

# ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Image courtesy of Encyclopedia of Arkansas

The second National Black Political Convention (NBPC) was held in Little Rock (Pulaski County) in 1974, at Robinson Auditorium and Central High School. This site was chosen due to its significance in Black history, with hopes that the work of Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine would inspire the NBPC and gear conversations towards grassroots activism in the Black community, although both politicians and community activists were represented. The convention included workshops and events that honored Daisy Bates and the parents of the Little Rock Nine. Speeches were given by two of the three co-chairs, the mayor of Gary, Indiana, Richard Hatcher; and poet Amiri Baraka, representing politicians and activists respectively. While their speeches were very different, they both sparked discourse and disagreements, which the convention acknowledged as part of a healthy democratic process.

