

*Lighting The Road To The Future*

New Orleans

# Data

**News Weekly**

*"The People's Paper"*

**Crescent City Blues and Barbecue Festival 2022**



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**Data Zone Page 5**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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# Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Urges Students to Continue the Legacy of the Civil Rights Era



Members of Xavier University of Louisiana administration and guest speaker show their Xavier pride. From left to right: University Chaplain Fr. Victor LaRoche, Provost Dr. Anne McCall, Senior Class President Bria Mayes, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Vice President Curtis Wright, President Dr. Reynold Verret, and Student Government President Munachismo Ugoh.

**Jordan Booker**  
Data News Weekly Contributor  
Photos by Mark Veals;  
courtesy Xavier University of Louisiana

As the countdown to the U.S. midterm elections began in October, former U.S. Attorney General Eric

Holder reminded young people to stay engaged and active in the political process. He urged students at Xavier University of Louisiana to use their voices through voting as he spoke at Xavier's Founder's Day Convocation earlier this month in the University Center Ballroom during a visit to New Orleans.

"We have got to recognize that the power still re-

sides with us, and especially with young people," Holder told the graduating class of 2023 and first year students who attended the Founder's Convocation. "You all are now the largest voting bloc in this country, you have the greatest power as a bloc than any other bloc in this country and yet you don't exercise that power," Holder said.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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## Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Holder and Xavier's President Dr. Reynold Verret discussed voting rights and the steps that Xavier students could take to preserve and sustain the fight that was started during the Civil Rights Era. Holder reminded students of the trailblazing work of Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X in securing the voting rights African Americans now have today. Holder's new book "Our Unfinished March: The Violent Past and Imperiled Future of the Vote - A History, A Crisis, A Plan" was given to each freshman that attended the event to motivate them to continue the legacy started by the Civil Rights icons.

"Holder is an internationally recognized leader across a broad range of regulatory enforcement, criminal justice, and national security issues," said Munachismo Ugoh, the President of the Student Government Association. "In 2015, Mr. Holder joined the Xavier family, our family, the XU family; earning an honorary degree from Xavier University of Louisiana," Ugoh said in his introduction of the guest speaker.

The former attorney general shared with students his background in government and politics to inspire them to take up careers in this field, during this Convocation remarks. The Founder's Day Convocation is an annual calendar event for Xavier that takes place to commemorate the official founding of the institution by St. Katherine Drexel. The event is also used to celebrate the upcoming graduating class and to acknowledge all the challenging work of the faculty of the university.

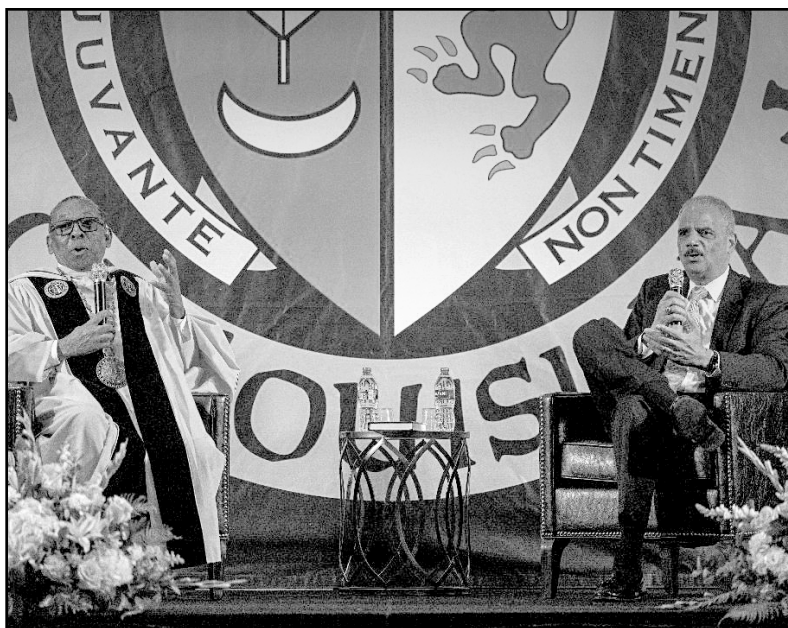
"This commemorates the day when there was an enormous procession and a very important ceremony on the quad side of the main building when our campus was inaugurated. And that day was started because this is the same day that Xavier in its first iteration on Magazine Street opened in 1915-1916," said Dr. Anne McCall, the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Holder left the students with a call to action to secure their future and to get involved in protecting their rights for the next generation.

"You're the leaders of this country going forward and unless you all dedicate yourselves to making this country better it's not going to happen. You can't wait for other people, the calvary is not coming. You all are the calvary," Holder said.



The Class of 2023 participate in Founder's Convocation as they prepare for graduation next year.



Founder's Day Convocation conversation between former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder (right) and Dr. Reynold Verret, President of Xavier University of Louisiana (left).



Former U.S. Attorney General with Xavier's Senior Class President Bria Mayers and Student Government President Munachismo Ugoh.



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Let's Get Ready To  
**VOTE**  
Election Day is November 8th

Stay tuned with DATA NEWS and  
look for your upcoming  
special election issues!



# Fall Fresh Fashions



**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist



Maxi Style Block Color Cardigan & Burgundy Over-the-Knee Boots – stylewe.com



High-Waist Mom Jeans, Blue Stripe Long Sleeve Ruffle Shirt – purewow.com



Khaki, Buckle Strap, Maxi Pleated Skirt – shein.com



Black Beaded High-Waisted Pencil Skirt – uhstar.com



Black Leather Fringe Skirt with Gold Grommet – sydnestyle.com



Over Size Fringe Faux Suede Poncho – sweetneestyle.com



Rainbow Tinsel Fringe Jacket – etsy.com | utinnyc



Beige Fringe Lace Back Moccasin Boots – freepeople.com



Camel Color Faux Suede Leggings & Brown Riding Boots – economyofstyle.net



Winter White High Neckline Shift Dress – dressisi.com

**As** the temperature finally starts to cool down, fashion aficionados can feel a subtle, but recognizable change in the air; and suddenly putting on sundresses and sandals doesn't feel quite enticing. It's time for fall fresh fashion trends to surface and make its debut into the fall season.

## SUEDE PERSUASION

**Test the Trend:** Suede accents on skinny pants and leggings. Try two-tone black pants with tan suede accent.

**Fully Embrace the Trend:** Go all out with a suede shift dress. Look for a lightweight fabric and structured fit to avoid a slouchy look. Pair it with over the knee suede boots.

## FRINGE FEVER

**Test the Trend:** Think accessories. Handbags, booties, vest, or pendant necklaces with a tassel fringe are all great ways to incorporate a dash of fringe into your fall wardrobe.

**Fully Embrace the Trend:** Take fringe to the max by including more than one component of the trend into your outfit. The more exaggerated the better! From a fitted style dress that fringes out into maximum style to a fully fringe kimono that makes a standout fashion statement.

## MAXI LENGTHS

**Test the Trend:** While minis won't go away, mix up your style with a floor-graz-

ing skirts and dresses from voluminous shapes to weighty knits.

**Fully Embrace the Trend:** The real appeal is maxi-styles can easily reimagine and re-wear throughout the season's ever-fluctuating temperatures.

## EXAGGERATED HIGH WAIST

**Test the Trend:** Look for calf-length, pencil skirts with a fitted shape that hits right below the bust.

**Fully Embrace the Trend:** Try a 70's inspired pair of high-waisted bell bottom pants or jeans.

Tracee Dundas Fashion Editor  
@fashionablyyoursnola

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.



# Crescent City Blues and Barbecue Festival 2022

Photos by Demian Roberts

Established in 2006, the Crescent City Blues and Barbecue Festival continues to draw the best performers from southern Louisiana and Mississippi, plus delicious food and unique visual art.



Robert Finley



DK Harrell



Mr. Sipp



Joy Clark



Roderick Paulin



Little Freddy King



Kevin And The Blues Cruisers



Ruthie Foster

A promotional graphic for "THE SPORTS REPORT" on WBOK 1230 AM. It features a man in a white polo shirt with "1230 SPORTS" on the chest, holding a basketball. The background is blue with a red and white checkered pattern and a basketball hoop. Text includes "1230 WBOK AM", "monday restaurant and bar", "EVERY WEEKNIGHT FROM 4PM - 7PM", "THE SPORTS REPORT", and "LISTEN TO LIVE AT WBOK1230AM".

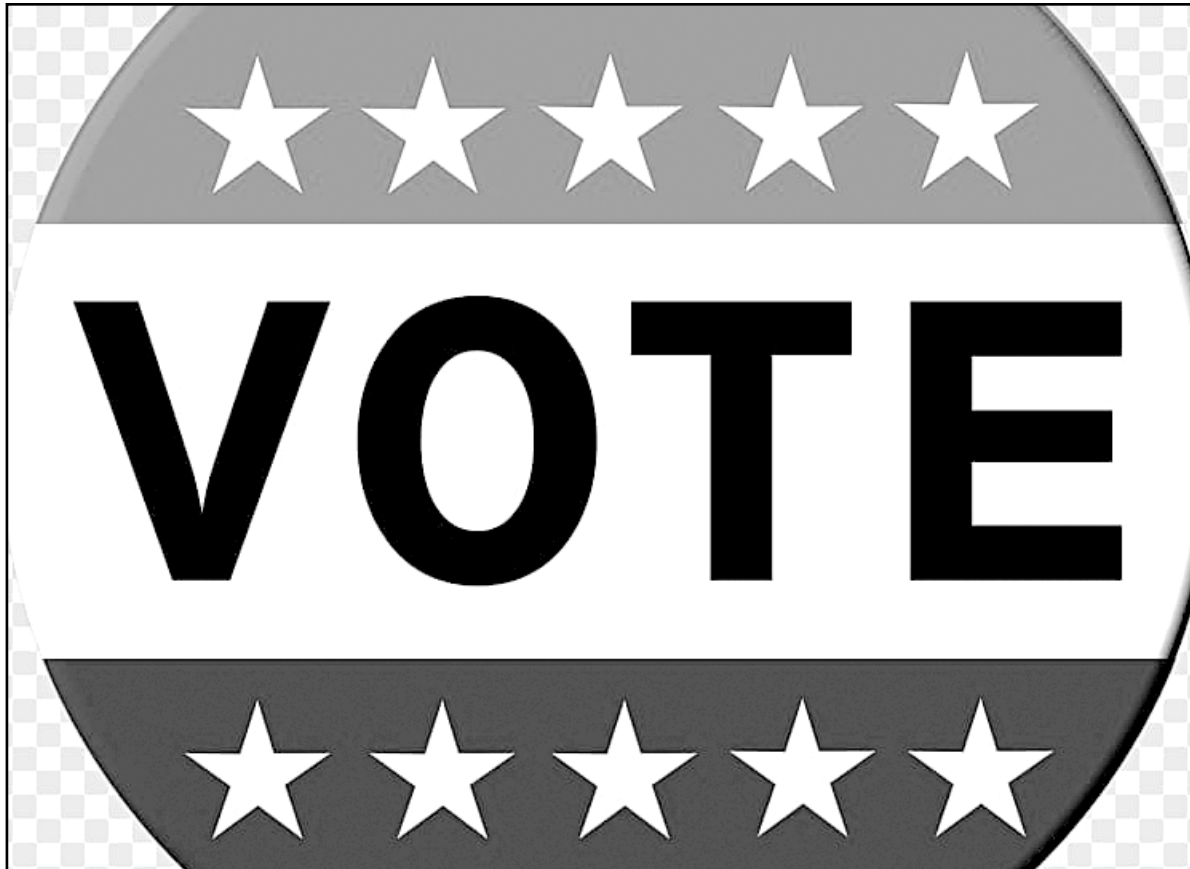
# Important Election Dates

*Early Voting Begins Oct. 25th through Nov. 1st*

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Nov. 8, 2022 - Open Congressional Primary Election

- Early voting is Oct. 25th through Nov. 1st (excluding Sunday, Oct. 30th) from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
  - The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Nov. 4th by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters). You can request an absentee ballot online through our Voter Portal or in writing through your Registrar of Voters Office.
  - The deadline for a registrar of voters to receive a voted absentee ballot is Nov. 7th by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters).
  - On election day, the polls are open from 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Dec. 10, 2022 - Congressional General Election
- Early voting is Nov. 26th through Dec. 3rd (excluding Sunday, Nov. 27th) from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
  - The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Dec. 6th by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters). You can request an absentee ballot online through our Voter Portal or in writing through your Registrar of Voters Office.
  - The deadline for a registrar of voters to receive a voted absentee ballot is Dec. 9th by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters).
  - On election day, the polls are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.



- Early Voting Sites
- City Hall  
1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W24  
New Orleans, LA 70112
- Algiers Courthouse  
225 Morgan Street, Room 105  
New Orleans, LA 70114
- Chef Menteur Voting Machine Warehouse Site  
8870 Chef Menteur Highway  
New Orleans, LA 70126
- Lake Vista Community Center  
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70124

## Queens on Thrones

# Staying Centered



**Diva Dionne Character**  
Female Empowerment  
Columnist

There's a fire burning in all of us screaming to be reactivated with joy and intentions but until you start slowing down you won't be able to connect with the power that comes with the elements of Activation, Passion, Creation, and Doing.

Though it may seem like your light may stay dim forever, you can restore your flame by listening to your inner voice telling you to let go of past relationships, old routines and those eating habits that have been destroying your self-esteem because you choose to not listen to your conscious mind and would



rather keep coming back to the same place and running into the same unhealthy situations as they continue to block all human experiences, leaving you with unhappiness and doubt because you are too hard headed to rise above it all and listen to your beautiful heart.

I encourage you to start a daily routine of rising a little earlier in the morning before the telephone calls, the traffic, the news and all the noise that will hold you hostage as you think of ways to restart your fire to ignite your dreams and goals by staying in the moment and being present as you center yourself, implementing daily healthy rituals.

I suggest you keep your inner

flame alive, in balance and listening by setting some goals, so that you can tap back into your life bringing forth the joy and balance needed by simply putting you first and not making everyone else happy.

Look yourself in the mirror and say positive affirmations like: "I am smart, I am kind, I am worthy, I am enough, and I am brave." Take a quiet moment to review and digest all that has happened in your life and bulldoze it right out of your way because it's time for you to give yourself more credit. You are a woman; you are capable, and you deserve to be happy.

Dionne Character can be reached at [www.characterhollywood.com](http://www.characterhollywood.com).

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# Biden Issuing Full Pardons for Federal Marijuana Possession Convictions

*Also Encouraging Governors to take Similar Steps to Pardon State Simple Marijuana Possession Charges*

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Recently, President Joe Biden issued a pardon to all prior federal offenses of simple marijuana possession, fulfilling a campaign promise of getting rid of possession convictions and loosening the drug's federal classification.

"Sending people to prison for possessing marijuana has upended too many lives and incarcerated people for conduct that many states no longer prohibit," Biden said in a statement.

"Criminal records for marijuana possession have also imposed needless barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities," the president continued.

"And while White and Black and Brown people use marijuana at similar rates, Black and Brown people have been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted at disproportionate rates."

Biden vowed to encourage governors to take similar steps to pardon state simple marijuana possession charges.

According to a Pew Research Survey, wide majorities of Black



adults' support legalizing marijuana at least for medical use (85%).

The survey found that most favor reforms to the Criminal Justice System, such as releasing people from prison who are being held only for marijuana-related charges and expunging marijuana-related offenses from the criminal records of individuals convicted of such crimes (74% each).

According to FBI data, Black

adults are disproportionately likely to be arrested for marijuana-related offenses.

Researchers at Pew noted that, although non-Hispanic, single-race Black and White Americans used marijuana at roughly comparable rates in 2020, Black people accounted for 39% of all marijuana possession arrests in the U.S. despite being only 12% of the U.S. population.

Further, in a separate study, Pew

noted that police officers made about 663,000 arrests for marijuana-related offenses in the 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2018, amounting to 40% of the 1.65 million total drug arrests in the U.S. that year (the most recent for which data is available).

The second-largest category of drug arrests involved "other" drugs (29%), followed by heroin, cocaine, or their derivatives (25%), and synthetic or manufactured drugs (6%).

The District counts among the growing number of places where marijuana use is legal.

Biden's actions grant full, complete, and unconditional pardons to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who have committed or been convicted of simple possession violating the Controlled Substances Act.

The U.S. Justice Department praised Biden's announcement.

"The Justice Department will expeditiously administer the President's proclamation, which pardons individuals who engaged in simple possession of marijuana, restoring political, civil, and other rights to those convicted of that offense," department officials wrote in a statement.

## DATA CLASSIFIED

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### Job Opportunity

#### Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

We can't wait to  
hear from you!

### Job Opportunity

#### Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net)

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