

Big Bethel Social Action Commission

# Voting is my Black Job



November 2024 • <https://www.bbsac.org/elections-2024/>

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**In the United States, the process of certifying votes after the polls close involves several steps at the local, state, and sometimes federal levels. Here's an overview of the general process:**

- 1. Closing the Polls and Initial Vote Counting**
- 2. County-Level Canvassing**
- 3. State-Level Certification**
- 4. Certification of Electors (for Presidential Elections)**
- 5. Congressional Certification (for Presidential Elections)**
- 6. Challenging the Results**
- 7. Final Certification and Declaration of Results**

Each of the seven steps to certify the election traditionally were normally considered routine. The 2020 presidential election raised issues and now these standard processes can present challenges. Especially step number 7 (see below the process for step number 7).

**Certification of Presidential Election (for Presidential Elections)**

- 1. Governor and state officials sign a Certificate of Ascertainment**
- 2. Legal Challenges and Recounts**
- 3. Legal Challenges and Recounts**

**I am requesting that we pay very close attention to what happens after November 5<sup>th</sup>, after the polls are close. Peaceful but vigilant protests may be required.**

**Cyril Mayes  
Chief Editor**

# November Health Awareness

**American Diabetes Month** The American Diabetes Association (ADA) claim that people first observed National Diabetes Month in 1975. Organizations come together to launch initiatives, run campaigns, and increase awareness efforts.

## **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Awareness Month**

The month of November brings together the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease community to give greater visibility to the condition.

**Bladder Health Month:** Various patient advocacy groups helped create Bladder Health Month. For more information, visit the Urology Care Foundation.

**Diabetic Eye Disease Month:** This campaign aims to raise awareness of vision and eye health complications in people with diabetes.

**Lung Cancer Awareness Month:** The Lung Cancer Foundation of America is very proactive during this month, as is the American Lung Association.

**National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month:** There are now numerous events to help people and their caregivers. Visit the Alzheimer's Association website for more information.

**National Epilepsy Awareness Month:** The Epilepsy Foundation have advice on how to make a difference and contribute. **Purple is the color** to wear to show support.

**National Hospice and Palliative Care Month:** The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the National PACE Association aim to draw attention to the work of hospices and palliative care workers.

**National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month:** No Stomach for Cancer aim to push for increased funding and research and empower people living with the condition and their caregivers.

## **Equity not Reparations (The final Analysis)**

By Keith Burnett

In the previous articles, I wrote about the how and why of the difference between reparations and equity being realized to our people and what this equity looks like. I know there is a growing consensus of brothers and sisters who desire some form of direct payment or cash disbursements to individual families. I don't believe that would benefit us as a collective due to the fact we as a people tend to not look at the big picture (i.e. the future).

Let's start with **Educational support:**

Free or subsidized higher education, vocational training, or enhanced K-12 programs in our communities. Education is how we compete and keep up with the world. There is a growing population in the country that is anti-intellectual, anti-science, the public school system in black and brown communities have been turned into gladiator schools by design, and only Intervention by some serious educators with a strong funding resource, in this case the United States Government. This is what I would deem an easy fix if all parties involved are focused on the big picture.

**Housing assistance:**

Grants or low-interest loans for home purchases, repairs, property tax relief. Home and land ownership is in my opinion the bridge to creating generational wealth.

**Business Support:**

Grants, or low-interest loans for home purchases, repairs, or property tax relief.

**Community Investment:**

Funding for infrastructure improvements, cultural centers, or public services in historically Black communities.

**Healthcare initiatives:**

Targeted programs to address health disparities and improve access to medical care.

**Land Grants:**

Allocation of public lands or support for land acquisition.

**Tax Credits:**

Specific tax benefits for eligible individuals or businesses.

## Historical preservation:

Funding for museums, and education programs focused on our history.

## Legal support:

Resources for addressing discriminatory practices or policies.

Estimating the cost of comprehensive reparations programs, including housing initiatives, is complex and would vary significantly depending on the scope, scale, and specific measures implemented. Without a concrete proposal or defined parameters, it's challenging to provide a precise figure. However, I can offer some perspective on the potential scale:

1. National estimates: Some economists and policy researchers have attempted to calculate the cost of national-level reparations. These estimates often range from hundreds of billions to several trillion dollars, depending on the approach.
2. Housing-specific costs: The housing component alone could be substantial. For context, consider that the racial wealth gap in the U.S. is significantly tied to homeownership disparities. A 2019 study by the Brookings Institution estimated the gap in housing wealth between Black and white families at about \$3.7 trillion.
3. State-level examples: California's Reparations Task Force, while not providing a total **figure, has discussed potential housing-related reparations that could amount to** hundreds of thousands of dollars per eligible individual for property seizures alone.
4. Program-specific costs: Individual programs within a larger reparation's framework could have widely varying costs:
  - A robust down payment assistance program could cost billions annually if implemented broadly.
  - Property tax relief programs could result in significant revenue reductions for local governments.
  - Large-scale public housing improvements or new construction could run into tens of billions of dollars.
5. Factors affecting cost:
  - The number of eligible recipients
  - The geographic scope (national vs. state vs. local)
  - The depth and breadth of programs offered
  - The timeframe for Implementation
  - Economic conditions and housing market dynamics

6. Potential offsets: Some argue that reparations programs could generate economic benefits that offset costs over time, such as increased economic activity, reduced reliance on social programs, and improved community health outcomes.

Given the lack of a specific, widely-agreed-upon plan, these figures are highly speculative. The actual cost would depend on political decisions, economic factors, and the specific design of any implemented programs.

For accurate, up-to-date cost estimates, it would be necessary to consult recent economic analyses or policy proposals from reputable sources. The costs and potential impacts of reparations programs remain a subject of ongoing research and debate among policymakers, economists, and scholars.

This is the blueprint. For it to work it will have to be through the legislative process. Getting control of one of the major political parties is ground zero. This will be a major task for our people, **VOTE, VOTE, and VOTE!** That's the game plan. We must do it in numbers and it must be strategic.

These numbers I share with you all are AI driven.

These articles were never based on what I thought was owed to us but simply put, it was a matter of us as a race who have a vested interest in her adopted homeland in which many of our descendants made the ultimate sacrifice, fought in the many wars waged by politicians who only saw us as cannon fodder. Equity! That's what we've earned, and that's what we will keep fighting for!

Stay Woke.

# THIS NOVEMBER, ARE YOU VOTING FOR CANDIDATES WHO SUPPORT THE ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU?

POLITICAL ISSUES	DEMOCRATS VOTING YES	HARRIS SUPPORTS	REPUBLICANS VOTING YES	TRUMP SUPPORTS
Raising the nationwide minimum wage to \$15	98%	YES	0%	NO
Protecting and expanding workers' rights to unionize	100%	YES	2%	NO
Lowering prescription drug prices	100%	YES	0%	NO
Cutting Medicaid funding and taking away coverage	0%	NO	99%	YES
Cutting food assistance funding	0%	NO	99%	YES
Protecting and expanding abortion access nationwide	99%	YES	0%	NO
Restricting abortion access	1%	NO	97%	YES
Removing clean air protections	2%	NO	98%	YES
Removing clean water protections	4%	NO	99%	YES
Funding gun violence prevention, mental health, and school safety	100%	YES	5%	NO
Tax relief for working families with children	89%	YES	77%	YES
Tax cut for people making over a million dollars and for major corporations	0%	NO	95%	YES
Protecting and expanding voting rights nationwide	97%	YES	0%	NO
Overturning student debt relief	0%	NO	100%	YES
Ensuring and increasing military preparedness	77%	YES	67%	YES

**Don't make this a selfish vote,  
think about your community!**



# Get Ready to Vote

**Secretary of State Website (My Voter Page)**

<https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

**Check** Your Voter Status

**Verify** Local Voting Rules & Locations

**Double Check** Your Voting Location and hours of operation

- **Locate Your Early Voting Poll Location (if applicable)**
- **Verify Your ID Matches Your Voter Registration Info**
- **Print/Scan Your Precinct Card**
- **Print Your Sample Ballot**
- **Pack your Patience!!**
- **If your eligibility to vote is challenged by an Elector, request a [Provisional Ballot](#)**
- **Be sure to review your printed ballot before you submit it**
- **Verify your ballot status online to confirm it was accepted**

# Get Ready to Vote

## *Did You Know?*

- You can be **purged/removed** from the voter roll if you **have not** voted, updated your voter registration or renewed your license/state id for three years.
- If you were previously convicted of a felony, you **may be eligible** to vote?
- That you **cannot** be arrested for outstanding warrants on your way to/from the polls?
- My Voter Page has been updated with a **Ballot Tracking Notifications?** Sign up today!
- That **seniors or physically impaired voters** have additional rights? If you are unable to stand in line, you can:
  - Request to be moved to the front of the line if you are voting between 9:30am-4:30pm (polls are open from 7am - 7pm)
  - Request that a chair be provided or refuse to accept a chair
  - Request to have your place in line held and notified when it is your turn

# Get Ready to Vote

## *Did You Know (cont'd)?*

- You **may be** eligible to vote via a **provisional ballot** if you are a registered voter and:
  - You arrive at a polling place, absentee polling place or a registration office in your county of residence and your name is not listed on the registered electors list.
  - You arrive at a polling place in your county of residence but not your assigned precinct and it is after 5:00 p.m. but before the regularly scheduled closing time you may be allowed to cast a provisional ballot. You will likely be required to execute a sworn statement that indicates that you are unable to get to your correct location prior to poll closing.
  - **If your polling location should encounter any conditions/issues** (i.e., late opening, voter machine outages/down time, water leaks, etc.) that prevent access for the same amount of time as every other polling location in the state, they are required to allow you equal access to voting.

**Please contact the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE to report the issue IMMEDIATELY!!**

- The Board of Commissioners in **Cobb County**, are equipping their election workers with so-called **panic buttons** that would allow them to quickly contact authorities in emergencies.
- The 2020 election was determined by an average of only 80 votes in counties like yours? That's it. **Your vote** and your county are that **powerful!**

## Get Ready to Vote

# Sample Voting Plan

### Pre-Election Day Activities

**Check** my Voter Status

- ☐ Active Status
- ☐ Name/Address Change needed?
- ☐ New/Updated ID needed? [VoteRiders – 866-ID-2-VOTE](#)

**Verify** my Voting Location and hours of operation

Voting Day/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Day/Date (alternate): \_\_\_\_\_

Verify my ID matches my Voter Registration Info

Print/Scan Your Precinct Card

Print/Review Your Sample Ballot

**Double Check** my Voter Status

**Double Check** Your Voting Location and hours of operation

Prepare list of five voters to follow up with:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Return/Mail Absentee ballot (if applicable)

### Voting/Election Day Activities

- **Triple Check** my Voter Status
- **Triple Check** my Voting Location and hours of operation
- Photo of “Active” voter status from County or My Voter Page website
- Bring **valid** ID, Precinct card and/or sample ballot
- **Election Protection Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE or VOTE-365.org**
- **Pack your Patience!!**
- Be sure to **review your printed ballot** before you submit it
- **Verify your ballot status** online to confirm it was accepted or verify your ballot status with Ballot Tracking Notification settings.
- **Return/Mail Absentee ballot (if applicable)**

**Secretary of State Website (My Voter Page)**

<https://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do>



# Getting to the Polls



## Vote Early Day and Lime Want You to Vote Early!

After you find out where you can vote early, **use code VOTE2024** to get a free ride on a Lime bike or scooter to cast your ballot starting on Vote Early Day (October 29th)! Additional codes will be provided if applicable.



Program has not yet been announced at time of publication. Please check online for additional information.



The 2024 Lyft Up Voting Access Program will help provide access to the polls by sharing critical voting access information and providing free and discounted rides to the polls.

**Use code VOTE24 for 50% off**



**50% off (up to \$10).** Go to dedicated **'Go Vote!'** tile on the home screen. Enter your home address, which will locate your polling location. Click to request a ride. Enjoy Election Night fuel: **25% off food** orders (up to \$15, \$25 min order)

# ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES:

## HAVE VOTING QUESTIONS?

We're Here to Help.  
Year Round Hotline:  
866-OUR-VOTE

## TEXT US

For voting information  
and more in your state,  
send a text to  
866-687-8683

[WWW.866OURVOTE.ORG](http://WWW.866OURVOTE.ORG)

**ENGLISH:** 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

**SPANISH/ENGLISH:** 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

**ASIAN LANGUAGES/ENGLISH:** 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

**ARABIC/ENGLISH:** 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)



### CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION

Confirm your voter registration status.



### REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you cannot vote in person,  
request an absentee ballot.



### CHECK IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Select Your State to View Your  
Election Dates & Deadlines



### REVIEW YOUR BALLOT

See a sample ballot to understand  
the candidates and measures  
you'll be voting on.



### REGISTER TO VOTE

Use the online tool to register  
if you're not already registered.



### GET ELECTION REMINDERS

Sign up for reminders about  
upcoming elections.



### FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

Locate your polling place for  
in-person voting.



### PLEDGE TO REGISTER

Not of age yet? Get texts on your  
18th birthday to help you register  
to vote. You must be 13 or older  
to enroll.



[POORPEOPLESCAMPAIGN.ORG/VOTINGRECORD](http://POORPEOPLESCAMPAIGN.ORG/VOTINGRECORD)





**October Men's Forum**  
**“Election 2024 – Let's Talk About It!”**  
**Sunday, October 6, 2024**

