

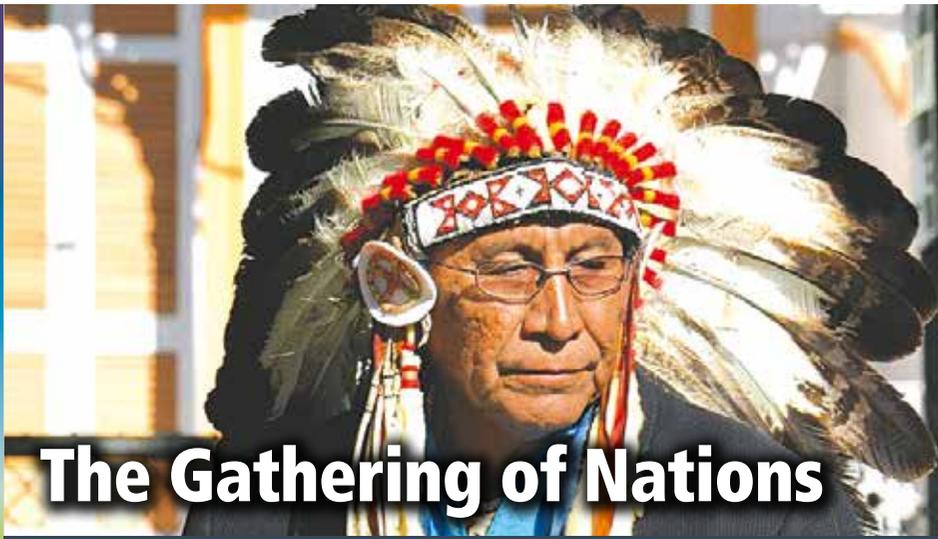
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Data Zone Page 7

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Voting in the Run Off is Important



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Landrieu Supporters Talk about the Importance of Voting in the Run-Off Election



Photo: Glenn Summers

Louisiana State Representative from District 100 Austin Badon

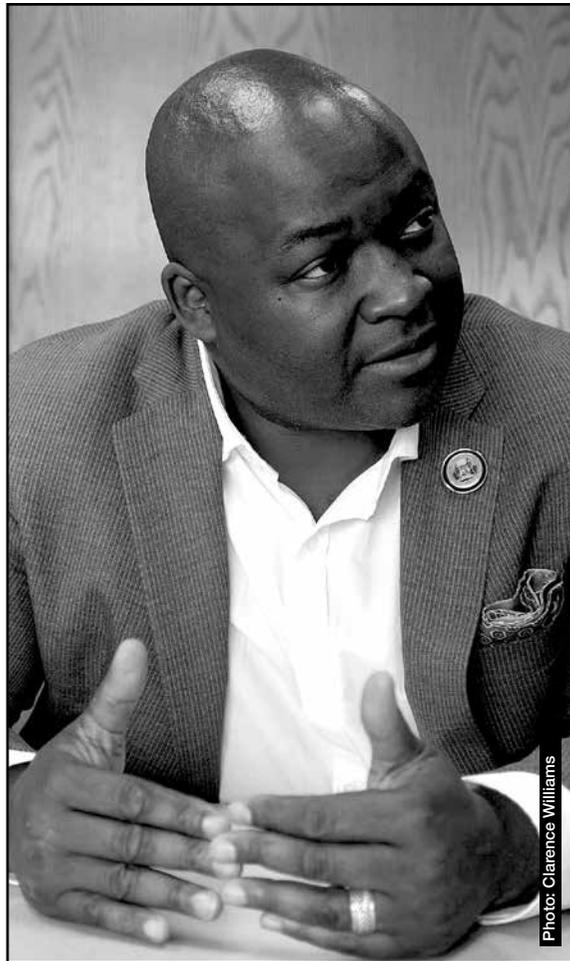


Photo: Clarence Williams

City Councilman-at-Large Jason Williams

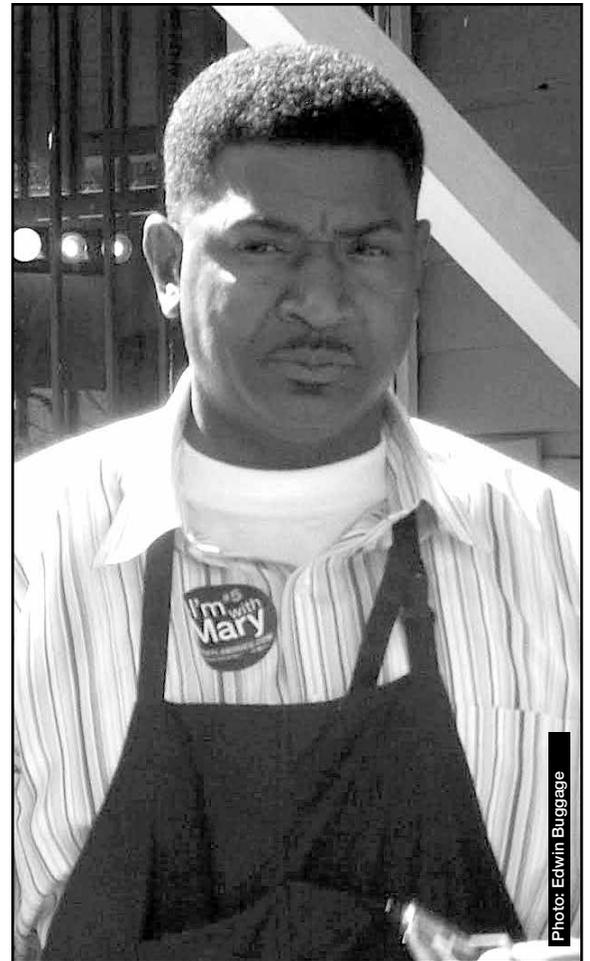


Photo: Edwin Buggage

New Orleans businessman Wilbert "Chill" Wilson

Story by Edwin Buggage

Poised for Victory

As Mary Landrieu came onto the stage on Election night she was surrounded by her supporters. Many of whom have worked with her and some who she's

helped in her many years as an elected official. Today she is in the battle for her political life against Republican U.S. Congressman Bill Cassidy. In her acceptance speech she came out with both guns blazing and issued a challenge to him to quit hiding and distorting her record as she challenged him to six debates in four weeks. During her fiery speech she began to contrast

herself to Bill Cassidy, speaking of how she would be better suited to remain in office.

Now a chorus of her supporters is out speaking on her behalf as we get closer to the all-important week of early voting that last from November 22nd - 29th and the election which will happen on December 6th. Her supporters are coming out in droves

On the Cover: Left to right are: Actress Lynn Whitfield, Wilbert "Chill" Wilson, Joyce Wilson and Senator Mary Landrieu on a campaign stop at Mr. Chill's Broadmoor Dogs and Sweet Pastries in support of small businesses. Photo by Edwin Buggage.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
 editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones

CEO/Publisher

Edwin Buggage

Editor

Calla Victoria

Executive Assistant

June Hazeur

Accounting

Contributors

Edwin Buggage

Clarence Williams

Bill Fletcher, Jr.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Jabar Shumate

Freddie Allen

LMG Calla Victoria

Kichea S. Burt

Art Direction & Production

MainorMedia.com

Editorial Submissions

datanewseditor@bellsouth.net

Advertising Inquiries

datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

trying to help her get re-elected. One of her many supporters is Louisiana State Representative from District 100 Austin Badon. Who's been in the state house since 2003. In addition to being a powerful legislator he is also known for his heroic efforts helping find the body of school teacher Terrilynn Monette, a school-teacher whose disappearance and death was a story that made national headlines in 2013. Speaking of his several decades of knowing Landrieu and her effectiveness as the reason she should be re-elected he says, "I've known Mary for 30 years and she has been good for everyone in this state and it is unfortunate that she is in a runoff. She should have won outright, but in the run-off election I hope that people can put party politics aside and go with the best person."

Landrieu Has Bi-Partisan Support

Speaking of how she is above partisanship Badon says, "Mary has done so much for the State of Louisiana and she doesn't care whether people are Republican or Democrat or Independent. Her main focus is if you were a Louisianian then you could count on her. She has done so much in the areas of job creation and healthcare." Continuing speaking of some who did not vote for Landrieu in some instances because of their own narrow thinking who are voting against things that would benefit them, "I feel it is unfortunate that some of the people who voted for Cassidy and Maness, have made a decision that they would rather be broke and without health insurance than vote for a Democrat and support a Black President."

Speaking of why he supports Mary Landrieu and why it is important for the citizens of Louisiana to re-elect her City Councilman-at-Large Jason Williams says, "Specifically in terms of the LA Senate race, I obviously support Mary Landrieu. We cannot and should not underestimate the value of her experience and seniority. We clearly need a larger democratic voter turnout in December. In addition we need thoughtful rational conservatives to vote their individual interest rather than this idea of a national party platform that does nothing to improve their quality of life. Republicans and Democrats alike in this state should remember what Mary has done, and that results are more important than political allegiance. I think her representation of women is particularly valuable to this state. It would be a shame to lose her experience and perspective at such a critical time. I am particularly excit-

ed to see Senator Landrieu embracing young people in this next phase of this race. The prospective and vote of the next generation is paramount to her success & the success of Louisiana."

Turnout is Key for a Landrieu Victory

During the primary election there was a nationwide drop in voting numbers from 2012 as is expected in most mid-term elections, and in 2014 nationwide it is the lowest turnout for mid-term elections in 70 years. But while turnout is still not high as when there is a Presidential race but when you compare 2010 to 2014 Louisiana was the highest

rated state in the country as far as seeing an increase in voter turnout. While the number was higher than in other states across the country, it will take a larger turnout particularly among African-Americans to get Senator Landrieu re-elected. "I am pleased with the local election results, but obviously now it's time for everyone to actually get on with the work of the people. On the national front, however, I was disappointed but not surprised. The low turnout was frustrating. It is not enough to just vote in presidential elections. It is important to make sure the President has the support he needs in both Houses to move his progressive agenda forward," says New

Orleans City Councilman-at-Large Jason Williams, who is a supporter of Mary Landrieu.

Owning multiple businesses and spearheading several local initiatives to empower citizens Wilbert "Chill" Wilson has become a voice of the voiceless. He has taken the reins of leadership in the community and making a difference in the lives of the citizens of New Orleans. A few days before the Primary Election Mary Landrieu made a campaign stop in support of small business that was covered by local and national media at Mr. Chill's Broadmoor Dogs and Sweet Pastries. "I was glad she came out and we talked about how if elected

she will continue to support small business because we are the engine that drives this economy." Also he is the host of a show on WBOK Radio where he's recently started the Mr. Chill's Voter Challenge. "I approach voting like business, I think if you have a great experience you tell people about it. I feel that voting should be like that, so I have challenged people to do a word of mouth campaign centered on voting. If you have voted tell 10 people who haven't about the benefits of voting or get them to the polls and let their voices be heard."

Cover Story, Continued on page 10.

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Walmart Welcomes 1,396 Louisiana Veterans Home to New Beginnings

Retailer providing employment opportunities across the state for transitioning veterans

Walmart announced it has hired 1,396 veterans for job opportunities across Louisiana in the first 18 months of the retailer's Veterans Welcome Home Commitment.

Part of the company's long, storied commitment to supporting our nation's military and military families, Walmart's hiring efforts have connected more than 67,861 veterans with employment opportunities across the country to date. The initiative guarantees a job offer to any honorably discharged veteran within the first 12 months of separation from service.

"Walmart has benefited greatly from the expertise and dedication



of the thousands of veterans we've welcomed into our ranks this year," said retired Brigadier General Gary Profit, Walmart's senior director of military programs. "No veteran should have to fight for a job when they return home. We are proud to be a part of their story as they transition into the next chapter of their lives."

Charged with driving programs that support veterans, a large focus for Profit in the last year has been building a community within Walmart for its military hires. Profit is proud of how the hiring effort is contributing to the fabric of the retail giant.

"Our veterans thrive in our structure and we have promoted thou-

sands of our Welcome Hires within the last year," said Profit. "The flexibility we offer allows some to pursue educational goals, while others are finding a meaningful new career path."

Walmart has welcomed veterans into every aspect of operations from logistics to management to sales at its 1,396 facilities in Louisiana.

"I wasn't sure what my next step would be when I separated from the Navy," said Robert Boyes, order filler of the Walmart distribution center in Robert. "I've found a new path at Walmart and the opportunity to be a part of a team that operates on many of the same principles the military lives by. I've found a new home."

Founded by Army veteran Sam Walton, serving the military and

military families is part of the global retailer's DNA. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have worked with many organizations supporting veterans, such as Goodwill and Fisher House, for many years.

Supporting the Military Community

In 2014, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation doubled down on its commitment to veterans by pledging an additional \$20 million through 2019 to support veteran employment and transition programs. In 2011, the Walmart Foundation pledged \$20 million through 2015 to help veterans and their families get through those challenges with assistance from programs that provide job training, transition support and education. It met that goal one year early.

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RTA Celebrates Transit Week in New Orleans



The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is celebrating Transit Week in the city of New Orleans from November 10-14, 2014.

The RTA designated Tuesday, November 11, 2014, as the official Try Transit Day in New Orleans. On this day, all New Orleanians were encouraged to park their cars and try public transit.

Whether traveling by streetcar, bus or ferry, this has been a great time for our citizens to discover new alternatives to their daily commute, said Patrice Bell-Mercadel, Director of Marketing and Communications for the RTA. In addition to possibly saving time

and money, you will have a new experience traveling throughout the city.

During the entire week, all residents are encouraged to utilize public transit. Taking public transit will also help the environment by reducing energy consumption and pollution.

During Transit Week, the RTA encourages citizens to get social while on transit. Riders are encouraged to take selfies and share their transit experiences by utilizing the hashtags #TryTransitNOLA and #RTAFlow. Riders are also encouraged to follow the RTA, @NewOrleansRTA.

Succession Planting

By LMG Calla Victoria



Traditionally when we think of planting for spring or fall gardens we think in terms of setting aside a weekend and getting it all done at once. We select the plant material, prepare the soil, and plant the seedlings. If you will notice I mentioned selecting your plant material before either of the other steps, which is because most plants go through a little “transition shock” when they go from the nursery to our backyards. So it is always a good idea to let the plants rest in the new location to acclimate to the new surroundings before plopping them in the ground. If you are planting foliage plants, yes do it all in one weekend and be done with it. But if you are planting vegetables and flowering plants succession plant-

ing is definitely the way to get more bang for your bucks.

Succession planting refers to several planting sessions that increase crop availability and bloom times during a growing season by effectively using space and timing. Therefore succession plantings will extend the harvest time for veggies and allow you to experience longer blooming periods for

flowering plants. Instead of planting everything all at once think in terms of planting seedlings (small plant) every two weeks, or you could plant a seedling and a seed at the same time.

Get into planting your own produce and saving money. Why not, someone grew the produce that you buy from the grocery, so why not you? Cool weather crops

like cabbage, broccoli, spinach, collards, mustards, turnips, parsley, and English peas are easy to grow. Once the seedling is ready for harvest, the plant that is growing from the seed, which was planted along with the seedling, should be about two weeks from harvest. This process also helps to make harvesting a little less overwhelming. Instead of one large massive harvest event, you will do several smaller more manageable harvests. The same is true with flowering plants, if you plant seedlings in two-week intervals, or a seedling and seed at the same time, you will have blooms the entire season.

You are probably assuming that if you planted a seed along with a seedling that the seed is going to take a lot longer to catch up to the

size of the seedling, right? But that is the amazing thing about nature, as the bible says everything has a season. Now if you plant a seed in the ground in the spring, but that seed is for a cool season plant, that seed will remain dormant in the soil until the fall. However if you plant any seed in the ground during its proper season, leaves will pop out of the ground in just days, so the seed that is planted along with seedling will definitely be growing with vigor. That is so amazing, who tweeted or IM ed the seeds to let them know when to come up huh? Our God is an awesome God!

Check out my “Gardening Tip of the Week” at www.thegardeningdiva.com.

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!



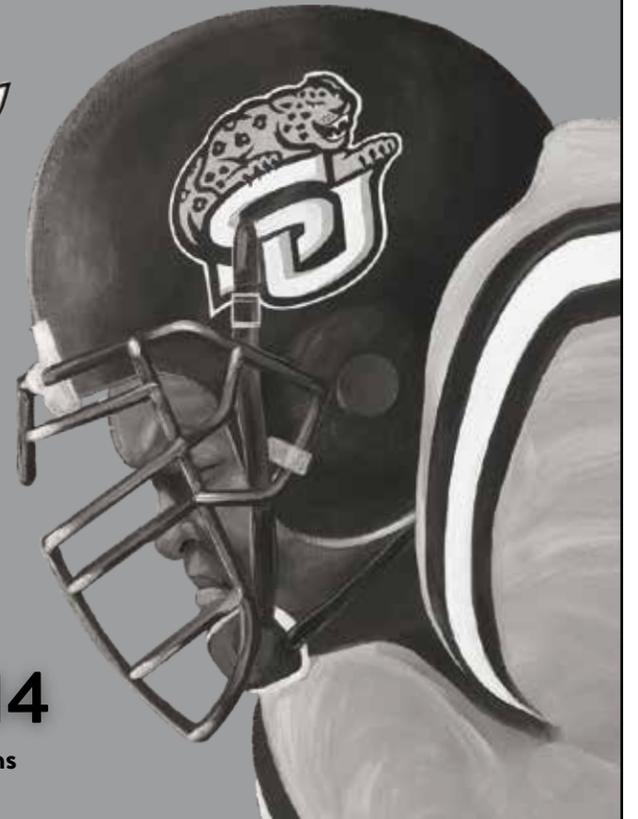
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WHO WILL BREAK THE TIE? 20 - 20



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Treme Creole Gumbo Festival 2014

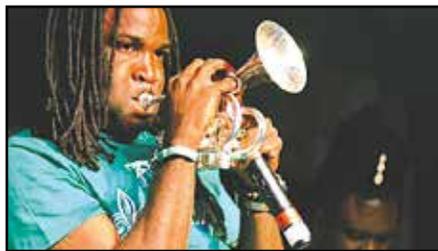
Photos by Kichea S. Burt

The Seventh Annual Treme Creole Gumbo Festival took place on Saturday, Nov. 8, and Sunday, Nov., 9, 2014 at Louis Armstrong Park. This free public event,

presented the finest collection of traditional and contemporary New Orleans brass band jazz to be found anywhere on the planet.

The event also featured a huge smor-

gasbord of New Orleans' signature dish - gumbo, in a variety of styles - along with the festival's Second Annual Vegan Gumbo Contest.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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The Gathering of the Nations

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

The Gathering of the Nations honoring indigenous peoples in New Orleans was held on Saturday, November 1st, 2014 at A. L. Davis Park. Honoring White Buffalo Day 1994 – 2014, thirty years following its birth, the event was presented by Dave Brinks and the New Orleans Institute for the Imagination. Honorees included Sioux Nation Chief Arvol Looking Horse, 19th Generation Keeper of The Sacred White Buffalo Calf Bundle of the Lakota, Nakota and Dakota tribes; Reverend Goat David Carson, United Houma Nation Chief Thomas Dardar, Director of the Mardi Grad Indian Council of New Orleans, Bertrand Butler, Creole Wild West Big Chief Howard Miller, Big Chief Victor Harris and Spirit of FiYiYi, Washitaw Nation Big Chief David Montana, Big Chief Kevin Goodman, Joe Zeno & Port of Orleans Brass Band, and several other New Orleans cultural emissaries and educators. This date also marks the first nationally recognized National Bison Day by the United States Congress. There was an official Greeting & Thanksgiving Ceremony between all Nations, as well as traditional drums, songs and dance performed by members of all of the Nations. Additionally, Chief Looking Horse spoke to the students at several local schools about the special relationship, and century's old history, between African-Americans and Native Americans in New Orleans.



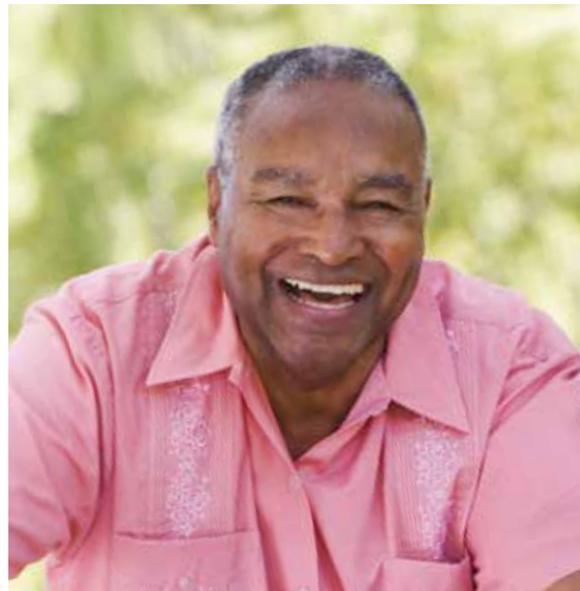
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The Question Black Conservatives Always Avoid



Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Like everyone else, I am processing the November election results. I will write more about that later, but there was a radio exchange that I heard the night prior to the election that really got me thinking.

On my way home from Baltimore, where I had been doing some

electoral work, I found myself listening to a radio program that was addressing the upcoming election. The focus of the program was the Maryland governor's race, which pitted African American, Democrat Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown against Larry Hogan, a White Republican who eventually won the race.

This program appeared to be oriented towards African Americans. A good deal of the air time was consumed with criticisms of the Brown campaign; mainly correct criticisms I might add. Yet, on the program there was an African American who had served in the administration of former Maryland Republican Gov. Bob Ehrlich. She was making the

case for voting for Hogan and dismissing anything positive that had taken place under current Gov. Martin O'Malley and his Lt. Gov. Brown.

At one point in the discussion, this Hogan supporter did something very interesting. She quickly made reference to mistakes that Republicans had committed around the country (she did not say what mistakes); made reference to racism existing in both parties (of course!); and then went on to say that all politics is local and that people should give Hogan a look.

I was amazed that no one else on this radio program, at least while I was listening, pursued this issue.

No one asked the obvious question: "Why should African Americans support someone from a political party that has carried out an orchestrated strategy to deny African Americans the vote?"

I have yet to hear a Black conservative address this and I ask myself, "Why?" How can someone who is Black ignore the fact that race is central in the Republican Party's messages? How can someone ignore the fact that in Republican dominated state legislatures, statutes have been advanced that make it more difficult rather than less difficult for minorities, youth and senior citizens to vote?

No one asked this sister any-

thing like that. They acted as if now governor-elect Hogan exists in some sort of bubble and does not have to address the well-planned, and orchestrated efforts to narrow the electorate rather than expand it.

So, to my Black conservative friends, would you please take a moment and respond to this simple question: How can you remain silent on voter suppression and, worse, endorse a party that has made that part of their strategy?

Thanks in advance.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. He is a racial justice, labor and global justice activist and writer. Follow him on Facebook and www.billfletcherjr.com.

Race and the 2014 Mid-term Elections



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Is there any doubt about the preeminence of the race factor that helped to determine the outcome of the 2014 midterm elections across the United States? I have no doubt. Many of the Democrats who lost their campaigns for Congress and statewide office made no sustained effort to embrace President Barack Obama in their political campaigns. In fact, they ran away from their ties to him.

Why did Democrats seeking reelection and election to office run from the nation's first Black president, the titular head of the Democratic Party? Why were millions of dollars in campaign contributions spent by Democrats in a manner that disproportionately avoided mobilizing the Black grassroots activ-

ists and the Black Press? What role did race play in the election.

Ironically, the Republican Party paid more attention this year than in the past to attract Black American voters. Consequently, Blacks casting ballots for Republicans increased from 8 percent in 2012 to 10 percent in 2014, according to exit polls.

The GOP results were historic: In South Carolina, Tim Scott became the first Black American to be elected to the U.S. Senate from the South since Reconstruction. Mia Love became the first Black American Republican woman to be elected to the House of Representatives. And in Texas, Will Hurd became the first Black American Republican to be elected to Congress in that state since Reconstruction.

Even with those breakthroughs, Blacks remain loyal to President Obama. His favorability among Blacks is down 9 percentage points to 85 percent, still an impressive accomplishment. Meanwhile, his favorability among Whites remains at 34 percent. Congress' favorability is less than half of that.

Black Americans are not monolithic when it comes to politics.

There are Black Americans who are Democrats, Republicans and Independents. Unfortunately there are still too many Black Americans who do not vote. The fact that more than 1 million eligible Black Americans did not care to vote in the last election is both a historical and sad contemporary contradiction. Voting for Black Americans is more than a right. It is a moral responsibility and cultural obligation given our long years of struggle and sacrifice to demand and achieve voting rights, freedom, justice and equality.

With the American economy continuing to recover and unemployment slowly declining, President Obama had led the United States out of one of its most difficult economic recessions in history. The global leadership of Obama also is holding steady in comparison to other world super powers. So why were the 2014 elections such a negative reaction against President Obama?

I believe that there is an anti-Black American sentiment that has infected our politics and our daily lives. The results of the recent elections was the result of fear, anger,

and racial stereotyping. To put it in a single terminology: racism was a determinative factor that caused the election results across the nation. Remember racism can be both conscious and unconscious power actions that result in a systematic negative impact on the quality of life of those who face institutionalized and societal racial discrimination and oppression.

The good news is 2016 is coming faster than most realize. It will be another crossroads for American politics. The stakes will be even higher. We all should be using the next two years to engage and to increase public awareness of the importance of political and economic empowerment. As you know, 2015 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery March and the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already eroded some of the critically important enforcement sections of the Voting Rights Act. Thus, our collective vigilance will be once again required. We should work with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and other progressives on Capitol Hill to ensure

that the Voting Rights Act is fully restored by the new "right wing" Congress.

In the wake of the disastrous elections, President Obama did not blink. He stepped right up and proceeded to nominate another "freedom fighter" to be the first Black American woman to be the next Attorney General of the United States, the gifted, talented and courageous U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch from New York City. Let's see how the U.S. Senate will respond to Lynch's nomination. She was confirmed twice before by the Senate and should be again, Voting rights, racial justice, equal education, environmental justice, healthcare, and economic justice are just a few of the many issues that the new Attorney General will have to face. That's further proof that voting matters.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>

All We Ever Do Is Talk

Embracing Educational Reform



Jabar Shumate
NNPA Columnist

All We Ever Do Is Talk- Embracing Educational Reform

There's been a lot of discussion lately about our public school systems. A recent report revealed that 49 schools within Tulsa Public Schools received an F Grade by the State of Oklahoma. Most of those schools are in my legislative district.

I am constantly wondering how, with so many different avenues of resources and different "plans of action" by our urban public school districts- we still get the same result!

Last week, one of my constituents invited me to the debut of

his new play called- "All We Ever Do is Talk." The play highlighted the problems in an urban school district similar to the one I represent. It was the classic case of the book, "Who Moved My Cheese," everyone blamed everyone else for the problem. The administrators blamed state government for lack of funding to schools, the parents blamed the administrators for lack of leadership, and the teachers blamed the parents.

What I know for sure: as a community, we need to muster the courage to embrace new concepts for educating our kids.

I got involved in education reform as a legislator after studying the growth of the private prison industry in Oklahoma. After reviewing data on the number of illiterate inmates and the alarming disproportionate number of ethnic minorities in prison, I began to realize the connections between private prisons and low childhood literacy.

This year, a report showed that one school in my district had 68%

of its third graders fail state reading exams. That number is similar to other schools in my legislative district. If a student can't read on grade level by the third grade the likelihood that they can perform well in science, mathematics, or history is dismal. What has been proven is that a student's chances of being in the "pipeline to prison" greatly increases when that student lacks strong reading skills.

As our legislators across America return to "work" after the beginning of the year, I am hoping that we will spend the coming months crossing the "partisan isles of education", consistently considering how every action and vote affects the outcome of our children's future.

I did just that when I worked with Republicans and Democrats to expand our state's Charter School Law. I authored a bill that allows our state's universities to sponsor charter schools. The bill was in response to Tulsa Public School's effort to place a moratorium on a

charter school in my legislative district. Today that school is sponsored by our state's only Historically Black University.

While charters were not popular with Tulsa Public Schools then, today, the district not only sponsors charter schools, it received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to establish a charter compact with its charters. The district now collaborates with its charter schools on best practices.

In addition, I supported bipartisan legislation that created the Lyndsey Nicole Henry

Scholarship. Named for former Governor Brad Henry's daughter, Henry became the first Democrat Governor in the nation to sign legislation allowing special needs students to attend a private or parochial school on a state sponsored scholarship. I have also championed other school choice measures that give kids trapped in poor performing schools an opportunity to get the best education available.

We have an alarm at the gate,

and as a community we must not be afraid to explore every option so that our young people don't become the statistic used to justify more private prisons across America.

Recently, I was listening to noted Educator and Founder of the Black Alliance for Educational Options, Dr. Howard Fuller give a speech. He said, "I am haunted by this mental picture of four Black students sitting down at a lunch counter in Greensboro [1965] demanding to be served." Fuller went on to say, "And now in 2011, four students sit down at a lunch counter where they are welcome, and can't read the menu."

It is time to move beyond talk and take direct action to improve quality educational options for our kids. The eyes of the future look upon us and pray that we see beyond our own time!

Jabar Shumate
State Senator
11th District of Oklahoma
Tulsa, OK

Publisher

Why We Need Mary Landrieu and Not Bill Cassidy as Our U.S. Senator



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

From the beginning of her political career Mary Landrieu has been fighting for all of us. She's been a bridge builder finding the things that bring people together around the things that we have in common,

not the things that separate us like her opponent Bill Cassidy. In the primary election Bill Cassidy ducked and dodged from debates and when he did you would have sworn he was running for president for the amount of times he mentioned the name Barack Obama.

After her primary victory Senator Landrieu challenged Cassidy to six debates during the run-off cycle signifying one for each year the victor would serve. Consequently, Cassidy's agreed to one debate during the run-off period on Dec. 1. And even then as a cheap shot he mentioned he would debate her as many times

as Barack Obama came to Louisiana to campaign for her. Is this a cowardly move by Cassidy or is it more strategic? I think it is both, he does not want to debate before early voting and expose a record that may cost him votes and also placing themselves under the scrutiny that I feel is necessary if a person is offering themselves up for service.

In my opinion Bill Cassidy represents everything that is wrong with some of the people in politics. He is someone who is not running on anything positive and he will continue to distract voters by distorting the record of Mary Landrieu and talking about

Barack Obama. But for me this is a problem because he does not want to talk about who is Bill Cassidy and where does he stand on the important issues that people are concerned about in this state?

I feel Bill Cassidy is someone who is a divisive figure who will not govern in an inclusive way. Ask yourself what is it that Bill Cassidy has spoken about that will impact you in a positive way? He also says the reason he has not agreed to appear in some of the debates is because he would rather be out meeting voters. Well ask yourself, how many voters do you know that's met Bill Cassidy? And even with the understanding

that he may lose among African-American voters where is the olive branch showing that he is even concerned about the issues that affect us?

He has run a campaign that divides and conquers. This is not what we need representing us in Louisiana. We need someone who knows how to bring different people together for the betterment of the people of our state, and that person is Mary Landrieu. So as we get close to early voting please get out and vote, get on the phone, email or social media with friends and relatives across the state and encourage them to vote. Our future depends on it.

Lynch Nomination will Test Obama's Relationship with New Congress

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington
Correspondent

In what may be the first test of the GOP-controlled, United States Senate's willingness to work with the White House, President Barack Obama nominated United States Attorney Loretta Lynch to succeed Eric Holder as the next attorney general.

If confirmed, Lynch would become the first Black woman to serve as Attorney General.

During a ceremony in the Roosevelt Room at the White House, President Obama said that he couldn't be prouder of Attorney General Eric Holder and that "our nation is safer and freer, and more Americans – regardless of race or religion, or gender or creed, or sexual orientation or disability – receive fair and equal treatment under the law."

Praising his new nominee, President Obama continued: "It's pretty hard to be more qualified for this job than Loretta. Throughout her 30-year career, she has distinguished herself as tough, as fair, an independent lawyer who has twice headed one of the most prominent U.S. Attorney's offices in the country. She has spent years in the trenches as a prosecutor, aggressively fighting terrorism, financial fraud, cybercrime, all while vigorously defending civil rights."

Lynch earned degrees from Harvard University and Harvard Law School and served as a United States Attorney of New York under

President Bill Clinton a position she returned to during the Obama Administration.

"She has boldly gone after public corruption, bringing charges against public officials in both parties," said President Obama. "She's helped secure billions in settlements from some of the world's biggest banks accused of fraud, and jailed some of New York's most violent and notorious mobsters and gang members."

President Obama said that one of Lynch's proudest achievements was the civil rights prosecution of the New York City police officers involved in the brutal assault of the Haitian immigrant Abner Louima.

After police busted up a fight outside of a nightclub and arrested Louima, Justin Volpe, a White police officer, sodomized the Haitian immigrant with a broomstick in a New York City police precinct. Volpe pled guilty to a number of charges associated with the 1997 attack and is currently serving 30 years. The city awarded Louima nearly \$9 million in a settlement. Lynch was credited for working behind the scenes and navigating the city's prosecution of the racially charged case.

In 2013, Holder asked Lynch to chair the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and recognized Lynch and her staff for being instrumental in implementing the Justice Department's "Smart on Crime" initiative.

"Throughout her career, and especially during her tenure as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York – during both the Clinton and Obama Adminis-

trations – Loretta has earned the trust and respect of Justice Department employees at every level, in Washington and throughout the country," said Holder. "She is held in high regard by criminal justice, law enforcement, and civil rights leaders of all stripes. And from her time as a career attorney, prosecuting high-profile public corruption cases, to her leadership of sensitive financial fraud and national security investigations, she has proven her unwavering fidelity to the law – and her steadfast dedication to protecting the American people."

Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network, a civil rights group that advocates for social, economic and political equality, applauded the nomination of Lynch to be the next Attorney General.

"She is an excellent and worthy choice to succeed Attorney General Eric Holder in his groundbreaking work for the American people," said Sharpton. "Though we have not always agreed on cases, I have always seen her operate in the most fair, balanced, and just manner. Americans would be served greatly by her becoming our next Attorney General and the president should be given kudos for such a nomination."

In a written statement on Lynch's nomination, Wade Henderson, president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 civil and human rights groups, said that Lynch would bring stability to Department of Justice.

"Lynch would bring a steady hand to guide the Department of

Justice and would make history as the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General," said Henderson. "Having already unanimously confirmed Lynch twice as U.S. Attorney, we urge the Senate to approach its third confirmation process with integrity and expedience in the lame duck session."

But Republicans have already signaled that they don't have any plans to take up the nomination until the new Congress in 2015, leaving some Washington watchers to speculate about what President Obama will have to give up to get Lynch confirmed by the majority-Republican Senate.

Earlier this year, the president made a deal with Senate Republicans to fill vacant seats on federal judicial benches in Middle District and Northern District of Georgia.

The deal involved nominating Leslie Abrams for the United States court of the Middle District of Georgia and Eleanor Ross to the United States Northern District of Georgia. Abrams and Ross would become the first Black women to serve lifetime appointments as federal judges in Georgia, but the Democratic-controlled Senate hasn't voted on either candidate.

The compromise also drew the ire of prominent Congressional Black Caucus members and civil rights leaders, because of two other nominees: Michael Boggs and Mark Cohen.

Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.) criticized Cohen, because he led the team defending the state's laws requiring photo identification to vote. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) spoke out

against Boggs for voting against removing the Confederate battle emblem from Georgia's state flag when he served as a state legislator.

The Democratic-controlled Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) also failed to bring President Obama's nomination for U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy up for a vote, because it was reported that Reid wasn't confident that he had enough votes to get him through.

Republican lawmakers and the National Rifle Association attacked Murthy over one of his 2012 tweets that said: "Tired of politicians playing politics w/ guns, putting lives at risk b/c/ they're scared of the NRA. Guns are a health care issue."

The problems that President Obama had getting qualified candidates confirmed to key positions with a Democratic-controlled Senate may foreshadow greater challenges now that the GOP controls both houses of Congress. Still, some lawmakers remain optimistic.

In a statement on Lynch's nomination, Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Chair Marcia L. Fudge (D-Ohio) said that President Obama showed that he is uncompromising and determined that our country's top attorney be dedicated to doing what is right for the American people.

Fudge said, "I commend President Obama for this selection, and request the confirmation of Ms. Lynch without delay."

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

Think Global, and when it Comes to Elections, Vote in all of them National, State and Local

During the two Presidential Elections of 2008 and 2012 we have seen dramatic increases in the number of voters because of the ascendance of Barack Obama, but people must realize that yes these two elections were important and historical. But the things that happen to individuals closer to home are determined in local and state races. "Voting for the President that is fantastic, but

when you shirk your responsibility and don't vote for State Legislature seats or City Council seats, school board or others. Those are seats that have high impact on your daily activity in your City and in your state. I think when you talk about a statewide race. These are people who make laws about every aspect of your daily activities," says State Representative Badon.

Mary Landrieu made headlines when being interviewed by MSNBC's Chuck Todd and spoke candidly of the politics of the south

stating that it has not always been fair or easy for African-Americans and women. For her statement she received criticism from some Republicans including her challenger Bill Cassidy. Badon feels that she was not wrong in her statement and talked about Blacks being enfranchised is fairly recent when you consider in 1965 the Voting Rights Act was signed and feels African-Americans need to take voting seriously. "We as African-Americans have fought long and hard for this right to vote and we should not

take it for granted. Today because others fought and sacrificed we are at the table, we have a Black President, we have people who are in offices in state government and we need to stay active and keep our voice strong and if we don't go out to vote we can lose that. And there are people out there who don't want us to have a voice and be at the table. And the less we go out to vote the more they like it and we do not need to feed into that."

Wilbert Wilson feels African-Americans must get serious about

voting, but feels it is only one piece of the puzzle that is civic engagement, "I fully support the re-election of Mary Landrieu, but it is only the beginning. It is up to us to vote people in office that will serve us and in this case the best person is Senator Landrieu, she has been a leader for all the people of this state and now as she's fought for us we must fight for her and get out to the polls and vote so we can continue to go in the right direction because when she wins we win."

What Will You Find During Medicare Open Enrollment?

October 15 - December 7

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Review the Medicare & You 2015 handbook. It’s mailed to people with Medicare in September.

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