



THE CALL

Kansas City Call (1922–2010)

Over 100 Years of Advocacy and Journalism for the Black Community

THE KANSAS CITY CALL, founded in 1919 by Chester A. Franklin, has played a crucial role in providing leadership for the Black community. Over the course of its 102-year history, it has emerged as one of the most successful Black newspapers in the United States, consistently covering civil rights issues and fighting against segregation, discrimination, and other important issues facing African Americans. The paper has a long-standing history of encouraging African Americans to register and vote, and has covered many key Black issues, including school segregation and urban development. The *Call* has also been a strong advocate for Black representation on Kansas City juries and has called for a reduction of violence within Black communities. News editorials, both local and national, gave a Black viewpoint on important events throughout the *Call*'s history while advertisements promoted Black business. In 1948, the newspaper made history by becoming the first African American newspaper to become an International News Service member.

Curriculum Focus

- African American History
- Civil Rights
- Education
- Health and Wellness
- Immigration
- Journalism
- Politics
- Race Relations
- Religion
- Social Justice
- Sports
- Technology
- Urban Development
- Voting Rights
- Women's Rights

Why ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Kansas City Call?

- **Unique perspective on local and national news:** The *Kansas City Call* has a distinct perspective on both local and national news, offering a voice for the Black community in the midst of larger mainstream media outlets. The newspaper's coverage of local events and issues provides a window into the daily lives and experiences of African Americans in Kansas City.
- **Rich cultural and historical significance:** The *Kansas City Call* is one of the oldest African American newspapers in the United States. The newspaper has documented the history of the Black community in Kansas City and beyond for over a century, making it an invaluable source of cultural and historical information.
- **Insight into social justice and activism:** The newspaper has a strong history of advocating for civil rights and social justice for the Black community. The *Call*'s coverage of events such as the civil rights movement and the fight against racial segregation provide valuable insights into the struggles and achievements of African Americans during the 20th century.
- **Primary Source Material:** The *Kansas City Call* serves as a rich primary source material for research and teaching. Scholars can use the historical newspaper to examine the language, tone, and reporting style of African American journalism during the time period, which can offer insight into the broader cultural and political context of the time.



June 6, 1975: Cover of Kansas City Call featuring story on de-segregation of schools.



May 9, 1980: Cover featuring story about the display of the Emancipation Proclamation at the Nelson Gallery of Art.

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