



# North Dallas Gazette

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## Inflation relief in sight: Will our efforts be fast enough?

By Lori Lee  
NDG Contributing Writer

Now at 3.5% unemployment, we are back where we were prior to the pandemic. Perhaps, it is a good time for change--change in the way we do businesses, change in materials and resources, and change in how we obtain and transport goods. At last, it is time to rid ourselves of our overreliance on foreign products.

It was a bold step in the right direction. Democrats fought hard to pass the CHIPS and Science Act. Its passage means we'll rely less on foreign countries for our products. The legislation will strengthen the supply chain and bring new production and technology jobs here at home.

Passing the bill was not easy, given the slim majority that Democrats have in Congress. Somehow, they came together to pass the CHIPS and Science Act in July and the Inflation Reduction Act in August.

Why did a majority of Republicans vote against these two bills? In the midst of inflation, why would any American not support legislation that would increase production, strengthen the supply chain, fight inflation and create new jobs?

By allowing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies, the In-



Legislation recently passed is intended to counter supply chain issues which have led to inflation in recent months. (Photo: Arno Senoner / Unsplash)

flation Reduction Act will lower drug prices. It will also stimulate new jobs in solar, wind and electric vehicle production, while fighting back against climate change.

Republicans had used the CHIPS Act as a bargaining tool to prevent the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. Historically, Republicans have fought progress on the environment in favor of corporate profits. Yes, they have even spent taxpayer dollars to fight in the courts regulations that reduce pollution and improve public health. And despite the illegitimate claims of oil industry experts, the majority of scientists agree that climate change is occurring.

Weather experts report an in-

creasing number of weather disasters associated with slightly elevated temperatures. Last year, extreme weather cost American taxpayers \$99 billion, reports Center for American Progress. Such disasters, will undoubtedly continue to cost Americans into the future. What is more, the negative effects of pollution on human health are enough to kill 7 million people each year, The World Health Organization reports.

Legislation passed by Democrats over the past few months would fight climate change and fight back inflation. But the progress cannot happen overnight, and it will not happen if we allow government

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### People In The News ...



John H. Johnson



Mayor Eric Johnson

*NDG Quote of the Week:* "Don't let anything stop you. There will be times when you'll be disappointed, but you can't stop."  
—Sadie T. M. Alexander



## John H. Johnson

(BPRW) -- Annual John H. Johnson Day Statewide Observance is to be held November 1.

The State of Arkansas will observe the annual John H. Johnson Day Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 604 President Street and Arkansas State Parks Trailhead, Arkansas City. Established by Friends of John H. Johnson Museum and enacted by legislation during the 92nd Arkansas General Assembly, the memorial holiday honors the life and legacy of Arkansas City's native son, John H.



Johnson.

Johnson was the founder, publisher, and chairman of Johnson Publishing Company, once the largest Black-owned publishing company in the world.

Johnson's properties included Negro Digest, Black World, Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, Ebony Fashion Fair and Ebony Fashion Fair Cosmetics.

This year's observance will include a Salute to Ebony Fashion Fair with local and statewide special guest models and professional models. America's Next Top Model, Furonda Brasfield will moderate the fashion show. Select fashions will be styled by Dillard's and Project Runway Designer, Korto Momolu. For 50 years from 1958-2009, Johnson Publishing Company's Ebony Fashion

Fair, presented high fashion haute couture throughout the United States and internationally. The Ebony Fashion Fair Show raised approximately \$55 million for charities, including the United Negro College Fund and sickle cell anemia research.

John H. Johnson Day will also include an announcement and groundbreaking by Arkansas State Parks future John H. Johnson Park at 1:00pm; a presentation on the architecture of John H. Johnson Museum; a discussion about Jet Magazine; and a ceremony and reception featuring the

2022 John H. Johnson Day award recipients.

Funding for the future John H. Johnson Park is being made possible by the Walton Family Foundation and Arkansas State Parks.

Small But Mighty: How Jet Magazine Chronicle Black History, will recognize Jet Magazine on its 70th anniversary, and discuss stories such as Jet Magazine's capturing the horrific torture and brutal mutilation of Emmitt Till. Till, a Black boy, was murdered in 1955 at 14 years old in the State of Mississippi for whistling in the presence of a White wom-

an.

This year's John H. Johnson Day award recipients' include: Don Livingston (Merchant Bank) in the category of humanitarian; Malcolm West (Former Managing Editor, Jet Magazine) in the category of media and journalism; and Mr. Harvey and Mrs. Donna Williams (Delta Dirt Distillery) in the category of business and entrepreneurship.

John H. Johnson Day observance is free and open to the public. All events and activities will be held in

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## Mayor Eric Johnson

Three former Dallas Mayors known for making public safety and economic growth the top priorities of their administrations have endorsed Mayor Eric Johnson for re-election: Mayors Tom Leppert, Mary Poss, and Steve Bartlett.

"I'm grateful for the support of these former Dallas mayors who share my commitment to keeping our residents safe and providing greater economic opportunities for our communities. The issues they faced in their time as mayor — including public safety challenges and uncertain



economic conditions on the national level — bear similarities to the issues we faced when I took office. And these former mayors know how important it is to keep our city moving in the right direction," said Mayor

Eric Johnson.

"I am proud that the progress made during my first term has made Dallas stronger and safer, and I am honored that our work has been met with the approval of these respected civic leaders," Johnson continued.

Since taking office in 2019, Johnson has focused the attention of the Mayor's Office on reducing crime and facilitating economic growth for the City of Dallas. Over three years into his term, Dallas has seen a double-digit drop in violent crime, and the city has added more than \$14 billion to the tax base.

Former Mayor Tom Leppert, who served from 2007-2011, lauded Mayor Johnson for his firm commitment to funding public safety and his "do the right thing, even if it isn't popular" leadership style.

"Mayor Johnson's leadership and political courage has made Dallas one of the safest big cities in America.

This single issue touches every one of us. It impacts our families and communities today, and it determines our opportunities for tomorrow," said Former Mayor Tom Leppert. "There's no doubt that keeping Dallas safe means re-electing Mayor Eric Johnson."

Former Mayor Mary Poss praised Mayor Johnson for

focusing on quality of life, saying "Public safety, tax relief, ethics reform, infrastructure. These are issues that impact the daily lives of our citizens. As Mayor, Eric Johnson has set priorities and then delivered results. Real leadership is about taking action and

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## Raquel 'Rocky' Jones

Judge Raquel "Rock" Jones is running for District Judge on the 203rd Judicial District Court. She holds over 25 years' experience as an attorney, including 19 years as Assistant District Attorney in Dallas and Tarrant counties. She has also worked as a civil litigator and criminal defense attorney.

Her top three priorities, she explains, are to protect the rights of the accused citizens; allow victims the opportunity to be heard; and to run an effective and efficient court, she explains.

She seeks re-election because she believes there is much work to still be done.



"Progress has been made in the criminal justice system, especially regarding bail reform, and I would like the opportunity to continue the work I have started."

She continues to explain that the ongoing problem is the jail population. She wants to ensure that those seeking trial will have ac-

cess to one and that those who are diagnosed with mental health issues will receive services and not jail sentences. She also wants to see more education about the criminal justice system out in the community. As she explains, most citizens are not aware of the processes and practices of the courthouses within the justice system, and she believes more community engagement could remedy that.

She believes that the citizens deserve a judge that is fair to those who come before the Court and compassionate to the victims who have been harmed.

Her character, experi-

**See JONES, Page 6**



## Check us out on Youtube!

In case you've missed it, the *North Dallas Gazette* has begun producing videos. Our latest series, "Close Up" takes a deep dive into issues affecting the local DFW community. Episodes I and II are up now, with Jackie Hardy taking a look at criticisms surrounding the North Texas Tollway Authority's compliance with its stated goals of inclusion for Minority and Women in Business Enterprise firms. The first episode is a conversation with two accomplished professionals in the field, and the second features the NTTA's response to questions about its past performance. Check it out, subscribe to our Youtube channel and stay informed.



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## 2022 Vote: Don't just register, turn out and vote

By Allen R. Gray  
NDG Contributing Writer

Voting in any election is a process that isn't complete until the ballot is cast by whatever means is legally permissible. While Democrats are doing great when it comes to registering voters, the actual votes cast at the ballot box typically do not align with the number of voters who registered. With this year's midterms, a high voter turnout might be the determining factor that will decide which party will prevail.

Since the 1960s, total voter turnout for presidential elections has averaged about 40 percent of the population of active voters. Recent elections, though, have garnered a higher percentage of voter turnout. Starting with the 2008 presidential election, voter turnout increased to around 57% of

the Voting-Age Population (VAP).

In the most recent Biden/Trump presidential election in 2020, 62% of Americans who qualified as VAP turned out to vote. According to the Current Population Survey (2020), close

(See chart)

To the delight of Democrats, a drastic increase in the number of registered voters could threaten the stranglehold Republicans have had on Texas for the past few decades. Texas has recorded a record nearly 17

One survey summarized the Texas governor's race by saying that as of October 15, Abbott had a 4-point lead over brash challenger Beto O'Rourke. That summation was based on those who had only registered to vote, though. Abbott's lead

USA	Voter Population Registered to Vote by Race/Ethnicity			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
	72.7%	74.2%	69%	61.1%

Percent of Voter Population that Voted by Race/Ethnicity			
White	Black	Hispanic	
68.3%	62.6%	53.7%	

Texas	Voter Population Registered to Vote by Race/Ethnicity			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic
	71.8%	72.7%	70.3%	63.2%

Percent of Voter Population that Voted by Race/Ethnicity			
White	Black	Hispanic	
65.1%	60.8%	53.1%	

U.S. Census Bureau (2020)

to 10 million more women than men turned out to vote.

When analyzing voter turnout by race, there are distinct differences in the percentage that registered to vote and those who actually showed up at the polls.

million registered voters heading into the midterm elections. That represents 1.9 million new potential voters. That makes for a gubernatorial race that Republicans might find to be tenuous at best.

was elevated to 8 points when those who say they will definitely vote were queried.

Democratic success is directly linked to those elec-

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## Business, Bank Groups Sue to Stop CFPB's Fight Against Financial Discrimination

By Charlene Crowell

On September 28, two of the nation's largest and most influential business groups filed a lawsuit against the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and its Director Rohit Chopra. The action aims to prevent the CFPB from using its existing authority to protect consumers from racial discrimination when seeking mortgages, auto loans, credit cards, bank accounts, or other financial services.

Leading the lawsuit are the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a lobby group for more than three million businesses across the country, and the American Bankers Association's over 4,000 banks and trust companies. Additional co-plaintiffs include: the Consumer Bankers Association, Texas Association of Business, and the Inde-

pendent Bankers Association of Texas.

The lawsuit argues that when the CFPB conducts its regular exams of big banks and other financial institutions, it does not have the authority to look for discrimination – based on race, religion, and other personal characteristics – that is illegal under the prohibition on unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices.

"The CFPB is pursuing an ideological agenda that goes well beyond what is authorized by law and the Chamber will not hesitate to hold them accountable," U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley said in a statement.

But federal laws – not ideology – are the framework for the CFPB's anti-discrimination work.

Discrimination in housing and lending more broadly were outlawed by

1968's Fair Housing Act and 1974's Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA). Enforcing these laws is essential for financial fairness.

At the same time, illegal financial discrimination is pervasive, and some exists beyond the parameters of these fair lending laws that have traditionally been the focus of regulators. For example, the Student Borrower Protection Center has pointed to debt collection, predatory for-profit colleges, reporting credit information, and financial advice scams as markets where discriminatory acts or practices may not be covered by laws focused on the extension of credit, but that constitute unlawful financial discrimination nonetheless.

"When a person is denied access to a bank account because of their religion or race, this is unambiguously

unfair," CFPB Director Chopra said in a statement announcing the Bureau would start looking for unlawful non-credit financial discrimination.

In a blog post, CFPB officials in charge of supervision and enforcement wrote, "[w]hen people of color suffer racist conduct in the financial marketplace, it can cause substantial monetary and non-monetary harms."

Consumer groups had strong reactions to the business groups' lawsuit, saying it ignored the impetus for creating a federal financial watchdog: to ensure that financial services firms no longer prey upon unsuspecting consumers – particularly Black and Latino consumers who often were targeted for financial exploitation.

"It is outrageous these

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# Lack of access to healthy food may raise risk of death from heart failure

(American Heart Association) A study reviewing data from nearly 3,000 counties in the United States has found that living in a community with easy access to grocery stores and affordable, healthy food is associated with lower heart failure death rates, according to new research published today in *Circulation: Heart Failure*, an American Heart Association journal.

Food insecurity occurs when healthy food is not readily available on a daily basis, due to poverty or socioeconomic challenges, causing people to go hungry or eat food that is of reduced quality, variety or desirability. While previous research has confirmed that food insecurity is associated with adverse cardiovascular outcomes, little research is available about the local food environment and its potential relationship to death from heart failure. A 2019 paper published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* found that, on a county level in the U.S., poverty was the strongest socioeconomic factor associated with heart failure and coronary heart disease, and the association was stronger for heart failure than coronary heart disease.

“Heart failure mortality is on the rise in populations that live in socioeconomic deprivation, and, importantly, we believe that nutrition plays a role in heart failure mortality, and food insecurity may be particularly detrimental in this population,” said lead study author Keerthi T. Gondi, M.D., an internal medicine resident at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor, Michigan. “We know that important relationships exist among food access and food affordability and heart health. This will have to be addressed in order to



Graphic Node / Unsplash

make changes to the burden of cardiovascular disease in populations that live in socioeconomic deprivation moving forward.”

This study is one of the first analyses to investigate the association between local food environments and heart failure mortality. Heart failure is a chronic, progressive condition in which the heart muscle becomes so weak it no longer pumps blood as it should. According to Gondi, he and his colleagues examined the death rate from heart failure because it is a consistent metric reported across all US counties, providing an ability to comprehensively evaluate heart failure outcomes at the population level. In 2019, heart failure death accounted for nearly more than 86,000 deaths in the U.S., according to the Association’s Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics Update for 2022.

The researchers sought to determine whether food environment by county level was associated with heart failure death rates. They reviewed 2018 data from the National Vital Statistics System – a database of all births and deaths in the U.S. – and examined the potential for associations

among the heart failure death rates in each county with the county’s 2018 Food Insecurity Percentage score and Food Environment Index score.

The researchers collected each county’s Food Insecurity Percentage score — the percentage of the population who lack adequate, consistent access to healthy food — and Food Environment Index score — an index ranked from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) based on a composite of metrics including affordability of nutritious food, food insecurity, grocery store proximity, transportation and socioeconomic factors — from the USDA’s Food Environment Atlas and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings. The Food Environment Atlas assembles statistics on food environment indicators and provides a spatial overview of a community’s ability to access healthy food.

Evaluated together, the Food Insecurity Percentage and Food Environment Index provide a clear picture of a population’s food environment.

Of the 2,956 counties in the study, the analysis found:

- The average Food Insecurity Percentage was 13% for all counties, and the average Food Environment Index score was 7.8.

- Counties with a Food Insecurity Percentage above the national median of 13.7% had a higher rate of deaths from heart failure compared to counties with a Food Insecurity Percentage below the median (30.7 deaths versus 26.7 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively).

- After adjusting for a range of socioeconomic and health factors – including the poverty rate, income inequity, rural vs. urban locations, Type 2 diabetes, obesity and smoking – a 1% decrease in Food Insecurity Percentage by county was associated with a 1.3% lower heart failure death rate. Similarly, a 1-unit increase in the Food Environment Index score by county was associated with a 3.6% decrease in the heart failure death rate.

- On the county level, decreases in the Food Environment Index and increases in the Food Insecurity Percentage were found to have a stronger association with the death rate from heart failure than with the death rate for other subtypes of cardiovascular disease, as well as with the all-cause death rate.

- The strongest association between food environment and heart failure death rate was found in counties with the highest income inequity and the highest poverty rate.

“The findings of this study are unfortunate yet not surprising. These results are consistent with prior studies that have demonstrated the association of cardiovascular disease and food insecurity,” said Anne Thorndike, M.D., M.P.H., FAHA, who was not involved in this study, director of the Cardiac Lifestyle

Program at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, immediate past chair of the Association’s Nutrition Committee and a member of the Association’s Lifestyle Council. “This study provides a robust evaluation of the food environment by U.S. counties and shows that characteristics of the food environment are strongly associated with death from heart failure.”

A limitation of the study is that it only captures data from one year, before the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore, it may have limited generalization at this time. More studies are needed to examine these associations over a longer period of time.

The study also revealed that counties with higher heart failure death rates also had fewer food stores, poorer access to healthy foods for adults older than age 65 and a lower participation rate in SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. SNAP is the U.S. government’s program that supplements food budgets to help reduce food insecurity for families and individuals who have an annual income level at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty criteria (for a family of three, those with annual income below \$29,940 qualify for SNAP).

According to the Association’s Life’s Essential 8, dietary intake, which is affected by food insecurity, is one of the key contributors to cardiovascular disease risk, and the low prevalence of ideal diet drives the overall low prevalence of ideal cardiovascular health in the U.S. Better cardiovascular health helps lower the risk for heart disease, stroke and other major health problems.

“Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy food are key contributors to poor dietary quality and

what is referred to as ‘nutrition insecurity,’” Thornton said. “The American Heart Association and others are now acknowledging that to help Americans achieve ideal cardiovascular health, particularly ideal diet, we need to broaden our efforts to address both the psychological and social determinants of our health behaviors and well-being. These efforts need to include policy, health care, and community interventions that improve access to nutritious food for people at every stage of life.”

Co-authors are John Larson, M.D.; Aaron Sifuentes, M.D.; Neil B. Alexander, M.D., M.S.; Matthew C. Konerman, M.D.; Kali S. Thomas, Ph.D., M.A.; and Scott L. Hummel, M.D. Authors’ disclosures are listed in the manuscript.

The authors reported no funding sources for this study.

Statements and conclusions of studies published in the American Heart Association’s scientific journals are solely those of the study authors and do not necessarily reflect the Association’s policy or position. The Association makes no representation or guarantee as to their accuracy or reliability. The Association receives funding primarily from individuals; foundations and corporations (including pharmaceutical, device manufacturers and other companies) also make donations and fund specific Association programs and events. The Association has strict policies to prevent these relationships from influencing the science content. Revenues from pharmaceutical and biotech companies, device manufacturers and health insurance providers and the Association’s overall financial information are available on the American Heart Association website.



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# Locked Out: Millions of voters are disenfranchised ahead of midterm elections

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Senior National  
Correspondent



With the midterm election just days away, the District of Columbia-based think tank, The Sentencing Project, has released a new report which found that 4.6 million people can't vote because of felony convictions.

Researchers pointed out that the number amounts to one in every 50 adults, with three out of four disenfranchised living in their communities, having completed their sentences or remaining supervised while on probation or parole.

"While many states have

taken steps to expand the right to vote to people with felony convictions, this report makes it clear that millions of our citizens will remain voiceless in the upcoming midterms," Amy Fetting, Executive Director of The Sentencing Project, said in a news release.

"Felony disenfranchisement is just the latest in a long line of attempts to restrict ballot access, just like poll taxes, literacy tests,

and property requirements were used in the past. It is time for our country to guarantee the right to vote for people with felony convictions."

The report, "Locked Out 2022," updates and expands upon 20 years of work chronicling the scope and distribution of felony disenfranchisement in the United States.

Researchers found that in three states – Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee – more than 8 percent of the adult population, one of every 13 adults, is disenfranchised.

Additionally, Florida remains the nation's disenfranchisement leader in

absolute numbers, with over 1.1 million people currently banned from voting, often because they cannot afford to pay court-ordered monetary sanctions.

The Sentencing Project found an estimated 934,500 Floridians who have completed their sentences remain disenfranchised, despite a 2018 ballot referendum that promised to restore their voting rights.

Further, one in 19 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised, a rate 3.5 times that of non-African Americans.

Among the adult African American population, states have disenfranchised 5.3 percent, compared to

1.5 percent of the adult non-African American population, researchers reported.

Also, more than one in 10 African American adults have fell victim to disenfranchisement in eight states – Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The researchers noted that data on ethnicity in correctional populations are unevenly reported and undercounted in some states. Still, a conservative estimate is that at least 506,000 Latinx Americans, or 1.7 percent of the voting-eligible population, are disenfranchised.

Approximately 1 million women are disenfranchised, comprising over one-fifth of the total disenfranchised population.

"Despite state-level reforms and the hard work of voting rights advocates, millions of Americans remain disenfranchised, representing 2% of the voting-eligible population," said Christopher Uggen, the report's co-author.

"In this election year, the question of specific voting restrictions, the broader issue of voter suppression, and the disproportionate impact on marginalized communities should be front and center on the public agenda."

## Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program hosts legal clinics in November

The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP), a joint initiative of the Dallas Bar Association (DBA) and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and local Dallas law firms have partnered to hold free virtual and in-person legal clinics in November.

Virtual clinics are as follows:

- Thursday, November 3 – DVAP, Stinson LLP, Kimberly Clark, & UNT College of Law – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 10 – DVAP, JPMorgan Chase, and DLA Piper – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 17 – DVAP, Haynes and

Boone, LLP, and Kimberly Clark – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

In addition, DVAP will host the following in-person clinics. In-person clinics are as follows:

- South Dallas Clinic, Tuesday, November 8, 5:00 p.m., Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, (2922 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas). Sponsored by DVAP and Thompson Reuters
- St. Philip's Clinic, Tuesday, November 15, 5:30 p.m., St. Philip's Community Center (1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Dallas). Sponsored by DVAP, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, and Dallas

Association of Law Librarians

• South Dallas Clinic, Thursday, November 22, 5:00 p.m., West Dallas Multi-Purpose Center (2828 Fish Trap Rd., Dallas). Sponsored by DVAP and Baker Botts L.L.P.

Virtual Clinics only: Dallas County residents who would like to apply for free legal assistance should fill out the form found online at: <https://tinyurl.com/DVAPClinic>. Once the form has been completed, expect an attorney's call on the respective date. Participants should watch for a call from an unknown number that should be labeled "No Caller ID" or

something similar.

For legal assistance any time, contact the DBA's Lawyer Referral Service at

[www.DallasLRS.org](http://www.DallasLRS.org). For more information, log on to <http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/>. For

media inquiries about these clinics, contact DVAP Director Michelle Alden at [aldenm@lanwt.org](mailto:aldenm@lanwt.org).

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, November 17, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Turney W. Leonard Bldg.

Conference Area

5151 Samuell Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75228

**Targeted Improvement Plans for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)**

**The Dallas Independent School District will hold a hearing to inform the public about the Targeted Improvement Plans for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)**

**The Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 17, 2022, Conference Area, 5151 Samuell Blvd.**

**Persons interested in making comments at the public hearing must register to speak by contacting Board Services at (972) 925-3720. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m., Monday, November 14, through Wednesday, November 16, at 5 p.m.**

## JOHNSON, from Page 2

Arkansas City at the John H. Johnson Museum, Arkansas State Parks Delta Heritage Trail Robert S. Moore Jr Trailhead and Desha County historic district and lawn beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m.

About John H. Johnson

John H. Johnson was born Johnny Johnson in Arkansas City, Arkansas in 1918. He achieved many

distinctions throughout his career. He was inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame; Illinois Business Hall of Fame; and Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame. He served on numerous boards including: Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Greyhound, Bell and Howell, Zenith, Continental Bank, Dillard's Department Stores, Chrysler and other

major corporations. He also became chairman of the board at Supreme Life Insurance Company, where he started his career as an office boy. He served as a trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago, the United Negro College Fund, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and was on the advisory board of Harvard Business School. For more information, visit [www.johnhjohnsonmuseum.org](http://www.johnhjohnsonmuseum.org).

# Math and reading test results generally steady for Dallas students

While performance in math and reading by Dallas ISD fourth and eighth graders in the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress remained generally steady, the results showed that the district and the nation must continue working to improve.

This first national assessment after the pandemic saw most of the 26 Trial Urban District Assessment districts and large city schools experience steep declines in performance, especially in math, which registered the largest ever significant decline since the assessments—also known as The Nation's Report Card—began in 2003.

The story is slightly different for Dallas ISD, where fourth graders' performance in the math assessments did not register significant change compared to 2019 pre-pandem-



Zach Vessels / Unsplash

ic results and outperformed 16 other participating TUDA districts and students in large city schools.

Another highlight of the 2022 NAEP for Dallas ISD is the performance of English language learners, who did better than their national peers in all grades and subjects tested. This is important because emerging bilingual students make up 48.4 percent of Dallas ISD's student population.

The results also show room for growth. Dallas ISD eighth graders registered a four-point decline in math performance compared to 2019; however, they did as well as or outperformed 14 other participating TUDA districts in the 2022 results.

"These national results give us a baseline from which we can continue to work to improve and lift up our students," said Dallas

ISD Superintendent Stephanie Elizalde. "They also show a student-centered board who supported the hard work teachers, principals, auxiliary staff, parents, partners, and everyone with our district did during the pandemic to minimize disruptions and accelerate learning."

What might not be evident in the data from the 2022 NAEP is where individual participating districts were in their pandemic recovery curve, said Ray Hart, executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools, based in Washington, D.C. Data reflect a global change in learning and whether districts had started to turn the tide or were further along in their recovery.

"The 2022 data addressed what we all know—the pandemic had an effect on our students,

our schools and our communities," Hart said. "Sustaining achievement in any grade level is no easy feat, and it's a testament to Dallas' academic continuity planning during a crisis, as well as the district's proactive recovery efforts."

## Dallas ISD Assessment Highlights Math

Fourth-grade students who were identified as eligible for the National School Lunch Program, Hispanics and students identified as English language learners performed significantly higher in the math assessment than those in national public schools and large cities.

Performance by African Americans remained steady compared to 2019 and was similar to that of their peers in national public and large

city school

In the eighth-grade math assessment, Dallas ISD African American and Hispanic students performed similar to national public schools and large cities while English language learners performed significantly higher than national public schools and large cities.

## Reading

In fourth grade, while performance by African American and Hispanic students was similar to that of their peers in national public schools and large cities, English language learners significantly outperformed students in those categories.

English language learners significantly outperformed their peers in national public and large city schools while other eighth-grade student groups performed similar to 2019.

# Ride DART for free to vote and bring your acceptable I.D.

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is providing free transportation to polling locations on the day of the Texas general election, Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Voters can ride at no charge on all DART buses, trains, the Dallas Streetcar, GoLink, Paratransit Services and the TRE between EBJ Union Station and CentrePort/DFW Airport Station.

No proof of voter registration is required to ride for free on November 8. GoLink riders can use promo code VOTE08 at checkout for a complimentary Adult Local Day Pass in the GoPass app on November 8. You can learn more at [dart.org/vote](http://dart.org/vote).

DART is also offering free roundtrip shuttle service to and from the Dallas County Elections Training/Warehouse (1460 Round

Table Drive, Dallas) during the early voting period from October 24 through November 4, as well as on the day of the general election, November 8.

Riders wishing to vote at this location can connect to the special shuttle service using Route 222. The Vote Center Shuttle will pick up and drop off riders at the bus stop located at the intersection of Titan Drive at Empress Row (1278 Titan Drive, Dallas), which is served by Route 222, seven days a week. To get to the shuttle stop, riders should exit the train at Inwood/Love Field Station and board a Route 222 bus with the destination "Regal Row" in the heads sign.

How to Find a Voting Location

The State of Texas organizes election information and voting locations by

county. Go to the following websites to find a convenient voting location.

- [Collincountytx.gov](http://Collincountytx.gov) (Plano, Richardson, Carrollton)
- [Dallascountyvotes.org](http://Dallascountyvotes.org) (Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving, Rowlett, University Park)
- [Votedenton.gov](http://Votedenton.gov) (Carrollton)
- [co.ellis.tx.us/312/Elections](http://co.ellis.tx.us/312/Elections) (Glenn Heights)
- [Rockwallvotes.com](http://Rockwallvotes.com) (Rowlett)

Voting locations are open at various times during early voting and from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the Texas general election, November 8. If you are in line by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, you will be allowed to vote. Check your county elections website for

specific times.

## Plan your trip on DART to a voting location

Riders who need customized trip planning can map out their ride with the "Plan" tool in the free GoPass app or use the Trip Planner on [DART.org](http://DART.org). DART Customer Service can also assist at 214-979-1111.

If you plan your trip di-

rectly in Google Maps, enter the voting location as your destination and choose the Transit option (train icon) to get travel directions using DART.

## Tips for a safe voting experience

• Face masks are not required on board, but if you wish to wear one, DART provides complimentary

masks on trains and buses.

• Carry hand sanitizer with you and use it before and after your visit to the voting location, and especially after you use the voting machine. DART also provides hand sanitizer dispensers on board its buses and trains.

• Bring your own sanitized pen to sign any forms.

## Policy of Non-Discrimination

## Aspire To Change, Incorporated

Aspire To Change, Incorporated of Dallas, Texas shall recruit and admit individuals of any race, color or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities. The Corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin to the administration of the educational programs, community programs, and other administered programs.

The Corporation shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the employment of its personnel.

## JONES, from Page 2

ence and work ethic make her more than suitable and qualified for the position, she explains. And since she has sat at every seat in the

courtroom, this enables her to be fair, impartial and unbiased.

"My promise is to remain effective, efficient,

fair and compassionate. I truly believe there is still much work to be done within the criminal justice system and I would like to remain an integral part of that change."



# McKinney breaks ground on new City Hall complex

The City of McKinney broke ground on the new City Hall complex in the Historic Downtown McKinney Cultural District that will accommodate the city's growth for the next generation and serve as a central gathering space and catalyst for development.

The 175,000 square foot, five-story building will be located on nearly nine acres at the intersection of East Virginia Street and Throckmorton Street. The new City Hall will consolidate most of the city's administrative offices and city services and include a 180-seat Council Chambers and 96-seat event space. The facility will also include a



Courtesy Image

conferencing center, with five conference rooms on the ground level and four additional conference

rooms on the top floor.

One of the city's goals is to preserve and celebrate the historical elements and

communities in and around the City Hall District. The new building will complement the historic silos

across Virginia Street, recently painted with a 100' mural by international artist Guido van Helten.

A large public plaza will serve as a place for outdoor gatherings, festivals, and performances.

"We are creating not just a City Hall, but a gathering space the entire community will embrace," said Mayor George Fuller. "The additional social and entertainment aspects of the district will offer yet another exciting place for residents to choose to live, dine, recreate, exchange ideas, and otherwise share memorable experiences."

"This is exciting not just

for our community, but for the 1,300 full-time employees and another 350 part-time and seasonal employees who work for the city," said City Manager Paul Grimes. "This project fulfills a long-standing goal to develop a genuine City Hall, which brings together most of the city's functional departments and helps reduce or eliminate inefficiencies of leasing space and commute time among various operating departments."

In 2019, voters passed a \$50 million bond proposition to serve as a major funding source for the new City Hall.

## Lewisville's Living Challenges Conference focusing on unaffordable rents

Lewisville seniors on fixed incomes who formed a group called Lewisville Seniors Living Challenges Committee (formerly Lewisville Seniors for Fair

Low- and Fixed-Income Housing) to protest skyrocketing rents will hold a Lewisville Seniors Living Challenges Conference Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, from 2-4

p.m. at Thrive, 1950 South Valley Parkway in Lewisville from 2-4 p.m.

The Lewisville Seniors Living Challenges Conference will inform seniors

and others about how to cope with high rents and other challenges. The United Way will sponsor the conference which will feature keynote speakers and

vendors. Admission will be free, and vendors will be present.

"Seniors and many families who have low and limited incomes facing pos-

sible homelessness from rapidly rising rents and utility costs," said the Lewisville Seniors Living Chal-

See LIVING, Page 8

EVERYTHING IS ON THE LINE

# BETO O'ROURKE WILL FIGHT FOR US

**EXPAND MEDICAID** to create jobs, lower property taxes, and ensure all Texans can afford to see a doctor.

**FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS** and raise teacher pay to fill the teacher shortage and improve our kids' education.

**PROTECT OUR FREEDOM TO VOTE** by reopening polling places in our communities and making it easier to register and vote.

★ VOTE FOR BETO O'ROURKE ★

OCT 24-NOV 4  
VOTE EARLY

NOV 8  
ELECTION DAY



POLITICAL AD PAID BY BETO FOR TEXAS



# Department of Justice awards more than \$44 million to support behavioral health-driven approaches to community crises

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs recently announced grant awards totaling more than \$44 million to help communities address crises involving homelessness, mental health and substance use disorders and other public health and public safety emergencies. The grants will support partnerships between justice system officials, health, mental health and substance use professionals, and community providers to reduce arrests, divert individuals from the justice system and deliver the appropriate treatment and other support services to those in need.

"Cities have come to rely on the justice system as the default response to addressing what are often behavioral health, not public safety, crises," said OJP Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Amy L. Solomon. "Communities across the country are testing innovative co-responder and community responder models that address underlying behavioral health issues and improve outcomes while also steering people away from the justice system. We are proud to support these promising and innovative approaches."

Law enforcement officers are often first on the scene of a community emergency, whether the crisis is an overdose or an epi-



Francisco Venancio / Unsplash

sode of psychiatric distress, but they often have neither the training nor the tools to respond appropriately. Many cities have begun to institute co-responder and/or community responder models in which treatment providers and other health professionals are dispatched alongside or separately from law enforcement. These strategies lift some of the burden off of law enforcement, expand treatment options for those in need and help limit exposure to the justice system.

"The burden of responding to community crises has always rested heavily on the shoulders of law enforcement professionals, but many of these emergencies—whether they are related to substance use or a mental health crisis—demand the attention of trained behavioral health specialists," said Karhl-

ton F. Moore, Director of OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance. "These calls for service are more than law-and-order matters—they are opportunities for intervention, treatment and the improvement of public health and safety. The resources we are making available today will bring law enforcement, health professionals and community partners together to find solutions that benefit the individual, their families and society at large."

The grants demonstrate the Department's focus on addressing the needs of individuals with mental health and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders and build on more than \$340 million in new investments this year to fight the opioid and stimulant crisis and address substance use disorders through prevention

and diversion efforts such as drug court and mentoring initiatives, correctional substance use treatment programs and other efforts to address the treatment and recovery needs of those affected by substance use disorders from pre-trial to reentry.

Below is a summary of funding tailored to support community response efforts.

BJA is awarding \$15.4 million under its Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health

Response Program, which supports a law enforcement-behavioral health cross-system collaboration to improve public safety for individuals with mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders who come in contact with the justice system.

BJA is awarding \$12.9 million under its Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, which supports public safety efforts through partnerships with social service and other organizations to enhance responses to individuals with mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

BJA is awarding \$9.2 million under its National Initiatives in Justice and Mental Health: Training and Technical Assistance for Grantees and the Field, which provides site-based training for both grantees and the field at large to develop the capacity to meet community behavioral health needs.

BJA is awarding \$4.2

million under the Collaborative Crisis Response and Intervention Training Program, which supports training to prepare law enforcement and correctional officers to appropriately interact with people who have mental health or substance use disorders or disabilities.

BJA is awarding \$2.5 million under the Kevin and Avonte Program: Reducing Injury and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities, which provides funding to reduce the number of deaths and injuries of individuals with forms of dementia such as Alzheimer's disease, or developmental disabilities such as autism, who, due to their condition, wander from safe environments.

The awards announced above are being made as part of the regular end-of-fiscal year cycle. More information about these and other OJP awards can be found on the OJP Grant Awards Page.

## LIVING, from Page 7

lenges Committee leader. "Other challenges facing seniors include transportation availability, food assistance and accessing senior services.

"A community needs assessment the United Way created states that 42% of seniors 65+ live on less than the household survival threshold. As a result, we're holding a Lewisville Seniors Living Challenges Conference. Keynote speakers will include Gary

Henderson, United Way of Denton County president and CEO; Brandon Jones, Lewisville mayor pro tem and city councilmember; Mary Worthington from Denton County Transportation Authority/GoZone; Peggy Swann of Christian Community Action; and a representative from Service Lewisville."

Richardson-based RealPage is responsible for soaring rents across the nation. Its software's data an-

alytics suggest daily prices for empty units. Property managers love how RealPage's algorithm increases their profits.

What: Lewisville Senior Living Challenges Conference

When: Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, 2-4 p.m.

Where: Thrive Recreational Center, 1950 South Valley Parkway, Lewisville, 75067

For more information, send email to lewisvilleliving@gmail.com or call 925-978-6350.



## The Midlife Brain & Environment Study is recruiting healthy adults ages 40-64 years

- ✓ Help us understand how our health and lifestyle affect our brain and cognition in middle-aged adulthood.
- ✓ Financial compensation provided for participation & travel.
- ✓ Must be right-handed and speak English as a primary language.

## Contact us to learn more!

[mbes.utdallas.edu](https://mbes.utdallas.edu)  
972.883.3744

Dates & times for participating are flexible and will involve 2 visits (3-5 hr/visit) and some take home tasks.





# Film Review: 'Black Adam'

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Film Critic

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... Black Adam?

Introducing DC comics latest crime combatant, Black Adam. His superhero traits are similar to Superman's (flying, ultra-strength, etc.), but there are key differences. One has a pleasant personality and values human lives, and the other, an angry malcontent, doesn't give a flying leap. One was born on Krypton and grew up on earth, which many moviegoers already know. However, less is known about the enigmatic bad boy. Hence this origin film, which needs to establish Black Adam's beginnings, why he's so embittered and how he fits into the world, or at least the DC comics universe.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has shepherded



Dwayne Johnson in Black Adam (Courtesy photo)

this project, his lovechild, for decades. Bringing the story of DC's brown-skinned superhero to fruition is a major achievement and the movie star has earned his props—even if this act/fan/sci-fi is less than perfect. He was born to play Black Adam, every role in his past builds up to this persona and it's a crown he was destined to wear.

Screenwriters Adam Sztykiel (Rampage), Rory Haines (The Mauritanian) and Sohrab Noshirvani (Informer) don't have a suc-

cessful superhero movie in their spotty filmographies. Yet, they were tasked with developing characters, storylines, dialogue and major plot points for a comic book anti-hero who was conceived back in 1945 and swathed in Middle Eastern culture. Former music video and commercial director turned filmmaker Jaume Collet-Serra, who worked with Johnson on Jungle Cruise (a dubious achievement at best), helms this venture, which

See ADAM, Page 10

## Have Medicare questions? I have answers.

I'm Lamonica Thomas, a licensed sales agent in Dallas-Fort Worth. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs.

### It's time to take advantage.



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SPRJ55189



**VOTE EARLY: OCT. 24 - NOV. 1**  
**ELECTION DAY: NOV. 8**

We can honor the past and change the future by voting for statewide candidates that will:

- Ensure that we have excellent public schools, regardless of zip code
- Fight for our ability to decide whether or not to have children
- Expand access to healthcare
- Reform the rigged legal system
- Increase jobs that pay living wages

**CHANGE. POWER. BLACK.**



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TOP-ENDORSED  
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GOVERNOR

**ROCHELLE GARZA**  
ATTY. GENERAL

**MIKE COLLIER**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAY KLEBERG**  
TX LAND COMMISSIONER

**LUKE WARFORD**  
TX RAILROAD COMMISSIONER



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# NDG Book Review: 'From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge'

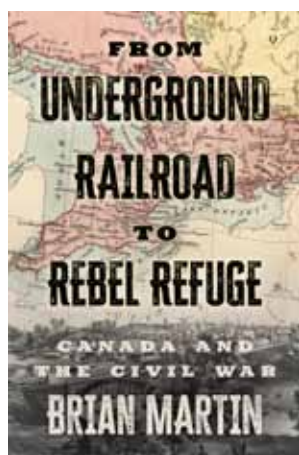
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It looks like your ticket was purchased the day you were born.

Your destination was unknown and the journey takes a lifetime, but a seat was reserved for you that no one can take away. And yet, you could change courses any time you wished, for greener pastures or safer homes. In the new book "From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge" by Brian Martin, your fellow travelers are good with that.

Even in the earliest days, there were slaves.

In 1501, says Martin, a Portuguese explorer came to the easternmost shores



of what's now Canada with at least one slave. An unnamed Black person, probably a slave, died in Port Royal in 1606; another fell in Acadia two years later. There weren't a lot of slaves when those

lands were controlled by the French, but after Great Britain took over in 1763, slavery surged and the number of Black people grew. Numbers jumped again during the Revolutionary War, when the Brits eagerly invited slaves to taste freedom by fleeing their American owners.

Immediately after the war, Britain realized how much its public disliked slavery, and they "inched" to abolish it with the Act on the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the British Empire of 1807. By then, run-away slaves from all over America had been seeking freedom in Canada. By the 1830s, running north had

a name – the Underground Railroad – and it had several leaders to lead slaves away from bondage.

But Canada wasn't just a safe haven for former slaves or freedmen hoping for more tolerance or a better life. Bounty hunters came north across a border that was easy to ignore. Abolitionists crossed over, as did politicians and journalists eager to tell a tale or two. Canadians crossed south, to fight mostly with the Union.

Our northern neighbor was always welcoming and willing to shelter anyone who needed it. Even if, says Martin, they were once plantation owners.

Even if they were white supremacists and Klan leaders...

At this point in your life, you've probably heard your fair share of nineteenth-century American history. You know quite a bit about the Civil War and slave history, too, but "From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge" will open your eyes even wider.

Remember high school history class? It probably left you frustrated with vague information, when it came to slavery in America and Canada's role in it, but author Brian Martin gets specific here, regaling readers with exciting, surprising, astonishing stories

of individuals whose lives and experiences made a mark on both countries' attitudes and laws. These are tales you didn't get in high school – and though this book can feel somewhat text-bookish sometimes, you won't mind too much. The stories are the strength here.

This book will make a historian head for the easy chair tonight. "From Underground Railroad to Rebel Refuge" will introduce you to a new set of heroes and villains. And if your goal is to learn more about American history this winter, this book about Canada will get you right on track.

## WaterTower Theatre announces cast and details for Jesus Christ Superstar

WaterTower Theatre Producing Artistic Director Shane Peterman and Associate Producer Elizabeth Kensek are proud to announce casting and creative details for "Jesus Christ Superstar", the

blockbuster rock opera by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. This is the first production of WaterTower's 27th Season.

In 1970, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber released "Jesus Christ Superstar" as a concept double album. It became a massive global best-seller, which

led to a hit Broadway show, and motion picture that became a global

sensation. WaterTower Theatre is proud to be one of the first theatres in the nation to obtain the rights to produce "Jesus Christ Superstar" following the 50th Anniversary Tour production. Reflecting the rock roots

that defined a generation, the legendary score includes 'I Don't Know How to Love Him', 'Gethsemane' and 'Superstar'. It will run on the Terry Martin Main Stage from Novem-

ber 30th through December 11th, 2022 at the

Addison Theatre Centre. WaterTower's production is led by director Natalie King, music director Cody Dry and choreographer Kelly McCain.

The first musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice to be produced for the professional stage, "Jesus Christ Superstar" has wowed audiences for over 50 years. A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop

of an extraordinary and universally known series of

events but seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. This hit rock opera has not been produced with an all-local cast & creative team in DFW in over 25

years! Loosely based on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the show follows the last week of Jesus Christ's life and told entirely through song, exploring the personal relationships and struggles between Jesus,

Judas, Mary Magdalene, his disciples, his followers and the Roman Empire. WaterTower welcomes au-

diences to see this classic with a fresh perspective.

Director Natalie King, who most recently directed A RAISIN IN THE SUN at WaterTower in 2021, shared the following regarding her vision for the production:

"I am thrilled and honored to be directing the rock classic, "Jesus Christ Superstar" here at WaterTower Theatre. I am so grateful for Shane and Elizabeth's focus on inclusion and their embrace of a broader scope of creative vision."

The production stars Feleceia Wilson as Jesus, Christopher J. Deaton as Judas, John Michael Marrs as Pilate, Caitlin Chapa as Mary Magdalene, Ellen Eberhart as Herod, Nikka Morton as Simon, Jason Hallman as Caiaphas, Anthony J. Ortega as Annas, Nijel Smith as Peter, and an ensemble of skilled singers, dancers and actors including Aren Hugo, Kevin Davis Jr., Mikki Hankins, Spencer Laboda, Johanna Nchekwube, Lisette San-

See JCS, Page 12

## ADAM, from Page 9

might explain the emphasis on movement and flow and less weight on mind-blowing special effects.

The ancient city and now bustling metropolis of Kahndaq lives under tyranny. It's citizens long for their freedom. Through a mishap in an ancient tomb, archeologist Adrianna (Sarah Shahi, The Rookie) unleashes Teth Adam (Johnson), a powerful being who'd been imprisoned for 5000 years. Angry and looking for vengeance against millenniums-old adversaries, he is on a tear: "I was a slave before I died. I yield to no one." The Justice Society (the

very first superhero team, which was created back in DC comics in 1940), a squad of modern-day heroes, is determined to catch and detain the angry rebel.

The JSA is directed by Amanda Waller (Viola Davis), who zooms in her commands remotely to the team: Hawkman (Aldis Hodge, One Night in Miami...), Doctor Fate (Pierce Brosnan, Goldeneye), Atom Smasher (Noah Centineo) and Cyclone (Quintessa Swindell). Teth Adam, aka Black Adam, will not go quietly. Neither will the enemies of the Kahndaq people.

The premise turns into a

serviceable narrative that gives the mighty ones and their foes plenty to fight over for 2h 4m. Collet-Serra's background in videos helps him make the footage kinetic. Aerial chases, fights, kidnappings and explosions abound, though none are that dissimilar from those depicted in any other movie of this genre. Average audiences might not care, but hardcore Comic Con heads may feel that Adam's flying is too tell-tale CGI and that there's no excuse for cheesy effects in a film with a \$200M budget.

The fight scenes are filmed decently (cinematographer Lawrence Sher, Joker), and the film's de-

piction of early life in Kahndaq has been shot in an evocative hue. The city's exteriors and interiors (Tom Meyer, Finch) conjure the Middle East/North Africa region, everyday clothes from olden to modern times (Kurt and Bart, Deadpool 2) reflect the locals and the crusaders' costumes are lavish enough to fit the bill. Loud music piques feelings (Lorne Balfe, Black Widow) and credit editors Mike Sale and John Lee for giving the footage momentum that rarely wanes.

The cast is energized. Mohammed Amer (TV's Ramy series) as Adrianna's brother and driver Karim provides comic relief and

Bodhi Sabongui, as her spunky son, should appeal to kids, tweens and teens. When you need someone to be the bad guy, actor Marwan Kenzari (Aladdin) knows how to pour on seething, hissing villainy liked a viper. All the members of the JSA have verve, though the powers of Atom Smasher and Cyclone possess are unimpressive.

Johnson, over the course of a 21-year, up-and-down movie career, has built a prolific actioner resume. Looks like a wrestler, struts like a movie star and acts like he could kick anyone's ass. Here, he's in his glory. The lighting on his face and physique deifies him. The skintight reptile-

looking costume highlights a Mr. Olympia fit body. His glare could stop a locomotive. Johnson's performance stands atop a high mountain peak, while the script, direction and special effects are left on a plateau.

This comic book adaptation is not in the same league as The Dark Knight (visually stunning), Wonder Woman (fresh and surprising), Black Panther (monumental) or Deadpool (deeply depraved). Yet it's distinguished itself just enough to satiate moviegoers, entertain streaming audiences and warrant further integration into the DC universe.

Opening in theaters October 21st.





## NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dallas, Texas has called a special election to be held within the City of Dallas, Texas on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

**CITY OF DALLAS PROPOSITION A**
☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

"Authorizing the city of Dallas to provide for the planning, acquisition, establishment, development, construction, renovation and financing of the expansion of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas, a venue within the city of the type described and defined in section 334.001(4)(b) of and permitted by chapter 334, Local Government Code, as amended (the "Act"), designated by Resolution 22-0660 (the "Resolution") and described in summary form as an expansion of a convention center facility described in Sections 334.001(4)(b) and 334.2518 of the Act, and by Section 351.001(2), Tax Code, as amended, and related infrastructure as defined in the Act, including demolition costs (collectively, the "Convention Center Expansion Venue Project"); and authorizing the city of Dallas to provide for the planning, acquisition, establishment, development, construction, renovation and financing of certain Fair Park facilities, a venue within the city of the type described and defined in section 334.001(4)(d) of and permitted by the act, designated by the Resolution and described in summary form pursuant to section 334.2518 of the act as the acquisition, construction and improvement of the Automobile Building, the Centennial Building, the Band Shell, the Music Hall, the Cotton Bowl and the Coliseum, and related infrastructure as defined in the Act (collectively, the "Fair Park Facilities Venue Project" and, together with the Convention Center Expansion Venue Project, the "Venue Projects") and to impose a new hotel occupancy tax at the rate of two percent (2%) for the purpose of financing the venue projects; and approving the resolution. If approved, the maximum hotel occupancy tax rate imposed from all sources in the city of Dallas would be fifteen percent (15%) of the price paid for a room in a hotel."

**DALLAS COUNTY EARLY VOTING CENTER LOCATIONS DATES AND TIMES**

Date		Time
October 24 – 28	Monday – Friday	7am – 7pm
October 29	Saturday	7am – 7pm
October 30	Sunday	12pm – 6pm
October 31 – November 2	Monday – Wednesday	7am – 7pm
November 3 – November 4	Thursday – Friday	7am – 9pm

Early voting and Election Day locations:

[https://www.dallascountyvoters.org/wp-content/uploads/VoteCenters\\_EarlyVoting\\_Nov-8-1.pdf](https://www.dallascountyvoters.org/wp-content/uploads/VoteCenters_EarlyVoting_Nov-8-1.pdf)  
<https://www.dallascountyvoters.org/wp-content/uploads/Election-Day-Nov-8-2022-Locations-Assigned.pdf>

Collin County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:

[https://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election\\_information/Pages/early\\_voting.aspx](https://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/Pages/early_voting.aspx)  
[https://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election\\_information/Pages/election\\_day.aspx](https://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/Pages/election_day.aspx)

Denton County Early voting and Election Day locations and dates/times:

[https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/1122\\_EV\\_Locations.pdf](https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/1122_EV_Locations.pdf)  
<https://www.votedenton.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/1122-ED-Unconsolidated-Locations.pdf>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE:**

**Biliera Johnson (214) 670-5654 or Miroslava Martinez (214) 670-3809**



# Black female excellence takes center stage at St. Jude Spirit Of The Dream

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — For the first time in its history, the St. Jude Spirit of the Dream event selected women for each of its highest accolades: the St. Jude Spirit of the Dream award and the Legacy Award. The event, held Thursday, Sept. 29 celebrates the achievements of African Americans who embody the lifesaving mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and its founder, Danny Thomas who believed that no child, regardless of race should die in the dawn of life.

Dr. Patricia Adams-Graves, professor in the hematology/oncology division at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center

and a provider at Regional One Health is one of few hematologists in Memphis to serve and care for adults living with Sickle Cell Disease, and Dr. Sian Proctor, an accomplished civilian astronaut, pilot, advocate for women of color in the space industry, entrepreneur, and professor of American geology, were both presented with the Spirit of the Dream award. Emily Greer, a 30-year executive leader, most recently as Chief Administrative Officer for ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude, received the St. Jude Legacy Award for her tireless service to St. Jude as a trusted advisor to CEO,

Rick Shadyac. Though Greer retired in 2021, she remains committed to the mission of St. Jude.

Each honoree has made a significant impact far beyond their local communities. Together, their multiple accomplishments reflect the foundational pillars of St. Jude: research, treatment, and philanthropy.

"I didn't come to ALSAC almost 30 years ago with the idea of sitting here today," said Greer. "I came with the idea of serving these children and these families who get the worst news of all: that your child has cancer. And I just tried to do my small part in making a difference in their lives. It's an

honor to be recognized in this way to do work that was my privilege to do."

The event also comes on the heels of the first anniversary of Inspiration4, the first all-civilian spaceflight to orbit the Earth, which landed safely back on Earth thanks to Dr. Proctor's skillful navigation as the mission pilot. Inspiration4 captivated space fans the world over and raised nearly \$250 million for the lifesaving mission of St. Jude.

"When I won the prosperity seat on the Inspiration4 mission, my entire life shifted," said Dr. Proctor. "Becoming connected to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the mission

of ending childhood cancer resonated with me to my core and allowed me to unleash the very best version of myself."

During the St. Jude Spirit of the Dream event, guests heard about the strides made by St. Jude on racial equity since its founding in 1962 as the South's first fully integrated children's hospital. As part of this commitment to racial equity, St. Jude launched a sickle cell program in 1968 to study this disease, which disproportionately affects African American people. That program has grown to become one of the largest in the U.S.

As a physician in Memphis, Dr. Adams-Graves

continues to extend quality care to sickle cell patients in the greater Midsouth region. "Receiving this award is an honor, pleasure and validation of the service that I have been walking in my life to improve the quality of life for individuals, both children and adults, living with sickle cell disease," said Dr. Adams-Graves.

Past honorees include Dr. Rudolph Jackson, one of the first Black doctors at St. Jude, Penny Hardaway, University of Memphis Tigers head men's basketball coach, and the city of Memphis.

To learn more and donate, visit [stjude.org/spiritofthedream](http://stjude.org/spiritofthedream).

## JCS, from Page 10

doval Perez, and Daniel Vanegas who will all portray apostles and many other characters. The cast will be joined on stage by a live

band led by Music Director, Conductor & pianist, Cody Dry, featuring Vonda K. Bowling (keyboard 2), Jesse Ramirez (guitar),

Brittany Hart (bass), and Kami Lujan (drums).

The creative & production team includes Kennedy 'Kae' Styron as Set Designer, Megan A. Liles as Costume & Properties

Designer, Aaron Johansen as Lighting Designer, Mark Howard as Sound Designer & Engineer, Dwight Sandell as Production Stage Manager, and Rebecca Bongiorno as Assistant

Stage Manager.

The production has been approved by Actors Equity Association under their fully vaccinated safety protocols for indoor productions, ensuring the safety

of both artists and patrons alike. Contains adult situations. Recommended for ages 12 and above. WaterTower Theatre's 2022-2023 Season Sponsor is the Town of Addison.

## ERIC, from Page 2

impacting lives, and there is no better example of this than Mayor Johnson."

Former Mayor Steve Bartlett, who also served as a member of Congress from 1983-1991 and as Mayor of Dallas from 1991-1995 commended Mayor Johnson's focus on economic growth and crime reduc-

tion, acknowledging the two issues are connected. Bartlett took office as Dallas was experiencing historic crime rates, including the single most murders in one year (1991). When he left office the murder rate had dropped nearly 50%.

"Under Mayor Johnson's leadership, Dallas

has experienced phenomenal economic growth and a meaningful reduction in crime. During his first term, our city has added more than \$14 billion in new development to our tax base, which has meant economic growth and new jobs for our residents," said Former Mayor Steve Bartlett.

"Mayor Johnson also made public safety a pri-

ority with innovative programs like Summer of Safety and increased community involvement. His extraordinary and courageous leadership resulted in a significant reduction in violent crime, contrary to the trend in other large American cities. This phenomenal economic growth, combined with a meaningful reduction in crime,

demonstrates confidence and belief in our leadership. Mayor Johnson is vital to Dallas' economic health and public safety, and he deserves to continue leading this great city," Bartlett continued.

As Mayor, Eric Johnson has made funding police a top priority, and in the past two budget cycles the city's public safety budget has

increased despite opposition. During 2020 budget discussions, Mayor Johnson led an effort to protect \$7 million of police budget dollars from being diverted to other projects during the "defund the police" movement.

Earlier this month Mayor Johnson received an early endorsement from the Dallas Police Association.

## VOTE, from Page 3

torates that showed up at the polls and cast a ballot. (See chart)

Voter turnout is much more than a matter of race. The way racial groups chose to cast their ballot also affects the probability of an electorate not just being registered but actually completing the voting process.

With the 2020 presidential election, for instance, only 33% of those voters who voted in person were Democrats, compared to 65% of in-person voters being Republican. Republicans also led in the category of early in-person, voting 52% compared to Demo-

crats 47%.

Albeit, Democrats led by a wide margin when it came to mail-in or absentee voting. In that category, 65% of those voters who chose not to show up in person were Democrats; and Republicans accounted for 33% of mail-in and absentee voting. (Pew Research Center)

The age of potential voters also weighs heavily in the elections. People aged 65 and older have a higher probability of showing up at the polls. Voter turnout becomes tenuous as the age of the voter decreases. The median age of voters during a presidential election is between 39 and 45 years, and

the median age for voters in elections between presidential elections is between 43 and 47 years. Although voter turnout tends to peak at the age of 50. The decline in voter turnout is more evident with younger voters.

Ever since 18-years-olds gained the right to vote in 1972, their tendency to actually vote has been wanting. VAPs who are between 18 and 24 years are least likely to vote in any form.

Democrats seem to recognize the potential voters' pool that is represented by the youth and are appealing to the desires of that age group via targeted ads and social media campaigns.

In the 2016 presidential race, 58% of voters aged 18-

29 voted for the Democratic candidate compared to 28% voting for the Republican candidate. In 2018, 72% of that age group voted Democrat versus 23% Repub-

lican. Then in 2020, 59% of electorates aged 18-29 voted Democrat compared to 35% Republican.

If Democrats can organize and rally newly indoc-

trinated voters to participate in the voting process and target campaign ads to that younger voter, the Republican stranglehold in Texas could be loosened.

## NAME CHANGE

**Abhilasha D/O Ashok Kumar,  
Date of birth 02/28/1992,  
residing at 3733 William  
Dehaes Dr., Irving Texas  
75038, shall hence forth be  
known as Abhilasha Kumar.**



# BuyBlack.org launches ecommerce marketplace

Oakland (CA) – BuyBlack.org recently launched its Shopify-powered ecommerce marketplace of vetted and curated Black-owned businesses to drive \$100 million in new revenue to Black-owned businesses.

“At BuyBlack.org, we’re always looking for innovative ways to help our members increase awareness and revenue. The BuyBlack.org Marketplace is a versatile new way to put Black-owned businesses in front of everyday consumers, and companies that are looking to support Black-owned businesses,” says



Sergey Zolkin / Unsplash

David Derryck, CEO of BuyBlack.org. The Marketplace makes it easy for consumers to shop and for companies to purchase

gift cards for employee rewards, anniversary gifts, customer appreciation, survey incentives, contests and more.

Consumers and corporations alike have to work too hard to purchase from Black-owned businesses. They rely on “featured” brands on large platforms (Amazon, Etsy, DoorDash), word-of-mouth referrals, fragmented localized lists, Black history month or Juneteenth. In short, one has to overcome significant friction to purchase from Black-owned businesses by visiting numerous websites and/or apps. BuyBlack.org removes that friction by aggregating these various sources into a single, searchable business directory accessible from

any device. BuyBlack.org is extending its directory functionality so that people are not only able to discover businesses but are also able to purchase from them. “We have spent the last year developing the largest directory of Black-owned businesses and now we are leveraging our more than 50,000 directory listings to bring vetted and curated merchants directly to consumers,” says Derryck.

BuyBlack.org’s goal is to generate \$100 million in revenue for businesses in the marketplace to address revenue disparity between Black-owned and non-

Black businesses.

Buyblack.org is the largest online directory of Black-owned businesses in the US with over 50,000 listings that are fully searchable by keyword, category and geolocation. BuyBlack.org leverages its directory to drive traffic and revenue to Black-owned businesses, provide business intelligence to its members and regularly publish reports about the state of black businesses to inform and influence entrepreneurs and business owners, lenders, policy-makers and local communities about where to invest.

## CFPB, from Page 3

trade associations could suggest that discrimination in any financial service is not unfair or abusive or that the CFPB should not be monitoring the financial industry for discrimination wherever it occurs,” said Rich Dubois, executive director of the National Consumer Law Center. He added that “People of color are more likely to be unbanked, to suffer unexplained disparities in credit scores and reports used for purposes beyond credit, and to experience discrimination in multiple areas throughout their financial lives.”

Similarly, Elyse Hicks, consumer policy counsel at Americans for Financial Reform, a broad-based advocacy coalition that includes civil rights and racial justice advocates, also spoke out.

“With this lawsuit, the bank lobby has joined the disgraceful campaign of many groups and politicians that exploit racial grievance to stop the United States from facing up to the very real effects of persistent discrimination,” said Hicks in a statement. “The goal of big banks is simply to avoid having to face up to their own role in the historic wrong of struc-

tural racism, and the costs of that to their own bottom lines.”

“The CFPB has clear authority, as the top consumer watchdog, to watch out for discrimination of all kinds in consumer finance, penalize offenders, and correct bank practices,” Hicks concluded.

A multi-agency initiative begun nearly a year ago that included CFPB and the Department of Justice took a similar approach in response to discrimination in financial services.

That effort resulted in a nearly \$9 million settlement with Trustmark National Bank, headquartered in Jackson, MS, for redlining in majority-Black and Latino neighborhoods in the Memphis-Mississippi-Arkansas Metropolitan Statistical Area. The settlement found that Trustmark violated ECOA, the Consumer Financial Protection Act, and the Fair Housing Act.

The settlement included: a \$5.5 million civil penalty payable to CFPB and the OCC; the creation of a \$3.85 million loan fund targeted to Black and Latino communities; and an additional \$600,000 earmarked to underwrite community partnership activities and

advertising in underserved communities.

“Trustmark purposely excluded and discriminated against Black and Hispanic communities,” CFPB Director Chopra said in a statement. “The federal government will be

working to rid the market of racist business practices, including those by discriminatory algorithms.”

After 50 years, it is as unfortunate as it is unjust that leading business groups, with this lawsuit, are standing in opposition

to fair lending and civil rights.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Cen-

ter for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).



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## How old is too old?

By James L. Snyder

I have never thought too much about my age. After all, you cannot choose when you will be born. Age is just a matter of thinking, and thinking is not my strong suit.

I never really thought about being old. I'm not exactly sure what the real definition of old is.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage recently asked me, "How old do you think you are?" I'm not quite sure what the incident was about.

I never know if what she is asking is rhetorical or something actually true. To question your wife is a borderline disaster.

On my last birthday, we went out to a restaurant to celebrate. As I was finishing my dessert, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me with one of her mischievous smiles and said, "Well, how old do you feel?"

Without thinking, which

is my MO, I reached across the table, took hold of her arm, squeezed it, and said, "I feel old now?"

Unfortunately, she did not think it was funny, even though I was laughing.

Getting old is a natural process. You go from one birthday to the next birthday to the next birthday. I've had so many birthdays that I can't remember most of them. My question along this line is, if I can't remember how old I am, can I make up my age at my convenience?

Believe it or not, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage responded to that. I'm not allowed to share her response, for obvious reasons.

Most people think that getting old is a very negative thing. I used to think that to a certain degree. But I am beginning to discover some good advantages to getting old.

I was at a certain restaurant, and when I went up front to pay the bill, I, with

a big smile on my face, asked if I could get a discount. I was just joking.

To my surprise, the person behind the counter looked at me and said, "How old are you?"

I had to think for a moment, and then I told her how old I was. When I said that, she replied, "Well, if you are that old, you qualify for a senior citizen discount."

Up to that point, I had never heard of a senior citizen discount, but I was glad to hear about it and cheerfully accepted that discount. I heartily respond to any discount for me. Any discount is change in my pocket.

Coming home the other day, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage met me and asked if I remembered to pick up something at the store for her. Looking at her, I simply said, "Oh, my. I guess I'm getting so old I couldn't remember."

She replied with something I shall never for-

get, "That's okay." I only wished I had my tape recorder running when she said that.

That brought me to another benefit of getting old. All I have to say is that I'm so old I forgot and my mind isn't what it used to be, and my forgetting is forgiven.

Pondering this, I was reminded of my paternal grandfather. He was known for being so very forgetful. Everybody blamed it on his age, which he supported most heartily.

I remember talking to him one time before his passing and asking him, "Grandpa, why is it that you forget so many things?"

He looked at me, winked, and said, "Forgetting is an art.. Not too many people can do it sufficiently."

"What do you mean?" I said.

"Forgetting is a legitimate way of getting out of doing something you don't want to do." So he stopped and laughed for a moment and continued, "It takes a

lot of memory to be able to forget as much as I do, and it has nothing to do with age."

I began learning a little more about my grandpa as he explained it. If he didn't want to do something, he hung it on his old age and forgetting. I don't know anybody who has built on that better than my grandfather. I was beginning to understand him now that I'm at a certain age.

Some people think getting old is a bad thing. Oh yes, there are some things I cannot do today that I could do 50 years ago. But that's not the issue. The issue is to take advantage of your age, especially if it's "old age."

"Old age" has certain advantages that did not come with being young.

When invited to go somewhere I don't want to go, it is easy for me to say, "I'd love to, but at my age I just don't have the energy." I then can flash a smile and get off going to the place I

didn't want to go to in the first place.

When I was young, I took advantage of being young. I have the scars to prove that, of course. But now that I'm old, I need to take advantage of old age. And as a country boy, I plan to milk my old age as much as possible.

The Bible says some very positive things about getting old. My favorite verse on this subject is, Proverbs 16:31, "The hoary (grey) head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."

I'm not the only one that is getting old. Everybody gets old, but the "way of righteousness" is the key.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.*

## INFLATION, from Page 1

to change hands again so quickly.

Too many times, I have seen it in my lifetime. Americans vote out the party in power in favor

of change, perhaps never noticing what either party has actually contributed to the economy. And the biggest looming problem is that many Americans only

vote every four years. This results in the controlling party switching back and forth, preventing any real progress.

We must allow our all-too slow political process a little more time to work,

while not forgetting the progress we made against the historic economic chal-

lenges of the pandemic.

Don't just vote in November--Take ten people

to the polls. Talk to your neighbors and do everything possible. We must!

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# Voting: A Right, a Privilege and a Responsibility



**Sister Tarpley**  
NDG  
Religion  
Editor

Recently, I read an article, 50 Years ago/Voting by Charles E. "Chuck" Siler. It is such an inspiring story that should compel many people, young and old to learn what a right, a privilege and a responsibility it is to vote.

In Texas, 149 years ago, Black people became free men, women and children; and five years later, in Texas, my great grandfather, Nicholas Demus, had a new name, was a property owner and he was a registered voter by paying a "Poll Tax Fee."

Freestone County Records in Fairfield, Texas, verifies that my great grandfather Nicholas was one of over 300 Black men in the County with a letter "c" after their names to indicate that they were "a Colored" voting man.

My great grandfather, Nicholas, my grandfather, Deacon David N. Demus and my father, Lloyd David Demus, had to go to a Court House, pay a Poll Tax fee before they could register to vote; therefore it was most important to each to vote in elections.

Consequently, my entire family was taught the importance of voting, that it was a "Right, a Privilege and a Responsibility" to registered when they turned 18 years old and become an "informed voter." I was in school at Prairie View A & M University, in Prairie View, Texas, "55 Years Ago", when I registered to vote and I have voted in every election since that time.

This is the same responsibility that I taught my children, Jarrell and Sheila. You should never get too busy to pass on to future generations the importance of voting.

At 18 years old, I was sure that studying the candidates were not important to my children to research the candidates and vote, so,



I discussed the candidates with them and explained why I was voting for that particular candidate.

However, I did tell them that one day when they were paying school, property, road, county and city taxes; and voting for school board members, elected officials in each area, that voting for the right candidate would be major choice and they would do their own research before voting.

Today, there is no fee to register, one does not have to go to a Court House to register, any legal citizen of the United States, can fill out an application, mail it in, and wait for their Registration Card to be mailed to them.

Even now, a voter can mail in their ballot, many elder voters mail in their ballot, my precious aunt in Ft. Worth, Texas, now mails her votes in for elections. I asked her why did she vote, her statement was, "I vote to honor my parents and forefathers, there was a time that they were forbidden to vote and when they were granted the right, they did so in every election."

Also, my pastor told his congregation if you don't vote, you have no basis to complain." And be aware that all military personnel and U.S. citizens in foreign countries mail in their ballots. No legal person or able body person of the United States of America has a reason not to vote.

Yet, while we have more registered voters, because of certain events, especially during a "President's Election Year", we have less people voting. In reality, it is more important to vote in

school board, city, county, state and nation elections than in a "President's Election Year" because they have a direct effect on your pocket books more than anything else.

Why do we have more people voting during a "Present's Election Year" when all that they are doing is giving the candidate a "popular vote?" It doesn't affect your pocket book directly, but it does in the long run, because we have three branches of government and each branch has its own responsibility.

It is essential to remember, your "vote" is important because it allows you to vote for a candidate that has your morals and values that would be good for you, your family, property, city, county, state and your nation. And, if that candidate does not keep his or promise when elected, you can vote him/her out of office the next election.


It is a "Right," as a legal citizen of the U.S.; your Constitution guarantees you that right. Men and women have died for your right to vote your conviction.

Voting is a "Privilege." A freedom, an advantage, an honor, a benefit, a great opportunity to pick your choice for that office. God gave mankind, a choice when Jesus Christ, my Lord and my Savior died on the Cross over 2,000 years ago. Voting is your "Responsibility." Accountability, blame if things go wrong, authority to act and to make an informed decision.

It is time for every legal citizen of the U.S. to study the issues, study the candi-

date and then exercise your "Right, Privilege and Responsibility" vote in Early Election or November 4th and in every election thereafter for the good of your nation.

(Editor's Note: This column originally ran in October 2014.)

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