

NO TURNING BACK

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- **Undermining Black Political Power:** By overhauling the U.S. Census Bureau and criminalizing election-related offenses, Project 2025 will weaken the political influence of Black communities by undercounting them and suppressing the Black vote through threats and intimidation, destabilizing the key foundations of our multiracial democracy.
 - **Promoting Punitive Criminal Legal Policies:** Project 2025 will endanger Black communities by likely increasing the use of the U.S. racially discriminatory death penalty and rolling back efforts to address police misconduct for constitutional and civil rights violations.
 - **Jeopardizing Access to Affordable Housing for Black Families:** Project 2025 will transfer control of critical housing programs to expand access to affordable housing, like Section 8, to states—including those with a history of racial discrimination—threatening the housing stability of millions of Black low-income families.
 - **Threatening Reproductive Rights and the Health of Black People:** Black pregnant people, who already face disproportionately high maternal mortality rates, would be hit the hardest by Project 2025’s restrictions on reproductive health care, which include proposals to ban federal access to abortion care and criminalize health care providers.
 - **Exacerbating Health Disparities Caused by Environmental Racism:** By shutting down the Office of Environmental Justice, Project 2025 will allow the federal government to turn a blind eye to the persistent and increasing environmental racism that is causing severe health disparities in Black communities, leaving Black people even more vulnerable to pollution and hazardous living conditions.
- There are other parts of the proposal that would eliminate Head Start, which is the federal program that provides preschool care and education to low-income families; eliminate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs across every area of the federal government; and eliminate the ability for African Americans and women to continue receiving direct small business loans from the Small Business Administration (SBA) in order to start and/or grow their businesses.

NEXT PRESIDENT: FIRST WOMAN OR CONVICTED FELON

Vice President Kamala Harris has an opportunity to make history once again on November 5th, as she is seeking to be the first woman, the first African American, and the first South Asian American to be elected as the 47th President of the United States. The *Forward Times* published an article in July entitled, *Vice President Kamala Harris: Vying to Become the First Woman President in U.S. History*, which breaks down the resume, pedigree, and qualifications of Vice President Harris over her storied career of public service.

In contrast, the *Forward Times* has also published countless articles about embattled former President Donald J. Trump, who is seeking re-election to the country’s highest office.

You would have to be hiding under a rock to be oblivious to everything that the 78-year-old has been accused of.

In May, a New York jury found Trump guilty on 34 counts of falsification of business records in the first degree, in order to conceal his illegal scheme to corrupt the 2016 election, after he was found to have fraudulently disguised money used to pay off porn star Stormy Daniels, as corporate legal expenses, which is a felony in New York.

Everyone witnessed what happened on January 6, 2021, as Trump sought to discredit the presidential election victory of Joe Biden by spreading lies and false information that he lost due to widespread voter fraud. Trump also put immense pressure on then-Vice President Mike Pence, to throw out the legitimate election results. After a fire-starting speech, Trump sparked the mob-behavior on January 6th, that led to the shocking storming of the U.S. Capitol, which led to the death of officers and complete carnage.

On top of that, reports revealed that Trump strongly encouraged Republican state leaders to do everything in their power to overturn the election results in select states that Biden won. In Georgia, he contacted Georgia Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, and strongly encouraged him to find the votes he needed to overcome Biden’s victory in the state. He was subsequently charged by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, along with eighteen others.

In May of last year, Trump was found guilty of sexually abusing E. Jean Carroll and then defaming her by claiming she made it up. Carroll was awarded \$5 million at the time, and then a second jury awarded Carroll \$83.3 million more in damages, because they believe Trump damaged her reputation by calling her a liar after she accused him of sexual assault.

Historically, Trump was also the first president to ever be impeached twice—first on December 18, 2019, and then the second time on January 13, 2021, one week before his term expired.

- labor groups, the teacher’s union, and community organizations
- Colin Allred is seeking to unseat incumbent Republican U.S. Senator Ted Cruz
 - Erica Lee Carter is seeking to finish the term of her mother, the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, for TX-18 Congressional District seat
 - Former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner is seeking to continue the legacy of Congresswoman Jackson Lee, as the next TX-18 Congressional District representative
 - Fort Bend County Sheriff Eric Fagan is seeking re-election, as he is the first Black sheriff in Fort Bend County since Reconstruction
 - Judges are seeking re-election in Harris and Fort Bend Counties, including Vivian King
 - Harris County District Attorney race
 - Marquette Greene-Scott challenging Troy Nehls for TX-22 Congressional district seat
 - There are several charter amendments in Missouri City and district city council elections

GETTING OUT THE VOTE IS CRITICAL

Recently, Houston Ethnic Media held its second of a series of briefings on the 2024 elections, and importance of Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts and the challenges seen in mobilizing voters for the November election, including any barriers to voting that exist.

Katie Campbell Shumway, Executive Director, League of Women Voters, explained that their nonpartisan efforts to inform voters through their voter guide, has been a vital resource for decades. She highlighted the organization’s collaboration with the *Houston Chronicle* to distribute 75,000 printed copies and their plans to expand the guide’s reach through digital platforms. Shumway also emphasized the importance of educating first-time voters, who often find the process intimidating.

Abby Gail Trino, the Executive Director of AliefVotes, discussed her organization’s mission to empower youth civic engagement in the Alief district, an area often overlooked despite its cultural diversity. She highlighted their partnerships with local schools to run voter registration drives and emphasized the importance of involving young people in the civic process. Trino also shared how they work on building leadership skills and fostering community projects to make the district one worth remembering and fighting for.

Oyindamola Akintola, who is a rising senior at Alief Early College High School and serves as Director of Events for AliefVotes, shared how her role involves engaging fellow students in voter registration and civic engagement efforts. She also emphasized the power of peer-to-peer education and the role of social media in engaging young voters.

“Young people should be able to engage in political spaces, and we should make those spaces more welcoming for them so that they can feel empowered to make a difference,” said Akintola.

“Social media has also played a big part in this because right now, teenagers feel like they shouldn’t be involved in political conversations—that has altered their view of voting.”

Akintola talked about the challenges minority students face in feeling disconnected from the political process and how their organization works to overcome that by fostering conversations about the importance of voting.

“I went out with my friends, talked about the importance of voting, and registered students to vote...a lot of my friends are like, ‘Hey, I didn’t know anything about this.’”

Chris Valdez of Houston in Action elaborated on his organization’s efforts to increase civic engagement in Houston by combining in-person and digital outreach. He stressed the importance of building relationships with marginalized communities and encouraging first-time and young voters to see voting as an empowering experience that affects their daily lives. Valdez further discussed strategies to meet voters where they are and highlighted how their coalition of organizations shares a mission to enhance civic participation.

NO TURNING BACK

For African Americans, voting should always be a non-negotiable act of service. If we take the time to learn about the many frontline civil rights leaders and unsung political martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to help us attain the unfettered right to vote, we will understand how politics shape the laws and decisions that we are governed by daily.

Those who seek to disenfranchise Black people from voting understand the importance that voting has on every level of government, whether locally, countywide, statewide, or nationally.

Back in August, the *Forward Times* published an article entitled, *KNOW YOUR VOTING STATUS!* where we reported on the over 2.1 million Texans who had been suspended from voting in the upcoming November presidential election by Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott, and how they could have difficulty voting in November unless they acted.

Well, this past Monday, October 7th, was the last day to register for the upcoming November election, which is just weeks away from being a reality. It is our hope that everyone took the time to check their voter registration status, and that you encouraged others to do the same, prior to the October 7th deadline that just passed.

Now that the registration deadline has passed, however, there is another deadline the *Forward Times* wants you to be cognizant of. Be mindful that Friday, October 25th is the last day for the County Clerk to receive an application from you if you can’t make it to the polls and are wishing to receive a ballot from the County to vote by mail. Again, this is an important action to take if you can’t physically make it to the polls during the Early Voting period or on Election Day.

Early voting begins on Monday, October 21st and will continue through Friday, November 1st, at various polling locations across your respective county, so please find out where you can vote before Election Day, November 5th, comes and goes and so that your voice can be heard.

The right to vote is the most fundamental freedom in a functioning democracy. Please exercise this right by VOTING and encouraging your friends and family to do the same. There is NO turning back!!!

CLASSIFIEDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Refuse Handling Equipment – RH04-25

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers, and distributors of refuse handling equipment to make these types of products available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program.

To view the solicitation documents, visit

<https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notice> or [ESBD \(txsmartbuy.com\)](#).

Response Deadline: November 21, 2024 @ 12:00 P.M. CST

LEGAL NOTICE

Margaret McClanahan looking for Jamika Petro, contact District court 312 at 713-274-4540 case number 202435755.

There are many other cases pending and matters that involve the disgraced former president, but he still received the Republican nomination and could very well be elected again as president.

OTHER IMPORTANT BALLOT ITEMS

Across Texas and in the Greater Houston area, the following issues are of importance as well:

- A controversial \$4.4 billion HISD bond proposal, which has been vehemently opposed by both Democrat and Republican parties, as well as countless