

# Holmes County names winning coach principal



Holmes County Central High School basketball team



Patrick

By Edelia “Dr. Jay” Carthan  
Contributing Writer

Holmes County Consolidated School District has named Antwayn Patrick as principal of Holmes County Central High School.

Patrick, a former practicing attorney, has spent the last 10 years as a teacher and head basketball coach at S.V. Marshall High School and Holmes County Central High School. Last year, Patrick became the assistant principal at Holmes County Central High School.

“I received a call Saturday about 12:30 p.m. from the superintendent,” Patrick recalled. “He asked me if I could meet with him at 2 p.m. I did.”

Patrick says the superintendent basically told him that his coaching career was over.

“I had to tell my players this Sunday, the hardest decision of my life,” Patrick said in a telephone interview.

“There is no place like Holmes,” Patrick commented. “Being raised here, I feel a

sense of pride that you can only get from being here. We have some of the smartest kids in the world and it’s time to showcase our students to the world. We must change the narrative of Holmes County. Holmes County products are doctors, lawyers, nurses, superintendents, principal, welders, truck drivers, you name it. So, being the principal is an exciting feeling, but it is not about me; it is about the children. We are going to establish a culture of excellence and pride that “we can,” and we will be accepting nothing less.

“Being a principal and a coach are similar. It is all about establishing relationships; relationships with the students, faculty and staff, parents and community. The successful districts have an intertwine of all those stakeholders working together. As a coach, I bridged those gaps, and as a principal I hope to, no, I will bring us together to make us successful,” Patrick said.

The best part of this story is

that Patrick started out wanting to volunteer and tutor students at S.V. Marshall High School. But a couple days before he could start, the principal fired the U.S. History teacher. The principal then calls Patrick and says, “I need a U.S. History teacher.”

Two months later, the head basketball coach resigned. The outgoing coach told Patrick, “You should be the coach.” Days later, the principal offered him the job and after four state appearances, two state championships and five district championships, he has proven himself as a leader, a mentor and one of the best coaches to coach in the district. “My grandmother, Roberta Patrick, is 90 years old, and she never missed a game. She said she will still go to the games. She’s excited.”

The position became available because the assistant superintendent, who served as the interim principal, resigned. No matter how this happened, the community is excited about Patrick being the new principal, but

sad to see him go as the coach.

“I’m so hurt and I know my son is also but you have been a great inspiration to my child, our children, and I’m very happy on your upcoming journey,” Cottonette Wallden wrote on Patrick’s Facebook page. “Job well done.”

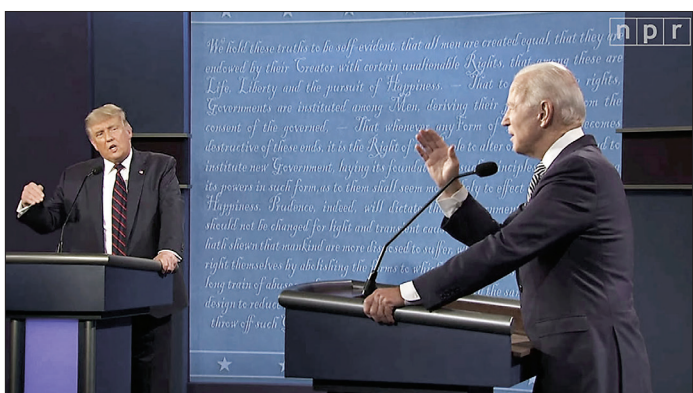
“Continue to listen to God, and shape the minds of our youth,” Tamika Clark-Garnett commented. “God will elevate you in so many other places. You have conquered, and I am so proud of you, classmate.”

Lavern Hampton, a citizen of Holmes County, wrote, “I understand you have to move to the next level. Please continue to mentor our young men. They need you.”

Patrick received hundreds of well wishes from parents, teachers, classmates and community members. Excited about what’s in store, Patrick said Holmes County Central High School won’t be success-

*Holmes  
Continued on page 3*

## 2020 first presidential debate an embarrassment for America



Trump, who received a regular rebuke from moderator Chris Wallace, claimed Biden was weak and unintelligent. PHOTO: SCREEN-CAPTURE NPR / API POOL PHOTO

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Biden reminded the audience of a little more than 100 people – down from an anticipated 900 because of the pandemic – that Trump called fallen military members “losers and suckers.” While Trump dared Biden to say, “Law and order,” Wallace opened discussions on race. “Are you willing, tonight, to condemn white supremacists and militia groups and to say that they need to stand down,” the moderator asked Trump.

American politics nose-dived, spiraled, crashed and burned during what masqueraded as the first 2020 presidential debate.

“You’re a clown!” “Would you shut up, man!” “Everything you say is a lie.”

Those were just some of the barbs from Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden who grew irritated by repeated interruptions by Trump at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Trump, who received a regular rebuke from moderator Chris Wallace, claimed Biden was weak and unintelligent.

### COMMENTARY

“Don’t ever use the word smart with me,” Trump railed at Biden.

“There’s nothing smart about you, Joe.”

The president sunk even lower, making accusations that Biden’s son, Hunter, was “kicked out of the military – dishonorably discharged – because of drugs.”

“Proud Boys, stand back and stand by,” Trump reluctantly said in a declaration that fell well short of condemnation. “But,” Trump insisted, “I’ll tell you what, somebody’s got to do something about Antifa and the left.”

Biden also blasted Trump’s handling of the coronavirus.

The former vice president said more than 200,000 people

*Debate  
Continued on page 3*

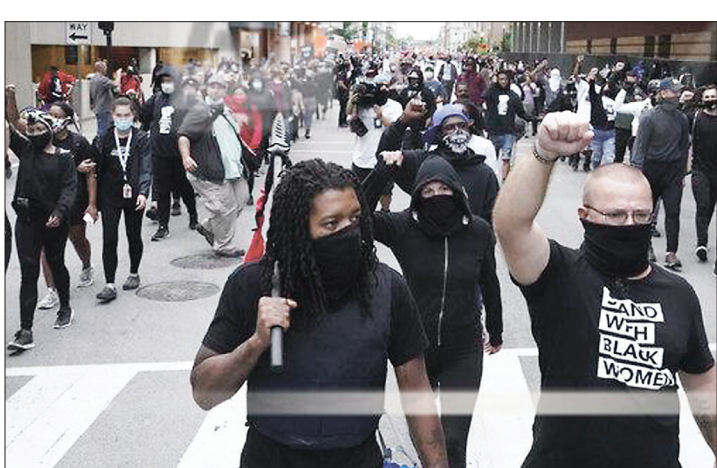
# Breonna Taylor’s supporters criticize prosecutor in her case

By Piper Hudspeth Blackburn,  
Bruce Schreiner and Angie Wang  
Associated Press

Breonna Taylor’s family and their lawyers sharply criticized Kentucky’s attorney general for the failure to bring charges against police officers in her death, calling on September 25 for him to release the transcripts of the grand jury proceeding while vowing to continue protests until the officers are charged.

Tamika Palmer, Taylor’s mother, said in a statement read by a relative to a gathering in Louisville that she did not expect justice from state Attorney General Daniel Cameron.

Ben Crump, a lawyer for the family, urged the prosecutor to make the transcripts public, so people can see if anyone was present at the grand jury proceedings to give a voice to Taylor. Gov. Andy Beshear, a Democrat, has also called for Cameron to release what evidence he can. Cameron’s spokeswoman,



Protesters march, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020, in Louisville, Ky. Authorities pleaded for calm while activists vowed to fight on Thursday in Kentucky’s largest city, where a gunman wounded two police officers during anguished protests following the decision not to charge officers for killing Breonna Taylor. AP PHOTO/JOHN MINCHILLO

Elizabeth Kuhn, said the prosecutor understood that Taylor’s family “is in an incredible amount of pain and anguish” and that the grand jury decision was not the one they wanted. But, the statement added, “prosecutors and grand jury members are bound by the facts and by the

law.”

Taylor, a black woman who was an emergency medical worker, was shot multiple times by white officers after Taylor’s boyfriend fired at them, authorities said. He said he fired in self-defense, wounding one officer. Police were conducting a drug

investigation and entered on a warrant connected to a suspect who did not live there, and no drugs were found inside.

Cameron has said the investigation showed officers acted in self-defense. The grand jury charged one officer, who has already been fired, with firing into a neighboring apartment.

At almost the same time that Taylor’s family was decrying the handling of her case, a man accused of shooting at police during protests Wednesday was being arraigned. Two officers were wounded and expected to recover.

A not guilty plea was entered Friday for Larynzo D. Johnson, 26. Bond was set at \$1 million. Zac Meihaus, the attorney representing Johnson at the arraignment, said it is difficult to “pinpoint” if Johnson fired the shots in question. A prosecutor replied that a gun was recovered from Johnson, and there are video and witness accounts of the shootings.

The big question for Louisville, which has been torn apart by Taylor’s death, and the larger issue of racism in America was how to move forward.

The FBI is still investigating whether Taylor’s civil rights were violated, and some have put their hope in that probe, but the burden of proof for such cases is very high.

Many have taken to the streets around the country.

On Thursday, some of them raised their fists and called out “Black Lives Matter!” Others tended to the letters, flowers and signs grouped together in a square in downtown Louisville. All of them said her name, which has become a rallying cry.

“We’ve got to take it lying down that the law won’t protect us, that they can get away with killing us,” said Lavel White, a regular protester in downtown Louisville, who is black. “If we can’t get justice for Breonna Taylor, can we get justice for anybody?”

Some of the peaceful protests in Louisville have given way to destruction and violence. The governor has called up the National Guard for “limited missions.”

But state Rep. Attica Scott – who said she was arrested Thursday night as she headed toward a church that protesters were congregating in – criticized law enforcement’s response to the demonstrations.

“It’s clear that this alphabet soup of law enforcement here in Louisville, both local, state and federal, are preparing for war against the people they’re supposed to protect,” said Scott, who called the charges she was arrested on “ridiculous.”

She was held overnight and released Friday.

Demonstrators demanding justice for Taylor have also gathered in places like Los Angeles where a vehicle ran through a crowd of protesters, injuring one person.

*Taylor  
Continued on page 3*

# Deion Sanders’ greatest play is a game-changer

## Coach Prime’s #IBelieve vision

By **Malcolm Frierson**  
Contributing Writer

Rumors of Deion Sanders accepting the head coaching job at Jackson State University circulated for days. Many JSU alumni like me dismissed the talk as noise. I thought there was no way an NFL Hall of Famer, one of the greatest athletes and sports personalities of his generation, would take on a project so big on a stage so comparatively small. But, after listening to him explain the passion and motivation behind his arrival, I believe.

JSU football is more than a game to most of the largely African-American population in Jackson, Mississippi. It is a social and cultural experience that unites a community reeling from the effects of white flight. Pre-game, half-time, and post-game festivities are as important as the final score. Many kids leave the stadium imitating band steps while others begin dreaming of playing in a JSU uniform.

My late father often took our family to observe the pride and tradition at games. After his health deteriorated, we joined him in our den to listen to radio broadcasts. I cherish those Saturdays even more now because he used them to teach us the history of JSU football and the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi.

The NFL drafted over 50 JSU football players in the 1960s and 1970s as



**COMMENTARY**

Mississippi’s predominantly white institutions (PWIs) worked to prevent or limit African-American student enrollment. In his introductory press conference, coach Prime paid tribute to JSU’s legendary football talent near the height of the movement. Mississippi’s PWIs wouldn’t have dared to play a game against one of those rosters.

After Mississippi’s PWIs accepted integration, they used their better-funded facilities and amenities to attract African American student-athletes to their campuses. The move paid off generously, as the influx of black bodies helped pave the way for an explosion of revenue in new television and advertising contracts. Meanwhile, the JSU football program dropped from powerhouse to second-tier level.

As head coach at JSU, coach Prime is taking on Mississippi’s history of state-sanctioned segregation and unequal funding that perturbs men like my late father and me. When I applied to Mississippi State University with strong academic credentials, I received a \$2,000 scholarship offer. JSU believed in me enough to offer a full ride. JSU also extended my best friend an invitation to walk onto its football team, an oppor-

tunity that he maximized into becoming an NFL draft pick and JSU Hall of Fame inductee.

I take pride in Jackson State University’s history of doing more for a large population of deserving African American students with far fewer resources than Mississippi’s PWIs.

Coach Prime, in an interview on Good Morning America, said “these kids need the playing field leveled.” He also announced that his initial round of recruitment offers targeted players like Maason Smith, the top-ranked football prospect in Louisiana. Smith, a 5-star athlete who will apparently now consider JSU alongside Power 5 schools, quickly tweeted that he felt “blessed” to receive the offer and endorsed coach Prime’s #IBelieve ethos.

In his first day on the job, coach Prime proved his game-changing value and vision. He transformed the doubt and long-time frustration of JSU alumni like me into belief that our alma mater can rise above historical inequities. And, if he can build the belief he has earned into achievements, he will eclipse his undisputed ranking as the best corner to ever put on a uniform. It will go down as the greatest play he ever made.

*Malcolm Frierson is associate professor of History at Dallas College. His new book is Freedom in Laughter: Dick Gregory, Bill Cosby and the Civil Rights Movement.*



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## Taylor

Continued from page 1

In Portland, Oregon – a city that has seen many protests since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis – a fire was set at a police union building. While there was despair after the decision in Taylor’s case, others saw reasons to hope. Reginique Jones said she’ll keep pressing for increased police accountability and for a statewide ban on “no knock” warrants – the kind issued in the Taylor case, though the state attorney general said the investigation showed police announced themselves before busting into her apartment. “I believe that we are going to get past this,” Jones said as she returned Thursday to the park in downtown Louisville that has been at the center of the protests. “We can still get some justice.” The case has exposed the divide in the U.S. over

bringing justice for black Americans killed by authorities and the laws that allow officers to be charged, which regularly favor police. Since Taylor’s killing, Louisville has taken some steps to address protesters’ concerns. In addition to the officer who was fired and later charged, three others were put on desk duty. Officials have banned no-knock warrants and hired a black woman as the permanent police chief – a first for the city. Louisville also agreed to more police reforms as it settled a lawsuit that included \$12 million for Taylor’s family. But many have expressed frustration that more has not been done. And so they took to the streets. Louisville police in riot gear barricaded roads and cars honked as the crowd marched past a night-

time curfew. Officers blocked the exits of a church where protesters gathered to avoid arrest for violating the curfew. Several people were detained, including state Rep. Attica Scott, a Louisville Democrat. Scott unveiled legislation recently that would ban the use of no-knock search warrants in Kentucky. The measure, called Breonna’s Law in honor of Taylor, also would require drug and alcohol testing of officers involving in shootings and deadly incidents and require that body cameras be worn during the execution of all search warrants. Police eventually pulled back late Thursday after negotiating with demonstrators to end the protest. At least 24 people were arrested as of 1 a.m. Friday, police said.

## Holmes

Continued from page 1

ful without the community. “Schools cannot be successful unless they have the support of the community. The first thing we must do is welcome the community,” Patrick said. “We must change the narrative of the school being anti-community, anti-parents. We want to welcome them as a partner in our children’s success. Holmes County Central High School is currently an F-rated school located in Lexington, MS. Patrick hopes to improve the school rating during his first year.

## Debate

Continued from page 1

have died, and some 40,000 people are still contracting COVID each day. “The president has no plan. He hasn’t laid out anything,” Biden charged. Trump responded that a vaccine and life-saving treatments might come before the election. The president again hit out at China, blaming the Far East nation for the virus. “It’s China’s fault. It never should have happened,” Trump contended. “We’ve done a great job,” Trump added, accusing the “fake news” of distorting his record on the virus. Trump claimed a Biden administration would have “lost far more people.” Biden responded: “Get out of your bunker and get out of the sand trap and your golf course.” Later, Trump again refused to say whether he’d leave office peacefully if Biden wins the election. The ugly match further denigrated when the topic turned to Trump’s income taxes, which he has refused to release them publicly. A *New York Times* investigation revealed that Trump had gone 10 of the past 15 years without paying any income taxes, and in 2017 and 2018, he paid just \$750 each. The president disputed the report but evaded Wallace’s questions about specifics. As a successful businessman, Trump offered that he understands the tax code, and others who don’t take advantage of it are inept. Biden’s campaign released the former vice president’s 2019 tax returns before the debate, which showed he paid nearly \$300,000 in federal income tax last year. “You are the worse president America has ever had,” Biden told Trump.

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# Hinds County School District Weekly Update

## ENGAGING-EMPOWERING-ENSURING-EXCELLENCE



### Hinds County School District’s projects for Gary Road Elementary School and Gary Road Intermediate School to begin this week

School facility upgrades part of multimillion dollar bond program focused on boosting student achievement and parent engagement

The Hinds County School District (HCSD) is proud to announce the start of the Gary Road Elementary School and Gary Road Intermediate School bond projects this week.

This is a joyous occasion, especially for the many of the parents, faculty, staff and community leaders who have been personally involved in conceptualizing and shaping the district’s bond issue projects and organizing and directing the bond campaign.

This week, as we celebrate the beginning of our next two projects for an inspiring and critically needed new gymnasium for GRI and GRE, we are celebrating among friends. Friends who share our vision and aspiration for the future of the children in the Hinds County School District.

Principal Ashley Green at Gary Road Intermediate stated that “we are looking forward to the building of the new gymnasium and theatre arts classrooms starting this week. Beyond that, we are ecstatic about hosting grade level and school level events that will occur in one setting with the seating capacity for up to 1300 individuals.”

It is an exciting time for our students, faculty

and staff. This project is an investment in the Hinds County School District community. This gymnasium will be around and in use for many years to come. Because of that, our focus on the new facility will continue to be one of educating our children and offering endless possibilities for every learner, coupled with extending an olive branch to our community.

These construction projects are part of the district’s bond program focused on enhancements to facilities that will support academic achievement, artistic performance and parent engagement.

“Each of these bond projects is important to our students and to the communities we serve because they are tangible representations of our commitment to excellence,” said Dr. Delesicia Martin, superintendent of Hinds County School District. “These facilities are particularly important for the community because they create more opportunities for students to participate in physical activities that promote healthy behaviors and build teamwork, communication and leadership skills.”

We are still on a mission!



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- ✓ Reform Opportunity Zones to Fulfill Their Promise.
- ✓ Ensure his housing plan makes bold investments in homeownership and access to affordable housing for minority families.
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# The relevance of HBCU in the 21st Century

By Angel N. Skinner  
Alcorn State University

19th century America was a period of fundamental racism and lawful discrimination. Although hundreds of cultures, creeds, tribes and ethnics have experience some extent of intolerance. One collective race, in particular, has borne the brunt of racial injustice within our country's borders. In fact, just over a century and a half ago, these people remained subjected to the fully permissible enterprise of enslavement. This prevailed across the United States and dominated the regional margins of the South.

By the mid to late 19th century, slavery was beginning to decline in many parts of the country, in part due to the industrial revolution. However, the institution of slavery remained very lucrative in the south, generating millions in profits from industries that needed their crops. While the rest of the country had somewhat "phased out" slavery to a certain extent; the south had nearly quadrupled their slave holdings, from under a million at the beginning of the century, to just under four millions by the middle of the 19th century. Needless to say, uncivil oppression had increased rapidly within our borders, and our country was on the brink of inevitable civil war.



## COMMENTARY

Many of these groups that were enslaved were involved in the cultivation and development of their respective homelands. There is extensive evidence of structures closely resembling our modern day civilizations such as economic systems, learning institutes, political hierarchy, architecture and trade etc.

As our country came to realize the primitivism of slavery; many African Americans began developing literacy in the English language, and regaining expertise in science, politics, engineering, mathematics and even advancing technologies. These skills were essential in fighting against inequalities and injustices in America; all of which heavily persisted well into the 20th century. In fact, had it not, at first, been for the fight for education

among African Americans; the fight against all other grievances would have been numb and voided. At this time in history, few colleges and universities would admit an African American. These individuals were denied solely on the basis of race; nothing more and nothing less. Fundamentally, it was the arduous establishment of colored based institutes of higher learning; that truly granted the liberty to education for the African-American race.

Colleges like The Institute for Colored Youth, Lincoln University and Wilberforce University were the first of their kind before the civil war. However, by the end of the civil war, these institutions began to appearing in the south, and by 1862, the United States had enacted the Morrill Act which supported the establishment of higher learning



other institutions. Most HBCU campuses provide a smaller, more communalized setting. Most notably, HBCUs as a whole, are greatly invested in the success and advancement of their students. Enrollees are encouraged to pursue progressive careers, fields related to STEM are heavily promoted, and resources are provided to support students pursuing further education and/or entering the workforce.

In summary, it is pivotal for minorities to continue supporting these historically based institutes. HBCUs offer a uniquely centered experience, immense support, and multiple career opportunities for alumni. For those seeking a diversity, HBCUs are becoming increasingly diverse; welcoming students of all ethnic backgrounds, including several ethnic minorities. Additionally, many students pursue their undergraduate degree at these institutes; in order to gain the incomparable HBCU experience.

Whether you're starting your path to higher education, furthering your path of higher learning, or looking to advance in the workforce, the HBCU experience is an invaluable resource; commemorating heritage, preservation, leadership, and community. In times such as these, where we are adhering to social distancing measures, it is especially important to come together and embrace the legacy of the African HBCU.

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## Mississippi clerk: Absentee ballots stored in locked vault

The Mississippi Link News Wire

An official in Mississippi's largest county says absentee ballots are kept in a locked vault after they are filled out and returned.

Hinds County Circuit Clerk Zack Wallace told WAPT-TV that completed ballots remain in sealed envelopes and are sorted by precinct.

"That's something we're doing on a daily basis – a roll call of all the ballots that we have to make sure there's nothing misplaced or nothing is out of place," Wallace said.

Wallace said the ballots are stored in a locked vault next to his office. The process is similar at circuit clerks' offices around the state.

Mississippi does not allow widespread early voting. Instead, state law says absentee voting is available to anyone 65 or older, or for voters of any age who are permanently disabled or will be out of their home county on Election Day.

People who have to work on Election Day when polls are open also are allowed to vote absentee.

Legislators tweaked the law this year with provisions that expire at the end of 2020. Those allow absentee voting by someone with a temporary or permanent disability that may include "a physician-imposed quarantine due to COVID-19" or by a person who is "caring for a dependent that is under a physician-imposed quarantine due to COVID-19."

The general election ballot in Mississippi this year has the presidential race, one U.S. Senate race, a U.S. House race in each of the four districts and some state Supreme Court races. It also has two ballot measures dealing with medical marijuana and one that would eliminate an electoral college-type requirement in deciding races for governor and other statewide offices. Mississippi voters will also vote yes or no on a proposed new state flag that features a magnolia and the phrase, "In God We Trust."

## Another Mississippi school removing its Confederate name

The Associated Press

Confederate President Jefferson Davis's name will be removed from a school in the city where he spent his final years on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The Biloxi School District announced Monday that it will rename Jeff Davis Elementary. The *Sun Herald* reported that the district is surveying staff and parents to come up with a new name.

Options will be presented to a renaming committee of staff, parents and representatives of Keesler Air Force Base and the Biloxi community. District spokeswoman Jennifer Pyron said Superintendent Marcus Boudreaux hopes to finish the process by November.

"This is an opportunity to ensure that every student and staff member feels welcome in his or her school," Biloxi School Board president Jim Wallis said in a statement.

Elsewhere in Mississippi, the name of another Confederate figure will be removed from a school. A committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday to narrow down the list of proposed new names for an elementary school in Jackson that is currently named for Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Jackson Public Schools officials said

in 2017 that the district would remove the names of Confederate figures from schools. Lee Elementary will be named for a black leader or activist. About 96% of the school's students are black.

Davis was a U.S. senator from Mississippi before the Civil War. At the end of his life, he lived in a Biloxi home called Beauvoir, which now operates as a museum.

Jeff Davis Elementary in Biloxi was built from 1960 to 1961. Around the South, schools were often named to honor Confederate figures during the 1950s and 1960s, as a way of demonstrating opposition to the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregated schools were unconstitutional.

The first black students arrived at Jeff Davis Elementary in August 1964. A group of black parents, led by civil rights leader Dr. Gilbert Mason, had won a victory at the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that year, which required the district to desegregate "with all deliberate speed."

Today, about 18% of Jeff Davis students are black, according to the Mississippi Department of Education. About 11% are Hispanic or Latino, 56% are white and 9% are two or more races.

## Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center establishes fully virtual Farm Management Educational Program

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center (MSFAC), an entity of the Alcorn State University Extension Program, has transitioned its Farm Management Educational Program (FMEP) for New, Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (NBFRs) to a fully-virtual format in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The first set of modules, offered June 1-July 3, 2020, provided participants with insight on Farm Fundamentals of Livestock and Vegetable Production; Financial Management; Marketing; Food Safety, and available USDA programs and services. The current module, Farm Business Plan Development, is being offered July 23-November 27 and provides individuals with educational resources to generate and implement a feasible farm plan.

Federally funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), the FMEP is currently in its second year of implementation at Alcorn State University. During Year One, participants had an opportunity to attend face-to-face workshops featuring hands-on demonstrations and

activities. Due to COVID-19, year two participants were unable to attend in-person trainings. Still, they were given the opportunity to enroll in Farm Fundamentals, a five-week course administered through Canvas, an online learning management system. Participants who completed year one and two modules are currently enrolled in the Farm Business Plan Development module.

Within its first year, FMEP provided educational training and hands-on demonstrations to 513 participants. According to MSFAC personnel, 148 NBFRs signed up for the online course this summer, and 100 participants successfully completed it.

As stated by Elizabeth Myles, associate director, MSFAC, the center is staffed with talented individuals who all worked together to make this training possible.

Velma Oliver, farm management/loan specialist, was instrumental in collaborating with the Center for Information Technology Systems (CITS) to develop the online course. Charlotte Dailey, project assistant, was helpful in working with the Office of Land-Grant Communications to create flyers and press

releases, as well as in managing online recruitment of new applicants. Patrina Leonard, outreach coordinator, engaged in online recruitment through email and database management. She was also essential in developing a listserv to keep track of program participants.

"This was such a unique and innovative way to connect with our farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Myles. "I am excited about an even greater turnout for future projects. Other small farmers will surely find this type of online training both convenient and engaging."

"I was highly impressed with our year two participants," said Oliver. "This training had a huge impact on individuals that were new to online learning. 44% of participants were over the age of 55. They are now working on their individual or family farm business plans."

In the future, FMEP plans to continue to connect NBFRs with financial resources, and further assist them in implementing their farm plans.

For more information, contact Dailey at 601.877.6449 or [cdailey@alcorn.edu](mailto:cdailey@alcorn.edu).

## State history, civil rights museums to open free on Sundays

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Effective Thursday, October 1, the Museum of Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum will add new Sunday hours to its regular hours of operation. In addition, all Sundays will be free days at the museums from noon to 4 p.m.

Safety precautions at the museums include requiring all visitors

to wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines. Masks are available on-site.

All public spaces are sanitized and thoroughly cleaned throughout the day. Staff are on-site to ensure that social distancing guidelines are maintained.

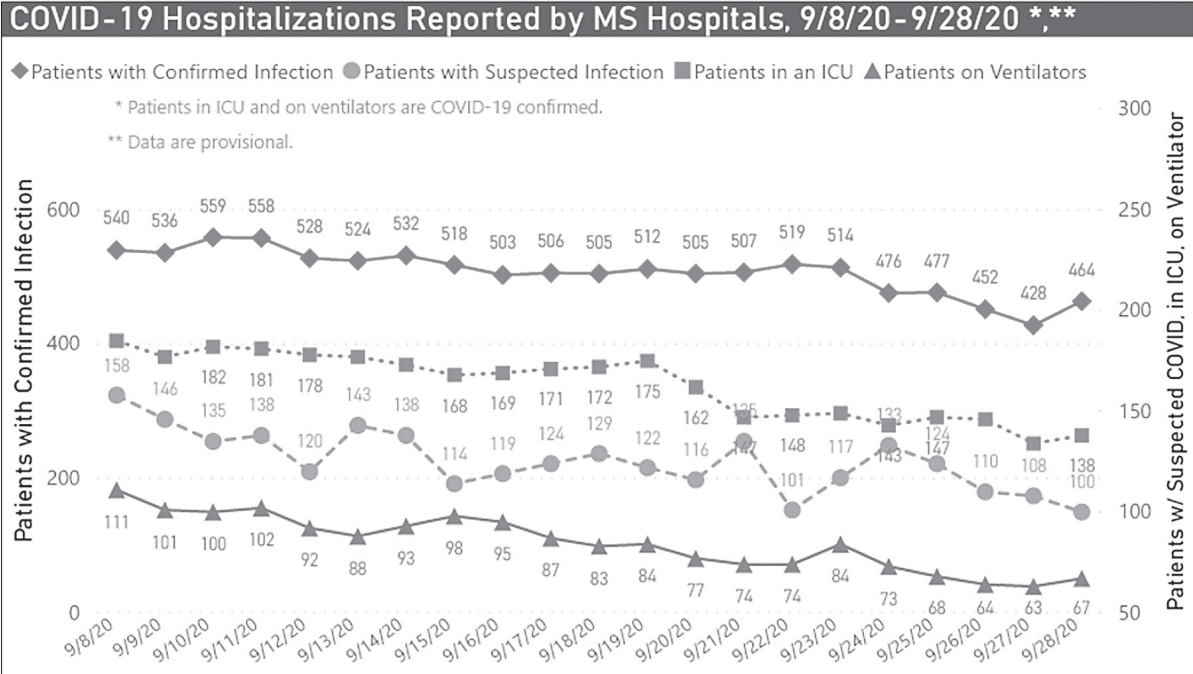
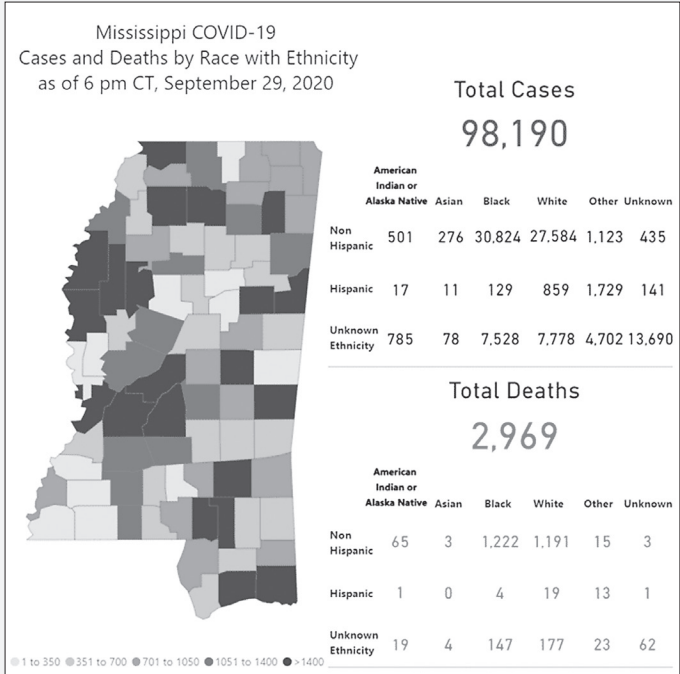
A limited number of visitors are allowed inside the museums at one time.

Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Visitors are encouraged to purchase their tickets online at [tickets.mdah.ms.gov](https://tickets.mdah.ms.gov). The maximum number of people per group is twenty.

The museums are located at 222 North Street in Jackson.

For more information email [info@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:info@mdah.ms.gov).

### MISSISSIPPI COVID-19 UPDATE



# To mask or not to mask

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The CDC recommends using a mask as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice. This preventative method is called source control. This is based on what we know about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Clinical and laboratory studies show masks will reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth.

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another. Masks are particularly important where people are close to each other or where social distancing is difficult to maintain. You also have to remember people who do not have symptoms and do not know that they are infected can spread COVID-19. We should treat ourselves and everyone else as if we are all infected.

That's why everyone should wear masks in public settings and practice social distancing. Even after we have a vaccine we will still need to wear a mask. The wearing of a mask is not going away anytime soon.

The CDC doesn't recommend mask with valves. Remember the purpose of your masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. Masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material. This can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. If you wear this type of mask it will not prevent



the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19.

The CDC recommendations for wearing a mask:

- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent

The CDC recommendations for removing a mask:

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops

- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corner together
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.

Your masks should be washed regularly. It is very important to always remove masks correctly and wash your hands after handling or touching a used mask.

The CDC recommendations for cleaning your mask:

- You can include your mask with your regular laundry.
- Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the mask.
- Washing by hand

- Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection. Some bleach products, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing, may not be suitable for disinfection.

- Use bleach containing 5.25%-8.25% sodium hypochlorite. Do not use a bleach product if the percentage is not in this range or is not specified.

- Ensure the bleach product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Ensure adequate ventilation.
- Prepare a bleach solution by mixing 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) of 5.25% -8.25% bleach per gallon of room temperature water or 4 teaspoons of

5.25%-8.25% bleach per quart of room temperature water

- Soak the mask in the bleach solution for 5 minutes.
- Discard the bleach solution down the drain and rinse the mask thoroughly with cool or room temperature water.
- Make sure to completely dry the mask after washing. If you use a dryer use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry. If you air dry your mask lay it flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place the mask in direct sunlight.

CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks. A face shield is primarily used for eye

protection for the person wearing it. Your face shield should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend below the chin. Wash your hands before and after removing your face shield and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth when removing it. If you use a disposable face shields you should only wear it for a single use and disposed of it according to your manufacturer's instructions. All reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use according to your manufacturer's instructions. Your face shield should be discarded if damaged.

Other protective eyewear can shield your eyes such as safety glasses, trauma glasses. Protective eyewear with gaps between glasses and the face will not protect eyes from all splashes and sprays.

When manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfecting your face shield or protective eyewear are unavailable, the CDC recommends:

- While wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield or goggles using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent solution or cleaner wipe.

- Carefully wipe the outside of the face shield or goggles using a wipe or clean cloth saturated with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant solution.

- Wipe the outside of face shield or goggles with clean water or alcohol to remove residue.

- Fully dry (air dry or use clean absorbent towels).

- Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

Mask are a necessity at this time in our life. Wear them for everyone's safety.

# Millennial Money: Try touchless payment to avoid dirty money

By Gregory Karp  
NerdWallet

If you're looking for a self-improvement task in this pandemic era, try teaching yourself to use contactless payments with your phone or "tap-to-pay" credit and debit cards.

Any germaphobe will tell you that the surfaces of bills and coins have always been gross. And handing your credit card to a cashier who has the sniffles and a hacking cough? Even in pre-pandemic times, also gross.

Now, COVID-19 has prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to advise using touchless payments whenever possible in the brick-and-mortar world.

Americans have been relatively slow to adopt touch-free payments even though they're more convenient and secure than swiping credit and debit cards. But maybe hygiene will be the tipping point as people seek a solution for, well, yucky money.

"I think the pandemic is a strong impetus to change," said Jodie Kelley, CEO of the Electronic Transactions Association. "I think it's going to stick and accelerate further. As people get used to it and understand how to do it and find that it's simple and convenient, then they're not going to shift back."

Consumer interest in contactless payments has spiked during the pandemic.

Since January, no-touch payments have increased at 69% of retailers surveyed by the research firm Forrester on behalf of the National Retail Federation. And two-thirds of retailers surveyed now accept some form of no-touch payment.

Learning to use contactless payments might be awkward at first, and some of your favorite retailers might not be equipped to accept them. The point is to give it a shot the next time you're not in a rush in a checkout line that can handle contactless payments.

"The first time I went to pay with my phone, I didn't quite know how to do it," Kelley said. "I felt a little silly trying to figure it out. But once I figured it out, I loved it."

As people try to return to normal and encounter in-person payment terminals more regularly, here are three ways to experiment with contactless payments and avoid dirty currency and much-touched payment terminals.

## Tap To Pay

True, the word "tap" doesn't exactly scream contactless. But "tap to pay" credit and debit cards really only need to be within a couple of inches of the payment terminal. The cards have little antennas inside.

How to tell if your payment card has contactless capability? It will have a logo that looks like a sideways Wi-Fi symbol of radiating waves. Retail payment terminals that accept contactless payments have the same symbol.

These cards don't require a smartphone to complete a contactless payment, and you don't have to use a PIN. Nine of the top 10 U.S. credit card issuers are actively distributing new contactless cards to customers, Visa has said.

"For people who are not used to engaging with technology, I would say first look at your card, see if it has the symbol. And if it does, the next time you're at a retail location, all you have to do is touch that card to the terminal," Kelley said. "It is incredibly straightforward. I encourage people to try it."

## Smartphone Payments

With this option, you call up your wallet app and hold your phone near the terminal, and your phone will ask for authentication. That's the normal unlocking procedure with your phone, whether punching in a code or using thumbprint or face identification. Many smartwatches work, too, as long

as they have the required technology, called NFC, or near-field communication. The most popular services are Apple Pay, Google Pay and Samsung Pay.

Phone payments require a little prep work before you get to the checkout counter. First, you must enter your payment card information into your mobile wallet app. Then, the card is saved and available to use.

## Touchless Pay At The Pump

Many retailers have mobile apps that let you pay on your phone and bypass in-person payment completely. In those cases, you typically would get items delivered or visit the store for curbside or in-store pickup.

Another way to use a retail app is at major gas station chains. The apps (download them at an app store) let you identify which pump number you're at, then authorize you to use it. You fill your tank with gas, and the charge goes to whatever payment method you identified in the gas-station app.

Just be sure to clean your hands after using the pump nozzle.

## Is It Secure?

As you beam your next payment to a retailer's checkout terminal, you might wonder, "Will I have my credit card number stolen?"

The nontechnical answer is that it's safer than the old method of swiping your card. That's because the card or phone sends encrypted payment information to the terminal – it essentially masks your real credit card number. Even if the payment information was intercepted, it would be useless to a thief.

"It's an incredibly safe way to pay," Kelley said.

These days, in more ways than one.

*This column was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet. Gregory Karp is a writer at NerdWallet. Email: gkarp(at)nerdwallet.com. Twitter: (at)spendingsmart.*

# Milwaukee pastor who survived COVID-19 is now helping others

By Bridget Fogarty  
Associated Press

Greg Lewis isn't used to slowing down. He's usually focused on helping others.

Lewis serves as the assistant pastor at St. Gabriel's Church of God In Christ and is the founding president of Pastors United and Souls to the Polls. Both are Milwaukee-based groups that organize hundreds of faith leaders who are seeking solutions to the issues impacting black residents and strengthening civic engagement in their congregations.

Yet as the coronavirus hit Milwaukee in March and both of his organizations began working to meet the community's needs remotely, the 62-year-old began to develop a strong cough. Then he started getting chills and his body ached.

His doctor treated him for bronchitis, but he only felt worse after a couple of days on antibiotics. Lewis couldn't eat, drink or taste anything, and he felt so fatigued he could barely walk from his bedroom to the kitchen across the hall.

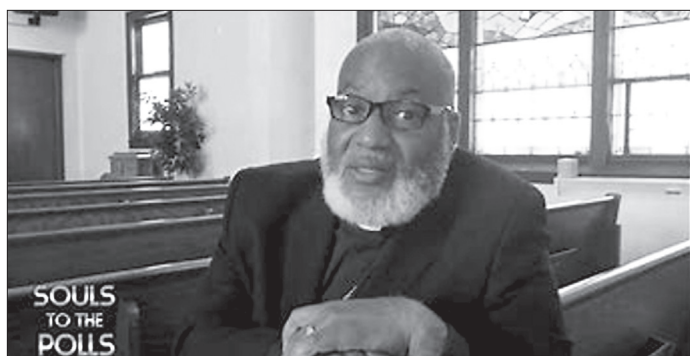
When he finally took his temperature, it was about 104 degrees. He went to get tested for COVID-19, and his results came back as he had feared — p

That sent him in a downward spiral," said Annette Lewis, the pastor's wife who works as a manager for the City of Milwaukee. "All we could do is make sure he gets rest."

Though she felt sick as well, she took care of her husband around the clock for about two weeks. One day, as he lay in bed, something didn't feel right to him.

"It was like a bright light in my room," Lewis said. "And I looked up at my wife and said, 'Baby, I'm dying.'"

Lewis was rushed to Froedtert Hospital's intensive



Lewis

care unit. As he lay in the hospital bed, doctors stood outside his room to avoid contracting COVID-19 and began asking him the unimaginable: Did he have his personal affairs in order? If he became unconscious, would he want to be resuscitated?

"I couldn't move," Lewis said. "I was dying — and I knew it. And now I know what it feels like to die a slow death, 'cause that's what that COVID does to some of us."

As Lewis endured the next three days in the ICU, Annette waited to hear if her husband was dead or alive. She finally received a call from Greg on the third day — he was in stable condition and moving from the ICU to a floor with other coronavirus victims. Doctors discovered Lewis, who has Type 2 diabetes, had bronchitis, pneumonia and infected lungs — and COVID-19 had exacerbated all of that, leaving him unable to breathe without a ventilator.

He spent the next three days on his stomach to increase oxygen to his lungs and was awakened frequently to receive a shot of insulin for his diabetes and antibiotics for the other conditions. On the fourth day, he was finally able to go home and continue his recovery with Annette's aid.

"Even though I wasn't feeling the best, I still had a strong will to take care of me and him," she said.

Now, Lewis is healthier but still feeling lingering effects of COVID-19 on his respiratory system. "I know if I'm trying to preach, and I'm starting to get really excited, I have to stop because I'll cough a lot," he said.

He said he'll tell his survival story to anybody who will listen and wants people to know that what happened to him could happen to them or their loved ones.

"That virus is real, and people don't understand it," he said. "They keep thinking that they don't need to wear masks or protect themselves from it. But I can guarantee you — if you went through what I went through, you'd understand how deadly that virus is."

As he doesn't know when he first came in contact with the virus, he believes there's no such thing as being too careful.

"I don't think you need to apologize for believing that you have to be a certain distance from one another, or have a mask on," he said. "All it needs is to get one little droplet. That's all it needs, and it's over, you've got it ... that's how infectious that virus is."

Lewis is back to what he does best: lifting up his community through faith, organizing and civic engagement.

"He's invested in the people," said Pastor Mose A. Fuller, the vice president of Pastors United, who calls Lewis a true community organizer and "the

hardest working pastor in the community."

Through Lewis's leadership, Pastors United created programs that help residents in congregations across the city focus on building their credit to overcome the financial barriers to homeownership. According to Fuller, the organization has helped 32 families move into homes.

With Souls to the Polls, he's organizing a voting bloc of Milwaukeeans who work to fight voter suppression and make the election process more accessible on Nov. 3.

And "it's not just about voting," he said. The group will continue fighting after the election to ensure the issues impacting their communities are addressed by officials.

Faith communities have changed since COVID-19 hit Milwaukee in March, Lewis said. Even though the city's current reopening phase allows churches to host in-person services with certain safety guidelines, people don't show up.

"It's devastating" not to share fellowship as they once could, he said. Elderly church members — whose ages put them at a higher risk of health complications with the coronavirus — avoid gatherings, sometimes opting to attend virtual services instead.

Lewis knows people in his own congregation who have contracted the coronavirus. Four of his friends died from it while he was in the ICU.

Yet through the challenging past six months, Lewis's faith hasn't dwindled. Surviving COVID-19 has re-energized him to continue his work.

*The nonprofit news outlet Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service provided this article to The Associated Press through a collaboration with Institute for Nonprofit News.*

## P R E S E R V E D

# The All-American Protest: Christianity and Black Lives

By Shewanda Riley  
Columnist



"Nobody can change the past Which is why revolutions exist," says my mother. "I reply" is a conversation that Alice Walker mentioned having with her mother in her book *In Search of Our Mother's Garden*. Though published over 30 years ago, these words perfectly explain recent protests over social justice issues like police brutality and police killing of unarmed blacks. From Colin Kaepernick's kneeling for the "Star Spangled Banner" to the multi-city protests against excessive violence by police, the protests are linked together by the unique thread of revolution that connects all of us as Americans.

Like Walker acknowledged, those who are marching and protesting social oppression and injustice recognize that change comes through revolutionary action and not just dialogue.

As Christians, rather than sit on the sidelines and critique them, we should learn from the passion and energy of the protestors. Without regard to how it may personally impact them, they sacrifice for a cause in which they believe. How many Christians can say that we have that same kind of passion about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ?

I wrote portions of this column a few years ago trying to process difficult emotions after the death of Tamir Rice. Revisiting the column 5 years later, I realize that the same emotions (shock, disappointment, anxiety, anger, frustration and hopelessness) remain, especially after the recent non-indictment of the Louisville, Kentucky police officers who murdered Breonna Taylor. And to be perfectly honest, wading through each of those emotions and trying to get to a place of peace remains chal-

lenging.

Yet, dealing with each of those emotions (sometimes at the same time) brings me back to a scripture that might provide an answer on how to deal with these horrible injustices. James 2:14-17 focuses on the importance of having an active faith. In fact, verse 17 admonishes that "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

So, what does faith have to do with social justice issues and African-American communities? Everything. Faith that doing something could possibly change the obviously inequitable system is the spark that has ignited the last few weeks of protests. Faith also is the foundation for what has historically been the place of greatest and most transformative movements: the African-American church. As expected, many pastors are serving as bridge builders between their communities and local law enforcement officials as they try to bring peace to these troubled areas.

Faith in action is voting on Election Day. Faith in action is running for office and changing unfair laws.

Breonna Taylor is one on a growing long list of names of African-American women that have been killed for no reason by police. They represent a shameful truth that the United States is once again forced to deal with. After decades of skirting the issues, it seems like America is being forced to confront police brutality, over policing of minority communities and blatant apathy concerning the death of African-American women.

*Shewanda Riley is a Fort Worth, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving from Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email preservedby-purpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.*

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# WAKE UP

H Ralph Samuels Jr.

WAKE UP people and smell the coffee  
don't drink the "stupid juice!"  
Close your ears to lying rhetoric  
Seek for wisdom and the truth

A lot of things are going on  
and my friends we must beware  
of the motives behind the actions  
by the ones who say they care

Now when we look at this election  
and the people who are running  
Please notice a celebrity is on the ballot  
Don't you find that pretty stunning?

Now, every citizen has a right  
to qualify as a candidate  
even if there are 'concerns'  
about their present mental state

It just seemed not long ago  
That he and another candidate were buddies  
So does he really want the office?  
This whole thing is messy and muddy

Cause confusion, create division  
watch out for ought right 'gloats'  
Voter suppression even scare tactics  
anything to split the vote

This is just a simple warning  
and we all must be on guard  
cause finding truth in these tough times,  
without God is pretty hard

We must stay current on the issues  
ask more questions, get information  
Don't waste your vote just on a name  
no matter what the reputation

In the world of politics  
there's not a perfect prescription  
Let's make sure we know the platforms  
Pray and then vote your conviction

See this is how democracy works  
it ain't all peaches and cream  
sometimes there will be nightmares  
as we actualize "The Dream"

There are some serious issues  
on all sides of the ticket  
Some seem honest and true  
others are ungodly and wicked

There are problems and contentions  
From a biblical view of sight  
Hypocrisy, deception and evil conniving  
in the name of God and that ain't right

Now, please don't get me wrong  
There are individuals on all sides  
who are moral and decent people  
in whom God's spirit lives and abides

They are fighting everyday  
trying to do what's just and fair  
They put service before themselves  
because they really and truly care

We must make sure that we pray  
"God give them strength and help them stand  
with integrity, conviction and love  
cause the devil opposes on every hand"

I pray that we will reassess  
why we vote the way we do  
Is it because we've been deceived  
or do we really know the truth?

There is only "one" platform  
that gets an A+ 'cross the board  
It's the one where God is Sovereign  
and where Jesus Christ is Lord

So as we move toward November 3rd,  
don't succumb to what's corrupt;  
Stay vigilant and sober minded  
and by all means let's all WAKE UP.

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'The Name Inspires The Pen'

# How student-athletes can honor Dr. King's legacy and manifest change in this country

By Harry C. Alford  
and Kay DeBow  
*National Black Chamber of Commerce*



Wednesday, August 26,  
was one of the most wide-  
spread days of sports activ-  
ism that the nation has ever  
witnessed.

The Milwaukee Bucks  
boycotted Game 5 of their  
playoff series against the Orlando Magic,  
refusing to come out of the locker room.  
Two other NBA playoff games were post-  
poned. WNBA players opted out of play-  
ing their regularly scheduled games and  
five MLS matches were called off. Three  
MLB games were postponed, NHL play-  
ers called on the league to do more and  
several NFL teams canceled practice. Pro-  
fessional tennis player, Naomi Osaka, sat  
out a semifinal match.

These professional athletes are forgoing  
the highest revenue earning games of the  
year. Why?

These athletes are expressing their anger  
and exhaustion from seeing another black  
man being shot by police – this time tak-  
ing place in Wisconsin with seven shots  
in the back, while his three children were  
inside the car. Jacob Blake is still alive,  
paralyzed from the waist down.

Our Nation is in pain. We are in pain for  
Jacob Blake, his family, and his commu-  
nity. We are also in pain for George Floyd,  
Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Philando  
Castile, Rayshard Brooks, Eric Garner and  
many others whose mere skin color was  
a weapon. But the boycotts this week are  
not just about the pain brought on by the  
recent abuses of power, police brutality  
and murder of African-Americans. They  
are about the pain brought on by hundreds  
of years of oppression and discrimination.  
Athletes have seen this before, have taken  
action, and hoped there would be answers.

Yet, history is resembling the present.  
ESPN's Elle Duncan tweeted:

"We've only ever seen NBA players  
boycott a game ONCE. It was an exhibi-  
tion game in 1961 and Bill Russell with a

handful of other Celtics sat out in protest  
of racial injustice...the fact we are still  
doing this 50 years later for the SAME  
THING should be incredibly telling."

The 57th anniversary of the historic  
March on Washington, where Dr. Martin  
Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have A  
Dream" speech occurred this year. King  
called for civil and economic rights and an  
end to racism in the United States. King's  
speech has lasting power. The speech  
played an "important role in helping pass  
the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and the pivotal  
Selma to Montgomery march that he led  
in 1965 would provide momentum for the  
passage later that year of the Voting Rights  
Act," according to a *New York Times* ar-  
ticle published in 2013.

In the historic speech, King exclaimed,  
"We cannot walk alone. And as we walk,  
we must make the pledge that we shall  
march ahead. We cannot turn back." The  
time is now for athletes, particularly the  
University of Maryland sports teams, to  
take a collective stand to fight racism and  
social injustices.

Below are two actionable ways that  
Terps sports programs can honor King's  
legacy:

## Display Representation

Representation matters. Teams track  
which high schools and states players  
come from, but not racial demographics.  
Teams should start tracking the diversity  
of its athletes dating back from the pro-  
grams' beginning. The data, names, and  
overlying images, can be displayed on  
the team webpage and in the locker room.  
Had we not seen images of black lacrosse  
players from the 80s, then we might not  
have played in College Park. Think of  
how many athletes are walled out from  
considering Maryland because they can't  
envision themselves playing there. You  
can't be what you can't see.

## Have An Antiracist Mindset

Antiracism should be one of the goals of  
the team in the locker room. As Ibram X.  
Kendi, director of the Center for Antira-  
cist Research at Boston University, notes

in his book *How to Be an Antiracist*, "it's  
not enough to simply be "not racist." "The  
opposite of 'racist' isn't 'not racist,'" he  
writes. "It is 'antiracist.'" Coaching staff  
should partake in a form of antiracism  
training that can surface implicit bias  
and cultural problems. After successful  
implementation, training could become a  
requirement for the existing team and all  
incoming freshmen thereafter. We bring  
our histories with us. By knowing where  
we come from and who we represent can  
be a winning strategy.

Other steps towards realizing King's  
dream can include:

**Advocacy** – support local and national  
initiatives that push for change in favor of  
antiracist and anti-discrimination policies.

**Mentorship** – continued involve-  
ment with organizations that support  
black youth such as Next One Up, Prince  
George's County Lacrosse and Harlem  
Lacrosse.

**Inclusive Hiring** – interview ethnic-mi-  
nority candidates for coaching and senior  
operation jobs when there are vacancies.

**Alliance Groups** – Alumni, across  
teams and genders, could remain in soli-  
darity after graduation and the black voic-  
es can collectively address issues facing  
current athletes.

There are so many black student groups  
on campus. Rather than reinventing the  
wheel for things like advocacy or divers-  
ity training, Maryland athletics could work  
with the cultural center, office of diversity  
and inclusion, or other organizations on  
campus to create a sense of community.

Athletes hold more power than many  
realize – intersecting industries, the econ-  
omy, and culture. The powerless defense  
underestimates athletes and overestimates  
ownership. Many professional athletes are  
boycotting games to bring people's atten-  
tion to what black people have known for  
years. Fighting for what's right does not  
exclude collegiate athletes. It's time that  
Terps take action like never before. As  
alumni, we join you in standing for change  
and peace. You won't walk alone.

# If you are African- American in America, stay vigilant

By James B. Ewers Jr.  
*President Emeritus  
Teen Mentoring Committee of Ohio*



I am in my  
home and I have  
not committed a  
crime. The same  
sentiment can be  
made about mil-  
lions of people

who share my skin color. Be-  
cause of recent events involv-  
ing African Americans, more  
anxiety has come into our dai-  
ly lives.

The last thing we need is  
more anxiety because we al-  
ready have high blood pres-  
sure, diabetes and heart dis-  
ease in high numbers.

With the killings of Ahmaud  
Arbery, Breonna Taylor and  
George Floyd, injustice has  
been at our doorstep.

Last week after an agonizing  
six months, the state of Ken-  
tucky finally ruled on the death  
of Breonna Taylor. The city of  
Louisville awarded the Taylor  
family 12 million dollars as a  
settlement in her death.

The financial settlement can  
be looked at in multiple ways.  
The horrific and inexcusable

way that her life was taken  
makes the money far less im-  
portant.

Does 12 million dollars  
make the six bullets fired into  
Breonna Taylor justified in any  
way? The answer is a resound-  
ing no!

On last Wednesday, the  
Kentucky grand jury's deci-  
sion was to not charge any of  
the three police officers with  
the shooting death of Breonna  
Taylor.

Justice for us in America is  
always delayed and denied.  
How can her home be riddled  
with police gun fire and no one  
be criminally charged? There  
are not any rational responses  
for these actions.

Kentucky Attorney General  
Daniel Cameron in his briefing  
said that Brett Hankison was  
the only officer charged. He  
was charged with three counts  
of wanton endangerment be-  
cause he shot into the homes  
of Breonna Taylor's neighbors.

Upon hearing Cameron's  
comments, I became instantly  
ill.

I do not know who had more  
nerve; the grand jury making

the charge or the attorney gen-  
eral reading the charge. The at-  
torney general has incurred the  
wrath of many people lately.

Attorney Benjamin Crump  
said, "Did he present any evi-  
dence on Breonna Taylor's be-  
half? Or did he make a unilat-  
eral decision to put his thumb  
on the scale of justice to help  
try to exonerate and justify the  
killing of Breonna Taylor?"

Jaylon Brown of the Boston  
Celtics said, "To be honest,  
I was not surprised. Dwayne  
Haskins of the Washington  
football team said, "We have  
to be better as a country and as  
people."

This has been a miscar-  
riage of justice. Hurt and pain  
are common themes that have  
been woven into this tapestry  
of assault and guilt.

Each day, we pledge to do  
better, but we do not. Each day,  
we say we have had enough,  
but we get more. Each day, the  
news haunts us and the televi-  
sion pictures scare us.

Derrick Johnson, president  
of the NAACP said, "You have  
a right to be angry. You have a  
right to be upset and you have

a right to fear."

When we go into the public  
square, we must look around  
and look out. Social conditions  
and health worries have made  
us leery and weary.

Those of us who wear masks  
are mocked. The POTUS said  
he could not understand a re-  
porter because he was wear-  
ing a mask. Protestors are  
maligned because they are  
marching for justice and fair-  
ness.

Hypocrisy is ruining Amer-  
ica. Men and women in our  
country's leadership say one  
thing one year and the next  
year say something entirely  
different about the same sub-  
ject. Gaslighting has become a  
tactic of the enemy.

We cannot allow wrong to  
overtake right. We cannot let  
evil overthrow good. As Con-  
gressman John Lewis said,  
"When you see something that  
is not right, not fair, not just,  
you have to speak. You have to  
say something; you have to do  
something."

America is our country. We  
will not sell out to peddlers of  
insanity.

# Report reveals alarming amount of systemic police and prosecutorial misconduct

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

On Jan. 21, 2011, former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge was sentenced to four and a half years in federal prison for perjury and obstruction of justice because he lied under oath about his use of torture to extract confessions from numerous criminal suspects, overwhelmingly black men.

Burge was fired in 1993 and was prosecuted only for lying in a civil case. He served more than four years in prison and died in 2018.

In 1987, when Ken Anderson was district attorney of Williamson County, Texas, he successfully prosecuted Michael Morton for murdering his wife, Christine.

To do so, according to a report from the National Registry of Exonerations, Anderson concealed that neighbors had seen a suspicious stranger hanging around the Mortons' house.

After the murder, while Morton was in custody, someone else attempted to use a credit card belonging to his wife and cashed a \$20 check that was in her missing purse.

Further, the Mortons' three-year-old son, who witnessed the killing, told his grandmother that "a monster" killed his mother when "Daddy was not there."

What followed was a parade of horrors, researchers said.

In 2011, DNA testing of a bandana found near the crime scene identified the actual killer. The district attorney's office had successfully resisted testing that bandana for many years. Morton spent 24 years in prison for a crime that he did not commit – a crime that was itself an unspeakable tragedy for him and his family.

The real killer went on to bludgeon another woman to death in 1988. Anderson himself was disgraced. He pled guilty to contempt of court, spent four days in jail, was disbarred, and was forced to resign from the position he later held as a judge.

While researchers of a new report released Sept. 15, said it's hard to summarize the enormity of the harm Burge and his underlings inflicted their victims, and what Anderson did, they did piece together a critical and comprehensive study on tainted cases that have only underscored why Americans – particularly black people – have lost trust in the police and prosecutors.

In the report titled, "Government Misconduct and Convicting the Innocent: The Role of Prosecutors, Police and other Law Enforcement," the National Registry of Exonerations examined more than 2,400 cases nationally which measured the role of government misconduct in wrongful convictions and how African Americans specifically suffer from those actions.

The study found that 54 percent of official misconduct involved corruption or negligence by police, prosecutors, lab workers, or other government employees.

The authors – which included researchers from the Newkirk Center for Science at the University of California, Irving, the University of Michigan Law School, and the Michigan State University College of Law – cautioned that "the tally is very likely a vast undercount of the actual number of instances in which misconduct has led to the convictions of innocent people."

They outlined that many



**"We know that prosecutors lied in court in 4 percent of exonerations. The real rate may be higher since we only count cases with clear evidence that prosecutors made statements they knew were false," the researchers noted further. PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO / NNPA**

who've been wrongly convicted – including those who pleaded guilty to low-level crimes – did not have the necessary resources or legal counsel.

Why did Ken Anderson conceal all that evidence of Michael Morton's innocence?

"We don't know. We could ask, but we wouldn't trust the answer – if any was given – and Anderson himself may no longer know if he ever did," the authors wrote.

They concluded that the most important causes of official misconduct in criminal cases are systemic, "pervasive practices that permit if not encourage bad behavior; lack of the resources needed to train, supervise and conduct high-quality investigations and prosecutions; and ineffective leadership by police commanders, crime lab directors and chief prosecutors," the authors stated.

"If these systemic problems are corrected, misconduct is less likely to occur – and when it does happen, more likely to be counteracted before innocent people are condemned."

Overall, black defendants' exonerations have a slightly higher rate of misconduct than those of white defendants, 57 percent to 52 percent.

But the differences are more significant for murder cases (78 percent to 64 percent) – especially those with death sentences (87 percent to 68 percent) – and drug crime exonerations (47 percent to 22 percent).

The study concluded that official misconduct falls into five general categories:

- Witness tampering occurred in about 17 percent of exonerations.
- Misconduct in interrogations occurred in 57 percent of all exonerations with false confessions or about 7 percent of all cases.
- Fabricating evidence happened in about 10 percent of cases, in three forms: Forensic fraud – in 3 percent of exonerations, police officers or forensic analysts lied about forensic evidence.
- Fake crimes – in 4 percent of exonerations, police planted drugs or guns on innocent suspects, or lied and said the suspects had assaulted them.
- Fictitious confessions – in about 2 percent of exonerations, officers fabricated confessions from defendants who did not confess.

At trial, misconduct occurred in about 23 percent of exonerations, about evenly divided between perjury by law enforcement officers, 13 percent, and trial misconduct by prosecutors, 14 percent (with some overlap).

Misconduct in interrogations occurred overwhelmingly in

murder cases the led to exoneration

Concealing exculpatory evidence and misconduct at trial were most common in murder cases, followed by white-collar crimes. Witness tampering was slightly more common among exonerations for child sex abuse exonerations than for murder, and fabricating evidence was several times more common among exonerations for drug crimes than for any other crime.

Concealing exculpatory evidence contributed to 44 percent of exonerees' convictions, more than any other type of official misconduct.

The rate of concealing exculpatory evidence varies by crime, from 61 percent for murder to 27 percent in child sex abuse cases.

"It is so common and widespread that it happened in 82 percent of all exonerations with any official misconduct," the researchers noted.

Prosecutors concealed exculpatory evidence in 73 percent of cases in which [exonerations] occurred.

Police concealed exculpatory evidence in 33 percent of cases where it occurred (including cases with concealing by more than one type of official), and forensic analysts did so in 6 percent.

In some portion of those exonerations, prosecutors did know about the concealed evidence. Still, the researchers stated that they knew of about 13 percent that included concealed physical objects like clothing and weapons.

The authors conceded that "this gap may in part reflect how effectively objects can be destroyed or hidden, but information may linger in electronic or physical files or the memories of people."

In 63 percent of cases with concealed exculpatory evidence, substantive evidence of the exonerees' innocence was hidden – evidence that in itself helps prove the defendant's innocence, such as an eyewitness who named another person as the criminal, the report noted.

In 80 percent of such cases, impeachment evidence that undermined testimony by prosecution witnesses was concealed – for example, evidence that a witness who identified the exoneree as a murderer told his brother he never saw the killing.

In half the exonerations with concealed exculpatory evidence, both substantive and impeachment evidence were hidden. Often, a single item of evidence serves both functions.

"Substantive evidence may sound more important, but concealing impeachment evidence that eviscerates the credibility

of a critical prosecution witness can be devastating to an innocent defendant," the authors stated.

"Predictably, law enforcement officials usually conceal their own misconduct. That's misconduct in itself, derivative concealment," they wrote.

For example, it's misconduct for an officer to plant drugs on a suspect, and it's a separate act of misconduct to conceal the officer's knowledge that the suspect is innocent.

Other notable findings in the report include:

Evidence of other official

misconduct was concealed in 26 percent of all exonerations.

Guilty pleas rather than trial verdicts obtain at least 95 percent of criminal convictions in the United States, but 80 percent of exonerations followed conviction at trial.

About 28 percent of those trials (23 percent of all exonerations) included official misconduct in court.

Perjury by all law enforcement officials occurred in 14 percent of the trials at which exonerees were convicted, or 13 percent of all exonerations (including those after guilty pleas).

In about a quarter of those cases, officials lied about forensic testing, or about things the officials themselves claimed to have witnessed the exonerees do or say.

Perjury by police officers occurred in 11 percent of trials of exonerees. In 9 percent of those trials (7 percent of all exonerations), officers lied about others' information.

Most often, police lied about the investigations' conduct, including what a witness said or how a lineup was conducted.

The most common subject of police perjury was the conduct of interrogations at which innocent defendants confessed.

"We miss a great deal of police perjury," the authors wrote.

"We rarely have access to transcripts or other detailed information about trial testimony, so we only learn about perjury

at trial if it becomes a conspicuous issue."

In 1959, the Supreme Court held that a prosecutor has a constitutional obligation to correct perjury by a state witness even if she did not herself offer the false testimony.

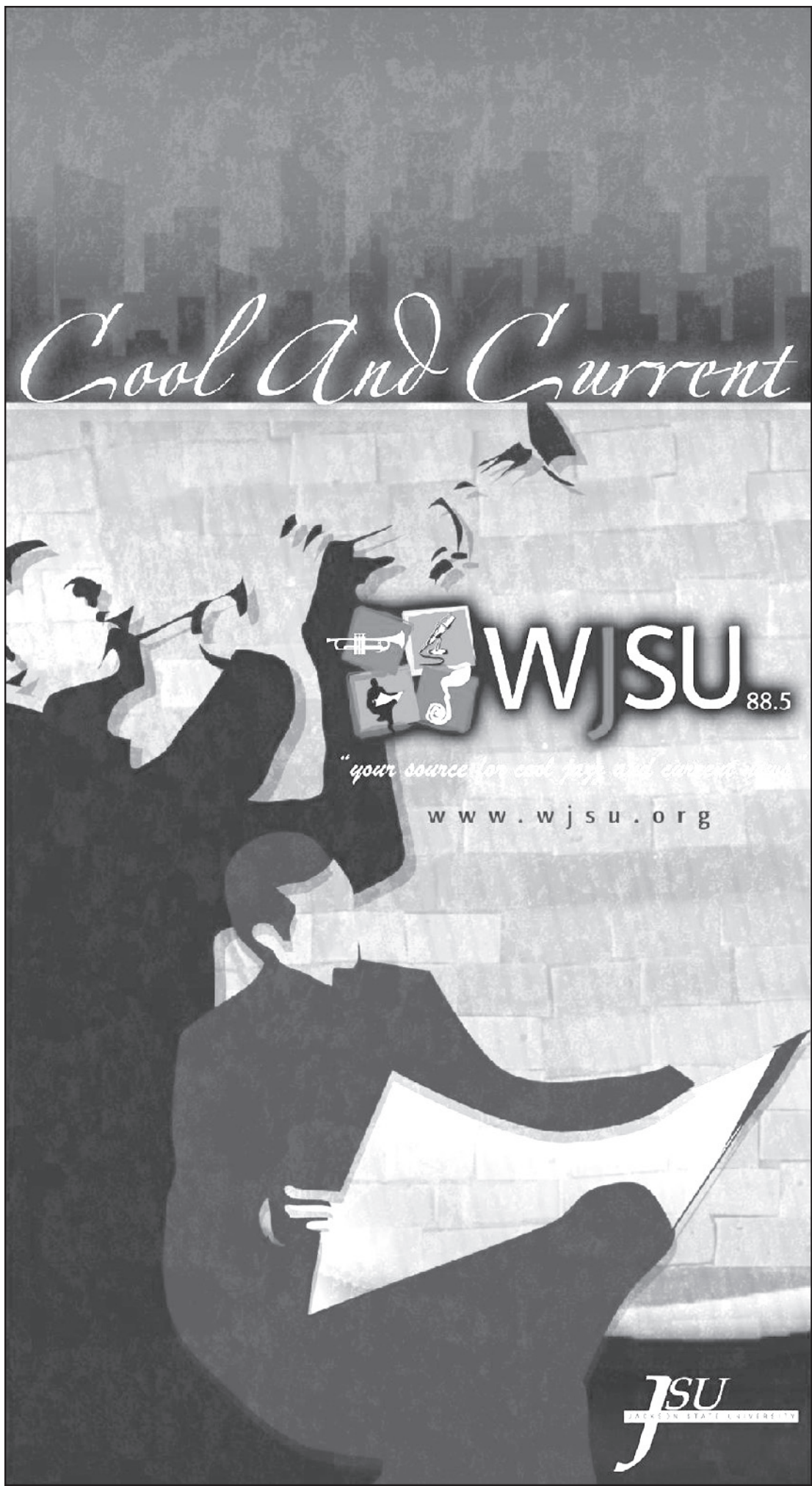
However, researchers discovered that prosecutors permitted perjury to go uncorrected in 8 percent of exonerations. In most cases, the perjury was by civilian witnesses.

The most common lies were about the favorable treatment the witnesses receive in pending criminal cases of their own.

"We know that prosecutors lied in court in 4 percent of exonerations. The real rate may be higher since we only count cases with clear evidence that prosecutors made statements they knew were false," the researchers noted further.

They said about half of lies by prosecutors were made in a closing argument with a common pattern of repeating and affirming perjury by a witness that the prosecutor knew about but failed to correct – for example, a lie by a witness who claimed to have no deal with the prosecutor.

Federal prosecutors committed misconduct in exonerations more than twice as often as police (52 percent to 20 percent), while state prosecutors committed misconduct less often than police (29 percent to 36 percent).





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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**City of Jackson**  
**Jackson, Mississippi**

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk's Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

- 38000----101320----12, Month Supply of Foods-- Dairy Products- Group IV
- 39000----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods – Fresh Produce- Group V- (Fruits/Vegetables)
- 38501----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods- Frozen/Chilled- Group IA- (Breads & Desserts)
- 38502----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods-- Frozen/Chilled- Group IB- (Fruits/Vegetables)
- 38542----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods---- Frozen/Chilled- Group IC- (Meats/Meat Products)
- 38343----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods-- Canned/Dry- Group IIA- (Breads, Cereals, Desserts & Fruit Juices)
- 38346----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods-- Canned/Dry- Group IIB- (Breads, Cereals, Desserts & Fruit Juices)
- 39348----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods- Condiments- Group III
- 39331----101320-----12, Month Supply of Foods—Baby Food

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT [HYPERLINK WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV](#)

Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [HYPER-LINK www.centralbidding.com](#),bids are also available at [HYPERLINK www.centralbidding](#) or for assist call 225-810-4814

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, and Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson's EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City's EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, and Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City's intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Destiney Williams; Purchasing Manager  
Purchasing Division  
(601) 960-1533 or 1025

9-24-2020, 10-1-2020

LEGAL

Advertisement for Bids

Sealed bids will be received by the City Clerk of Jackson, Mississippi, at 219 S. President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 or at Post Office Box 17, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 until 3:30 PM local time, Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

The demolition and cleaning of parcel 190-44 located at 215 West Pearl Street

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and or conduct business in the City, to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan, with the bid submission, in accordance with the provisions of the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at 601-960-1055. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the program are available at 200 South President Street, Room 223, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Contract Documents may be obtained from and/or examined at the offices of the Community Improvement Division located at 200 S. President Street, Suite 331, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Telephone 601.960.1054. Prospective bidders may obtain copies of all materials required for bidding purposes. There is NO charge for electronic or e-mail copies. Official bid documents can be downloaded from Central Bidding at [www.centralbidding.com](#). Electronic bids can be submitted at [www.centralbidding.com](#). For any questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.

Bid preparation will be in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities in respect to any bid submitted or to accept any proposal which is deemed most favorable to the City of Jackson.

by:  
LaTonya Miller, Manager  
Community Improvement Division of Planning and Development

9-24-2020, 10-1-2020

LEGAL

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR QUALIFICATIONS**  
**AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**  
**BY THE**  
**JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**  
**FOR SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTRALIZED SECURITY**  
**CHECKPOINT PROJECT**  
**AT THE**  
**JACKSON-MEDGAR WILEY EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT JMAA**  
**PROJECT NUMBER 005-20**

The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority ("JMAA") requests Statements of Qualifications and Expressions of Interest (each, a "Statement of Qualifications") to provide engineering design and construction administration services (the "Services") to JMAA in connection with the Centralized Security Checkpoint Project, JMAA Project No. 005-20 at the Jackson- Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport ("JAN").

JMAA will receive sealed electronic or printed submissions only. All submissions of Statement of Qualifications to perform the Services will be accepted until Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 4:00 pm (CST) (the "Deadline"). Electronic submissions are to be submitted via email to [bids@jmaa.com](#). JMAA will also receive electronic or printed submissions, delivered by hand delivery or mail service, up to the Deadline at JMAA's administrative offices, Suite 300, Main Terminal Building, Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport, 100 International Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39208.

JMAA will not consider any Statement of Qualifications received after the Deadline for any reason whatsoever. Information for Respondents relating to this Request for Statement of Qualifications ("RFQ") is on file and open for public inspection at the offices of JMAA. The Information for Respondents contains a copy of the RFQ, General Information for Respondents, Information Required from Respondents, and Criteria for Selection.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the Information for Respondents from JMAA by contacting Chad G Parker, JMAA Director of Procurement, as follows:

Jackson Municipal Airport Authority  
100 International Drive, Suite 300 (39208)  
Post Office Box 98109  
Jackson, Mississippi 39298-8109  
Attention: Chad G Parker, Director of Procurement Telephone No.: (601) 939-5631, ext 516  
Facsimile No.: (601) 939-3713  
E-Mail: [cparker@jmaa.com](#)

or from JMAA's website at <https://jmaa.com/corporate/partner-with-us/procurement/>

JMAA will hold a Pre-Submission Conference via video conferencing on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm (CST). Here is the information needed to access the Pre-Submission Conference:

Link: <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/4056382> |  
Dial In Number: (312) 584-2401 | Extension: 4056382

Attendance at the Pre-Submission Conference is highly recommended for all those interested in submitting a Statement of Qualifications as a Prime Consultant for the work and persons seeking opportunities to provide work as a Sub-Consultant. The benefits of attendance include networking opportunities between Prime Consultant and Sub-Consultants, the opportunity to be on a list of contacts that will be published to interested parties as part of the minutes from the Pre-Submission Conference, and the opportunity to receive detailed scope related information from the project owner.

After evaluation in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFQ, JMAA will initiate negotiations with the Respondent ranked first on the list. If such negotiations fail to produce an agreement, in form and content, satisfactory to JMAA, within a reasonable period of time, then JMAA may reject the first-ranked Respondent. In that event, JMAA will follow the same process with the other Respondents, in the order of their ranking, until a Respondent agrees to and enters into an agreement satisfactory to JMAA. JMAA reserves the right to request a demo from respondents as part of the evaluation.

JMAA reserves the right to: (1) reject any and all Statement of Qualifications, for any reason, any time before execution of a contract with a Respondent selected by JMAA to perform the Services.

The DBE participation goal will be identified in the Request for Proposal phase of this solicitation. JACKSON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

10-1-2020, 10-8-2020

LEGAL

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**City of Jackson**  
**Jackson, Mississippi**

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- 93684-101320 RFP 36 –Month Maintenance & Repair of City Towers

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT [WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV](#) AND [WWW.CENTRALBIDDING.COM](#)

The above must comply with the City's specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, and Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

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9-24-2020, 10-1-2020

LEGAL

**Notice of Sale**  
**Abandoned Vehicle**

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

1998 MITS MIRAGE JA3AY26AXWU021768  
Registered to Davis, Latoya R.  
Titlemax of Mississippi , Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: October 9, 2020  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

9-24-2020, 10-1-2020, 10-8-2020

LEGAL

**Notice of Sale**  
**Abandoned Vehicle**

Notice of Sale is hereby given in accordance with the Mississippi Statutes governing the sale of abandoned motor vehicles that the following vehicle will be sold for repair and storage charges and for cost of this sale.

2011 Silverado CHEV Pickup 3GPCSE06BG319444  
Registered to Carter, Otha  
Exeter Finance LLC, Lien Holder  
Date of Sale: October 9, 2020  
Place of Sale: Archie Towing Services; 6700 Medgar Evers Blvd., Jackson, MS 39213

Sellers reserve the right to bid on the above property and to reject any and all bids. Time: 10:00 A.M.

9-24-2020, 10-1-2020, 10-8-2020

LEGAL

**ADVERTISEMENT TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (HCV) & PROJECT BASED VOUCHER (PBV) PROGRAM**

The Jackson Housing Authority (JHA) will begin accepting applications for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, Project Based Voucher Keystone Estates (3 bedroom, 2 bath single family units), and Project Based Voucher Golden Key Apartments (elderly or disabled) Programs effective October 9, 2020. The waiting list for the Public Housing Program is currently closed.

The PBV program is designed to assist low-income families, the elderly, and disabled in obtaining decent, safe, and sanitary housing. A family that is issued a Project Based Voucher is not responsible for finding a suitable housing unit. The assistance is tied to individual properties located in Jackson, MS.

Applicants must complete a separate application to be placed on the waiting list for S8 Housing Choice Voucher, Project Based Voucher Golden Key, and Project Based Voucher Keystone Estates. Applicants may apply online, or by contacting the Jackson Housing Authority to request an application by mail.

Online Application  
[Jacksonhousing.housingmanager.com](#)

Contact Jackson Housing Authority at [jha@jacksonhousing.org](#) or (601) 362-0885 ext. 1000 to request an application by mail.

Mailing Address  
Jackson Housing Authority  
P.O. Box 11327  
Jackson, MS 39283

Individuals on the Jackson Housing Authority's Public Housing Waiting List must submit a separate application if interested in the Section 8 Voucher Programs. The waiting list will remain open until further notice.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

10-1-2020 10-8-2020

LEGAL

**Electronic Bidding**  
**Advertisement for Bids**

Bid 3149 Lanier High School Building Entry Façade and Door Improvement

Sealed, written formal bid proposals for the above bid will be received by the Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District, in the Business Office, 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi, until 10:00 A.M. (Local Prevailing Time) October 28, 2020, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Pre-Bid Conferences concerning the projects for will be held at Lanier High School library, 833 West Maple Street, Jackson, MS 39203 on October 15, 2020 at 2:30 P.M. Attendance at the pre-bid conferences is non-mandatory but strongly suggested. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities, and to withhold the acceptance of any bid if approved for forty-five calendar days from the date bids are opened

Plan holders are required to register and order bid documents at [www.durrelldesign-groupplans.com](#). A\$150.00 non-refundable deposit shall be required on each set of bid documents and must be purchased through the website. All plan holders are required to have a valid email address for registration. Questions regarding website registration and online orders please contact Plan House Printing, 607 W. Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38804, (662) 407-0193. Questions regarding bid documents please contact Durrell Design Group, PLLC, 500-G East Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216, Phone: 601-708-4788, Fax: 601-398-3960., Email: [contact@durrelldesigngroup.com](#)

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**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS FOR THE FY2020 AUDIT OF THE JACKSON/HINDS LIBRARY SYSTEM**

The Jackson/Hinds Library System is soliciting proposals from qualified Certified Public Accountants to perform the library system's annual audit for the FY2020 fiscal year which ends 9/30/2020. Please submit four sealed bid proposals to be accepted by the Jackson/Hinds Library System from 11/05/20 until 3:00 PM on 11/15/20, at this address: Audit RFP Response, Jackson/Hinds Library System, Attention: Rickey Jones, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, 300 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Unsealed, late or improperly addressed bids will be disqualified. The bid opening will be conducted at 5 PM on November 15, 2020 in the Ellen Douglas Meeting Room of the Eudora Welty Library and will be open to the public. After opening the bids, they will be taken into consideration, and the lowest and best bid will be chosen by the Administrative Board of Trustees. All proposals become the property of the Jackson/Hinds Library System without obligation. The audit must be completed for the review of the library staff by March 1, 2021 and submitted to the Mississippi Library Commission no later than March 30, 2021. Work on the audit can begin as soon as a firm is selected. Questions may be directed by email to Justin Carter, Director of Finance at [jcarter@jhlibrary.org](#). All questions and answers about the bid proposal, as well as this announcement, will be posted to the website [www.jhlibrary.org](#).

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Week of September 27, 2020

# Mississippi seeks to dismiss lawsuit on elections amid COVID

By Emily Wagster Pettus  
Associated Press

Top officials in Mississippi are asking a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit that seeks to remove some limitations from the state's absentee voting process amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Secretary of State Michael Watson and Attorney General Lynn Fitch filed court papers Friday, responding to voting-rights groups that represent Mississippi residents with health conditions that could make in-person voting risky because of COVID-19.

Watson and Fitch did not deny that the pandemic is causing health risks. But the two Republicans repeatedly denied other assertions made by attorneys from the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Mississippi requires absentee ballot applications to be notarized. The state also requires most people to provide an excuse to vote absentee, such as being out of town on Election Day.

The plaintiffs are asking a judge to block those two requirements, saying those are unconstitutional. They are also asking a judge to provide a clear process

for what happens when election officials say they see inconsistencies in a voter's signature.

"Defendants admit only that Mississippi state laws establishing who is eligible to vote by absentee ballot speak for themselves," wrote a state attorney representing Watson and Fitch.

The lawsuit was filed in August on behalf of three Mississippi residents, the League of Women Voters of Mississippi and the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP. It says Mississippi election laws could force people to choose between their health and their constitutional right to vote. It also says Watson and Fitch "have failed to take necessary steps to protect Mississippi voters' fundamental right to vote despite the public health risks of voting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Mississippi does not allow widespread early voting. Instead, state law says absentee voting is available to anyone 65 or older, or to voters of any age who are permanently disabled or will be out of their home county on Election Day. People who have to work on Election Day when the polls are open also are allowed to vote absentee.

Legislators tweaked the law this year with provisions that expire at the end of 2020. Those allow absentee voting by someone with a temporary or permanent disability that may include "a physician-imposed quarantine due to COVID-19" or by a person who is "caring for a dependent that is under a physician-imposed quarantine due to COVID-19."

The lawsuit in federal court is similar to one filed in state court by the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi and the Mississippi Center for Justice, which was also brought against Watson.

The state court lawsuit says Mississippi's absentee voting law is confusing and could be applied inconsistently during the pandemic. A judge issued a statewide declaration Sept. 2 that would allow people to vote absentee if they have health conditions that could put them in extra danger because of COVID-19. The Mississippi Supreme Court reversed that decision Sept. 18, ruling that: "Having a preexisting condition that puts a voter at a higher risk does not automatically create a temporary disability for absentee-voting purposes."

## St. Andrew's student Chaun-Michael Bynoe named MCM Volunteer of the Month

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Chaun-Michael Bynoe has been recognized as an outstanding volunteer at Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) and has been named "Volunteer of the Month" for August.

Bynoe, a student at St. Andrews School, has volunteered 39 hours since July. "It means so much to me to volunteer at the Mississippi Children's Museum," Bynoe said. "Volunteering is important to me because I used to go to the museum when I was little and loved to play around with all the different exhibits. The museum is an experience like no other. It is only right that I come back and serve the place that was a big part of my childhood," Bynoe said.

"The pandemic and COVID-19 did have an impact on me volunteering just because of how serious and dangerous it can be. Especially with little children playing with different objects in the museum. However, when I saw all different safety precautions that the museum takes to protect the staff and visitors, I knew it was going to be safe," Bynoe said.

Bynoe further states it means so much to give back to community in such hard times, especially since there is so much anxiety about everything.

"I am honored to make sure the museum is safe and sanitized so families can come in and enjoy themselves. I have learned that time is so valuable, especially time with family and friends. Also, it is important to think positive and stay happy; what better place than the Mississippi Children's Museum?"

Sharon Griffin, MCM's volunteer coordinator, described Bynoe as being responsible, motivated, confident and de-


pendable, all the qualities Griffin looks for in a volunteer. "His amazing personality brings a smile to anyone he is around," added Griffin.

"My experience at the Mississippi Children's Museum has been rewarding and I look forward to volunteering for many years to come," commented Bynoe.


MCM is honored to have Chaun-Michael Bynoe serving as a volunteer and a role model for others.



Bynoe



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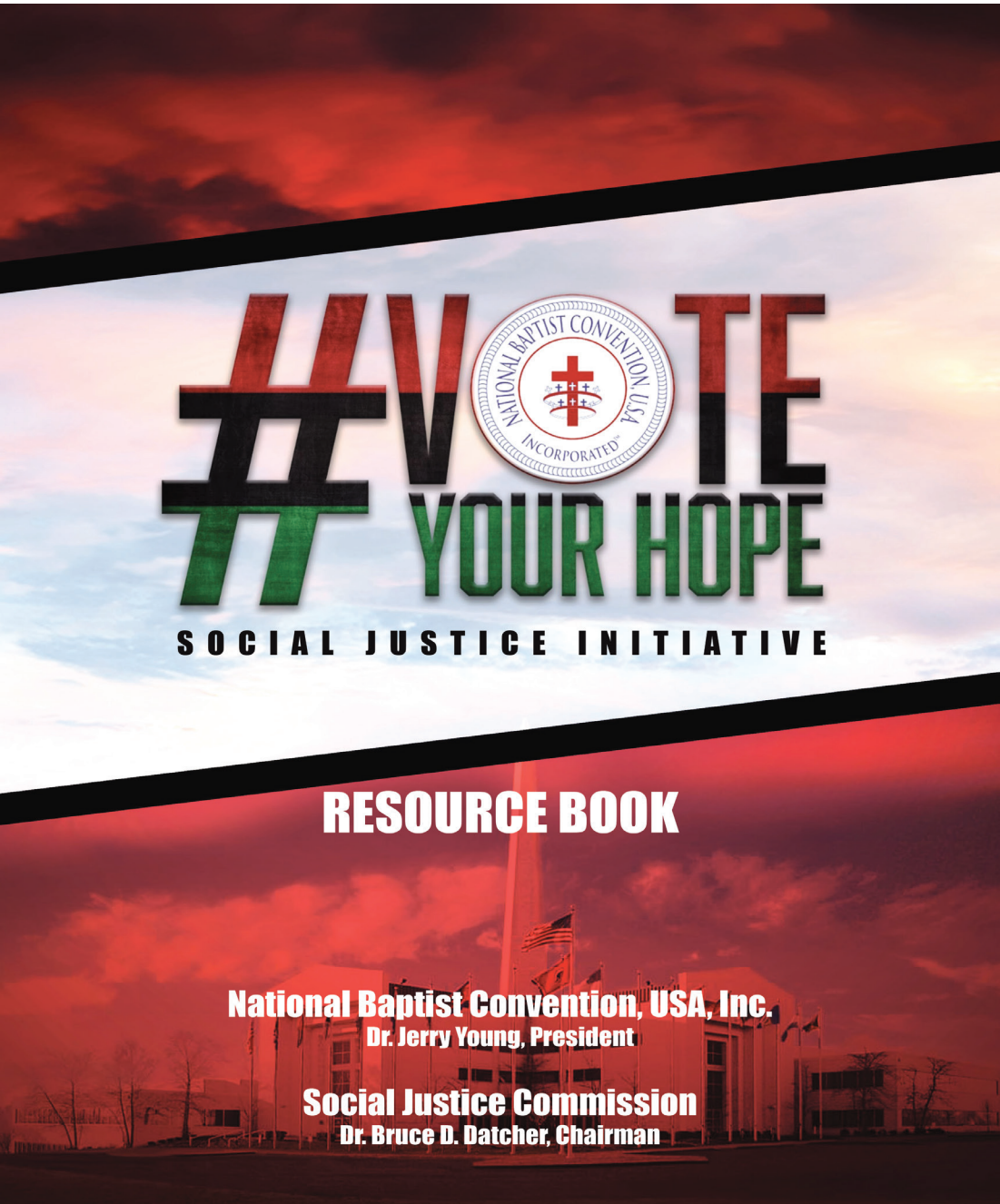
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National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. | Social Justice Commission | Dr. Bruce D. Datcher, Chairman

### Purpose Statement

This commission shall help facilitate, correlate, and disseminate to the constituent churches in an expeditious manner various information and/or data regarding all civic, social and political concerns (local, state, national, and international) deemed necessary and appropriate by the leadership of National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

This commission will provide the constituent churches with pertinent and relevant information regarding social, political and governmental issues relative to the community in general and the African American community in particular.

This commission will promote a change in policies, procedures, processes, structures, institutions, and functions to insure that they work for the common good of all mankind in recognition of the Imago Dei (the image of God).

### Social Justice Initiative 4 Areas of Concentration

I. Voter Education | 2. Voter Registration | 3. Voter Access | 4. Voter Participation

### Voter Education

**BACKGROUND**

Successful voter registration drives do not necessarily guarantee great turnout at the polls. However, the mobilization and partnering of community grassroots organizations and local churches can serve as an effective way to motivate people to vote by educating them on the political process, the candidates, and the campaign issues, particularly as they relate to their own lives. Voter education events can include the following: candidate debates, issue-based forums, flyers, email communications, and political fairs.

According to TIME Magazine, in the 2016 elections, the 102.7 million no-show voters outnumbered the 62.9 million who voted for DONALD TRUMP and the 65.8 million who voted for HILLARY CLINTON. Year after year, eligible voters choose not to engage in their civic duty for various reasons.

We believe that the “ground game” is also important in educating voters. Hence, persons should be identified in each state, particularly the swing states, who have the respect, savvy, and organizational skills to “rally the troops on the ground” with “point persons” for “certain sections” of each swing state to make sure African Americans vote in larger numbers this year, particularly in the following states: Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Mississippi. A slogan such as “With 10 We Can Win” can be beneficial in encouraging persons to register to vote and turn out to vote. Each state MUST be organized and equipped with information on the issues at hand and the candidates who are running. Therefore, local pastors and churches must be trained and instructed on procedures and methods.

The education effort includes relevant information disseminated via voter information cards, flyers, questionnaires, door-to-door canvassing, and partnering with other organizations to help raise awareness of an upcoming election and its deadlines.

Educating voters can be done through townhall meetings and candidate forums, which both present excellent opportunities for constituents to learn about a candidate’s platform.

### HOW TO EDUCATE VOTERS

Educating the electorate is the **ONLY** way to boost **VOTERS’** motivation. Turning out the **VOTE** matches the will of the people.

(1) Educate voters on local, national, and global issues.

(2) Provide voters with resources such as flyers, pamphlets, websites, five-call apps, etc.

(3) Host voter seminars and webinars to explain the voting process.

(4) Explain the concept of polling.

(5) Educate voters on the timeline for registration.

(6) Inform voters on legislators’ voting records.

(7) Make voters aware of voter’s ID laws, intimidation tactics, and resources to access for assistance.

### APPS DOWNLOADED FROM APPLE, GOOGLE & OTHER RESOURCES

(a) Five-call app - lets you know who your elected officials are

(b) Voter Helpline - having trouble at polls

(c) Vote.org - laws for all states


(d) iVote Voting - a voting reminder

(e) We Vote Ballot Guide- tells you who candidates are on the ballot

### REDEPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Political campaigns today are won or lost in the so-called ground war—the strategic deployment of teams of staffers, volunteers, and paid part-timers who work the phones and canvass block by block, house by house, voter by voter into areas that need strengthening. Suggested reading materials for this effort: “Inside the Mind of a Voter” by Michael Bruter and Sarah Harrison and “Ground Wars” by Rasmus Kleis Nielsen.

## President Jerry Young’s Perspective



Medgar Evers, the martyr and civil rights icon from Jackson, MS, once said, (from the perspective of racial and political reform), “Our only hope is to vote.” Therefore, our urgent call is to vote in numbers like never before. We must be committed to ensuring that all persons of age are not only registered to vote, but are educated, have access to, and exercise that fought for and died for right to let our voices be heard through the power of the vote. We must be informed of and involved in the political process so that we make wise decisions and elect persons who have the interest and fortitude to be men and women of moral integrity, conviction and character.

For the past three months, the Social Justice Ad Hoc Committee of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. has been actively involved in producing this resource book to provide information on voter education, voter registration and voter participation to encourage voter participation, not only on the national level but on the state, local and city levels.

## WE REALLY NEED TO VOTE OUR HOPE!

### WHEN & HOW TO VOTE & WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

A primary component of educating voters is to ensure they are well-equipped with information needed to register to vote and prior to casting a ballot.

### Voter ID Laws in Each State, Particularly in the Swing States

- For example, thirty-six states have identification requirements at the polls. (Birth certificates, passports, social security cards, etc.)
- Some states have strict photo ID laws, under which voters must present one of a limited set of forms of government-issued photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot – no exceptions.
- Voter ID laws have been estimated by the U.S. Government Accountability Office to reduce voter turnout by 2-3 percentage points, translating to tens of thousands of votes lost in a single state.
- Over 21 million U.S. citizens do not have government-issued photo identification.

### Voter Registration Guidelines/Restrictions

- Itemize documents required to prove citizenship or identification in each state, particularly the swing states.
- Note any restrictions/penalties for voter registration drives at the state level.
- Highlight the window of time in which voters can register.
- Highlight states with online voter registration.
- Because states have different voter registration deadlines and requirements, encourage persons to register well in advance of Election Day.
- Although voter registration deadlines vary, some states allow individuals to register for the first time and cast ballots on Election Day.

### Validate That the Voter Has Not Been Purged From The Rolls (at the Precinct Level)

- Eligible voters are sometimes purged as a result of inaccurate data, and often without adequate notice to the voters. Often, voters learn they’ve been purged when they show up at the polls on Election Day.
- The most common excuses for purging voter rolls are to filter out voters who have changed their address, died, or have failed to vote in recent elections.

### Educate the Voter On the Place to Vote In His Or Her Precinct

- Although every state offers options to vote in-person on Election Day, specify the polling place or vote center and its hours of operation.

### Educate the Voter On How to Fill Out the Registration Form & How to Cast the Vote

- Each state coordinator provides a sample ballot or a link to the sample ballot at the precinct level.
- Each state coordinator provides a sample registration form or a link to successfully complete the registration form.

### SUMMARY:

A Strong Political Campaign Strategy equates to a Strong Campaign that begins with educating the voter. Nationwide, the Census found that Black voter turnout was 59.6% in 2016, down sharply from 66.6% in 2012 - and the lowest Black turnout rate since 2000. The 2016 rate was lower than White voters (65.3% of whom turned out) but higher than other minority groups. In 2012, Black voters had a higher turnout than White voters for the first time, according to the Census. Many other races did not vote as well, but the thrust of the message this year must be to educate African American voters, in order to produce a historical turnout for the 2020 elections.

### Voter Registration

## 123

### OF VOTER REGISTRATION

1. Designate a point of contact from your church.

2. Contact your local ELECTION OFFICE for the rules and guidelines on running a voter registration program.

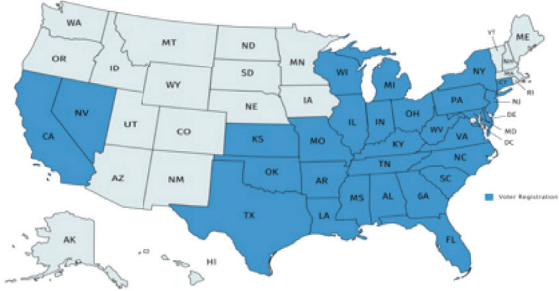
3. Get a list of unregistered African American voters in your area from the National office.

Voter Registration is a part of the #VoteYourHope Campaign for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. We should leave a large footprint at the ballot box in the General Election this November. There are multiple offices that will be on the ballot in November, including the very important Presidential Election. The following are some elements to consider and incorporate into Voter Registration efforts conducted by the National Baptist State Conventions and Churches.

WWW.VOTEAMERICA.COM is a valuable digital resource that each church uses. Go to the website www.voteamerica.com to check your registration status, register to vote, vote by mail, get your absentee ballot, receive election reminders, find your polling place, and contact your election office.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT VOTER REGISTRATION RULES ARE DIFFERENT FOR EVERY STATE. BEFORE REGISTERING SOMEONE TO VOTE PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR ELECTION OFFICE FOR RULES AND GUIDELINES.

The map below shows the states that have at least 5,000 unregistered African American voters:



Voter Access

BACKGROUND

Throughout our Nation the Democratic party/minority is constantly faced with voter suppression and intimidation to hinder and stop our right to cast a vote for the candidate of our choice.

Many battleground states are facing purging rolls, eliminating polling places which result in long lines to discourage the voter from casting their vote. Their strategy is, if the line is too long, we the voter, will go home and tell others that the line is too long, and you might as well stay home and not vote. The most recent scheme was that voters who requested and received mail-in ballots, found that the return envelopes were already sealed upon receipt. It was noted that if the voter unseals the envelope, then it will be constituted as tampered with and the ballot voided.

One of the oldest intimidating method is threatening the African American Voter with violence or the threat of incarceration, as they show up and present identification. Additionally, we are now seeing our brown brothers and sisters worrying about being held falsely or threaten by I.C.E.

Stacey Abrams, founder of Fair Fight, stated that Republicans and the Far Right have devoted over 60 million dollars toward voter suppression. Due to Covid-19, many states want to safeguard their voting citizens' health, by allowing them to stay home and vote by mail in. Republicans in many states are fighting in court to not allow the mail-in votes.

THE RATIONALE

Too often it has been stated by the African American voters that “my one vote won’t matter.” But as we approach November 2020, we must convey to our voters that each and every vote will count. Our forefathers fought for our rights and many having suffered and died for the privilege of equality to cast a vote. We cannot take our votes for granted; and we should not ignore nor allow the death of many to be for naught.

We, as African Americans, have a voice today that many did not have 50 years ago, or even 30 years ago, and we certainly should not entertain the thought to stay home and not vote in this election as in 2016. An estimated 6 million African Americans, 59.6%, according to the Pew Research Center, decided they would not vote for either candidate in 2016, resulting in today's turmoil.

Voter Participation

NBC Voting Participation Committee Proposed Action Plan

Millions of eligible Americans today are either choosing not to vote or are prevented from participating in the electoral process. Voter participation remains low by historical measures. Since 2000, voter participation for U.S. citizens has hovered between 54 and 64 percent during presidential elections and between 41 and 48 percent during midterm elections. In 2016, falling participation defined the election, as swing states such as Wisconsin and Ohio saw voter participation drop by approximately 3 percent and 4 percent, respectively, compared with 2012. Voter participation rates are particularly low during primary and local elections. During the 2016 primaries, only 28.5 percent of eligible voters cast votes for party candidates, while a mere 14.5 percent participated in the 2012 primaries. For local mayoral elections, participation falls below 20 percent in 15 of the country's 30 most populous cities.

America's representative government is warped by low voter participation, and, of those who do vote, the group is not representative of the broader population of eligible American citizens. Research shows that communities of color, young people, and low-income Americans are disproportionately burdened by registration barriers, inflexible voting hours, and polling place closures, making it more difficult for these groups to vote.

This report outlines the following recommended actions to drive voter participation for the 2020 election, sponsored by the National Baptist Convention. Voter participation committee propose the following:

1. Encourage early voting: One study found that early voting could increase participation by about 2 to 4 percent. Early voting aims to make voting more convenient for eligible voters by providing them with greater flexibility and opportunities to cast ballots.
2. Encourage absentee voting: Absentee voting has been projected to increase voter participation by about 3 percent over time.
3. Vote-at-home with vote centers: Colorado's vote-at-home plus vote center policy increased voter participation in the state by about 2 to 5 percent.
4. Same-day voter registration/voting: States with SDR, which includes Election Day registration and voting on the same day, experience, on average, a 5 percent increase in voter participation and consistently have the highest participation in the country.

ACTION PLAN

To discover, define and dissect actions used to suppress and eliminate the votes of the Democratic Voter.

Our task will be to spotlight various tactics that have been and is currently in use to discriminate and discourage the voter. We must define each tactic to educate our communities and provide information for distribution throughout our Convention and disseminate the gathered information to State Conventions, District Associations, and Local Congregations.

1. **Voter Registration and Identity:**

A. Voters must confirm they are still registered in their state as some states are purging rolls. Voters cannot allow registration deadlines for their state and county to pass, prior to realizing their eligibility to vote in the upcoming election.
2. **Precinct Locations:**

A. Many minority community polling places are being closed and voters are not aware, and the discovery is not made until Election Day, resulting in them being at the wrong location. This is a problem because many may not have transportation or time left in the day to find the correct polling place.

B. Each voter should verify their voting location 90 days prior to November 3, 2020 and make a final location check at least 2 weeks prior.
3. **Senior Voters:**

A. Many seniors depend upon mail-in ballots and attention should be given to the quality of the return envelopes.

B. Some states and counties are fraudulently sealing return ballot envelopes so when the voter unseals the envelope to place the ballot inside to return it, it is considered tampered with and is a voided ballot.

C. Some states and counties are sending wrong party ballots to minority voters. Democrats are receiving Republicans voting ballots along with applicant's wrong date of birth.
4. **Change of Voting Format:**

The State of Texas for the first time will not allow straight Democrat or Republican ticket voting, as in previous years. Each voter must mark each candidate of their choice, rather than a straight Democrat or Republican ticket; and education should be provided to the voter for awareness of candidates and procedures.
5. **Early Voting States:**

It will be imperative for everyone to vote early in states where early voting is an option; in light of voter suppression, intimidation tactics, and consequences of bad weather on Election Day. We must vote early!

5. Restore rights for formerly incarcerated people: Low participation among formerly incarcerated people may be due, at least in part, to the lack of information provided to them about their voting rights while incarcerated and upon release. One survey found that 68 percent of ex-offender respondents failed to demonstrate an accurate understanding of how their conviction affected their right to vote. NBC Churches could host zoom conferences on educating the formerly incarcerated on their voting rights. An estimated 93 percent—or about 14 million—of formerly incarcerated people are eligible to vote based on current rights restoration laws.

6. Training will involve a focus on the millennials in particular; to motivate young eligible voters to participate in the voting process for local, state, and federal elections. Historically, young people — especially those of color — tend to vote at a lower percentage than their older counterpoints. We would help NBC Churches with webinars that provides guidance and information about current barriers that show voter participation within this population. Secondly, training will also be provided for those working the polls, making sure they know how to operate the new voting machines, and to ensure the electorate learn how to use the new machine to ensure their vote counts during the election. This would include voting machine demonstrations, where voters learned how to check the results of their electronic voting, on a paper ballot.

7. Transportation: Will focus on identifying voting precincts, polling place hours, and on getting people to the polls to cast their ballots and back to their pick-up location.

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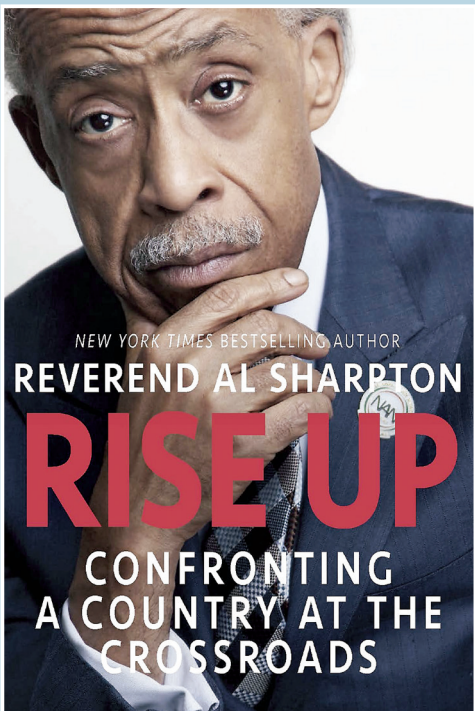
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BOOK REVIEW:

RISE UP:  
CONFRONTING A COUNTRY AT  
THE CROSSROADS

BY REVEREND AL SHARPTON

C.2020, HANOVER SQUARE PRESS

\$27.99 / \$34.99 CANADA • 288 PAGES

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
*Columnist*

You’re beat down.  
Tired, ready to rest, just plain done. So much racism, so many politicians doing so many things. You’re wiped, laid low with no more go, and you’re not sure you have the energy for more of this. But there’s hope for the hopeless, a lift for the fallen, and in “Rise Up” by Reverend Al Sharpton, there’s reason to keep on.  
We are being tested.  
It’s happening now, Sharpton says, in a way that we’ve never

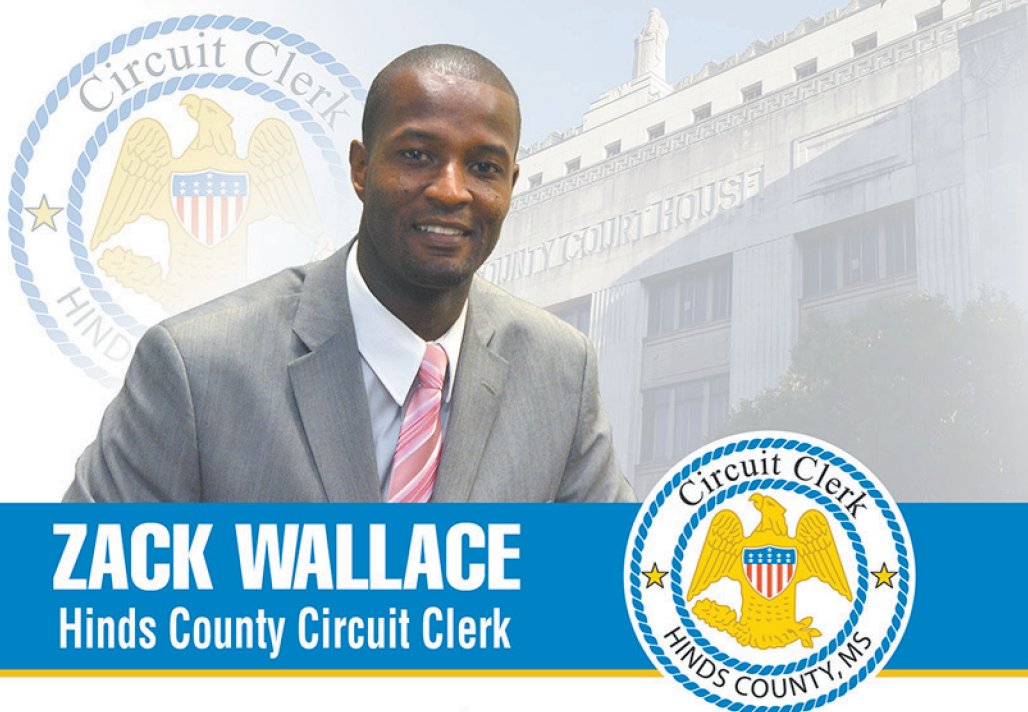
seen. We’re poked by haters every day, prodded by evildoers. The nation is at a “crossroads” and work is being done to “make America great” but not for everybody. This has to change.  
Democracy, says Sharpton, is not perfect but it really is the best of all political practices. To make it work now, we need and “deserve” strong leadership that isn’t racist or homophobic, misogynistic, or against immigration or voter’s rights. It’s what we must have to preserve democracy – and yet, he says, in

the last four years, we’ve gone from a transformational leader who embraced diversity to one that’s transactional, and does not. The former allowed a cultural shift that many in the black community enjoyed. With the latter, we seem to have backtracked.  
That came as no surprise to Sharpton: he’s known Donald Trump for decades, has met with him numerous times on various projects. He knows him as just a guy from Queens, a deal-maker, just another politician Sharpton’s acquainted with. He’s

known a lot of politicians: King, Obama, Mandela, Clinton. Shirley Chisolm, whom he sweetly calls “Mrs. C.” He’s known celebrities, too: James Brown was like a father to Sharpton. Aretha Franklin was a friend.  
Moving forward, he says, we must ask white allies to step aside and make room for black leaders in issues where black lives are most affected. Black activists shouldn’t ignore the fight for LGBTQ rights because they, too, are human rights – as are issues of climate change. And as for staying “woke,” re-

member that waking up means getting up, too...  
Let’s start here: Reverend Al Sharpton doesn’t have very much good to say about Donald Trump. If you’re familiar with Sharpton, you already knew this was coming – but “Rise Up” offers some background that happened between the two, and they’re great stories.  
That’s a lot of what you’ll get inside this book, in fact: stories, and they mix in with Sharpton’s observations and thoughts so well that it’s easy to be lulled into the telling. No worries:

like any good preacher does, he happily yanks your attention back to the pulpit, to racism, voter’s rights and politics. True to what you’d expect, Sharpton isn’t shy, and he’ll make readers who are black, white and brown think hard about today’s issues.  
Don’t be surprised to see a somewhat gentler version of Reverend Sharpton in this book – gentler, but no less fierce.  
Don’t be surprised if this book sparks conversation and action. Now go: you’ve got time, read it before the election and “Rise Up” won’t let you down.



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**Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
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**Services of the Clerk:**

- Civil/Criminal Filings of Circuit and County Court
- Marriage License
- Medical License
- Voter Registration/Absentee Voting

**VOTER INFORMATION**  
**Verify/Update your Registration Today**

- You must be registered 30 days before the Election.
- Absentee Voting begins 45 days before the Election

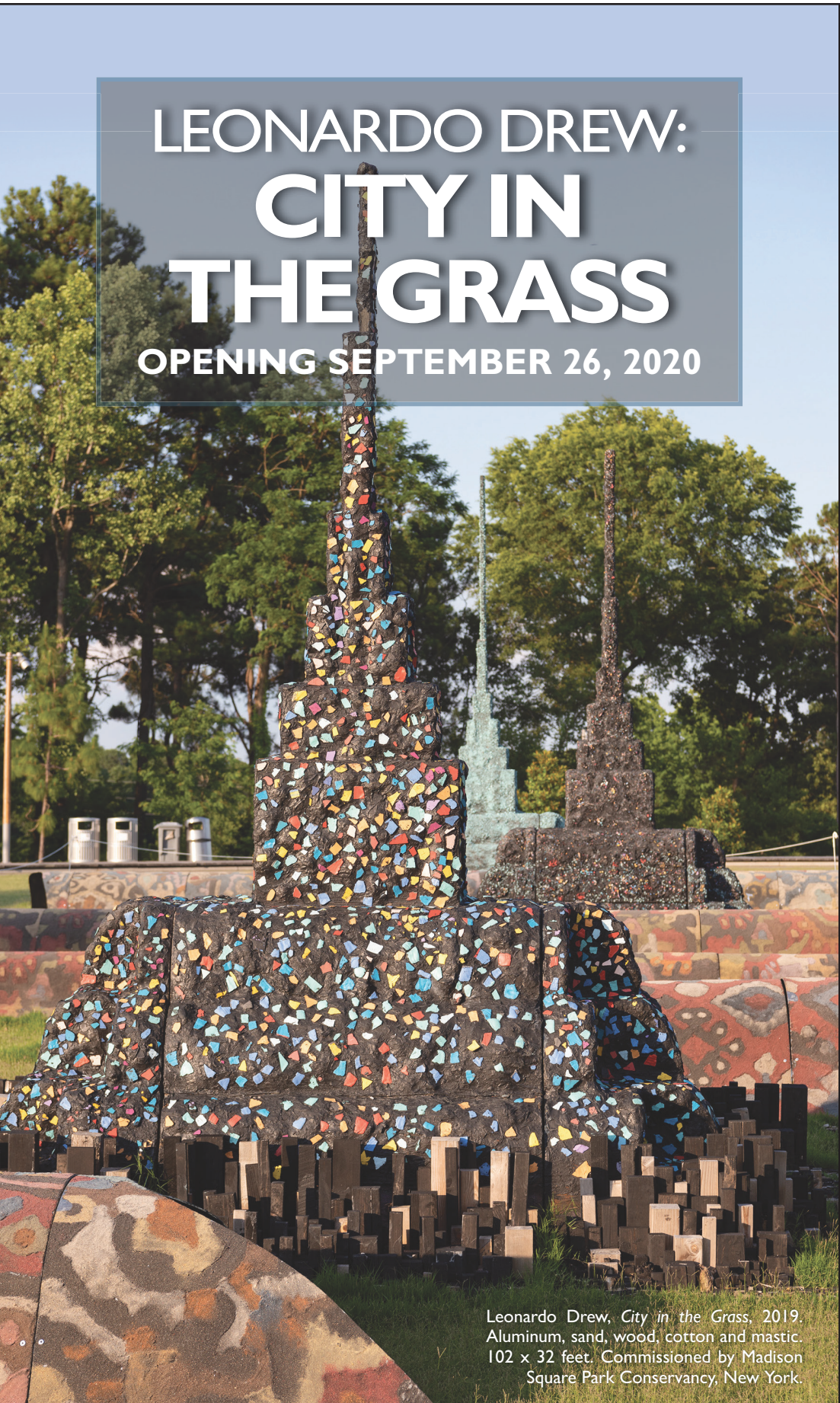
**MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

- Marriage License: \$36.00
  - Both applicants must come to the Circuit Clerk's office together to apply
  - Proof of age must be provided in the form of Driver's License, Birth Certificate or other legal document which contains name and date of birth.

**Website:** [www.hindscountymys.com](http://www.hindscountymys.com)

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Leonardo Drew, *City in the Grass*, 2019. Aluminum, sand, wood, cotton and mastic. 102 x 32 feet. Commissioned by Madison Square Park Conservancy, New York.

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