OPEN EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 20, 2009

We will be accepting applications for the following programs and bedroom sizes only:

- Espinoza Terrace – Studios, 1 and 2 Bedroom Units (Senior)
- Hampton Court – Studios (Family and Senior)
- Landsman Gardens – 5 Bedroom Units (Family and Senior)
- Conventional Public Housing – 3 and 4 Bedroom Units (Family and Senior)
- Schaffer Heights – 2 Bedroom Units (Senior and Disabled)
- Brown Homes – 1 and 2 Bedroom Units (Family and Senior)
- Palo Verde Gardens – Studios (Senior and Disabled)
- Eva Garcia Mendoza Plaza – 2 Bedroom Units (Family and Senior)

The following lists are closed

- Hampton Court – 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Units
- Landsman Gardens – 2, 3 and 4 Bedroom Units
- Schaffer Heights – 1 Bedroom Units
- Conventional Public Housing – 2 Bedroom Units
- Brown Homes – 3 Bedroom Units
- Palo Verde – 1 Bedroom Unit
- Janice Brooks Bay – 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Units

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