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# SUPREME COURT TO DETERMINE FATE OF OBAMACARE

**At least 20M could lose coverage**



**The Affordable Care Act is on the line, and so is health insurance for millions of Americans as the U.S. Supreme Court reviews the law**





## Record-breaking Black voter turnout a determining factor in election

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As Election Day wraps up, the ballots focus is on Black voters, and for good reason.

Since 2000, non-white voters accounted for nearly three-quarters of total voter growth, according to data from Pew Research Center via Financial Times.

In key swing states like North Carolina, the Black voter turnout could impact the results of the election. Nearly 1.5 million voters in the state are Black with the majority registered as Democrats, the News Observer reported.

In 2008, North Carolina voted for former President Barack Obama but supported President Donald Trump in 2016.

The Democracy and Power Innovation Fund said Black voters turning

out in numbers in battleground states opted out of the 2016 election, according to a release shared with Blavity.

Prior to Election Day, more than 1.1 million Black voters in Georgia had already voted with 28.5% of those people not voting in the 2016 election and 7.3% first-time voters.

In Atlanta where the Black population accounts for 51%, Black voters under the age of 29 already exceeded the 2016 turnout. In Florida, prior to Tuesday, Black voters made up 87% of total voters that were accounted for in 2016.

"We have worked too hard for the opportunity to vote, and overcome obstacles like COVID-19 to vote, to let anyone undermine the legitimacy of this election," Katrina Gamble, PhD, principal of Sojour Strategies said.

## Trump supporters crowd polling station demanding election officials to stop counting ballots

Philadelphiaobserver.com

They bypassed TCF Center police and got into the building, but not where workers were counting votes.

Supporters of the re-election of President Donald Trump gathered outside the TCF Center in downtown Detroit Wednesday, where ballot counting for that county was taking place.

Members of the group bypassed police at the convention center and were able to gain entry to the building, but not into the hall where votes were being tabulated.

The Trump supporters chanted, "Stop the count."

Vice is reporting that two hours before the melee, the Republican Committee in Calhoun County urged its followers to travel to the convention center and "ensure that the outstanding ballots are being counted properly."

Calhoun County is one hour and 48 minutes away from Detroit.

A call for "trained poll challengers" also went out as an emergency call from Macomb County, which is closer to the city.

Detroit journalist Kat Stafford reposted a video of the mob attempting to gain entry into the center, saying, "Note the racial dynamics here: Happening in Detroit — a 78% Black majority city."



## Black votes push Biden over the top in contentious election

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @ StacyBrownMedia

After days of post-Election Day counting, Democrat Joe Biden has defeated President Donald Trump to become the nation's 46th commander in chief.

With all eyes on Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada, and Arizona, it was the Keystone State's 20 electoral college votes that put Biden over the top, and helped America send the message Trump had become known for years earlier during his "Apprentice" reality television show: "You're Fired!"

"Trump finds out Biden won while he's playing golf," Washington Informer Journalist Anthony Tilghman tweeted, as Trump played golf at his National Club in Sterling, Va.

Reportedly, it's the 410th day the President spent at one of his namesake properties since taking office.

"This election is about so much more than @JoeBiden or me. It's about the soul of America and

our willingness to fight for it," Sen. Kamala Harris, the Vice President-Elect tweeted alongside a video. "We have a lot of work ahead of us. Let's get started," she added.

When Biden and Harris are sworn-in on January 20, 2021, the California Senator will become the first Black Vice President in U.S. history.

After what's expected to be the most contentious and violent post-election in American history, inauguration ceremonies will occur. Demonstrators had already gathered outside of vote counting centers around the nation, mainly as the country waited anxiously for results from Pennsylvania, Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada.

Chants of "Stop the Count! Stop the Count!" turned to "Stop the Steal! Stop the Steal! At state buildings by pro-Trump supporters at state buildings. The President egged on the commotion, tweeting false claims about voter fraud and that the "Democrats are trying to steal the election."

With little question, Black voters pushed Biden over the top.

Biden trailed the President in Pennsylvania, but as the count included predominately Black Philadelphia and surrounding counties, Trump's lead disappeared, and the Democrat prevailed.

That scenario repeated itself in Georgia, where Atlanta and Fulton County also came through for the former vice president.

"At this historical moment, the voters have made it clear that they want a country that works for all people. They want a country that is not broken by racism and bigotry," NAACP President Derrick Johnson wrote in a statement.

"They want leadership that can create opportunities for all Americans to succeed in all aspects of society, without fear of over-policing, discrimination, and destructive policies at our expense.

"This election transcends party and gives voice to the voters who want affordable health care, economic stability, quality education for their children, and wholesale relief from the pandemic and structural inequality. How we move forward from here and begin to repair our nation is critical."



## Twitter in awe of John Lewis' Clayton County possibly flipping Georgia against Trump

Philadelphiaobserver.com

'John Lewis must be smiling from heaven.' observed someone as the state appeared to vote for Biden over Trump

Clayton County, Georgia is on the southern side of Atlanta. It is home to cities like Jonesboro, Riverdale and Forest Park, predominantly Black cities and predominantly middle class.

It is a county that was previously represented in the U.S.

House of Representatives by the late, great John Lewis.

And it is the county that turned Georgia blue in this year's presidential election.

Congressman John Lewis, who died this year, is shown in 2013 signing book copies at the 150th anniversary celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Larry French/Getty Images)

The flip in Georgia marks the first time the state has

voted Democratic since the election of President Bill Clinton in 1992.

As time ticked away late Thursday, President Donald Trump's huge lead over former Vice President Joe Biden disappeared in Georgia as votes were counted. Provisional, absentee and other ballots were still being tabulated as of Friday morning, lessening the likelihood the state's 16 electoral votes would go to Trump.





Eliminating the law also means eliminating its protections and access. Medicaid for low-income Americans expanded under Obamacare, and it allowed children to remain on their parents' policies until age 26.

## Supreme Court hears arguments that will determine fate of the Affordable Care Act

At least 20M could lose coverage

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

The Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as "Obamacare," is on the line, and so is health insurance for millions of Americans as the U.S. Supreme Court will review the law on Tuesday, November 10.

With a 6-3 conservative super-majority, thanks to outgoing President Donald Trump and Senate Republicans' rapid confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett last month, former President Barack Obama's signature piece of legislation now hangs in the balance.

Three of the Trump's appointees, Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, and Neil Gorsuch are viewed as more likely than their colleagues to support the now lame-duck President's long-stated desire to kill Obamacare.

"Severability is designed to say, well, would Congress still want the statute to stand even with the provision gone?" Coney Barrett said during her confirmation hearings.

"It's kind of like a Jenga game, it's kind of like if you pull one out, can you pull it out while it all stands? If you pull two out, will it all stand?"

She stated that in the current Obamacare case, only one provision is arguably unconstitutional.

However, eliminating the law also means eliminating its protections and access. Medicaid for low-income Americans expanded under Obamacare, and it allowed children to remain on their parents' policies until age 26. The law also guarantees coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions like cancer, diabetes, and arthritis.

Most healthcare experts agree that during the ever-worsening coronavirus pandemic, an already rising infection and death rate

would climb if the Court strikes down the law.

The judges will hear California vs. Texas, which tackles Congress' 2017 policy that removed the tax penalty from those who didn't sign up for coverage under the health care law.

Republican state attorneys general filed a lawsuit claiming that the individual mandate is now unconstitutional because there's no longer a tax penalty.

Democratic state attorneys general argue that if Congress wanted to end Obamacare, it would have done so. They argue that the Trump administration and the GOP have no replacement, and, importantly, the law is what Congress always intended.

The Obama administration instituted the penalty to ensure that the pool of insured would include young healthy people that might otherwise fail to sign up for health insurance.

Increasing and broadening the pool of insured Americans under the plan (most Americans still receive their insurance from their employers) reduces risk for providers and means that premiums will be less expensive for those Americans participating in either local or federal exchanges.

"The Affordable Care Act now dangles from a thread," declared Nicholas Bagley, a law professor at the University of Michigan specializing in health issues.

Health care expert Seth Denson said it's essential to understand the specifics about the case that the Supreme Court will consider.

The Constitutionality of the individual mandate will be determined because in 2018, Judge Reed O'Connor, a federal judge out of Texas, ruled that the individual mandate, a result of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act, is no longer constitutional.

Denson noted that the first time Obamacare came before the High Court, Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the majority

opinion, was the swing vote upholding the law's mandate.

He did so, stating the penalty found in the law was not a penalty but a tax.

The 2012 argument stated that Obamacare violated the Commerce Clause, that the government could not require someone to buy something.

"However, Justice Roberts upheld the law saying the Congress has the right to tax and the Affordable Care Act did not require someone to buy health insurance, rather it imposed a tax which could be avoided by purchasing health insurance," Denson stated.

A component of the case judges will hear is "severability."

"In their haste to pass the Affordable Care Act in 2009, Democrats failed to include severability language in the draft of the law," Denson said.

He explained that severability, in short, is a process where if one part of the law is found unconstitutional, it can be severed from the remainder of the law.

This provision isn't part of the law.

"The 5th circuit did not rule on whether the individual mandate can be severed and sent it back to the lower court for further clarification. However, the justices will have to weigh in on this as well," he offered.

Judge Barrett has called into question the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, but that isn't what the case in front of SCOTUS will argue," Denson continued.

"What's being argued is the mandate and whether it is severable from the law as a whole."

Denson continued:

"With regards to pre-existing conditions, it's highly unlikely that they will ever be part of our healthcare system again – as my father says, the 'toothpaste is out of the tube' meaning that it would be political suicide to allow them into the conversation."

## FBI delays release of white-supremacist terror report

By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA Newswire Correspondent

The FBI was set to release a legally mandated report in June compiling data on domestic terrorism, including the threat of white supremacist violence. The National Defense Authorization Act requires the FBI to specify acts of terror in the U.S. and "ideologies relating to domestic terrorism." It also mandates the FBI report what their strategy to combat domestic terror is.

But the FBI's report on domestic terror has been delayed by four months. Trump is threatening to fire current FBI Director Chris Wray after the election. Wray has been public about the threat of white supremacist violence.

The delay of the report leaves the U.S. vulnerable against domestic terror as resources go unallocated.

"I would hate to think that they are reacting to President Trump's machinations about his dislike for senior leadership in the FBI. This report probably would not be viewed favorably by this administration. That, I think, precipitates the report not being released by Nov. 3," Rep. Bennie Thompson, Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, told The Daily Beast.

The FBI cited "limitations caused by COVID-19," as the reason the report on domestic terror was late.

"The FBI is committed to continu-

ing with ODNI and DHS on the report and meeting NDAA requirements," a statement added.

News of the delayed FBI report arrives rights after it was learned that there was a plot to kidnap Michigan's Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The plot also referenced a plan related to doing the same to the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam. President Trump constantly referencing Whitmer and Northam is viewed by some as the reason they were targeted.

"White supremacists and other like-minded extremists conducted two-thirds of the terrorist plots and attacks in the United States in 2020, according to new CSIS data. Anarchists, anti-fascists, and other like-minded extremists orchestrated 20 percent of the plots and attacks, though the number of incidents grew from previous years as these extremists targeted law enforcement, military, and government facilities and personnel," noted the Center for Strategic Studies.

If former Vice President Joe Biden is able to win the White House over Donald Trump, it's likely there will be a more aggressive approach to domestic terrorism in general and white supremacy specifically.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at @LVBurke



## Trump refuses to recognize Biden as the elected president

By Viviane Faver Philadelphia Observer

President Trump's White House refuses to accept the transition to President-elect Joe Biden and issue the letter necessary to begin the official transition process, even after Biden was declared the winner at the weekend.

According to a GSA spokeswoman, Trump says that the presidential election remains undecided, although Biden has unassailable leadership in states more than enough to win the White House.

Emily Murphy, the GSA administrator, a nominated Trump politician, offered no indication of when or if she plans to publish the letter.

The GSA letter would give Biden's transition team access to millions in federal funds for wages and travel, along with seemingly

minor things like dot-gov email addresses.

Trump continues to claim that he won falsely. He will seek legal challenges and recounts in several states and is still considering launching a new #MAGA rally campaign to highlight his electoral fraud allegations.

Legal experts scoff at these allegations, which Trump's acolyte Rudy Giuliani praised at a bizarre news conference in front of a Philadelphia landscaping company.

Officials, both Democratic and Republican, said there was no evidence of irregularities.

Biden is moving forward in his transition despite Trump's insanity and has already appointed a coronavirus task force and planned to approach the country on Monday.

However, the world has yet to wait to know what impact Trump's actions will have on Biden's transition.



# Police kill another Black man as people cast final votes

By Hazel Trice Edney

As President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden campaign in key states in final days of the 2020 presidential race, yet another Black man was shot and killed by police Monday afternoon, Oct. 26.

The Philadelphia police shooting of 27-year-old Walter Wallace Jr., a reportedly mentally ill man holding a knife as his mother tried to calm him down when the police arrived on the scene, is the latest of a string of police killings of Black people that had already risen as a major campaign issue. The family had reportedly called emergency for an ambulance for Wallace – not police.

In a video taken by a stander, Wallace appears to be agitatedly walking around and then toward two police officers who were screaming, “Put the knife down!” Wallace walked toward the police; then collapsed in a hail of bullets.

A woman can be heard wailing with shock and grief. A man can be heard saying, “They just killed him in front of me...Y’all ain’t have to give him that many shots.”

Protests broke out immediately as citizens ran toward the dying man and the police in shock and anger.

Wallace’s father, Walter Wallace Sr., in a CNN interview, pleaded for the violence to stop, saying “It will leave a bad scar on my son with all this looting and chaos...This is where we live, and it’s the only community resource we have, and if we take all the resource and burn it down, we don’t have anything.”

Local TV stations showed both looters and protesters in the streets daily. The Pennsylvania National Guard was called in by Gov. Tom Wolf as police continued to clash with protestors. Mayor Jim Kenney has promised a full investigation.

“I have watched the video of this tragic incident,” Kenney said in a statement. “And it presents difficult questions that must be answered.”

Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said there would be a release of more information in a few days. Outlaw said the officers who killed Wallace were not carrying stun guns. They have not explained why the police did not try to restrain the mentally ill man in another way.

Repeated police killings of Black people have already been a strong issue in the presidential campaign. The most recent controversial killings have been of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn., Brianna Taylor in Louisville, Ken., and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta.

“Our hearts are broken for the family of Walter Wallace Jr., and for all those suffering the emotional weight of learning about another Black life in America lost,” said a statement issued by Biden and vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris. “We cannot accept that in this country a mental health crisis ends in death. It makes the shock and grief and violence of yesterday’s shooting that much more painful, especially for a community that has already endured so much trauma. Walter Wallace’s life, like too many others’, was a Black life that mattered — to his mother, to his family, to his community, to all of us.”

Biden and Harris also walked the fine line of scolding violent and unlawful protestors.

“At the same time, no amount of anger at the very real injustices in our society excuses violence. Attacking police officers and vandalizing small businesses, which are already struggling during a pandemic, does not bend the moral arc of the universe closer to justice. It hurts our fellow citizens,” they said. “Looting is not a protest; it is a crime. It draws attention away from the real tragedy of a life cut short. As a nation, we are strong enough to both meet the challenges of real police reform, including implementing a national use of force standard, and to maintain peace and security in our communities. That must be our American mission. That is how we will deliver real justice. All Donald Trump does is fan the flames of division in our society. He is incapable of doing the real work to bring people together.”

A Trump Administration statement issued by Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany leaned to the comfort of the police and blamed Democrats for the chaotic reactions.

“The riots in Philadelphia are the most recent consequence of the Liberal Democrats’ war against the police,” the White House statement said. “Law enforcement is an incredibly dangerous occupation, and thousands of officers have given their lives in the line of duty. All lethal force incidents must be fully investigated. The facts must be followed wherever they lead to ensure fair and just results. In America, we resolve conflicts through the courts and the justice system. We can never allow mob rule. The Trump Administration stands proudly with law enforcement, and stands ready, upon request, to deploy any and all Federal resources to end these riots.”

Meanwhile, church organizations, civil rights groups and activists around the country have

for months galvanized get out to vote efforts with a large focus on police reform because of the out of control police shootings, the Coronavirus pandemic, health care, economic justice and other issues of racial inequality.

Among those efforts, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church has sought to assure that at least 1.5 million of their members voted early.

Reaching out by social media, emailing, phone calling and home visiting – even while social distancing – Bishop Michael Mitchell of the 12th Episcopal District said the issues facing America warrant massive get out to vote efforts in the Black community.

“What has been happening on the streets in the lives of people is on the ballot. I’d say health care is on the ballot. We believe that our economy is on the ballot. And there are things that can mean the end of our growth and development if we don’t get it right,” said Mitchell, who also serves as the AME Church’s president of the Joint Council of Bishops. “I believe that our voice is at the ballot box. If we want to change things, it’s not by staying home. But rather it’s by showing up at the polls and letting our voice be heard. And so, I see people throughout America, just lining up just going and trying to make a difference and we’re just looking for a positive outcome. The church is not attempting to tell people who to vote for, but



**Bishop William J. Barber II of the Poor People’s Movement was set to deliver a special message Nov 1, two days before the presidential election, as America faces yet another police shooting.**

I believe if we show up at the polls, then you’ll know what to do. You’ll be able to make the right decision.”

Mitchell points out in a video news release that presidential candidates are only a part of this

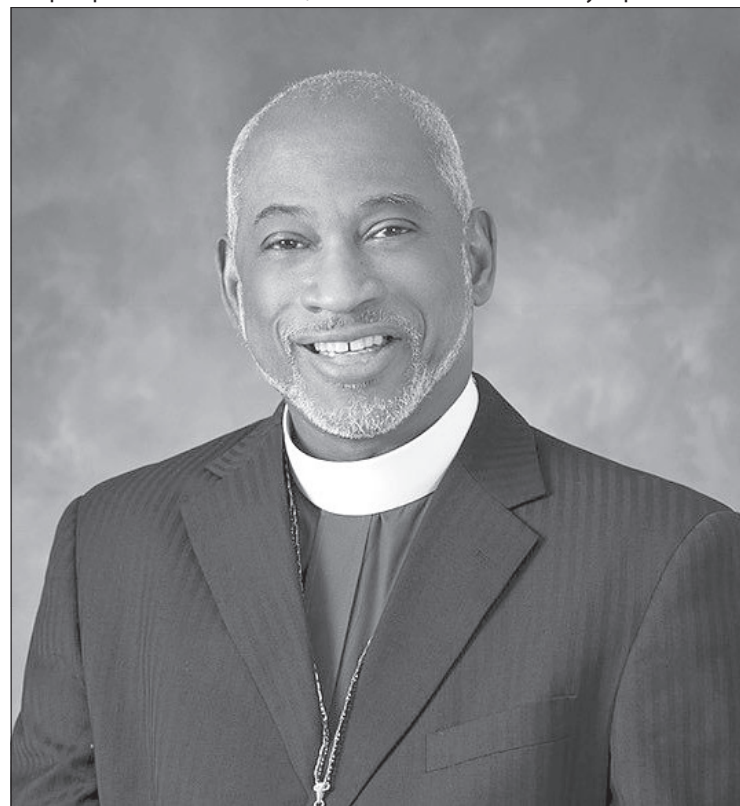
election. Members of the U. S. House and Senate as well as state and local politicians are also up for election and re-election.

Mitchell says that the AME Church is partnering with Bishop William J. Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign, among other groups. “So, we’re not out here by ourselves. We are partnering with other organizations because it’s going to take all of us.”

Barber was scheduled to deliver a sermon to the nation at historic Rankin Memorial Chapel at Howard University on Sunday, Nov. 1; titled “We Know What We Must Do & We Must Do It Now.” The online event is scheduled for 11 am EST at <http://vote.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>.

According to a release, Barber’s message would “provide a critical analysis of this moment just two days before election day. He will issue a clear and clarion call for action to get poor and low-income people who vote infrequently to cast their ballot.”

The release also said that Bishop Barber is “among more than 1,000 clergy members, religious scholars and other faith-based advocates who signed a unique statement supporting a comprehensive path to a ‘fair and free election’ and urging leaders to accept the ‘legitimate election results’ regardless of the winner in November.”



**Bishop Michael Mitchell, president of the AME Council of Bishops, has led a campaign to urge at least 1.5 million of their members to vote early given the importance of the issues facing America.**



## Trump ‘voter fraud hotline’ inundated by prank calls

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Reports in US media say the hotline has turned into a ‘nightmare’ after TikTok and Twitter users began calling in with bizarre stories

A “voter-fraud” hotline set

up by Donald Trump’s campaign team has been on the receiving end of a slew of prank calls after being targeted by TikTok and Twitter users.

Citing unnamed sources, ABC reports that the hotline, which is being run by campaign

staff from the headquarters of the re-election campaign headquarters in Virginia, has turned into a “nightmare”, with staffers answering “prank calls from people laughing or mocking them over Biden’s win before hanging up”.



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# Editorial - Opinion

## Exhale, inhale, roll your sleeves up



By Julianne Malveaux

It took five days for the 2020 election to be called for former Vice President Joe Biden. Five days with me peeled to the television and the internet. Five days holding my breath. Five days, meditating and praying for strength. I could

not imagine four more years of Trump. I actually started going through my belongings, trying to decide which one would make the cut for my move to Ghana (yes, if the Chump had won, I was seriously considering a transcontinental move).

At 11:34 on Saturday morning, the good news trickled down. Biden won. Kamala Harris is Madame Vice President (MVP). People were sending funny and smart text messages. From one friend – ‘ladies keep your shoes on, there is glass on the floor. Exhale. Savor the feeling. Kamala’s win is a “dancing in the street” victory for Black women, for all women, for our nation.

From Psalm 30:5, “Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning.” Well, on November 7 joy came in the morning, the afternoon, the evening. All around the country, people celebrated. Some of us were buoyed

by the celebrations, especially their intergenerational, multicultural, masked participation. But as horns honked, people hollered, and people hoisted “you’re fired” signs outside the White House, some of us wondered how much change, exactly, we could expect from Biden-Harris.

Inhale. Inhale the fact that Donald John Trump was an extreme symptom, but not the cause, of the structural inequities that plague our nation. Inhale the fact that all the executive orders in the world can’t fix the racism that is baked in the cake we call the United States. Inhale their names, the disturbing roll of Black folks killed by white so-called “law enforcement” officers. Inhale the macro and micro aggressions that impact our lives.

I will not be pessimistic in this optimistic moment, nor will I ignore the amazing history we experienced in this election. I

will simply say, as I often do, that voting is not the most, but the least we can do. This election reminds us that Black Votes Matter, that Turnout matters, that, in the words of Rev. Jesse Jackson, “the hands that picked peaches can pick presidents.” There was no blue wave, this was a scrappy contest, with margin, in some cases, less than one percent. There was no takeover of the Senate (yet), and Democrats lost seats in the House of Representatives. And more than 70 million people affirmed Donald Trump, which reveals the stark division in our nation.

Exhale (relief). Inhale (recognition). And then just roll your sleeves up and get to work. Yes, there is much work to do. There are to elections for Senate seats in Georgia. They’ll be decided on January 5, and if Democrats can pull both off, President-elect Biden will have the Senate he needs to make policy changes.

Meanwhile, 45 has seventy days to wreak havoc on our nation. He can randomly fire folks, mismanage agencies (more so than he already has), develop harmful executive orders. As of this writing he has yet to concede the election, even though he has no possible chance of winning. His refusal to smell the coffee slows the transition process, but since this is about him, not about our nation, he really doesn’t care. Yes, we have work to do. We need to roll up our sleeves and get to it. Civic engagement is not a seasonal thing, it’s an all the time thing. We get the government that we choose to participate in.

So kudos to the folks like Melanie Campbell (National Coalition of Black Civic Participation), LaTosha Brown (Black Voters Matter), Stacey Abram (Fair Fight) and the many others who raised awareness, got the vote out, and then protected it. Inhale. Exhale. Get to Work!

## I asked what kind of family

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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# Chicago group brings polls directly to those incarcerated at a local jail

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Chicago Votes, founded 10 years ago, is an organization that works to debunk the myths surrounding voting rights for incarcerated folks, which they say is essential to a working democracy.

This October, they brought polling places directly to eligible voters detained in Cook County Jail, thanks to the Voting In Jail bill, recently passed into Illinois law.

"We just want to make sure all the misconceptions that folks lose the right to vote forever because

they have a felony on their record are dismantled before people even leave the prison," organizing manager Alexandria Boutros said. "We know this myth is so widespread throughout prisons, and thus throughout communities. It's detrimental because elected officials are passing laws and doing work all the time around our prisons and jails, and it should include people who are directly affected."

Incarcerated folks' eligibility to vote varies across state lines. In Illinois, citizens reserve the right to vote while they await trial, and those convicted of a felony have

their voting rights reinstated at the end of their prison sentence. Still, ACLU Illinois reports, many Illinoisans who have experienced incarceration do not know their rights.

The Voting In Jail bill was created to bridge this gap. The legislation, which took effect January 1, mandates that counties with over three million eligible voters place polling stations inside of county jails.

Chicago Votes co-deputy director Jen Dean said the first weekend of voting at Cook County Jail was "historic."



# New Jersey releases more than 2,200 incarcerated people under new public health law

As prison conditions help spread the possibility of contracting the coronavirus, New Jersey has released over 2,200 incarcerated people under a recently passed law.

According to CNN, the law is the first of its kind in the nation, and it allows those incarcerated to acquire emergency credits in the event they are eight months away from release during a public health crisis. More than 2,200 inmates were released on Wednesday, with another 1,167 estimated to be gradually released between Nov. 4 and March 4, 2021, New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) spokesperson Matt Schuman told CNN.

Those incarcerated for murder, sexual assault, or who have been deemed to be a repetitive sex offender will not be eligible for release under the new law.

"Since March, the population

in State correctional facilities has decreased by nearly 3,000 people (16 percent), including more than 1,200 people who were released under Executive Order 124. This dramatic reduction has allowed for critical social distancing as part of the fight against COVID-19," said Gov. Phil Murphy in a press release.

So far, 52 people have died from COVID-19 while incarcerated in New Jersey prisons. According to data from the NJDOC, more than 3,000 inmates and over 1,000 Corrections employees have already been infected with the virus.

"The spread of COVID-19 in New Jersey's prisons, and our highest-in-the-nation death rate, has been a matter of public health, a matter of racial justice, and a matter of life and death," Amol Sinha, executive director of the ACLU of New Jersey, told CNN in a statement.



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# On the scene

## Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be magnificent unifiers!

By Audrey J. Bernard

Millions of viewers and voters alike tuned in to see America's future **President-Elect Joe Biden** and **Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris** together with their respective families during Biden's victory celebration in Wilmington, Delaware, Saturday night,

November 7, 2020. Social distancing was practiced – as much as possible – and everyone wore a mask! Harris looked beautiful as she strutted across the stage excitedly waving wearing all-white pantsuit designed by Wes Gordon, the creative director of the immigrant-founded American label, Carolina Herrera, paying tribute to the suffragette

movement while tying her historic election to the continued fight for women's rights. During her empowering speech, Harris acknowledged the people who paved the way for her to become the first woman and woman of color vice president during her speech, saying, "All the women who worked to secure and protect the right to vote

for over a century: One hundred years ago with the 19th Amendment, 55 years ago with the Voting Rights Act, and now, in 2020, with a new generation of women in our country who cast their ballots and continued the fight for their fundamental right to vote and be heard." Then, as she introduced Biden pandemonium broke out as he jogged to the

stage looking like a stallion coming to rescue America. Following Biden's unifying speech, he was joined on stage by his wife and America's next First Lady **Dr. Jill Biden** who looked resplendent in a black and red floral Oscar de la Renta. The evening came to an awesome close with spectacular fireworks! (Photos by Getty Images)



VP-Elect Kamala Harris introduces herself before introducing Pres.-Elect Joe Biden



Dynamic duo Joe & Kamala fist bump on stage



Pres.-Elect Joe Biden delivers powerful victory speech after defeating Trump



Pres.-Elect Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden with Vice Pres.-Elect Kamala Harris and Doug Emhoff



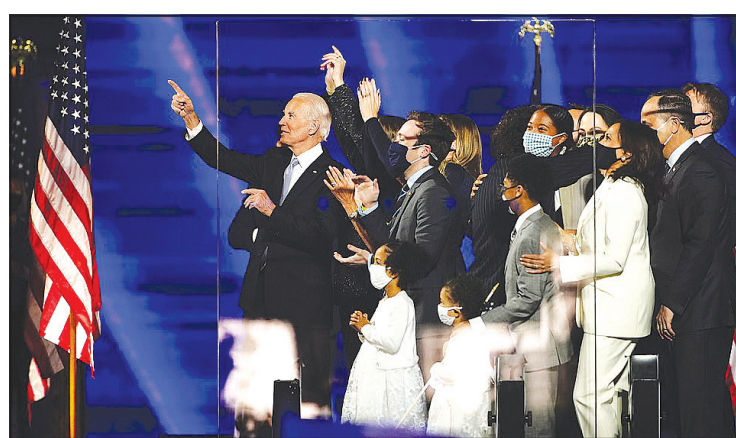
Meet the First family: After a rousing celebratory speech, Joe Biden was joined by his family on stage. Biden's camp included granddaughters Natalie Biden and Naomi Biden, grandson, daughter Ashley Blazer Biden, Hunter Biden, grandson Beau Biden, Melissa Biden and granddaughter Finnegan Biden



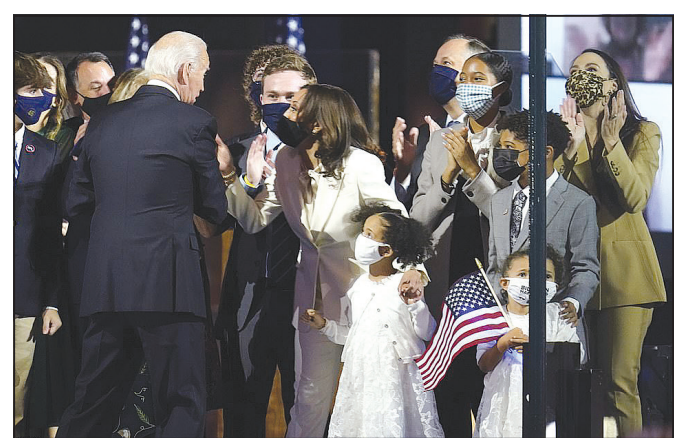
Pres.-Elect Joe Biden kisses grandson Beau Biden held by son Hunter Biden after speaking at his election rally



The next first couple: POTUS and FLOTUS are a fashionable couple



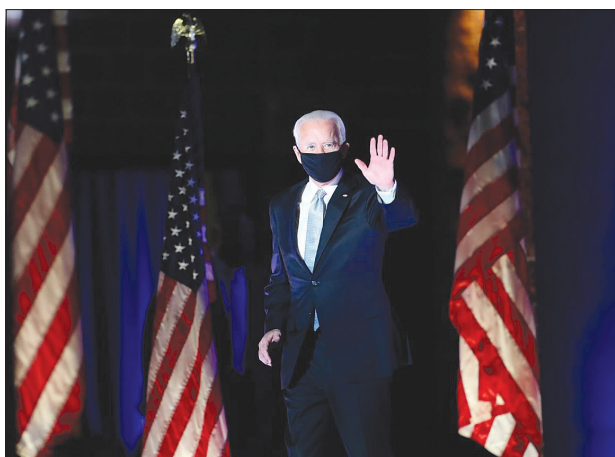
Pres.-Elect Joe Biden and Vice Pres. Elect Kamala Harris are joined by family members to watch beautiful fireworks after Biden delivered his victory address



Pres.-Elect Joe Biden talks with Vice Pres.-Elect Kamala Harris and her family on stage after speaking in Wilmington



Pres.-Elect Joe Biden and family watch fireworks from stage after Biden's address to the nation from the Chase Center



Stunning fireworks brings rally to a spectacular end





# Gospel Music

## Duo Juan and Lisa Winans hit with “It Belongs To Me”



Posted By Don Thomas

Grammy-nominated husband and wife gospel duo Juan and Lisa Winans featuring Marvin L. Winans recently landed at No. 9 on Billboard’s Gospel Airplay Chart with “It Belongs To Me.” The couple’s first non-holiday track, released on Dare Records, marks their first time charting together as recording artists.

The track is a timely message of faith and assurance, needed during the world’s current social and political unrest. “Having ‘It Belongs To Me’ reach the top ten means that people are hearing the song, and that makes me proud and grateful because I truly believe this message of hope is a much needed one,” says Juan.

“It’s incredible to know that this declaration of faith and hope is reaching so many people. We’re so grateful, and our prayer is that the listener would internalize this message and begin to sing, speak, and shout ‘It Belongs To Me’ over every area of their lives. God is able,” adds Lisa.

Songwriters Juan and Lisa Winans are today’s millennial Christian couple. Juan, a third-generation member of the legendary Winans family, began his career as a member of Winans Phase 2, along with his eldest brother, Carvin, and his cousins Marvin Winans, Jr., and Michael Winans, Jr.

The group’s first recording, “We Got Next,” debuted at No. 1 on Billboard’s Gospel Album charts. Juan’s father, Carvin Winans, is a

member of the five-time Grammy Award-winning group The Winans, which includes his uncles Marvin, Michael, and the late Ronald Winans.

Juan also starred in the theatrical production of Born For This: The BeBe Winans Story, written by his uncle BeBe Winans and also starring his sister, Deborah Joy Winans of the TV drama series, Greenleaf. Lisa, formerly Lisa Kimmey, is best known as a member and lead songwriter of the Contemporary Christian music trio Out of Eden with her sisters Andrea Kimmey-Baca and Danielle Kimmey Torrez.

The group released seven career albums from 1994-2006 including the No Turning Back, This Is Your Life and Hymns. During Lisa’s tenure, she made a special guest appearance on the ‘90s TV sitcom, “Mo’Nisha,” which streaming giant Netflix recently added to its lineup of African American classics from the 1990s and early 2000s.

Lisa also was a host of original programming for the Gospel Music Channel and hosted the Verizon Wireless How Sweet the Sound choir competition along with Donald Lawrence. For more information on Juan and Lisa Winans, go to [www.juanandlisawinans.com](http://www.juanandlisawinans.com).



Uncle Charlie Wilson calls upon Motown Living Legend Smokey Robinson for a soulful duet on his new single “All Of My Love.” The timeless R&B track brings back a romantic feeling that the Gents effortlessly deliver. A love arrangement that will surely be played at weddings or to celebrate anniversaries for years to come. Visit YouTube. (D.T.)

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# Culture

## Michelle Obama issues message of hope after Biden election victory

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**M**ichelle Obama has warned Americans that there's still a lot of hard work ahead when it comes to uniting a divided country after Joe Biden's election victory.

"I'm beyond thrilled that my friend @JoeBiden and our first Black and Indian-American woman Vice President, @Kamala-Harris, are headed to restore some dignity, competence, and heart at the White House. Our country sorely needs it," Obama wrote in a lengthy statement shared on social media.

"Thank you to all of you who poured every ounce of your hope and determination into this democracy over these past four years, registering voters, getting them to the polls, keeping folks informed. More votes were cast in this election than ever before. It's



because of you," she added.

"And after we celebrate — and we should all take a moment to exhale after everything we've been through — let's remember that this is just a beginning. It's a first step. Voting in one election isn't a magic wand, and neither is winning one."

## This 12-year-old is set to become one of the youngest composers for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**T**eaching music to children has been said to offer positive growth during their early development. For one Brooklyn girl, her love for music led her to continue her dream toward composing original work while achieving remarkable milestones.

Grace Moore is a young musician who is poised for greatness and achieved a huge milestone this week. WPIX 11 reported that the seventh-grader is one of the youngest composers to enter the New York Philharmonic. Moore is enrolled in the organiza-

tion's Very Young Composers program designed to teach participants as young as 8-years-old how to create original scores. The members of the program will also get to see their work performed by professional musicians in the orchestra.

The student body of Poly Prep in Brooklyn congratulated their fellow student on its Twitter page to celebrate the high accomplishment. "#PolyPrep is so proud of seventh-grader Grace Moore '26" the school wrote in a tweet. "Hear her beautiful music composed as part of the NY Philharmonic Very Young Composers program."



## E.S. Reddy, who led U.N.'s efforts against apartheid, dies at 96

By Sam Roberts

**E**.S. Reddy, an Indian-born acolyte of Gandhi who spearheaded efforts at the United Nations to end apartheid in South Africa, died on Sunday in Cambridge, Mass. He was 96.

His death was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, who hailed Mr. Reddy's "commitment to human rights" and his epitomizing "social solidarity."

From 1963 to 1984, Mr. Reddy oversaw the U.N.'s efforts against apartheid first as principal secretary of the Special Committee Against Apartheid and then as director of the Center Against Apartheid.

He campaigned for boycotts and other economic sanctions against the white South African government, which segregated and oppressed Black people and subordinated the country's large population of Indian immigrants.

He also lobbied relentlessly for the release of Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned anti-apartheid leader who was finally freed in 1990 and then elected South Africa's first Black head of state four years later.

"There is no one at the United Nations who has done more to



expose the injustices of apartheid and the illegality of the South African regime than he has," Sean MacBride, a former U.N. commissioner for Namibia and a Nobel Peace Prize winner, said of Mr. Reddy in 1985.

In a 2004 interview for the book "No Easy Victories" (2007), Mr. Reddy, influenced by Gandhi's strategy of nonviolent resistance to India's British colonial rulers, explained the genesis of his interest in South Africa:

"I was already interested in the anti-apartheid movement in the 1940s, when the struggle in South Africa took on new forms and Indians and Africans were cooperating in the struggle. During the Second World War,

the United States and Britain talked about four freedoms in the Atlantic Charter, but those freedoms didn't apply to India or South Africa."

The vast pool of Indian contract workers who had immigrated to South Africa starting in the late 19th century had found common ground with Black citizens as another oppressed minority there. India was among the first countries to join what became an international movement to isolate South Africa through commercial and cultural boycotts, and to exert economic leverage by pressuring corporations, universities, foundations and pension funds worldwide to divest themselves of holdings in South African companies.



## Whitney Houston, The Notorious B.I.G. inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**W**hitney Houston and The Notorious B.I.G. were both inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. (Photo by Kevin Winter/Getty Images / Chris Walter/WireImage)

"What it does is it underscores that rock and roll was never just four skinny guys with long hair and guitars," Harris said.

"I think Whitney is a great

example. When people talk about the diversity of rock and roll and the diversity of music and sound," Harris said, describing Houston as "the greatest voice of her generation."

R&B star Alicia Keys gave a touching induction speech for Houston, whom she wrote a song for on the former's final album.

"We all know what a miraculous singer Whitney was, perhaps

the greatest voice of our all-time. We all know how her unprecedented success brought Black women into the absolute highest reaches of the music industry's pantheon," said Keys.

"We all know that her music will live forever — that music, that everlasting voice is her final generous gift to us. And she will now be one of the brightest lights ever to shine in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame."





## New coronavirus lockdown in Greece requires people to text authorities before leaving home

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**U**nder a second nationwide coronavirus lockdown in Greece, people will need to text authorities if they want to leave their homes.

The lockdown will start at daybreak Saturday and last until the end of the month. With infections surging across the country, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said

he acted before patients overwhelm hospitals.

"We must stop this wave," Mitsotakis said Thursday. "I chose once again to take drastic measures sooner rather than later."

As part of the lockdown, all retail stores except those selling essential items such as food, medication and fuel will be closed.

Travel inside the country will be severely restricted.

People will only be allowed to leave their homes for work, physical exercise or medical reasons and only after sending a text message to authorities.

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## Guatemala mudslides kill more than 50

By Kirk Semple and Oscar Lopez

**M**EXICO CITY — More than 50 people have died in mudslides around Guatemala, the country's president said Thursday afternoon, adding to the death toll in Central America from a vast storm system dumping heavy rainfall across the region.

At least 23 other people throughout Central America have died or are missing as a result of the storm, according to news reports.

In central Guatemala, one mudslide alone buried 25 houses with dozens of people trapped inside, President Alejandro Giammattei said at his news conference. The extent of the casualties from that mudslide was unclear.

"Right now we're trying to get there on foot because we can't get there any other way," Mr. Giammattei said. "We're mobilizing all the support we have."

The storm system roared ashore along the northeast Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua on Tuesday as a Category 4 hurricane called Eta, before grinding slowly through northern Nicaragua and across Honduras. It has unleashed torrential rains throughout Central America that have, in turn, caused widespread flooding and devastating mudslides.

By early evening Thursday, the weather system was centered 65 miles west-northwest of La Ceiba, a city on the coast of Honduras, and



forecasters expected it to move over the northwestern Caribbean by Friday morning before approaching the Cayman Islands on Saturday.

As it has blasted across Central America, the weather system has destroyed houses, flooded villages, toppled trees and knocked out power grids, driving thousands of people out of their homes to seek sanctuary in schools, government buildings, churches and other more secure structures.

In Honduras, at least 11 people have died in various mudslides and in floodwaters, according to wire services and local media. Two people in Nicaragua, both miners working in a remote area of the country, died when they were caught in a mudslide, local media reported.

In Costa Rica, a woman from Puerto Rico and a man from the United States were killed in a mudslide, Reuters reported. And Panamanian officials have said that eight people were missing amid landslides and flooding in the province of Chiriquí, The Associated Press reported.

## Sudanese refugees face uncertainty in Israel if bilateral ties are resumed

(GIN) -

**S**udanese refugees who live in Israel are wondering what their future holds if ties are normalized between the two countries as predicted and the Israeli government launches deportation proceedings against them.

There are around 6,500 Sudanese nationals in Israel, representing 20 percent of all the asylum seekers in the country. Of these, 4,500 have submitted requests for political asylum and have been awaiting a decision for many years.

Some 1,600 of the Sudanese have been recognized as coming from Darfur, and another 300 as originating from the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile regions, also known regions of conflict. There are many others who originate from these areas but they aren't recognized as such because they have never been called in for interviews to determine their place of original residence.

"I have a lot of family in Darfur," said Faisal Sadiq Adam, a car mechanic who's lived in Israel for 12 years. "People (in Darfur) are



being killed and wounded... You can't say it's not dangerous there, there's still murder every day. My grandfather and five uncles were

killed; my mother told me when I was 16 to flee so at least I'd be saved. Israelis don't listen to our stories, but we were fleeing from

real danger."

"We are living here without residential status, which means they can undermine in one blow

all our security in life and everything we're trying to build," said Adam, another refugee from Sudan who has three children and has been living in Tel Aviv since 2012.

"Think of yourselves, you live in a certain city, your kids are in school, you have work, but you always have the fear that one day some politician will want to get more votes at your expense and will send you and your children to a dangerous country and everything you try to build will be destroyed."

Sudanese nationals are not currently being repatriated to their native land, but not because Israel recognizes Sudan as a country in crisis but because of the lack of diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the Republic of Sudan.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Israel stressed to the newspaper Haaretz that even if there's a change in the relations between the two countries, it would not allow forced deportations to Sudan, but only voluntary return. w/pix of Sudanese asylum seekers





By Victoria Horsford

# What's going on

## ANATOMY OF 11/3 ELECTION USA

Last week was akin to the memorable Charles Dickens line “It was the best of times and the worst of times” for American political cognoscenti. The November 3 election did not deliver the pollayanna outcomes that most progressives desired. It did expel the man who represented the evil empire in the making. The good news is that Joe Biden is the USA President elect, who will occupy the White House on January 20, 2021. Ms. Kamala Harris, Afro/Indo America is Vice President elect and Americans of all stripes were dancing in the streets and beyond shortly after 11 am on Saturday when the projection was announced and that Joe Biden will be POTUS 46. Would like to know more about her Jamaican ancestry. International media raced to India to her mother’s home. The USA

could not have survive as a democratic republic during a second term Donald Trump presidency. The electorate got what most wanted. Pollsters and pundits again miscalcated the American temperature and temperament. Many looked forward to a Democratic trifecta victory with a Biden/Harris victory, the ouster of the GOP US Senate majority and expanding the Democratic House majority, not a loss of seats. Moreover, we wanted more state houses to flip from red to blue, assuring more equitable redistricting configurations to insure more balance in the 2021 legislatures tasked with that important work to avoice gerrymandering. The Presidency and the House are not bad outcomes for the Democrats. Suspect that two out of three is not bad. tenant the White House as the



**Kamala Harris**

46<sup>th</sup> President of the USA. There is hope that Georgia will do right thing by Democrats with the US Senate recount.

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR DEMOCRATS

Democrats need to replicate the Stacey Abrams model FAIR FIGHT ACTION PAC, in Georgia, where she fights voter purges and voter repression and has recruited more than 800,000 to register, which has helped flip Georgia to bluish. She is a formidable fundraiser. There should be a cabinet post for her in the Biden White House.. McConnell will not let that happen if the GOP keeps its majority Georgia is now ground zero for the US Senate race and which Party will dominate the chamber. The two Georgia Democratic Senate hopeful on recount ballot are Jon Ossoff and African American Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock. If those two Democrats win the January 5 recount, the Democrats are looking at a powerful 2021. With a Democrat majority in the Senate, President Biden would have more political leverage. American politics has Georgia on its mind! Both political parties are going to inundate the races with duckets galore.

The Democratic caucus in the House of Representatives lost some seats last week, none of them held by African Americans. Nevada Rep Steven Horsford, who ran in a battleground district was re-elected as was NY



**Stacey Abrams**

Rep. Antonio Delgado. NY elected three new Black Democratic progressives Jamaal Bowman, Mondair Jone and Ritchie Torres and will have boasting rights for the largest delegation of Black Reps, seven all told, in the nation. They join Congressmembers Gregory Meeks, Yvette Clark and Hakeem Jeffries who were re-elected. Ms Cori Bush makes history as the first Black congress member from the state of Missouri.

## THE STATS

What was the election breakdown? According to 11/7 election results, of the 149.8 million votes cast and counted, Joe Biden got almost 75 million, the most ever for a presidential candidate. His EC number is 290. According to the AP Vote Cast Data, 9 out of 10 Black people voted for Joe Biden who garnerd 65% of the Latino

vote. Trump got 58% of the white vote. In another survey, Biden enjoyed 61% of moderate voters, 54% of suburban voters and 62% of young voters—Millennials and GenZers. Viewed through other lens, our nation is deeply divided—Dems vs. Republicans, rural vs urban populations, liberals vs conservatives. Forgot to men-

tion race! Divisions don't stop there. Look at levels of education, gun ownership and perceptions of COVID-19 which originally was a blue state phenom which has traveled deep into rural red states. These divides inform perhaps impair our mindsets. This nation of 330 million is hard to read.

## DEMOCRAT FAULTLINES

The Democrats biggest problem is “messaging” and “narrative control.” Some key words and phrases which chipped away at voters. Republicans, especially POTUS 45, has defined the 116<sup>th</sup> Democrats in Congress as a bunch of socialists, who were really progressives; who want to

“defund the police,” who really advocated for police reform; and has maligned the human rights group Black Lives Matter as a terrorist allied with Antifa. The Democrats never offered a counterargument. DNC Chair Mr. Perez need to open an agitprop office ASAP. Rep Alexandria Oc-

asio Cortez recently said that the “Democratic Party is not online.” Trump’s laundry list of policies like caging children, engaging with with supremacists, ICE of-fensives undocumented people of column, tax cuts for the rich and the failure of COVID19 leadership to contain the pandemic

should have been enough to vanquish the GOP at the polls on 11/3.

I am still shock thinking about African American HIPH-OP icons, like ICE CUBE, 50 CENT and Lil Wayne, en route to to billionaire status, who admitted their indifference to

politics until this year, and who supported the Trump re-election effort. 50 CENT vowed to leave the United States if Trump loses. One young Black man said that he supported POTUS 45 because no other US President ever sent him a \$1200 check.

# #DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov



# Ponder this

# WAIT while they work it out



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Since 2016 this nation and the global community has watched drama unfold before its eyes in the administration of the 45th President of the United States. The thought on most minds had to be, can it get any worse or more embarrassing as disrespect and deliberate neglect were expressed blatantly in spoken word and written on social media by its source, the President himself, Donald Trump.

We waited as a plethora of hopefuls debated and plodded through a campaign season. We waited for the chosen nomination of Kamala Harris for Vice President on the Biden presidential ticket. We waited on lines nearly miles long to blacken the circles on the ballot sheet and validate our right to vote. We waited from Novem-

ber 3rd to November 7th in a state of anxiety watching the numbers inch slowly upward toward the qualified 270 electoral college count.

Finally, we could exhale with celebratory breath as the Biden/Harris number jumped the fence to 274 when Pennsylvania confirmed sufficient ballots to bring it on home. Now, we wait for the overall reaction from those who find it hard to accept defeat.

We are told 70,000 qualified voters are not pleased at the decision and they are still waiting for confirmation of Trump's accusations of voter fraud. They believe something was stolen from him and it can be turned around by an onslaught of lawsuits.

At the time of this writing, everyone is waiting in anticipation for the eventual concession from the man who continues to convince himself that he is the winner. Has that happened yet?

If you are stuck in a personal endeavor of attaining what you want when you want it, I suggest you give deep thought to the ramifications of what it is you want, just in case it actually materializes. If you have life, you will wait your turn, hopefully when it comes around, you will be prepared and worthy.

Trump had his turn in the highest seat in the land and he did not reach out to those professionals who could assist him in doing the



Proud mask wearing voters patiently WAIT for the 270 Electoral College Count

job he was not capable of from day one. We cannot forget the do nothings he did so well for too long.

Patience will soften the blow of disappointment, ease your brow, and slow your heartbeat. Patience can open the door for respect and consideration from others. Ranting and raving will not move the hands of the clock. Democrats made it to the needed

270 and then some, however the count will continue until the last ballot has been scanned.

Stay steady, there is a senatorial runoff coming in early January that holds equal importance for the future. Then, we will wait as the new administration strives to fulfill their hopes and dreams to build back better a nation that has been waiting for renewal and

rejuvenation far too long. Hold on, prayerfully the wait shall not be in vain. [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Managing Editor and Woman's Editor of the New York Beacon News and current columnist for Harlem Community News, Inc. Contact: [misshazel@twc.com](mailto:misshazel@twc.com)]



Joe Biden/Kamala Harris with family members pose for VICTORY mask wearing handholding picture/AP Photo



# Front page winners

## Alexis Okeowo, Joy-Ann Reid & Nikita Stewart win top Front Page Awards

By Audrey J. Bernard

**T**he **Newswomen's Club of New York**, established in 1922, is the only professional organization in the New York metropolitan area dedicated to supporting newswomen. **The Front Page Awards**, established in 1937, exemplifies the Club's mission to promote exceptional work by women in the news business and support the highest standards of journalism.

This year, women have played a pivotal role in reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic which has been one of the most devastating events in the modern history of New York City. In its path of destruction, the virus has taken the lives of more than 240,000 Americans while weakening our economy and institutions. All along, women have been on the front lines reporting on this deadly virus.

Despite Pandemic Year, The Newswomen's Club of New York announced the 2020 Front Page Award Winners recognizing journalistic excellence. This year's awards come during a time when the world has been pitted against a deadly virus that has taken the lives of more than 240,000 Americans.

Winning work in this year entries pay tribute to the journalists on the frontlines during a summer of unrest sparked by the Memorial Day murder of George Floyd. This award-winning reporting spotlighted police abuses against peaceful protestors, delved deep into America's entrenched racism and documented the unrest in the White House. This reporting is a reminder that for every injustice committed, there is a newswoman ready to cover it with impartial ears and an open heart.

The 83<sup>rd</sup> annual Front Page Awards, featuring several new categories — including the Ida B. Wells award honoring coverage of communities of color — pay tribute to exceptional newswomen at more than two dozen local, regional and national outlets across the New York metropolitan area.

Among the winning work honored this year is coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic from New York's spring lockdown to the summer spike to the third wave making its way across the nation. Also represented among this year's award-winning work is a focus on a problem that has been endemic in America for 400 years: racial disparity.

Winning work in this year's entries pay tribute to the journalists on the frontlines during a summer of unrest sparked by the Memorial Day murder of George Floyd. This award-winning reporting spotlighted police abuses against peaceful protestors, delved deep into America's entrenched racism and documented the unrest in the White House. This reporting is a reminder that for every injustice committed, there is a newswoman ready to cover it with impartial ears and an open heart.

The 2020 Front Page Awards

will be presented virtually and streamed online on a date to be determined. You can follow the Awards through the Newswomen's Club of New York on Twitter, @NYNewswomen, and Instagram, @nynewswomenclub. (Photos courtesy NCNY)

\*\*\*\*

The **Front Page Award for Journalist of the Year** will go to **Alexis Okeowo**, a staff writer for The New Yorker, for her impactful reporting on the coronavirus pandemic, conflict, human rights, and culture in Africa, Mexico, and the American South. Okeowo was working at Uganda's New Vision newspaper when they took up the story of country's fight for gay rights. From their reporting came the book, "A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Woman and Men Fighting Extremism in Africa," which received the 2018 PEN Open Book Award. Okeowo has received grants and fellowships from The Robert B. Silvers Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, the International Women's Media Foundation, New America, and the Alicia Patterson Foundation. Her work has also been anthologized in "The Best American Sports Writing" (2017) and "The Best American Travel Writing" (2017).

The **Front Page Award for Lifetime Achievement** was presented to **Joy-Ann Reid**. The distinguished award is presented to a working newswoman who has amassed a significant body of work over at least 29 years. The award recognizes leadership contributions to journalism and opportunities the winner has created for other newswomen through her work. Reid is the first and the only Black woman to anchor a prime-time news show on MSNBC and the only Black woman currently anchoring a prime-time news show on any of the major networks. She speaks truth to power and holds power to account!

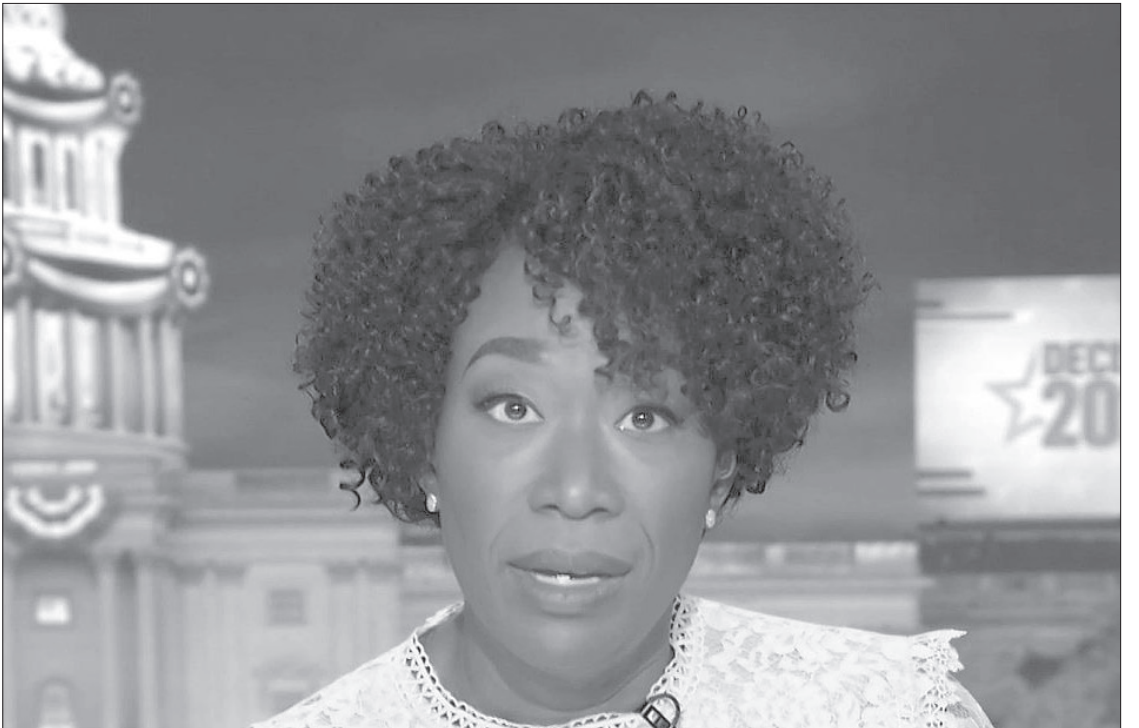
The **Ida B. Wells Award Honoring Exceptional Coverage of Communities of Color** will go to **Nikita Stewart** of The New York Times — who was recently promoted to assistant editor on Metro, a management position, where she will play an important role in driving our coverage of the city of social services and poverty. Stewart is currently an editor on the Metro Desk for the Times and formerly covered social services and poverty for the news organization. In 2018, the Newswomen's Club of New York recognized Stewart for her coverage of homelessness, mental health and poverty. She has been a finalist for the Livingston Award and an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award. She is the author of *Troop 6000: The Girl Scout Troop That Began in a Shelter and Inspired the World*, where she chronicles the triumphs and challenges of the first Girl Scout troop designed for girls in the New York City shelter system. Stewart joined the Times in 2014 after working at The Washington Post.

The **Marie Colvin Award for Foreign Correspondence** will go to



THE NEWSWOMEN'S CLUB  
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*established 1922*



Joy-Ann Reid



Alexis Okeowo

**Krithika Varagur**, an award-winning American journalist who has written extensively on religion, politics, and fundamentalism in Southeast and South Asia. Her first book *The Call: Inside the Global Saudi Religious Project*, published in 2020, centers on Saudi religious investments transforming the Muslim world, as reported on the ground from three continents. Her work has been published in numerous outlets including The Guardian, the New York Review of Books, and The Washington Post and includes features on the stolen children of Timor-Leste, terrorist rehabilitation, and the oldest storytelling painting in the world, as well as investigations into the Trump family's business interests in Indonesia. She has been supported by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, the International Women's Media Foundation, the Rory Peck Trust, the Overseas Press Club Foundation, and more. Varagur



Nikita Stewart

is also a National Geographic explorer, Fulbright scholar, former Amtrak writer-in-residence, and occasional humorist.

The **Martha Coman Front Page Award for Best New Journalist** will go to **Emma Goldberg** for her work covering the coronavirus pandemic, investigation of the practice of non-consensual pelvic exams across the United States, and an investigation of physical and sexual abuse at the Human Resources Administration published in The New York Times. Goldberg covers gender, health and education, is a researcher for the Times editorial board and is at work on a book about the medical students who graduated early to work in New York City hospitals during the coronavirus pandemic, publishing with HarperCollins in 2021. Before joining the Times in May 2019, she wrote for The Washington Post, The Guardian

and Glamour Magazine, among other outlets. She has a degree in political science from Yale and a masters degree in gender studies from the University of Cambridge. She is a native New Yorker. This award is for newcomers to the profession, NOT newcomers to the New York metropolitan area. Martha Coman was one of the first women reporters for the New York Herald and a founding member of The New York Newspaper Women's Club, which later became the Newswomen's Club of New York. She was the Club's first president.

The **Nellie Bly Award for Best Bylined Front Page Story** will go to **Shalini Ramachandran, Laura Kusisto**, and **Katie Honan** from The Wall Street Journal for "How New York's Coronavirus Response Made the Pandemic Worse". Ramachandran is an investigative reporter on The Wall Street Journal's Investigations team. Prior to joining Investigations in 2020, she covered corporate culture and the TV and broadband industry for more than seven years. She was part of a WSJ team that won a 2015 New York Press Club award and a 2014 Society of American Business Editors and Writers (SABEW) award for their breaking news coverage of cable megamergers. Kusisto covers housing and the economy around the U.S. Previously, she wrote about economic development in New York, focusing on big real-estate projects and affordable housing. Before that Kusisto worked at the New York Observer and as a freelance reporter in Turkey and Israel. Honan reports on City Hall in New York City. The best journalistic effort by a newswoman with three years or less professional experience.



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