

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE
COPY

The Perfect Mashup

**Data Zone
Page 6**

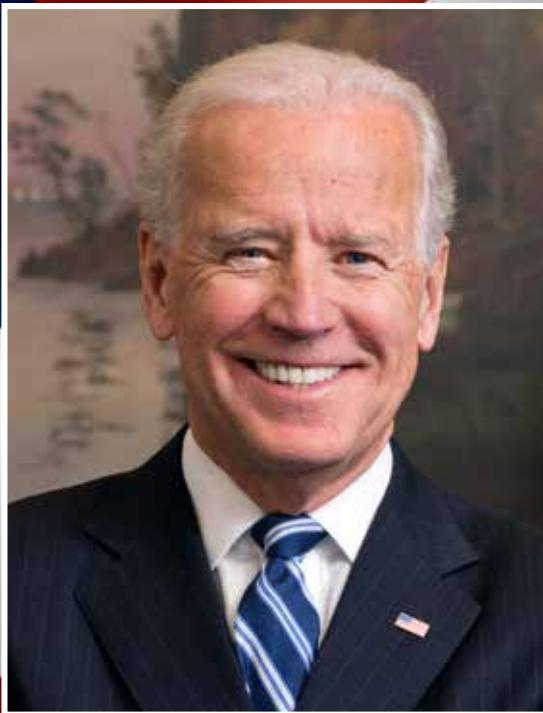
October 31 - November 6, 2020 55th Year Volume 27 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Data News Endorsements



Terri Love



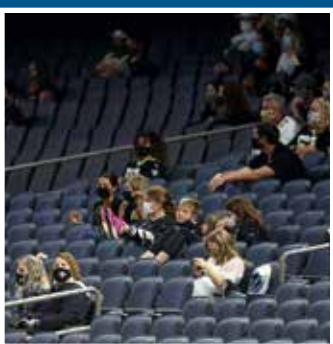
Joe Biden



Dianne Alexander

Get Out and Vote on November 3rd

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Black
Feminism



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Data News Endorsements

Get Out and Vote on November 3rd



LaKeisha Jefferson
Judge - Civil District Court, Division K, Domestic Section 1



Dianne Alexander
Civil District Court Judge Division E



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

As the Publisher of the New Orleans Data News Weekly and over 50 years in our role as “The People’s Paper” we encourage all our citizens to get out and vote this election season, one that will decide who will lead our nation for these are truly crucial times for our country.

This Election is the Most Important Election in Modern Times

Let me say that this is the most important election in modern times; so, it is important for everyone to get out to vote

because every vote matter; it can make the difference as to who gets in office.

Right now, of course everyone is keeping their eyes on the race for President, but there are several local and state races and constitutional amendments on the ballot that are as equally important. So, as we see all this activity and conversation around voting, we must begin to let this become something we always do when election time comes around.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Nolan Marshall, Jr.
School Board - District 7



David Alvarez
School Board - District 6



Terri Love
Supreme Court Justice



Lori Jupiter
Orleans Parish, Civil District Court Division I



Clint Smith
Juvenile Court Judge Section A



Schalyece Harrison
Judge Civil District Court Division G

We Need Both Experienced Leaders and New Faces to Make our Community Better

We have looked at those running in various races and decided to endorse the candidates listed because we believe they are the best qualified to fill these posts and will work diligently and be dedicated to

service and putting the needs of their constituents first.

Some are incumbents with experience in how to get things done and have been assets bringing resources to our community. While others are new to politics and provide the fresh perspective that is sometime necessary to facilitate positive change.

Voters Matter More than Ever

It is in these times that we get to the polls in record numbers because the future of our democracy is at stake and we must have leaders who will be responsive to the needs of the citizens. Especially now given we are in the middle of a pandemic as well as uncertain economic times. And getting to the

polls is one way that we can change our community for the better.

We can no longer afford not to go to the polls. We have seen on the local, state and especially on the national level what happens when we do not vote. We have seen this for the last four years where assaults against Black progress have taken place under this administration.

In the last election if more African Americans would have voted across three states, we may not be having this conversation and the nation may be headed in a vastly different direction.

I am encouraged as I see long lines of people voting in record numbers. But for those who have not already voted get to the polls on Election Day. Also, if you can encourage others to vote as well. We must let our collective voices be heard at the polls.

Voting and Shaping the Future

Again, we are asking all of our readers and citizens across the City to get out and vote; for it is our hands that will shape the future of our City, state, and nation.

It's Time for A Change NOLA!



Elect Schalyece Harrison

JUDGE CIVIL District Court

Division G #78

"Qualified, Experienced, Committed"

I will **ENSURE** every person who comes into my courtroom has the same access to a fair and just legal system regardless of their race, age or income level.

Born and raised in New Orleans—Over 20 Years of experience.

In Private practice dedicated to civil law and tax matters.—Services as a an administrative Hearing Officer for the City of New Orleans, where she has considered testimony, examined evidence and rendered judgments in over 3,500 cases.

VOTE

NOV. 3RD



Saints Games Begin to have Fans in Attendance

Data News Staff Edited Report

The controversy around fans at the Saints game have come to a compromise between the Saints organization and Mayor LaToya Cantrell. The first game was played on October 25, 2020 with 3,000 fans inside the Mercedes Benz Superdome.

It was agreed upon that a phased in approach would take place to allowing fans in the stands. Capacity will increase to 6,000 fans for both the San Francisco (Nov. 15th) and Atlanta (Nov. 22nd) home games. By December, the capacity would increase to 15,000 fans for home games against Kansas City (Dec. 20th) and Minnesota (Dec. 25th).

It's been reported that all health



Amidst COVID-19 concerns, a compromise between the Saints organization and New Orleans Mayor, LaToya Cantrell has begun where they will be a phased in approach for fans returning to attend games inside the Mercedes Benz Superdome.

and safety protocols at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome will be ob-

served. Also, Mayor Cantrell's office will be strictly enforcing crowd

gatherings throughout the Central Business District and French Quar-

ter on game days to ensure all City regulations are being observed.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell released a statement about the City's agreement with the Saints,

"I am allowing the Saints to move forward with this pilot exercise, allowing for limited seating in the Dome, as part of a phased, incremental approach that is consistent with the City's Phase 3 re-opening. The way forward towards additional expansion depends on the current trends remaining stable. An outbreak or a sudden increase in community spread would be reason to pause. I am glad to begin welcoming Saints fans back into the Dome, and hopeful that we can continue on a deliberate, gradual path forward."



NEW ORLEANS EAST LEADERSHIP



BIDEN HARRIS

U.S. PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT



ADRIAN PERKINS

U.S. SENATOR

#11



CEDRIC RICHMOND

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

#22



TERRI LOVE

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

#50



OMAR MASON

JUDGE CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, DIV. E

#73



CHRIS BRUNO

JUDGE CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, DIV. F

#74



ROBIN GIARRUSSO

JUDGE CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, DIV. G

#77



MICHAEL HALL

JUDGE CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, DIV. I

#79



LAKEISHA JEFFERSON

JUDGE CIVIL DISTRICT COURT, DOM. SEC. 1

#84



LAURIE WHITE

JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, SEC. A

#86



KIMYA HOLMES

JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, SEC. D

#88



RHONDA GOODE-DOUGLAS

JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, SEC. E

#90



NANDI CAMPBELL

JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, SEC. G

#92



MARCUS DELARGE

JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, SEC. K

#94



FRANZ ZIBILICH

JUDGE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, SEC. L

#98



JUANA LOMBARD

CRIMINAL COURT MAGISTRATE

#99



ARTHUR HUNTER

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

#101

OR



JASON WILLIAMS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

#104



CLINT SMITH

JUDGE JUVENILE COURT, SEC. A

#107



RANORD DARENSBURG

JUDGE JUVENILE COURT, SEC. F

#109



PAUL SENS

JUDGE MUNICIPAL AND TRAFFIC COURT

#115



JOHN BROWN

MEMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD, DIST. 1

#118



ERIC JONES

MEMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD, DIST. 2

#122

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Declare Abortion Unconstitutional ☒ NO

Amends Value of Oil/Gas Wells ☒ NO

Use Budget Stabilization Fund ☒ YES

State Gen. Fund Spending ☒ NO

Cooperative Endeavor Tax Exemption ☒ NO

Increase Level for Homestead Exemption ☒ YES

Create Unclaimed Property Trust Fund ☒ NO



Authorize sports wagering activities in Orleans Parish



YES ON SPORTS WAGERING LOUISIANA WINS

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020

THE LAW PERMITS YOU TO TAKE THIS BALLOT INTO THE POLL

David

Alvarez

#135

School Board

Education It's

Everybody's Business



Proudly endorsed by



State Senator Joseph Bouie



The teachers' choice for OPSB District 6!

With David Alvarez: School Board our voices will be heard

all charter board members will be residents

our schools will be more transparent

our schools will be more accountable

we will take our schools back

Artist Discuss Black Feminism and the Clapback

Alexa Green
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The term “clap back” was popularized in 2003 when rap artist Ja Rule made a song with the same title. The purpose of the song was to call out those who criticized him in a snarky way. The roots of the clap-back, though, comes from the clapping of hands, a non-verbal body-language expression originated by Black women in emphasizing their point.

In reclaiming the clapback after its wider use on social media platforms, performance Artist Laura Oliver spoke about how traditional Black feminist pedagogy is beneficial, liberating, and needed, in a talk titled: “I am not afraid to clap back: How radical Black feminist peda-



Performance Artist Laura Oliver discusses clapback culture and the role of Black feminist pedagogy in shaping Black women empowerment.

gogy benefits students of color” on October 20th.

"I was challenged to use my voice and presence in ways that seemed unorthodox to others," said

Oliver, who is a Ph.D. candidate in performance studies at Louisiana State University, with an emphasis in Women's and African American studies.

She was first introduced to Black feminism while studying for her Master's degree at The University of North Texas, and after reading "Teaching to Transgress" by bell hooks. The Black feminist tradition taught students like her how use their voice to challenge forms of oppression in the classroom so that it is freeing for both the students and the educator.

"I've had many excellent teachers in life but the ones that stuck out to me were the Black women teachers who followed suit of bell hooks," she said.

When she was in the 8th grade, her English teacher, who she referred to as “Ms. Burns” challenged her to embrace Black feminism in all its forms through poetry. The Black women educators in her life helped her to define in her own

performances how Black feminism works as a pedagogical practice to de-center whiteness, to exercise, and even through clapping.

Oliver shared that even clapping can be a form of liberation. Black people tend to restrain themselves in white spaces to not be labeled as “aggressive,” or to live up to other stereotypes. She noted that clapping or a clapback does not always have to be aggressive but reserved for moments depending on who it is for what someone is saying, and why they are saying it.

"When I think of Black feminist pedagogy, I think of healing. I think about the type of healing that touches my soul, but it's not too much where I get lost in translation," Oliver said. "This is for critical transformation and speaks to small folks," she said.

Elect **DIANNE** ^{#72} **ALEXANDER**

CIVIL COURT JUDGE • DIVISION E

CONGRESSMAN

CEDRIC RICHMOND

ENDORSES

DIANNE ALEXANDER

EDUCATION

Loyola University Law School, N.O. LA

Juris Doctor

University of Akron, Akron, OH

Graduate /studies—English

SUNO, Bachelor of Arts—English

WORK EXPERIENCE

Louisiana Supreme Court—Committee on Bar Admission

Attorney for Character and Fitness

Louisiana Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

General Counsel

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

Clerk of Court

Assistant Judicial Administrator

Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office

Civil Assistant District Attorney/Child Support Division

Louisiana Spirit, New Orleans, LA

Crisis Counselor

Rodney Law Firm, LLC., New Orleans, LA

Associate Attorney

Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, N.O. LA

Staff/Research Attorney

City of New Orleans Law Department—Housing Unit,
N.O. LA—Assistant City Attorney

ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Degree of Distinction Cum Laude from SUNO

Highest Cumulative Average Award—English Spring 1993

From SUNO

Full Academic Scholarship to the University of Akron

Received Law Excellence Award in Creditors' Rights &
Bankruptcy from Loyola University Law School

The Perfect Mashup



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Fashion Story:

The Prefect Mashup

Photographer:

Greg Miles | @gregmilesphotography

Fashion Stylist:

Tracee Dundas | @fashionablyyournola

Makeup & Hair:

Glenn Mosley | @glennmosleyjr

Model:

ShairDá Kimiko | @shairdakimiko

All Fashions:

Bambi Deville Vintage | @bambi.deville.vintage

The Perfect Mashup

Curate the prefect mashup by combining vibrant colors, mix media prints and of-the-moment details for an unquestionable chic style that gives a modern take to vintage fashion.



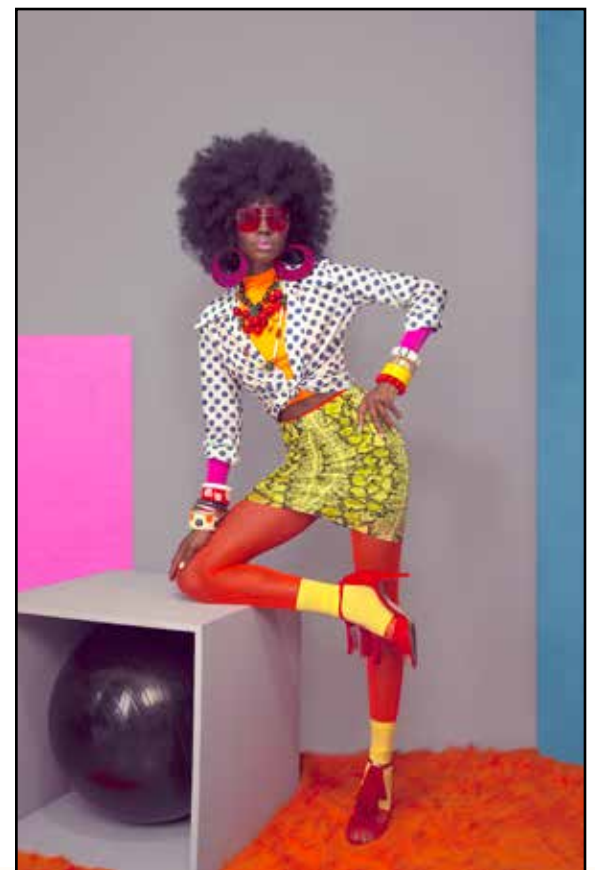
Blowout Style



Stacking the Deck



Color Amour



Tribal Beat



Natural Beauty



Stylistic Freedom



Fly Away Frock

Elect
LaKeisha Jefferson
for JUDGE

RESPECTED • DILIGENT • DEDICATED

Born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana

✓OTE
#84

Orleans Parish Civil District Court
Division K - Domestic Section 1

vote4lakeisha.com

ELECTION DATE: NOVEMBER 3

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect LaKeisha Jefferson



EDUCATION

1999 graduate of Spelman College
2002 graduate of Southern University Law Center

EXPERIENCE

Project SAVE New Orleans, Former Staff Attorney
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Former Contract Attorney
Orleans Indigent Defender Program, Former Conflicts Counsel
City of New Orleans, Former Assistant City Attorney
Jefferson Law Firm, APLC, Owner

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Association for Women Attorneys
Independent Women's Organization
Louisiana State Bar Association: Annual Professionalism
Orientation Southern University Law Center –
Volunteer Moderator
Annual Secret Santa Program
New Orleans Bar Association:
Family Law Section
Minorities in the Profession Section
Annual Law Day Activities – Committee Member
Second Harvest Food Bank Volunteer
Volunteer Coach for Annual Allen Ray Bolin Trial Advocacy
Workshop for High School Students
Volunteer Speaker: Breakfast with the Barbers Community
Information Series
National Judicial College Graduate
Emerge Louisiana Alum



A Mockery of Democracy 2020 Part 2

The Salvation of a Nation: E Pluribus Unum (Out of Many One)



By Edwin Buggage
Editor, Data News Weekly

The time is now where our citizens will decide the future direction of our nation and most importantly our Democracy. It is in these uncertain days that we will either try to reset who we are as a nation; to heal and rebuild continuing our experiment of becoming a more perfect union or sink deeper into the abyss of division and resentment fueled by the rhetoric and actions of a president whose

sown the seeds of chaos that threatens the stability and standing of our nation.

When thinking of this President who may decide to shirk the long tradition of the peaceful transfer of power if he were to lose the election. Or of a president who for the past four years haven't even attempted to set the tone to be the president of all the people. I as many others have seen someone who has the impulses of a dictator and displays narcissistic, sadistic characteristics and does not exude an ounce of empathy towards his fellow citizens. This type of leader who has a lack of character and compassion is dangerous for our Democracy.

Therefore, it is important to change the course and that means more than simply electing someone else, but for the citizens of this nation to realize that while many have come here on differ-

ent ships, today we are in the same boat as Americans.

This was on full display as I went out to vote, as I witnessed people from all walks of life waiting for several hours to exercise their right to vote. This was very refreshing, especially because among the throngs of voters I saw African Americans and many young people patiently waiting to let their voices be heard at the ballot box.

In this moment I could only imagine those who came before us, like the late John Lewis who fought for the rights of African Americans to vote and fully participate in American life looking down with a smile at the amount of people who were civically engaged. And that today there is a movement where people from all races are moving closer to realizing that we are all part of the human race and that Black Lives Matter in a na-

tion that once saw a people denied access and excluded from the family of humanity.

Of course, today this fight continues, but more are aware that people are more alike than different and that while political ideologies may differ most people want many of the same things. But the question becomes for our nation in these fragile times is how do we get there? Where people are talking at each other and not to each other, and where empathy for others plight or points of view are disregarded or de-legitimized in a fog of misunderstanding.

This is not the world many of us want to live in. So, it is in my view, very important if we are to continue our journey to not restore but continue our journey to amending our way to Democracy begin to open our ears, hearts, and minds to our fellow citizens.

To in the 21st Century move past polarization, hate and incivility. To understand that we are not red and blue states, but we are the United States of America. And that we can have family disagreements, but in the end we the people can come together for the common good and progress of our nation. And to realize that most issues are not Black or White, and that compromise in a pluralistic nation is the way to progress.

E Pluribus Unum (Out of many one) is included in the seal of the United States. Today we must revisit what this means in the 21st Century. That yes, we are from many places and have many viewpoints, but we are one nation. So, let's begin to erect bridges of understanding and civility in our politics and everyday lives.

For it is not only possibly a solution, but perhaps the salvation of our nation.

WHO WE ELECT TO THE SUPREME COURT MATTERS



Marc Morial
Former Mayor of New Orleans

JUDGE TERRI
LOVE
for SUPREME COURT
#50

Judge Terri Love is the only candidate prepared with the depth and breadth of experience needed on the Supreme Court. She served 25 years as a judge, has written over 700 opinions, and is the only candidate with both trial and appellate experience. She is a leader in our community, a woman of faith, and a longtime youth advocate and mentor.



Official Candidate of
the Orleans Democratic Party

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 3

VOTE JUDGE TERRI LOVE FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE.

JudgeTerriLove.com | JudgeTerriLove | electlovejustice2020@gmail.com | 504.358.8521

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Judge Terri F. Love

Free Your Mind

Diva Dionne Character
Data News Weekly
Contributor

My grandmother's love was like ruby-red shoes with sprinkles of glitter attached to a 6-inch heel with sweet melodies from morning birds singing atop broken tree twigs, jazz on the back porch, and the smell of fresh cornbread. She inspired me to follow my dreams at an early age, as I have always been a brave girl who could visualize, write it down and make it happen simply because I was given the freedom to fly.

Empowerment comes from within as it propels your imagination to fly beyond your circumstances. Today may feel like the end of the road but it is only the beginning to a new start.



Diva Dionne Character continues to inspire and empower people to embrace their best selves in the journey to reaching their full potential.

No matter how far down you may think you are, you can always rely on those inner skills planted at birth when the universe decided to make your life worth living.

When life brings you challenges and changes on a silver platter, you have to listen to your heart and move forward. Surviving is full of ups and downs, joy and painful lessons that will lead you through to the next level of obstacles, forcing you to change your pattern of thinking as you begin to live outside the box.

Woman, you were born to survive setbacks and obstacles. You have the strength

in your vertebrate to bend and make all things happen because you are magic, and your life is a source that the world needs to keep moving forward. It is time for you to awaken your inner spirit and make it happen!

It's time to start your new business, it's time to change your diet, it's time for you to scream into the mirror and wake up your beautiful soul. It is time to do it right this time while you still have a chance to focus on yourself. It is time that you seek encouragement, aligning your dreams with other like-minded boss women who can teach you how to free your mind and fly free.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1

**THIS IS ABOUT
CARE, COMPASSION, AND
FREEDOM FOR ALL OF US TO
MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS
ABOUT OUR BODIES
AND OUR FAMILIES.**



**LOUISIANA
• FOR •
PERSONAL
FREEDOMS**

NNPA Publishers Respond to Joe Biden's Commitment and Plan for Black America

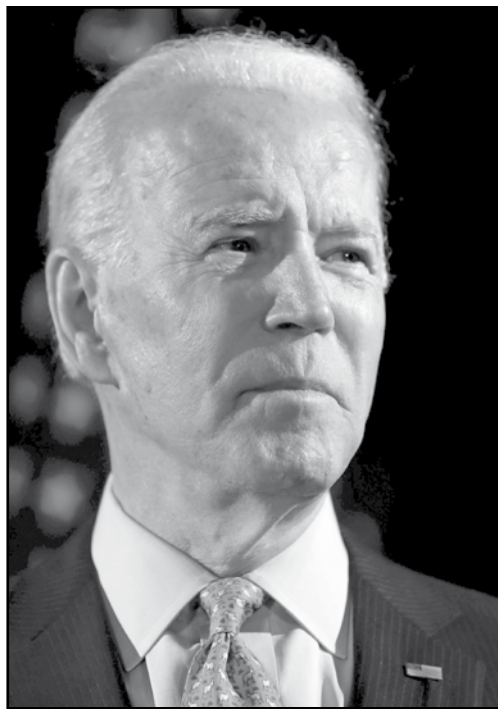
Stacy M. Brown NNPA
Newswire Senior National
Correspondent

The commitment by Democratic Presidential Nominee Joe Biden to help increase opportunities and recognize the plight of African Americans as outlined in an exclusive editorial with Black Press USA resonated quite loudly with African American publishers and national board members from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

The NNPA is the trade association representing more than 230 African American-owned newspapers and media companies throughout the United States.

"There is a legacy of racism and inequality that lives still in our institutions, our laws, and in too many people's hearts that makes it harder for Black people to succeed," Biden wrote in the 1,047-word column published Oct. 19, 2020 on the NNPA Newswire Service.

"These are facts in the United States of America in 2020, and we must all do more to move our na-



"Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden points out so many critical issues, or as he put it, 'pandemics,' that continue to plague the Black community," said NNPA Chair and the Publisher of the Houston Forward Times, Karen Carter Richards.

tion closer to the ideals inlaid at our founding – that all women and men are created equal."

NNPA National Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher, Karen Carter Richards, called Biden's editorial "spot on."

"Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden points out so many critical issues, or as he put it, 'pandemics,' that continue to plague the Black community," Carter Richards detailed.

"Just like he also pointed out, these issues can't be addressed by just putting them on paper, there must be a dedicated plan and commitment to address these important issues immediately. It is refreshing to hear a presidential candidate publicly express his desire and commitment to do so."

While the Atlanta Voice doesn't endorse political candidates, it's publisher, Janis Ware, said she's impressed with Biden's plan.

"Having a presidential candidate

outline a plan that speaks to African American people directly through the pages of the Black Press and our social media channels is a bold and powerful move," stated Ware, the NNPA's first vice-chair.

"It's a posture that is unprecedented and bold."

Fran Farrer, NNPA 2nd Vice-Chair and Publisher and CEO of the County News in Charlotte, North Carolina, applauded Biden for what she called his faith in the ability of Black newspapers to carry the former vice president's message.

"It not only speaks volumes to his character but his commitment to lifting every voice in Black and Brown America," Farrer remarked.

"His plans, along with those of Vice Presidential Nominee Kamala Harris, will work to support improved healthcare and available healthcare for those without fair treatment by the justice system.

"[Biden's plan] contains an increased fair minimum wage that allows families to provide a roof over their heads, feed, clothe, and educate their families, and reduce

the fear of every encounter of police officers across the United States of America."

NNPA National Secretary and Mississippi Link Publisher, Jackie Hampton, also praised Biden and his plan for Black America.

"I feel that [former] Vice President Joe Biden's plan to 'Lift Every Voice in Black America' will give new voice and new hope when hearing and singing what is known as the Black National Anthem," Hampton stated.

"Biden has proven over and over again that he understands the plight of Blacks in America and with passion and commitment, he wants to rid the country of the injustice and discrimination which we as a race continue to endure," Hampton offered.

She continued:

"As the hymnal, which was once a poem, read:

"Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on till victory is won"

"I am hopeful that Biden's plan will lead us to the victory we so proudly sing about."

In the crucial battleground state of Florida, Bobby Henry, the publisher of the Westside Gazette in Ft. Lauderdale, said he was pleased that Biden plans to appoint the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. "I also want to see where he would force police departments to hire Black psychologists or psychiatrists who would interview potential candidates and weed them out before they got on the force," Henry strongly voiced.

"Biden's ideas are admirable," Henry continued. "I think, however, it's time for all of Black America to be included in making plans for Black America. Not just a hand-picked few."

Rod Doss, the editor and publisher of the New Pittsburgh Courier in the all-important swing state of Pennsylvania, proclaimed that Biden's plan for Black America "addresses many immediate issues of concern facing African Americans across this country."

"As Biden states, we are in the midst of four simultaneous crises that are especially hard on Black Americans," Doss responded.

Commentary

From Desire To Purpose... A Dreamer's Journey

Use Your Voice & Do Your Part By Voting

Renée Dugué
Co-Founder Reborn & Rising

As I write from Houston, TX and you read from where you are, there are commonalities we share with so many others across this country. Collectively we are energized as much as we are sick and tired, yet we remain enthused and inspired to exercise our right to vote. We cast our vote for our ancestors who couldn't, and to honor those who fought and died to give us the freedom to use our voice to do more than just hope for change but to actually make a difference. How proud are they to see us unified standing in lines wrapped around buildings for miles? I can picture their crooked smiles, and hear Martin saying, "I have a dream." We are living, breathing, walking, talking



Renée Dugué, Exec. Dir. of Reborn & Rising in Houston, TX, taking time away from her WALK-4WATER Campaign to exercise her right to vote. She encourages everyone to walk in truth and light on your path from desire to purpose.

proof of that dream coming true. We should all be proud too!

We should also realize that there is still so much work to do. Our vote is our voice, and our walk is our work. Be encouraged to walk it like you talk it. Our votes say we want change, now what will we actually do to make a difference? Think about your community and what matters to you? Is it the elderly, the homeless, education, activities for the youth, neighborhood safety, health and wellness, mental health, addiction? After identifying what matters most to you, think about what you can do with the resources you currently have. Just you; no one else. From your heart, with your hands, what can you do? Will you buy a loaf of bread, lunch meat, four apples, four bananas, four

oranges, and a case of water to make twelve bag lunches to give to feed the hungry? Imagine the impact you can make by spending \$20 and a total of two hours... doing and being the change, you want to see!

Now imagine if everyone who voted left the polls returned to their homes and took these same steps in the areas that they are passionate about. How encouraged and empowered would we be as we each take steps forward, offering the gifts we have, contributing just where we are, committed to doing the work one day at a time. Individually being the change will create massive waves of change...all from the ripple effect of our collective first step. WE possess the power to be the change WE want to see. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER.

Voter Suppression Tactics and Long Lines Fail to Quell Resolve of Black Voters

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

The lines are long, but Black voters are demonstrating their will to vote.

In Texas, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, and Indiana, African Americans' resiliency and resolve have never been as severely tested.

They have gone to great lengths to overcome voter suppression, discouragement, misinformation, gerrymandering, and so many other obstacles to participate in America's elections.

In Fort Bend County, Texas, a check-in machine glitch shut down at least four precincts, and a court ruling that significantly limited ballot locations didn't stop many African Americans from traveling long distances and overcoming even longer wait times to vote.

In Georgia, NPR Reported that the clogged polling locations in metro Atlanta reflected an underlying pattern: the number of places to vote has shrunk statewide, with little recourse.

"Although the reduction in polling places has taken place across racial lines, it has primarily caused long lines in nonwhite neighborhoods where voter registration has surged and more residents cast ballots in person on Election Day. The pruning of polling places started long before the pandemic, which has discouraged people from voting in person," the report noted.

In Virginia, a glitch shut down polls and forced officials to push back deadlines to cast early votes.

Also, General Registrar Donna Patterson told reporters that the long lines in Virginia Beach had been like that each day since early voting began about one month ago. Add to that number the 55,000 mail-



Voters Suppression efforts have taken place in this election, but people are not letting this stop them from coming out braving long lines for many hours to exercise their right to vote.

in ballots the registrar received to that point.

Patterson noted that the state might have the highest voter turnout ever.

In North Carolina, about 163,000 votes were cast in person across North Carolina on Saturday, bringing the total to 828,456 in the state — more than double the number of people in North Carolina who went to the polls at this time in the 2016 election.

"Texas has been under siege confronting voter suppression from multiple fronts from our Governor Greg Abbott to the state higher courts," noted Sonny Messiah Jiles, the publisher, and CEO of The Houston Defender Media Group, DefenderNetwork.com.

"It is unbelievable or ridiculous for a county with 2.4 million registered voters to have one location to drop off mail-in ballots," Jiles remarked.

"Despite their efforts, the Har-

ris County Clerk Chris Hollins, a smart young millennial, has been strategic and innovative with drive-thru voting, doubling the early voting locations and the historical move of 24-hour voting. But aside from voting access, we need to beware not to be bamboozled listening to the polls and just go and vote like our life depends on it, because it does."

Numerous voter suppression tactics have been used in Texas and throughout the nation, added Patrick Washington, CEO, and co-publisher of the Dallas Weekly.

"Like the late-night ruling, from a 5th Circuit Court via a three judge panel, all of whom appointed by President Trump to uphold Governor Abbot's mandate to limit one ballot drop box for millions of voters in Dallas county," Washington observed.

ELECT #107

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