

## Dr. Dre Reveals His Next Unexpected Career Move After Over 40 Years In the Music Industry

– Page A3



## Staying Ready: What Every Californian Should Know About Preparing for El Niño

– Page A10


# Los Angeles News Observer

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# California Legislative Black Caucus Grows to 14, Women Hold 12 Seats

**By Edward Henderson**
*California Black Media*

The California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) is preparing for a historic expansion, growing from 12 to 14 members following the Nov. 3 general election.

Black women are expected to hold 12 of the caucus's 14 seats. The shift marks a significant milestone for Black women's political representation in California and creates new opportunities to influence legislation, state resources and public policy.

Three incoming assemblymembers — Ayanna Davis (D-Compton), Jackie Elward (D-Rohnert Park) and Paula Swift (D-Westminster) — are expected to join the caucus when the new legislative session begins. Their victories, coupled with the departure of longtime Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson), will reshape the caucus's membership and further elevate the role of Black women in the Legislature.

Davis, who won the 65th Assembly District seat representing Compton and surrounding communities, previously served on the Compton Unified School District Board of Education. An educator and former school principal with the Los Angeles Unified School District, Davis has focused much of her public service on education and opportunities for children and families. She will succeed Gipson, who is leaving the Legislature because of term limits.

Elward, who won the 12th Assembly District race in the North Bay, is a first-generation immigrant from the Democratic Republic of Congo. An educator, labor organizer and former mayor of Rohnert Park, she became the first Black woman elected to the city's council in 2020. Her local government experience included policy related to affordable housing, homelessness and environmental justice, among other issues.

Swift defeated Republican incumbent Tri Ta in the 70th Assembly District race in Orange County. An educator and small business owner with a doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California, Swift brings experience across nonprofit, government and private-sector organizations.

Although Davis replaces Gipson, Elward and Swift add two seats to the caucus, bringing its membership to 14. With all three incoming members being women, the caucus will move from nine women among its current 12 members to 12 women among next session's 14 members.

The achievement builds on a milestone reached at the beginning of the 2025-26 legislative session, when women first became the majority of the CLBC. At that time, nine of the 12 members were Black women, the highest number in the organization's history.

For LaNiece Jones, state president and



*From left to right: Ayanna Davis, Jackie Elward and Paula Swift.*

CEO of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA-CA), the election results reflect generations of organizing and advocacy that have helped create opportunities for Black women in politics.

"We are celebrating an exciting moment for Black women's political leadership across California. From local and regional offices to statewide leadership, these victories represent generations of Black women who have organized, advocated, mentored and opened doors for others to follow," Jones told California Black Media (CBM).

Jones emphasized that electoral victories must translate into tangible improvements for Black communities.

"Winning elections is an important milestone, but building and sustaining political power is the greater mission. Representation must translate into meaningful influence, equitable policies, expanded opportunities, and tangible improvements in the lives of Black women, families, and our communities," she said.

Jones also pointed to persistent barriers facing Black women seeking political leadership, including campaign financing, access to political networks, institutional support and opportunities for advancement.

The challenges extend beyond electoral politics, according to Black women leaders.

The 2025 State of Black Women in California Report, published by the California Black Women's Collective Empowerment Institute (CBWCEI), founded by Kellie Todd Griffin, documents persistent disparities in economic opportunity and social outcomes for Black women. Its findings reinforce the importance of ensuring that increased political representation addresses issues such as economic mobility, housing stability, health care and opportunities for Black women and girls.

"The number of Black women elected to public office across California in 2026 represents more than electoral victories." said Todd Griffin, who is also president and CEO of CBWCEI.

"From city halls and school boards to the State Capitol and beyond, Black women are claiming their rightful place at decision-making tables," continued Todd Griffin. "Every victory expands representation, strengthens our communities, and opens doors for the next generation of leaders. When Black women lead, California's democracy grows stronger."

The caucus is also preparing for a leadership transition. State Sen. Dr. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego), its outgoing chair, will pass the leadership position to Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley) for the 2027-28 legislative session.

In August, the caucus announced its incoming executive leadership team. State Sen. Laura Richardson (D-Inglewood) will serve as vice chair, Assemblymember LaShae Sharp-Collins (D-San Diego) as secretary, and Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland) as treasurer.

Reflecting on her tenure, Weber Pierson said she was proud of the caucus's work both inside and outside the Capitol.

"Serving as chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus has been an incredible honor. I am proud of the difference we have made not only through legislation, but by showing up in our communities and creating meaningful change for Black Californians," Weber Pierson said in the caucus's August announcement.

# California Voters Settle 11 of 14 Ballot Measures; Three Races Hang in the Balance

**By Edward Henderson**
*California Black Media*

California voters have decided the projected outcomes of 11 of the 14 statewide ballot propositions in the Nov. 3 general election, approving measures addressing affordable housing, education funding and the state's budget reserves while rejecting proposals involving voter identification, billionaire taxation and health care spending requirements.

As of Nov. 12, six propositions were projected to pass, five were projected to fail and three remained undecided as election officials continued counting ballots. The results are unofficial and have not been certified. County elections officials must complete their canvasses by Dec. 3 and report final results to the Secretary of State by Dec. 4.

Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber is scheduled to certify the statewide results Dec. 11. The projections reported here are based on calls by The Associated Press, which analyzes election returns reported by county officials and compiled by the California Secretary of State.

"County elections officials have up to 30 days after Election Day to complete their extensive tallying, auditing, and certification work (known as the 'official canvass')," the Secretary of State's office said in a statement. "The frequency of updated results varies by county."

Among the measures projected to pass, Proposition (Prop) 1 authorizes $11.25 billion in general obligation bonds for affordable housing programs, including $1.25 billion for veterans' housing assistance.

Proposition 2 increases the state's rainy-day fund cap from 10% to 20% of general fund revenue, allowing California to save more money during years when state revenues are strong.

Prop. 3 would make permanent higher income




tax rates on individuals earning more than $361,000 annually and couples earning more than $721,000. The revenue supports public education, health care and other state programs.

Voters also approved Prop. 5, which eliminates the successor election in a statewide recall. If a state officeholder is recalled, the vacancy would be filled under existing state law.

Prop. 37 and 38 also were projected to pass. Prop. 37 establishes a state-backed homebuyer assistance program funded through bonds, while Proposition 38 authorizes $8.4 billion in bonds for immunology and immunotherapy research.

Several controversial proposals faced decisive opposition.

Prop. 39, which would have required additional identification and citizenship verification for voters, was rejected, with approximately 61% voting no. Supporters argued the measure would strengthen election security, while opponents said it would create unnecessary barriers to voting.

Prop. 40, the proposed one-time 5% tax on the wealth of California billionaires, also failed. Approximately 52% of voters opposed the measure, which supporters said would generate revenue to help offset federal health care funding cuts. Opponents argued the tax could encourage wealthy residents to leave California and negatively affect the state's economy.

The rejection of Prop. 40 was particularly significant given the amount of money invested in the campaign. More than $400 million was spent on competing campaigns surrounding Props. 40, 41 and 42, making the fight one of the most expensive ballot measure contests in state history.

Prop. 41, which sought additional restrictions and oversight involving new state taxes, also failed. Prop. 43, which would have required a two-thirds vote to approve certain voter-initiated local special taxes, was rejected.

Prop. 44 faced overwhelming opposition, with approximately 82% voting no. The measure would have required federally qualified health centers to spend at least 90% of their annual revenue on patient care and other program services.

Three measures remained too close to call as of Nov. 12: Prop. 4, which would allow public financing of political campaigns; Prop. 42, addressing restrictions on certain personal property taxes; and Prop. 45, which sought to streamline environmental reviews for designated housing and infrastructure projects.

The outcomes of those contests could still change as county elections officials process outstanding ballots, including eligible mail-in, provisional and conditional voter registration ballots.

Unlike legislation passed through the state Capitol, ballot propositions allow Californians to directly approve or reject changes to state law and the California Constitution.

The Secretary of State's office publishes updated, unofficial election returns as counties report their results. Voters can follow the counting process and review the latest figures at electionresults.sos.ca.gov.

Final certified results are expected Dec. 11.

# Amid Federal Changes, Covered California Kicks Off 2027 Open Enrollment "Connectors to Coverage" Campaign in Southern California

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Covered California, the state's health insurance marketplace, kicked off its 2027 open-enrollment campaign "Connectors to Coverage" in Los Angeles, as it continues to connect California families to affordable health insurance despite federal changes to the program that impacts eligibility and increases costs.

Open enrollment began Nov. 1, 2026 and will run through Jan. 31, 2027. It's the time when Californians can sign up for, renew or shop for a new health insurance plan. As part of its "Connectors to Coverage" campaign, Covered California visited regions and communities statewide to highlight the free and confidential enrollment assistance available to Californians.

"At a time when people are feeling the pressure of rising prices on everything from gas and rent to food, we're working to make sure people have quality health insurance options they can afford," said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. "Before making that tough decision to go without coverage, speak with one of our certified enrollers or visit CoveredCA.com to explore options throughout Southern California— because coverage may be more affordable than you think."

California Takes Action to Protect the Most Vulnerable From Increasing Costs

This year, Gov. Newsom and the California Legislature increased the amount of state funds available for the Covered California State Subsidy Program, from $190 million in 2026 to $300 million in 2027. As a result, Californians with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level in 2027 ($31,920 for an individual or $66,000 for a family of four) will be eligible for additional financial help from the state to lower the cost of their monthly premiums.

Thanks to existing federal tax credits and California's expanded subsidy program, 55% of Covered California enrollees will see no increase in their monthly premium, including nearly 200,000 consumers who will have the option of two $0 Silver plans and more than 330,000 who will pay less each month.

*Continued on page A2*



*(left to right - Dr. Anthony Vincent, Nephrologist at Kidney Care Institute, Rev. Dawnesha Beaver, MPH, MAT, Vice President of Programs and Services, Riverside Community Health Foundation & Adjunct Instructor, College of Medicine at Charles R. Drew University, Jessica Altman, Executive Director of Covered California, Barbara Ferrer, Director of LA County Department of Public Health and Jacqueline Garcia, Covered California Enrollee)*

## Rediscovered Draft of MLK Jr.'s Iconic Speech Could Sell for $10 Million After Remarkable Journey

Rediscovered Draft of MLK Jr.'s Iconic Speech Could Sell for $10 Million After Remarkable Journey

The seven-page manuscript, written in blue ink on yellow legal paper, is expected to fetch more than $10 million when it goes under the hammer at Christie's in New York on Jan. 22, 2027, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. But its value extends beyond the auction block.

King completed the draft in the early hours of Aug. 28, 1963, at Washington, D.C.'s Willard Hotel, just hours before addressing about 250,000 people at the March on Washington. After days of conversations with advisers, including speechwriter Edward T. Clayton, King reportedly spent the night refining his message and making revisions before the pages were typed.

… But here's the fascinating twist: the handwritten draft does not contain the words "I Have a Dream."

King famously went off-script that afternoon, setting aside his prepared remarks to deliver the now-iconic dream sequence on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Gospel legend Mahalia Jackson, standing just behind him, reportedly called out for him to tell the crowd about his dream. King took the cue, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The draft does, however, include the speech's opening and its unforgettable closing declaration: "Free at last, free at last; thank God almighty, we are free at last."

The manuscript's journey is just as remarkable. Civil rights activist Xernona Clayton discovered the pages among her late husband Edward's belongings in the 1990s, tucked inside an envelope marked "speech," . She rediscovered them in 2024.

Now, at 96, Clayton is putting the document up for auction through Christie's, with proceeds expected to benefit charitable organizations, including the Xernona Clayton Foundation and Atlanta's King Center. Before then, it will be displayed at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta from Nov. 16 through Nov. 22.

Martin Luther King III called the speech a "treasure." He added, "It is poetic that the past will protect the future… Now, for the first time, the public will have the opportunity to be inspired by this document."

After Atlanta, the pages will be exhibited in Chicago and New York before the January auction. But the manuscript represents something money cannot measure– a tangible connection to a movement that transformed the United States and the world. Preserved through the hands of those who helped shape King's words, these pages remind us that MLK's dream was, and remains, a call to action.

## Toddler Declared Dead Then Was Found Alive in the Hospital Morgue

An Arizona family alleges medical negligence after their 18-month-old son was declared dead, then found alive hours later with severe brain injuries.

A family gathering in Arizona quickly became a nightmare that would forever change one family after 18-month-old Vincent Lorenzo Fiordilino was found floating face-down in a backyard swimming pool during a Super Bowl party.

Despite desperate efforts to save him, a doctor declared the toddler dead. But in a shocking turn of events, Fiordilino was discovered alive in a hospital morgue, setting off a chain of events that has culminated in a massive lawsuit against several medical officials.

According to the family's lawsuit, Dr. Aryan Toosi pronounced Vincent dead at 6:20 p.m. on Oct. 23. The family believed they had lost their child. However, concerns later arose about signs that the toddler might still be alive.

"As I was hugging him, air came out of him," his mother, Alexus Fiordilino, said in an interview with The New York Times.

Alexus and her family alerted a police officer and hospital staff that Fiordilino seemed to be breathing, but they were told the movements were signs of "agonal breathing," which she recalled being described as "the final death breath," according to the suit.

The family has alleged that concerns about Fiordilino's condition were not adequately addressed after he was declared dead. After his parents alerted medical staff, Fiordilino was rushed to Phoenix Children's Hospital for emergency treatment.

News that Fiordilino was alive brought his family a measure of hope, but it was soon overshadowed by fears about the extent of his injuries. According to the family's lawsuit, the toddler suffered severe brain damage associated with oxygen deprivation and faces significant long-term medical challenges.

"I can't believe Vincent was all alone in there," the mother said. "It haunts me still to this day when I think about it. I hate that he went through five hours in a morgue by himself, struggling to breathe."

Now, the family wants to know how a child could be pronounced dead and later found alive, and whether opportunities to intervene were missed. They are suing Dr. Toosi and Dignity Health, which operates Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, alleging negligence in the care. The case places the hospital's handling of the incident under scrutiny, seeking accountability for the harm the family says their son suffered.

Vincent survived, but his family says the consequences of that day may follow him for the rest of his life. "If there was a competent doctor in the room that day, it would have gone very differently," Alexus continued. "Our boy was [denied] medical treatment that would have significantly changed the outlook of his life."

World & Nation

# MHU Commemorates ASCORE and Anniversary of Desegregation

**By Staff Reports**
*Black Press USA Wire*

A week of events at UNC Asheville, Mars Hill University, and downtown Asheville.

In 1961, two young women broke the color barrier to become the first African American students at two Western North Carolina colleges: Etta Mae Whitner Patterson at UNC Asheville and Oralene Anderson Graves Simmons at Mars Hill University (then Mars Hill College).

Both women were students at Asheville's Stephens-Lee High School, where they were members of the Asheville Student Committee on Racial Equality (ASCORE). Through nonviolent protest, ASCORE led efforts to desegregate many Asheville stores and businesses.

Patterson and Simmons, who later founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Association of Asheville and Buncombe County, have since received honorary doctorates from their alma maters in recognition of their achievements and lifelong service to their communities.

To commemorate ASCORE, honor the leadership of Etta Patterson and Oralene Simmons, and mark the 65th anniversary of the desegregation of UNC Asheville and Mars Hill University, UNC Asheville's Department of History and Mars Hill University's Liston B. Ramsey Center for Appalachian Studies invite the public to attend "Stories of ASCORE: Lessons in Courage, Desegregation, and Community Activism."

The program will feature two panel discussions with Drs. Patterson and Simmons, along with other former members of ASCORE. Panelists will discuss how their experiences integrating Asheville's businesses and institutions prepared them for their college careers, professional lives, and continued community activism.



*Oralene Simmons (left) and Etta Whitner Patterson, two women who helped change the course of higher education in Western North Carolina.*

The first panel discussion will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, in the Blue Ridge Room of Highsmith Union at UNC Asheville. The event will feature a presentation by Dr. Patterson and a panel discussion with Dr. Simmons, Marvin Chambers, Jesse Ray, and Al Whitesides. The panel will be moderated by Deborah Miles, retired director of the former UNC Asheville Center for Diversity Education.

This event is sponsored by UNC Asheville's Department of History and Africana Studies Program, with generous support from King and Pam Prather. A free visitor parking permit is required for the UNC Asheville event. Please visit the university's parking website for instructions on obtaining a permit for the evening's program.

The second panel discussion will take place at 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2026, in the Tony and Terry Floyd Conference Center in the Mars Hill University Campus Center. The event will feature Dr. Simmons, Annette Coleman, and Elizabeth Colton. The panel will be moderated by Jonathan McCoy, professor of history at Mars Hill University.

This event is sponsored by the Liston B. Ramsey Center for Appalachian Studies, with generous support from the university's Provost's Office.

In addition, at 12 noon on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, in Pack Square in downtown Asheville, Mayor Esther Manheimer and the Buncombe County Commission Chair will proclaim ASCORE Day and present honors to Etta Patterson and Oralene Simmons. Holly Jones of the North Carolina Governor's Office will also participate in the ceremony.

For more information, contact Leila Weinstein at Mars Hill University (Lweinstein@mhu.edu) or Ellen Holmes Pearson at UNC Asheville (epearson@unca.edu).

Based on reporting by The Urban News.

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# HBCU Love: Spelman's Dr. Letitia Plummer Makes History as Harris County's First Black Elected County Judge

**By Texas Metro News**
*Source: Black Press USA Wire*

Canonical URL: https://texasmetronews.com/hbcu-love-spelmans-dr-letitia-plummer-makes-history-as-harris-countys-first-black-elected-county-judge/

Letitia Plummer is the next Harris County judge, and the Spelman College alumna made history in Texas' most populous county. On Tuesday night, the former Houston City Council member defeated Republican Orlando Sanchez. As a result, she becomes the first African American elected to lead Harris County.

Early unofficial results showed Plummer with about 62% of the vote to Sanchez's 38%. Shortly after 9 p.m., Sanchez called Plummer to concede. He then asked his supporters to back her once she takes office.

The win also makes her the first Muslim elected to the post. According to the Houston Chronicle, that makes her the highest-ranking Muslim executive official in Texas history.

A Historic Night in Houston

Plummer succeeds Lina Hidalgo, who chose not to seek another term. Now, a Spelman woman takes over the top job in a county of nearly 5 million people.

ADVERTISEMENTIn Texas, the county judge is not a courtroom role. Instead, the job leads the Commissioners Court, which runs the county's budget, roads, flood control and public health. So the seat carries real power over daily life in the Houston region.

The general election was never especially close. However, the road to November was brutal. In the March 3 primary, Plummer finished second behind former Houston Mayor Annise Parker. Parker took about 47% to Plummer's 37%, sending the race to a runoff.

Then Plummer flipped the script. On May 26, she beat Parker in the runoff with about 51% of the vote. From there, she turned to Sanchez and never looked back. Houston Public Media has full coverage of election night.

Letitia Plummer's Road From Linkwood to Harris County Judge

Plummer grew up in Linkwood, a neighborhood south of Brays Bayou near Buffalo Speedway. Her family history runs deep in Houston. Her grandfather was a Tuskegee Airman flight instructor. After the war, he became the first African American investigator for the Harris County district attorney.

ADVERTISEMENTHer father, Matthew Plummer Jr., studied dentistry at Harvard. Later, he served in the Peace Corps, where he met her mother in Africa. Her mother brought Yemeni and Indian roots to the family. As a result, Plummer grew up in a multicultural household that shaped her outlook.

As a teen, she attended what is now DeBakey High School for Health Professions. Then she headed to Atlanta for Spelman. There, she joined Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

After Spelman, she came home to Texas for dental school at Baylor College of Dentistry. Like her father, she became a dentist. She went on to own dental practices in the Houston area, including in Pearland.



From Dental Chair to City Hall

Plummer's political career started with a 2018 run for Congress. She made the Democratic runoff in Texas' 22nd District but lost to Sri Preston Kulkarni. Still, the campaign put her on the map.

A year later, she won Houston City Council At-Large Position 4. She took office in January 2020. In doing so, she became the first Muslim woman elected to the Council.

On the Council, she focused on police reform, food deserts and apartment inspections. She also chaired the Government Operations Committee. Notably, fellow Spelman alumna Carolyn Evans-Shabazz served alongside her on the Council.

In 2025, she launched her campaign for county judge. Then she timed her exit from the Council so the city could fill her seat during a regular election. That move saved Houston the cost of a standalone special election.

What She Ran On

Plummer pitched herself as a unifier for a Commissioners Court that has often split along party lines. She promised to build stronger working relationships among its members.

She also called for better county services and changes to the county's Flock camera contract. In addition, she pushed back on state leaders for exerting authority over Harris County.

On election night, she spoke about her personal struggles with surrogacy. She said that experience helped inspire her decision to run.

Why Letitia Plummer's Win Matters for Spelman

Spelman women had a big night across the country Tuesday. In New York, alumna Adrienne Adams won the lieutenant governor's race. Now Plummer will run one of the largest counties in America.

Together, the wins show how far the Spelman network reaches in politics. Both women built careers outside government before winning office. And both broke barriers on the way up. For more on the school, check out our Spelman College coverage. You can also follow our Keisha Lance Bottoms coverage for more HBCU wins from election night.

What Comes Next

Plummer will take office in January. Between now and then, she will build her team and prepare for the county budget fight. For more on her path, the Houston Chronicle tracked her rise through a political roller coaster year.

Stay with HBCU Buzz for continued coverage of Harris County Judge-elect Letitia Plummer as she prepares to take office.

In this article:HBCU LOVE, Letitia Plummer, Spelman's Dr. Letitia Plummer Makes History as Harris County's First Black Elected County JudgeBased on reporting by Texas Metro News.

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# Covered California Kicks Off 2027 Open Enrollment "Connectors to Coverage" Campaign in SoCal

*Continued from page A1*

While costs like premiums and deductibles can vary by plan and metal tier, all plans through Covered California include 10 essential health benefits, and provide access to leading doctors, hospitals and specialists across the state. All Covered California plans provide emergency coverage, and essential preventive care such as cancer screenings, mental health services and maternity care – and anyone under 30 can qualify for a minimum coverage plan.

"They [Covered California] gave me hope. They didn't give me hoops to jump through. They didn't give me extraordinary premiums to pay," said Damarea Hayes, San Leandro resident and Covered California Enrollee. "I'm grateful to be healthy enough, despite my trapezius, to be able to go to work, and that's because of Covered California. I had a great team, my medical team, to help me out with that and to encourage me to get the care that I need."

Connecting With the Remaining 1.1 Million Uninsured Californians

New data from the California Simulation of Insurance Markets (CalSIM) model, developed by the University of California, Los Angeles's Center for Health Policy Research, estimates that in Southern California, there are an estimated 589,000 uninsured Californians who are eligible for Covered California subsidies (234,000) or no-cost Medi-Cal coverage (355,000).

Get Help Signing Up for Coverage

Consumers can learn more about their options at CoveredCA.com, where they can easily check if they qualify for financial help and compare health plans in their area. Californians can also:

- Get free and confidential assistance by phone from thousands of certified agents and community-based organizations throughout the state.
- Request a call from a certified enroller for personalized help, at no cost.
- Call Covered California directly at (800) 300-1506.

To ensure coverage for all of 2027, consumers must select a health plan by Dec. 31.




*Damarea Hayes, San Leandro resident and Covered California Enrollee*

# *Kids on Campus: Success in Learning Together*

**By NNPA Staff Report**
*Source: BlackPressUSA*

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the National Head Start Association (NHSA) released the Year Two Annual Report of the Kids on Campus initiative, which advances the success of parenting students and supports the school readiness of young children from low-income backgrounds by expanding Head Start classrooms onto community college campuses. The five-year initiative aims to establish at least 50 such partnerships by 2030.

Nearly one in five undergraduates in the United States — approximately 3.14 million students — are parenting while pursuing their college education. For many, access to high-quality, affordable, and convenient child care remains one of the biggest barriers to completing their degree.

The initiative's core philosophy is rooted in two of the most effective strategies for reducing poverty: providing high-quality early childhood education and increasing adult economic mobility through education, training, and workforce pathways. Together, these approaches support two generations simultaneously, strengthening children's development while helping parents pursue long-term economic success.

"When we support parents, we uplift students," says Francisco Solis, president of San Antonio College (TX), which has a long-standing partnership with Head Start. "When families thrive, our community thrives. This is the power of a two-generation approach."The annual report outlines the rationale behind ACCT and NHSA's work, progress to date, next steps, and opportunities for community colleges and Head Start programs to engage with Kids on Campus.

As of March 2026, at the end of year two of the initiative:

110 community colleges and 130 Head Start programs have taken initial steps to connect and engage with Kids on Campus.

Partners have identified 43 potential matches between community colleges and Head Start programs interested in exploring partnerships across 19 states.

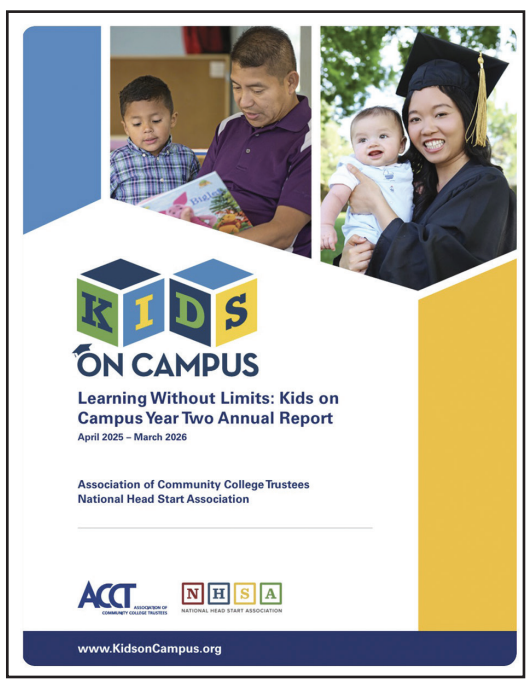
Five new Kids on Campus partnerships have launched in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Texas, with two additional partnerships in advanced stages of development in Texas.

"Before I found the Head Start on my college campus, it was extremely difficult," says Cristina Medina, a student parent at Palo Alto College, one of the newest Kids on Campus launched sites. "I was on the edge of mentally and emotionally giving up because being a full-time mom while going to school and work was hard with no support."

The initiative continues to grow nationwide through expanded partnerships, technical assistance, and collaborative efforts to strengthen on-campus child care and early childhood education opportunities for student parents and families.The report profiles active partnerships and explores the benefits and barriers they face, financial considerations, model sustainability, advice from the field, and what is next for Kids on Campus.

To access the full report, go to kidsoncampus.org/annual-report.

ACCT and NHSA invite community colleges, Head Start programs, and philanthropic supporters interested in transforming outcomes for children and families to contact kidsoncampus@acct.org.



Entertainment



*US rapper Dr. Dre speaks on stage during the 2025 BET Awards at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles on June 9, 2025. (Photo by Michael Tran / AFP) (Photo by MICHAEL TRAN/AFP via Getty Images)*

# Dr. Dre Reveals His Next Unexpected Career Move After Over 40 Years In the Music Industry

*Dr. Dre is opening up and sharing his next major move in his career. But it's not what you think!*

**By Shanelle Gena**

While some heavyweight music producers similar to Dr. Dre may take their talents into other avenues like film or Broadway, the Compton native is going in a completely different direction. But it's not what die-hard hip-hop fans want to hear!

The seven-time Grammy Award winner recently divulged his next move to "All About the Benjamins" co-stars Ice Cube and Mike Epps on their podcast, "Listen and Laugh." During the Nov. 7 episode, Dre revealed he's taking time away from the music industry and his current way of life, sharing that he's about to go off the grid in 2027.

"For the first time in my entire adult career, I'm gonna take a break. I'm just gonna go away; I'mma go off the grid for a year or two. And come back," he explained.

The "Still D.R.E." rapper went on to explain that he's always felt "tethered" to the recording studio, even when he's out and about and away from the physical place. He shared that because of the tie, he's always subconsciously looking for something creative that he can take back to the studio. However, he's finally come to a place where he wants to try to experience life without that feeling and what it could be like if his world is centered around something other than music.

"You're never away from it; you're always tethered to this thing. And for the first time in my life, I won't be," he said. "That's [making music] taking up space that something else could be [taking up]. What if there's something else waiting for me that could give me the same exact feeling I felt when I discovered music?"

Dre's admission to go off the grid follows a pattern of other stars who are pivoting into different careers entirely or opting to live life outside of the spaces they once occupied. Take, for instance, Tyler Perry, who shared back in September on "Today with Jenna & Sheinelle" that he plans to relocate to Puerto Rico with his son in 2027 and significantly scale back his workload to enjoy life outside of Hollywood.

Then, there's André 3000, who traded in his signature rap verses for the flute, releasing his experimental instrumental album, "New Blue Sun," in 2023 and exploring a musical direction that looks nothing like his OutKast days. Meanwhile, Dave Chappelle has spent more than 25 years calling Yellow Springs, Ohio—a small village about 160 miles south of Cleveland—home, choosing to raise his family and build a community outside of the spotlight

It's pretty safe to say that there's clearly more than one way to redefine what the next chapter of life looks like after achieving success, and Dr. Dre is on his way to doing just that!

# The Price Of Streaming Is Going Up, And Our Pockets Are Tired

Disney just released a full breakdown of its price increases for several of its subscription plans including Disney+, Hulu, HBO Max, and ESPN.

In today's episode of This Ain't A Malcolm X Speech, But 'Get Yo Hand Out Of My Pocket,' the Walt Disney Company is raising prices for several of its subscription plans, including Disney+, Hulu, and certain bundle options, and, man — are our bank accounts not stressed out enough?

Both standalone ad-free plans for Disney+ and Hulu are increasing by $2.50, or 13%, bringing the total cost to $21.49 a month for each, the entertainment giant told CBS News on Wednesday. The cost of Disney+ and Hulu plans with ads will both rise by 50 cents to $12.49 a month. The ad-free plan that bundles the services will also go up by $2 to $21.99.

The company said it will continue pricing its most popular bundle, a joint Disney+/Hulu subscription with ads, at $12.99.

The price hikes for new subscribers take effect immediately, while existing subscribers will see the new billing rates kick in next month.

The streaming service released a full breakdown of its new subscription prices, so if you're a customer, you can check and see how much extra change Disney will be wringing out of your pockets after turning you upside down and shaking you until the lint starts to fall out.

Maybe I'm being dramatic.

After all, it's just one service hiking its prices up by a couple of bucks. I'm not exactly being asked to choose between going ad-free and paying my mortgage this month just yet. I'll worry when this becomes a trend.

Price hikes among streaming services have become so common that The Verge has a dedicated page aggregating the news of them, which tends to arrive every few months. Apple, apparently high on Emmy fumes, has raised its prices four times in four years, keeping pace with many of its competitors despite a vastly smaller dedicated catalog. Depending on which version of Peacock subscribers use, they've seen their bills padded by five or six dollars a month just since the summer of 2025, including another increase last month. Netflix, meanwhile, hasn't gone up since March 2026. That's not a reprieve; that's a sign another hike must be around the corner.

So, basically, we can count on the entire streaming world to be out here collectively doing its best Marlo Stanfield impersonation.

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# *9th Annual Celebration of Black Cinema & Television*




*Lamorne Morris arrives at the 9th Annual Celebration of Black Cinema & Television on Monday, Nov. 16, 2026, at Fairmont Century Plaza in Los Angeles.*
*Richard Shotwell - Invision*

Features

# Don't Pass the Torch. Expand the Circle.

**By Dr. Tonja L. Ringgold and Noah M.P. Harris**
*Source: BlackPressUSA*

On Nov. 14, hundreds of undergraduate women gathering at Morgan State University in Baltimore for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Undergraduate Leadership Institute will do more than listen to presentations. They will run the program. Graduate advisers will take seats in the back of the room.

This is intentional. Too many institutions invite young people to observe leadership without trusting them to exercise it. We believe the future of leadership depends not on one generation stepping aside for another, but on generations sharing responsibility now.

We have seen the difference from two vantage points.

For Dr. Ringgold, Morgan State is where that journey began. Initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha's Alpha Delta Chapter in 1982, she recently reunited with two sorority sisters who guided her as an undergraduate, including a former chapter president whose example still informs her leadership today. Forty-four years later, she returns as director of the sorority's North Atlantic Region, keenly aware of what it means when someone invests in a young woman's potential. The homecoming carries added significance: Alpha Delta, chartered in 1926, is celebrating its centennial; and the chapter that shaped her is still helping shape new leaders.

For Ms. Harris, leadership is not a distant destination. She is a Bowie State University senior and president of its Eta Chapter who, this summer, was elected Alpha Kappa Alpha's International Second Vice President. As an undergraduate member of the sorority's international governing board, she carries student perspectives into decisions affecting the organization. A 2025 Leadership Fellows experience encouraged her to seek that larger platform. To her, leadership is measured by the people she can serve, not simply the position she holds.



*(From left to right:) Dr. Tonja L. Ringgold and Noah Harris.*

Our experiences challenge a familiar assumption: Young people must wait their turn. Founded in 1908 by Black college women, Alpha Kappa Alpha now counts more than 390,000 initiated members across more than 1,122 chapters. That reach brings a responsibility to open doors, not merely preserve tradition.

Deloitte's 2026 global survey found that 76% of Gen Z respondents were interested in pursuing senior leadership roles eventually, although only 6% of surveyed Gen Z and millennials named leadership their primary career goal. Many cited burnout, excessive responsibility and work-life balance as concerns. Young people are not necessarily avoiding leadership. They are questioning the conditions under which it is exercised.

At a time when companies are pulling back on women's advancement, Black women face persistent barriers. McKinsey and LeanIn.Org's 2025 report found that among companies studied, only 60 Black women were promoted to manager for every 100 men. Telling young women to wait their turn cannot fix an unequal pathway to leadership.

Experience matters. Seasoned leaders carry institutional memory, hard-won judgment and relationships that take years to build. But experience cannot develop in a waiting room. Young leaders need meaningful assignments, honest guidance and room to make mistakes. Experienced leaders must also be prepared to reconsider familiar ways of doing things.

We see that exchange in our own relationship. Ms. Harris draws on Dr. Ringgold's decades of sorority service and higher education experience. Dr. Ringgold listens when Ms. Harris speaks, recognizing that younger perspectives can challenge assumptions and reveal better approaches. Neither of us has all the answers. Both of us have something to contribute.

Our upcoming Undergraduate Leadership Institute will put that principle into practice. Undergraduate members will lead, with graduate members offering guidance and expertise. We're taking the same approach in planning our 96th North Atlantic Regional Conference, scheduled for March 2027, where undergraduate counterparts will work alongside graduate vice chairs in operations, programming, social activities and logistics. They'll help plan an event serving the entire region, not just their undergraduate peers.

That is the distinction between inclusion and influence. A seat at the table means little if the people invited cannot help determine what happens there.

Businesses, colleges, nonprofits and civic organizations can do the same. Pair mentorship with meaningful assignments. Involve emerging leaders in decisions before those decisions are final. Give them resources and room to grow. When they challenge a familiar practice, ask whether it still serves its purpose.

We should not ask experienced leaders to disappear or young leaders to wait. The goal isn't to pass the torch and walk away. It's to expand the circle of people empowered to lead and build stronger institutions together.

Dr. Tonja L. Ringgold is the North Atlantic Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Noah M.P. Harris, a senior at Bowie State University, is the sorority's International Second Vice President and president of its Eta Chapter.

# Big Mama Said: Don't Just Remember the Village When You Need Votes!

**By Terry Allen**
*Texas Metro News /Black Press USA Wire*

Big Mama used to say, "Baby, don't come knocking on my door only when you need something. Come see about me when you need something, too!" And if you knew my Big Mama, you knew that wasn't a suggestion. That was a standard!

Well, Election Day has come and gone. The campaign signs are coming down, the political commercials have disappeared, and some politicians have already forgotten the roads leading into our neighborhoods. Isn't it amazing how quickly folks can find our churches, barbershops, restaurants, and community centers when they need our votes? They shake hands, hug babies, take pictures, and some even learn a gospel song! But Big Mama would ask, "Baby, now that they've counted our votes, who's counting our needs?"

Where are they when our schools need resources, seniors need assistance, Black-owned businesses need contracts, and young people need mentors and jobs? Big Mama would remind us, "You can't eat a handshake, and a photograph won't pay the light bill!"

But here's where the village must accept some responsibility. We cannot keep building election machines that disappear after Election Day. We need an ecosystem, connecting our churches, businesses, nonprofits, fraternities, sororities, educators, and community leaders into a year-round network of opportunity, accountability, and collective progress.

Imagine turning voter mobilization into economic mobilization. Imagine churches connecting families to resources, businesses opening doors for young entrepreneurs, and elected officials reporting measurable results instead of delivering another campaign speech. That's how we turn political influence into community investment.

And let's stop measuring success by how many politicians attend our events. Let's count jobs created, contracts awarded, young people mentored, and promises kept. Accountability isn't partisan. It's personal, and it belongs to the entire village.

Now, I'm asking you, my readers: Send me the name of an organization, business, or community initiative we should invest in and support. Let's connect our resources and build an ecosystem that strengthens the entire village! I have two organizations I'd like to add to the conversation: Don't Believe the Hype, which focuses on scholarships and educational opportunities, and City Men Cook, which provides mentoring, leadership development, and opportunities to invest in the next generation of young men. Both are about more than talking about change. They're about putting resources, relationships, and opportunities into action.



*Photo credit Dion Sims Cheryl Smith DBTH Terry Allen City Men Cook*

Big Mama understood that relationships require reciprocity. You cannot keep withdrawing from a community without making deposits. So whether your candidate won or lost, our responsibility remains. The election determines who holds office, but the village determines what accountability looks like.

Big Mama said, "Baby, if they know the road to your house when they need your vote, make sure they know the road back when you need results!"

The election is over. Now let's build something that outlives the campaign!

# *Hypertension and Heart Disease: Doctors, Advocates and Patients Are Tackling the Leading Cause of Death for Black Californians*

**By McKenzie Jackson**
*California Black Media*

Andre Aikins, 55, serves as director of programs at the San Francisco-based Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness, an organization dedicated to improving health outcomes in the Black community.

For Aikins, that work is personal.

His father and older brother died from preventable illnesses in their late 50s, he said. So, when Aikins learned he had high blood pressure and borderline diabetes, the diagnosis came as a shock -- especially since he took pride in his healthy and active lifestyle.




*Andre Aikins, 55, serves as director of programs at the San Francisco-based Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness.*

"For a while, I refused to believe it and tried to deal with it my own way," recalled Aikins, a former math teacher and assistant principal. "After going to the doctor a couple of times, I was told it wasn't getting better, so I had to take prescription drugs, and I had to eat differently."

Those changes paid off, said Aikins.

"Blood pressure? Perfect. All my health indicators, including blood glucose, are below the range for diabetes."

But for some Black Californians, taking medication and adopting healthier habits aren't enough. Getting the right medical care can be just as critical.

Chris Goodloe, an Inland Empire resident, was doing everything right. He exercised, ate healthy foods and took his prescribed medications. Yet his blood pressure remained stubbornly high.

Frustrated with what he perceived as inadequate care at his local Kaiser Permanente facility, Goodloe sought help from a Black female doctor in Murrieta after experiencing a panic attack.

That decision, he said, made all the difference.

The doctor referred him to a specialist who prescribed a diuretic to help control his blood pressure. Goodloe credits that breakthrough to finding a physician who listened.

"I hate to make this about race, but if I hadn't seen the Black lady in Murrieta I would have never gotten to a specialist," he said.

Goodloe's experience underscores how access to attentive, effective medical care can shape health outcomes, particularly for Black patients navigating a health care system in which disparities persist.

Those disparities are especially troubling when it comes to cardiovascular disease, a leading cause of death among Black Californians.

According to the 2026 California State of Public Health Report, Black Californians have the highest reported stroke prevalence, and their cardiovascular disease death rate is 1.6 times the statewide average. Additionally, 2023 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey data show that Black Californians had the highest prevalence of hypertension among racial and ethnic groups in the state.

Dr. Powell Jose, a Northern California-based Sutter Health cardiologist and heart disease researcher, said high rates of hypertension remain a significant challenge in the Black community. A Sutter Health study found that Black patients under 50 had the highest rates of heart disease, stroke and heart failure compared with other groups, he said.

"When we dug into why that was the case, it was mostly related to traditional risk factors not being well controlled," Jose explained.

Experts say those findings are particularly concerning because hypertension is a major contributor to cardiovascular disease. Left untreated, high blood pressure damages blood vessels over time, significantly increasing the risk of stroke, heart attack and heart failure.

Dr. Alexis Simpkins, a vascular neurologist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles who specializes in stroke care and cerebrovascular disease, said many people don't know they have hypertension because they aren't routinely screened.

"Hypertension is often called the 'silent killer,'" she said. "High blood pressure is the number one preventable risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Hypertension is treatable. The goal is detecting it and managing it before a serious event happens."

Aikins pointed to diet, lack of exercise and mental well-being as factors contributing to the disproportionate burden of cardiovascular disease among Black Californians. He also said reluctance to seek medical care can compound those risks.

"When you go to the doctor, most of the time we say, 'I'm okay,' unless we are on our deathbed," Aikins said. "We don't get regular checkups unless our arm is falling off."

Simpkins, an American Heart Association (AHA) volunteer expert, said the exact cause of "essential hypertension" is unknown. Rather than focusing on a single cause, she encourages patients to follow the AHA's Life's Essential 8 framework, which emphasizes healthy eating, physical activity, quality sleep, avoiding tobacco, managing cholesterol and blood sugar, maintaining a healthy weight and controlling blood pressure.

But as Goodloe's experience illustrates, personal responsibility is only part of the equation. How the health care system responds to patients with uncontrolled hypertension can be equally important.

Dr. Steven W. Chen, associate dean of clinical affairs and professor at the USC Mann School of Pharmacy and an AHA volunteer expert, said patients can struggle with uncontrolled hypertension and other chronic conditions even after months of visits with primary care providers.

Chen described a problem known as "treatment inertia," in which patients repeatedly visit doctors with elevated blood pressure but leave without adjustments to their treatment.

"We have plenty of medications, all generic and inexpensive, widely available," he said. "They're just not being deployed well. That's a fault of our system."

To illustrate how more proactive care can improve outcomes, Chen pointed to a Los Angeles program led by the late Dr. Ronald Victor that brought pharmacists into Black barbershops to help patrons manage hypertension.

According to Chen, "About 90% of participants receiving the pharmacist-led intervention achieved blood pressure control, compared with 32% of those receiving usual care."

Chen said Victor's "secret sauce" was a poster featuring a patient's photograph and testimonial that connected blood pressure management to personal goals and family milestones.

"It wasn't medical," Chen explained. "It was about things like, 'I want to be there when my kids graduate from high school, when my daughter gets married. The things you don't really think about so much, but when you start to put it together, it is what motivates you. That was remarkably effective at engaging participants."

Other health systems are also exploring ways to improve hypertension treatment and eliminate gaps in care.

A March study led by the University of California, San Francisco, found that the UC health system's use of the UC Way Hypertension Medication Algorithm helped thousands of patients achieve better blood pressure control.

Dr. Sandeep P. Kishore, an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCSF, said the program helped about 4,860 people control their blood pressure, with an estimated 72 strokes, 48 heart attacks and 38 deaths averted.

The tool provides clinicians with a step-by-step approach to medication adjustments and recommends closer patient follow-up. Between 2023 and 2025, blood pressure control among Black patients increased from 63.4% to 67.3%, while control across all patients rose from 68.5% to 73.9%.

"Nationally, we know Black patients are more likely to experience therapeutic inertia, where blood pressure stays high, but treatment isn't intensified or changed," Kishore said. "The UC algorithm gives clinicians a clear, science-backed next step and recommends faster follow-up, measurement, and clinical action, so patients reach their goals sooner."

Jose said Sutter Health has expanded remote monitoring programs that equip patients with wireless blood pressure cuffs and connect them with pharmacists who review readings and can adjust medications remotely.

Another option for patients whose hypertension remains difficult to control is renal denervation, a procedure that targets nerves surrounding the arteries supplying the kidneys to help lower blood pressure.

"I've had Black patients go through this procedure successfully, cut back on their medications, and have better blood pressure control," Jose said.

Jose also recommended that people have their lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a), levels checked at least once in their lifetime because elevated levels increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Simpkins emphasized that regular screening remains essential because patients cannot manage hypertension if they don't know they have it.

"High blood pressure is one of the most important risk factors we can intervene on," she said.



*Chris Goodloe of the Inland Empire credits his breakthrough to finding a physician who listened.*

"Even if prevention isn't possible, we know how to manage hypertension effectively. We need to make sure it doesn't become a barrier to quality of life."

At the community level, organizations such as the Rafiki Coalition are working to make prevention and early detection more accessible. The San Francisco nonprofit hosts events throughout the Bay Area to educate Black residents about health risks and encourage regular checkups.

This month, Aikins said, the organization plans to offer blood pressure screenings at a community event.

For Aikins, whose family history underscores the potentially devastating consequences of chronic illness, the message is simple: Take action before a health problem becomes a crisis.

"Don't take your health for granted," Aikins said. "Engage in preventive measures. When something doesn't feel right, get it checked out. Don't wait until you're bedridden."

# Legal Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**SUMMONS**
**(CITACION JUDICIAL)**
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25NWLC77922
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Jayonna Veronica Reed, an individual, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): IVER CAPITAL CORPORATION
**N O T I C E !**
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
**¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
12720 Norwalk Blvd.,
Norwalk, CA 90650
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Ali Nabavi,
SBN 232910
Coastal Crest Law Firm, APLC
24310 Moulton Pkwy, Suite O-1007,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Tel. (949) 751-6788
DATE (Fecha): 12/24/2025
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By D. Gonzales, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
**NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:** You are served.
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**
**FILE NO: 2026204281**
Doing business as:
**LUIS CONCRETE PUMPING** at 20651 WYANDOTTE ST, WINNETKA, CA 91306, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
**LUIS ANGEL BALAGUER** at 20651 WYANDOTTE ST, WINNETKA, CA 91306
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **LUIS ANGEL BALAGUER, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 9/24/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: TINA TRAN,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 9/24/2031
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**
**FILE NO: 2026223145**
Doing business as:
**VIP ANIMAL HOSPITAL ROSWINN** at 20021 ROSCOE BLVD 15, WINNETKA, CA 91306, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
**SRI RAMA ANIMAL CARE INC** at 20021 ROSCOE BLVD # 15, WINNETKA, CA 91306
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **VARAPRASAD GUDURI, PRESIDENT**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 10/21/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: LAKEISHA MCCOY,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/21/2031
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Nov 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**
**FILE NO: 2026227461**
Doing business as:
**WITHFOUND / FOUND COLLECTIVE** at 9454 WILSHIRE BLVD #100, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
**KEYANNA REES** at 23033 CALIFA STREET, WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **KEYANNA REES, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 10/27/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: CORTNEY MAFFITT,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 10/27/2031
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Nov 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026**

**SUMMONS**
**(CITACION JUDICIAL)**
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25NWLC77437
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Jose Hernandez aka Jose Ignacio Hernandez Serna, an individual, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): IVER CAPITAL CORPORATION
**N O T I C E !**
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
**¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
12720 Norwalk Blvd.,
Norwalk, CA 90650
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Ali Nabavi,
SBN 232910
Coastal Crest Law Firm, APLC
24310 Moulton Pkwy, Suite O-1007,
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
Tel. (949) 751-6788
DATE (Fecha): 12/19/2025
David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
By L. Arce, Deputy (Adjunto)
(SEAL)
**NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:** You are served.
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Nov 12, 19, 26, Dec 3, 2026**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**
Paul J. Hwang, you are notified that Plaintiff Owen G. Riley, III has filed Writ of Summons since Reinstated against you in the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, PA at No. 2026-19979 which states "You are notified that the Plaintiff has commenced an action against you, Signed, Prothonotary of Montgomery County." James Cunilio, Esquire, attorney for Plaintiff.
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Nov 19, 2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**
**FILE NO: 2026237190**
Doing business as:
**GC SHOTEN** at 8633 BALBOA BLVD UNIT 21, NORTHRIDGE, CA 91325, LOS ANGELES
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
**PCNG MEDIA LLC** at 8633 BALBOA BLVD UNIT 21, NORTHRIDGE, CA 91325
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **GABRIEL OH, MANAGER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 11/9/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: CAROLINA QUEVEDO,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/9/2031
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Nov 19, 26, Dec 3, 10, 2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**
**FILE NO: 2026236954**
Doing business as:
**CAMILAS** at 2726 VERNON AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90008
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
**MARIA YOLANDA MALDONADO** at 1620 CIMARRON ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90019
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **MARIA YOLANDA MALDONADO, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: Nov 9 2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: JUANITA CRUZ,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: Nov 9 2031
**LOS ANGELES**
**NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Nov 19, 26, Dec 3, 10, 2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**
**FILE NO: 2026238278**
Doing business as:
**ZESTALY / M3 APP SOLUTIONS** at 1221 N ORANGE DRIVE APT 102, LOS ANGELES, CA 90038, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
**M3 LOGIC GROUP INCORPORATED** at 1221 N ORANGE DRIVE APT 102, LOS ANGELES, CA 90038
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: a Corporation
SIGNED: **ARUN GUPTA, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 11/10/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: LAKEISHA MCCOY,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code).
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 11/10/2031
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Political

# Political Playback:

## California Capitol News You Might Have Missed



California State Capitol in Sacramento. CBM file photo.

By Bo Tefu
*California Black Media*

### Becerra Expands Transition Team, Names Maxey, Holoman and Other Key Advisers

\Bay Area Urban League President Kenneth E. Maxey II will co-lead external affairs, while Teri Holoman will oversee appointments as the governor-elect assembles his incoming administration.

California Gov.-elect Xavier Becerra has named two Black leaders, Kenneth E. Maxey II and Teri Holoman, to key positions on his gubernatorial transition team as he prepares to take office Jan. 4, 2027.

Maxey, president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater San Francisco Bay Area, will serve as co-director of external affairs alongside Democratic political and labor strategist Courtni Pugh. Holoman was named appointments director, a position responsible for helping coordinate the selection of individuals to serve in the incoming administration.

The appointments place both leaders in roles that will help shape the administration's early outreach, relationships and leadership appointments.

The Urban League congratulated Maxey in an Instagram post, highlighting his decades of work advancing economic empowerment, equal opportunity and social justice for Black families and underserved communities throughout the Bay Area.

The organization also noted that Maxey and Becerra have known each other for approximately 30 years, describing the governor-elect as having called Maxey "a friend and a brother."

Becerra announced his initial transition leadership team on Nov. 10, naming longtime aide Liz Saldivar to lead the effort. Saldivar previously worked for Becerra during his service in Congress and as California attorney general.

Other members of the transition team announced as of press time include senior advisers Kyle Layman, a campaign strategist, and Lindsey Cobia, a longtime adviser to outgoing Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Arsenio Mataka was named policy director, while Nicole Elliott will oversee agency reviews, a process intended to assess state departments and prepare the incoming administration for governing.

Becerra also added experienced state budget officials to the team. Erika Li, chief deputy director for budget at the California Department of Finance, was named budget director. Michael Cohen, a former state finance director who has served in a senior investment role at the California Public Employees' Retirement System, will serve as senior adviser for budget.

Additional appointments announced as of press time include Laiza Negrete and Robbie Abelon as legislative affairs leads and Jeff Nesbit as communications lead.

The governor-elect has outlined affordability as a central priority under the theme "California Dreams, California Delivers."




*Graphic by Chris Allen CTGraphics (CBM)*

"My parents came to California for its promise: that the reward for hard work would be a good life — one you can afford, with enough left over to provide for your family," Becerra said in announcing the transition team.

"Too many families are working just as hard today and falling further behind," he added. "This transition has one job: to ensure my administration is ready to deliver on day one."

Becerra is scheduled to be sworn in as California's next governor on Jan. 4, 2027.

### Baseball Great Barry Bonds, Park Ranger Betty Reid Soskin and Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi Among California 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

Former San Francisco Giants star Barry Bonds; former California park ranger Betty Reid Soskin, who died at 104; singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell; and former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are among the 20 inductees selected for the 2026 California Hall of Fame, Gov. Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom announced Nov. 12.

The class also includes the late comedian and actor Robin Williams and the rock band Metallica. It is the 20th class inducted into the California Hall of Fame and the final one under the Newsom administration.

The inductees will be formally recognized during a ceremony in December at the California Museum.

"For 20 years, the California Hall of Fame has celebrated the extraordinary people who make this state what it is," said Newsom. "This historic class reflects the very best of California and what's possible when people have the courage to think big and make a difference. Their legacy will inspire the next generation to keep pushing boundaries and showing the world what Californians can do."

Bonds is being recognized for his career with the San Francisco Giants and his place in baseball history as Major League Baseball's all-time career home run leader. Mitchell, a singer and songwriter, joins the class for her contributions to music.

Pelosi, a Democrat from San Francisco, is being inducted as a former speaker of the House. Williams, who died in 2014, is being honored for his work as a comedian and actor. His film credits include "Good Will Hunting," "Dead Poets Society," "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Aladdin."

Soskin was a civil rights activist and National Park Service ranger at Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, where she shared the often-overlooked experiences of Black women during the war. Soskin retired at 100 as the oldest full-time ranger in the service's history and is being inducted posthumously into the California Hall of Fame. She died last year at 104.

The other inductees include Emmy-winning actor Edward Asner, vineyard owner Andy Beckstoffer, chef Dominique Crenn, filmmaker Guillermo del Toro and artist Shepard Fairey.

The class also includes author Maxine Hong Kingston, actor Diane Ladd, musician Huey Lewis, civil rights activist Felicitas Mendez, singer Bonnie Raitt, and Rob and Michele Reiner, a director, actor and film producer who were founding board members of the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

Rounding out the class are Susie Tompkins Buell, co-founder of Bay Area brands Esprit and The North Face, and Metallica, the legendary metal band.

### Newsom Announces $81 Million for Climate-Smart Agriculture Projects

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced $81 million in proposed funding for climate-smart agriculture projects across 55 California counties, supporting farmers' efforts to conserve water, improve soil health and reduce pollution.

The funding, announced at the COP31 climate summit in Turkey on Nov. 13, will be administered through the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). Local partners will help farmers apply for grants and adopt practices to strengthen farms against drought and climate change.

The awards are tentative pending approval through the state's bond accountability process. Funding comes from Proposition 4, the $10 billion climate bond approved by California voters in 2024. The bond set aside $300 million for climate-smart agriculture, including $65 million for soil health and carbon storage and $40 million for water and energy efficiency.

"California agriculture feeds the country, and our farmers are already dealing with a hotter, drier climate," Newsom said. "We're backing them with proven tools to save water, build healthier soils, cut pollution, and keep farms productive for the long haul."

Since 2014, SWEEP has supported more than 1,300 on-farm projects, conserving 1.5 million acre-feet of water and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, according to the state.

Since 2017, the Healthy Soils Program has funded more than 2,300 projects, reducing emissions by 1.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. Together, the programs have received more than $320 million in grants, affected nearly 390,000 acres and cut emissions equivalent to removing 610,000 cars from the road for a year, the state said.

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross said the funding will provide farmers and ranchers with tools, technical assistance and regional support to improve water efficiency and soil health.

California voters approved Proposition 4 in 2024. The state says information about the programs and grant opportunities will be posted at cdfa.ca.gov/oars as agreements begin. A list of proposed awardees and service areas is available here.

# Kevin Murray, California Lawmaker Who Championed Civil Rights, Clean Energy and Urban Renewal, Dies at 66

By Tanu Henry
*California Black Media*

Kevin Murray helped California confront crimes it had barely named, brought solar power into the mainstream and insisted that working-class Los Angeles neighborhoods deserved parks.

The former Democratic Assemblymember and State Senator, whose policy interests ranged from identity theft and racial profiling to recording artists' rights and homelessness, died Nov. 10 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He was 66.

"Today we mourn the loss of a former CLBC chair, the venerable Kevin Murray," the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) said in a statement. "Kevin certainly left his mark."

A cause of death has not been publicly disclosed.

The Weingart Center, where he worked from 2010 to 2025 and was president and CEO, acknowledged his death, praising the depth of his commitment to addressing homelessness.

"Kevin devoted his career to public service and to improving the lives of all Angelenos. His commitment to addressing homelessness and tireless work leading our organization can never be adequately measured," the center wrote in a statement.

Born March 12, 1960, Murray grew up in View Park, a predominantly Black community in southwest Los Angeles County, where his father, Willard H. Murray Jr., an aerospace engineer turned legislator, immersed him in local politics. Elected to the Assembly in 1994, Murray made history as the first California assemblymember to serve alongside his father. He represented the 47th Assembly District until 1998 and the 26th Senate District from 1998 to 2006.

The elder Murray served in the Assembly from 1988 to 1996, representing the 52nd District in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass called Murray "a son of the city" and "brilliant legislator."

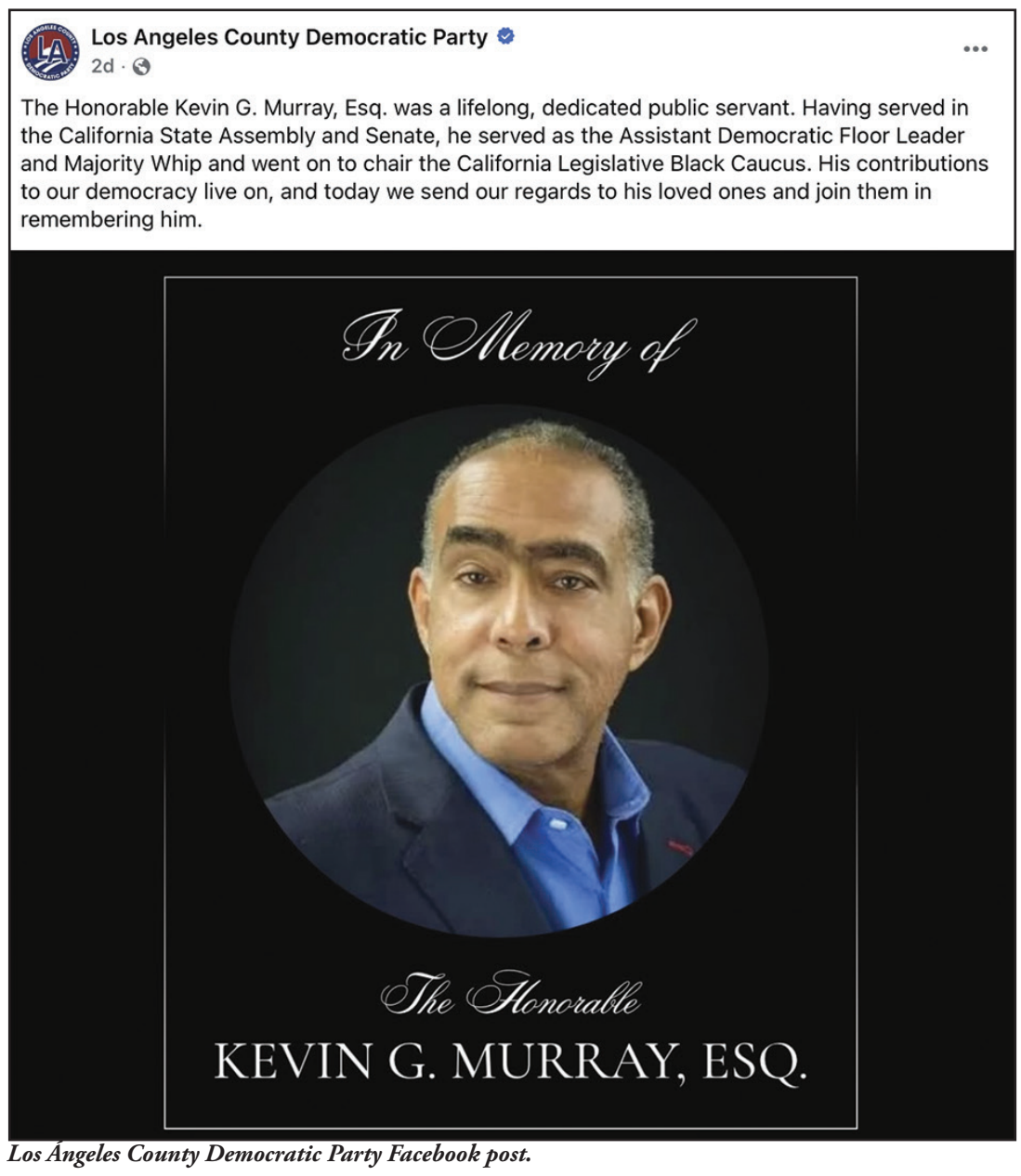
"Senator Murray and I served together in Sacramento," said Bass. "When I arrived in the Legislature, he was already a respected leader in the Senate. Senator Murray saw himself as a legislator first, and he was a very good one."

Murray challenged conventional thinking about whom the government should protect and how to take on discriminatory practices long accepted as the norm, while anticipating emerging threats to consumers. He championed a pioneering 1997 identity theft law when digital fraud was still in its infancy, advanced legislation restricting unsolicited commercial emails and pushed for stronger internet privacy protections.

His Senate Bill (SB) 1102 confronted racial profiling by law enforcement, challenging the widespread practice of targeting Black motorists, commonly known as "driving while Black."

Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) CLBC chair, said Murray "dedicated himself to public service and advocating for the communities he represented."

Murray also pushed protections for domestic violence survivors and houses of worship, supported arts education and sought greater access to technology in schools. An entertainment lawyer before entering office, Murray challenged recording contracts and royalty practices he believed disadvantaged musicians, even when his proposals encountered formidable industry resistance.




*Los Angeles County Democratic Party Facebook post.*

Murray also made his mark on environmental policy, helping to create the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, protecting land that became the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and securing funding for parks in underserved urban communities. His solar legislation helped advance California's Million Solar Roofs initiative, which expanded clean-energy opportunities beyond affluent neighborhoods.

"Senator Murray leaves behind a lasting impact on our community from clean energy and consumer protection to civil rights," said Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles).

In a 2021 oral history recorded by UC Berkeley's Oral History Center for the California State Archives, Murray described his priorities plainly: "I still consider urban parks, along with solar energy, to be one of my biggest accomplishments."

Murray said he built his record through negotiation, sometimes across party lines and sometimes against conventional allies.

He chaired the Assembly Transportation Committee and later the Senate Appropriations and Transportation committees, the Senate Democratic Caucus and the CLBC.

A graduate of California State University, Northridge, Murray earned an MBA from Loyola Marymount University and a law degree from Loyola Law School. Before politics, he worked at the William Morris Agency, a reputed talent agency in Hollywood; after leaving the Legislature, he returned to entertainment and consulting.

At the Weingart Center, he helped expand supportive housing, including the 19-story Weingart Tower on Skid Row in Los Angeles. He argued that housing solutions should also address mental illness, addiction, job readiness and the services residents need to rebuild their lives.

He also defended opportunities for smaller housing developers. In a 2020 California Black Media report (CBM), Murray challenged proposed Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) eligibility rules that critics feared would disadvantage Black developers seeking access to billions in affordable-housing funds.

"This change will further limit the eligible pool of housing providers," he wrote to HCD, urging the state to preserve broader participation.

His Weingart tenure ended amid scrutiny of a costly property transaction. Federal prosecutors charged a real estate intermediary in connection with the deal; Murray was not charged. The controversy complicated, but did not erase, his record of housing development and public service.

Leaders and organizations from across California remembered a legislator who could move from technical policy detail to the larger question of opportunity.

Assemblymember Corey Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), the CLBC secretary and incoming chair, echoed that tribute, remembering Murray as an "Assemblymember, Senator, brother, boss, and friend."

The Los Angeles NAACP recalled his service "with rigor, heart, and a deep respect for the people his work touched," adding, "He later gave his energy to those in need."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn remembered a friend who worked to help people experiencing homelessness. She also paid tribute to his father, "Public service was in his blood," she said. "I am grateful to both of them for their service to California."

Murray is survived by his wife, Janice, and their children, Jordan and Matthew. His sister, Melinda, also survives him.

No public statement from his immediate family was available at publication. His family's private grief accompanies a public reckoning with the reach of his work, from online safeguards to hillside trails and housing for people with nowhere to sleep.

The most revealing measure of Murray's legacy may be the advice he gave aspiring public servants in that oral history: "Just go do it."

And the CLBC offered a farewell that captured the affection behind the policy accomplishments: "We will miss him dearly and grieve with all who knew him. Rest in peace, Senator."

Features

# And Then What?

**By Antjuan Seawright**
*Democratic Strategist BlackPressUSA*

The historic Blue Tsunami we all witnessed across this country provided a clear mandate for Democrats and a clear demonstration that Americans want our elected officials focused on fixing the real problems they face every day instead of promoting a meaningless culture war that has zero impact on our lives while corporate fat cats pick our pockets to line their own.

But, that being said, I can't help but remember the words of Young Jeezy: And then what?

Look, I'm as blown away by the election results as anyone.

Last week, Democrats regained control of both houses of Congress, flipping at least 43 seats in the House and seven in the Senate. We flipped five governorships; 500 legislative seats took districts that have been red for a generation and turned them blue, and there are even more races left to be called.

According to The New Yora Times, the Black voter share grew dramatically. In Alabama, it went from 22% in 2024 to 26% in 2026. In Mississippi, it went from 30% in 2024 to 33% in 2026; in South Carolina, it went from 21% in 2024 to 24% in 2026. In Louisiana, it went from 27% in 2024 to 30% in 2026, and in Georgia, it went from 29% in 2024 to 32% in 2026.

That's a three- to four-percent growth in all of those states, and even in states like Michigan, Illinois, and New York, where there was no measurable change, that's compared to a presidential year, which, in and of itself, is absolutely huge.

In North Carolina, Senator-elect Roy Cooper got more votes from early voting than Michael Whatley got in total, and the same thing happened in Texas and Georgia. So, yes, I'm pretty excited.



*Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.*

But I'm also a realist because I know progress isn't permanent and things can change in a heartbeat, especially if you don't keep your eye on the ball. I know that we need to protect this electoral progress, so we can't afford to mismanage our politics, our policies, or the promises we made on the campaign trail.

We can't afford to mismanage the broad coalition that propelled us to a historic election night.

That's what the Republicans did, and we see what it got them.

In 1967, Dr. King spoke at a similar moment, saying we had to choose between chaos and community, and in 2005, Young Jeezy asked the same question: "And then what?"

Our "what" is simple:

We have to lower the cost of living.

We have to save affordable healthcare.

We have to hold the crooks who've been running this country for the past two years accountable for their crimes.

Does that mean we launch a campaign of retribution that gets us bogged down in some neverending impeachment fight? Of course not.

We stand up against corruption while working for the people because they need our help more than they need political payback.

We choose community because we know too well what chaos looks like.

It looks like skyrocketing foreclosure rates and car repossessions. It looks like more than half of Americans are forced to rely on credit cards to pay for basic needs like groceries, rent and utilities, student debt has jumped since the Trump administration reversed course on Biden repayment and forgiveness plans and an unconstitutional war that costs us record-high diesel prices and fertilizer costs, along with 16 unnecessary American deaths.

It looks like Americans are having to take out loans to pay for groceries even though they're making six figures, and affordable housing is sitting vacant because folks still can't afford it, particularly with the dramatic cuts to SNAP and Medicaid we saw in Trump's "Big Ugly Bill."

According to the Federal Reserve, the net worth of Black households is down 25%. That's chaos.

We choose community. We choose raising the minimum wage, tackling price gouging, expanding voting rights, and putting back the subsidies that helped you pay for health insurance. We chose standing up for each other.

Young Jeezy asked the question, "And then what?" Community is the answer, and it's time to get to work.

# Closing the Next Digital Divide — Communities of Color Must Have a Voice in the AI Future

**By Rodney Ellis**
*Commissioner of Harris County Precinct One*

Technology has long shaped who has access to opportunity. As artificial intelligence begins reshaping our workplaces, schools, and daily lives, we must ensure communities of color are not left catching up once again.

In 2020, the pandemic risked widening a digital divide that has put people of color at a disadvantage for years. Access to the technologies that are shaping the world should be available to all. When the internet emerged as the technology of note, children needed access for their education. Adults needed access to find work and succeed in their jobs. Increasingly, upward mobility and economic opportunity depend on having the skills to use the tools transforming our economy.

In Harris County, we worked to make sure our residents were not on the wrong side of that vast digital divide. Through the Office of Broadband, we distributed thousands of hotspots, established more than 100 public Wi-Fi locations, and invested in infrastructure to increase internet availability for under-resourced families.

Today, another divide is emerging. In 2020, the challenge was whether families could get online. Now, communities need to learn to navigate a world increasingly influenced by AI or risk being left behind. More than access, responsible AI requires thinking critically about the technology, its outputs, and the companies behind it. AI literacy builds a foundation for that reflection. We cannot allow Black and Brown communities to be the last to benefit from another technological transformation.

That is why I was proud to partner with Reverend Al Sharpton and the National Action Network (NAN) in September to bring the AI Fluency Initiative to Houston. The program seeks to provide people with practical exposure to AI and show how these tools can be used in jobs, education, small business, and more. Open to the public, programs like this give residents the knowledge to participate in a changing economy and shape the systems developing around them.

Technology companies also have a role to play in making information accessible. OpenAI partnered with NAN on AI literacy in Houston and has supported practical training across the country through OpenAI Academy. Local businesses, older adults, and educators are among the groups the company has targeted through these efforts. This kind of engagement matters. The organizations building AI tools must equip communities with the skills and confidence to use them effectively. When people understand its capabilities and limitations, AI can help them address problems they are already facing.

Entrepreneurs like Kaija Pack are already putting that potential into practice here in Texas. As she built Break Life Houston, she leveraged ChatGPT to develop business strategies and expand her customer base, ultimately growing her business enough to open a second location.

Small business owners like Kaija should understand how AI can help them compete. Workers should understand how it may change their industries. Students should learn how to use these tools responsibly. Communities should understand AI so they can have a meaningful voice when decisions about the technology affect them.

This principle has guided much of my public service. Earlier this year, Commissioner Lesley Briones and I championed Harris County's first worker Consultation Policy because workers deserve a say in the choices that will impact their livelihoods. Those voices are amplified when we understand their means of empowerment.

AI literacy is a path to that understanding. A seat at the table is most powerful when people have the knowledge they need to advocate for themselves.

Understanding includes risks as well as opportunities. We need to learn how to use these tools safely, and developers have the responsibility to build safety into their systems. OpenAI, for example, has invested in external testing, safeguards, and publicly documented standards for model behavior. Developers should pair innovation with accountability.

Closing the AI divide will be a collaborative effort. Harris County already has networks like our Digital Navigators that connect residents with technology and digital skills. We should build on initiatives like these and make practical AI education accessible at a greater scale.



*Rodney Ellis, Commissioner of Harris County Precinct One. Courtesy photo.*

Too often, people of color have been asked to adapt to new systems after they were built and the rules were already written. With AI, we have an opportunity to be involved from the outset.

The future should not simply happen to us. We should have a hand in shaping it.

# The "Great Cleansing Election of 2026" Was a Rebuke of Trump, Not a Blank Check for Democrats

**By David Deluz**
*Special to California Black Media Partners*

Donald Trump told voters "to act like" he was on the ballot Tuesday. They did.

What I call the "Great Cleansing Election of 2026" was more than a Democratic wave. It was a reckoning. Voters who had returned Republicans to power two years earlier decided they had seen enough.

Democrats captured both houses of Congress, flipping seven Republican-held Senate seats and more than 40 House seats. The upheaval reached Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, Texas and South Carolina, states Republicans had counted on holding.

But the cleansing went beyond the electoral map. Voters rejected a government that seemed more devoted to one man's political interests than to the people it was elected to serve.

The war with Iran, tariffs, stubbornly high prices and threats to health coverage had taken their toll. Medicaid cuts and the vulnerability of rural hospitals made Washington's political combat seem increasingly detached from everyday concerns. Trump may blame Republican candidates, but voters were judging his administration and its consequences.

The election exposed a familiar truth: Americans will tolerate controversy, ideological differences and even considerable personal misconduct. What they will not tolerate indefinitely is a government that makes their lives harder while insisting everything is going wonderfully.

Republicans lost sight of that distinction. Democrats should take heed.

Four developments stand out.

First, Republican redistricting failed to deliver the protection its architects expected. Maps designed to preserve political power could not overcome the national shift. Politicians may try to choose their voters, but voters still get the final word.

Second, Black voters, particularly Black women, again demonstrated their political importance. Georgia elected Keisha Lance Bottoms as the nation's first Black woman governor. Nationally, Black voters overwhelmingly backed Democrats. That commitment deserves more than ceremonial recognition after Election Day.



*David DeLuz*

Third, Latino voters delivered one of the election's most consequential shifts. After moving toward Trump in 2024, they swung back toward Democrats. Reuters found that across 64 majority-Latino counties with Senate contests, the Republican vote share fell 14 percentage points from Trump's 2024 performance. In Texas's Hidalgo County, the decline approached 25 points.

Latino voters are not political property. Their allegiance is neither automatic nor permanent, and both parties would do well to remember it.

Finally, this was no Democratic Socialists of America sweep. Progressives won important victories, but so did moderates and center-left Democrats in competitive districts. The electorate rejected Republican governance. It did not endorse every Democratic proposal.

Democrats can certainly celebrate the victory. But now comes the harder work.

The greatest danger is mistaking a repudiation of Trump for a mandate to enact everything Democrats believe. Moderates, independents and disaffected Republicans helped deliver this victory. They wanted a change in direction, not a fresh set of ideological demands.

The party's strength was its breadth. Its vulnerability may be an inability to accommodate that diversity once governing begins. Demands for retribution, ideological conformity and competing priorities will come, each dressed up as a test of party loyalty.

Democrats should resist that temptation. Investigate abuses of power, defend constitutional institutions and pursue accountability. But distinguish justice from revenge. Focus on affordability, health care, economic security and ending an unpopular war. With Trump still in the White House and holding the veto, progress will require negotiation and a preference for results over theater.

Trump's mistake may have been treating his 2024 victory as permission to ignore Americans who opposed him. Democrats must not repeat it.

Voters did not hand Democrats Congress because they fell in love with the party. They want the government to put their interests ahead of political ambition and personal loyalty.

The Great Cleansing Election may have cleared the political map. But voters demanded more than a change in who governs. They demanded a change in whom government serves.

Whether this election becomes a turning point depends on Democrats understanding the assignment.

About the Author

David B. DeLuz is a political commentator, Democratic strategist, and civil rights leader with more than 20 years in politics, government, and community advocacy. A longtime advocate for social and economic justice, he has also taught politics and public policy as an adjunct professor.

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Sports

# Rams Win Fourth Straight, Dominate Cardinals 34-6

**By Earl Heath**
*Contributing Sports Writer*

The Los Angeles Rams continued to demonstrate their depth and resourcefulness, overcoming a slow start to roll past the Arizona Cardinals 34-6 on the road before 60,926 fans.

Quarterback Matthew Stafford threw for 249 yards and three touchdowns, while running back Blake Corum rushed for 100 yards as the Rams scored 31 unanswered points to close out the game.

The victory marked Los Angeles' fourth consecutive win, sending the team into a much-needed bye week with plenty of momentum.

"Luckily, we've got a lot of good football players at different positions," Stafford said. "Really proud of those guys, just their composure, their effort, and their ability to not get a lot of reps in practice and still go in there and execute in the game. It's awesome."

Rams Show Their Depth

The Rams faced several personnel challenges but found contributions throughout the roster.

Third-string center Beaux Limmer handled the snapping duties for most of the game, while Xavier Smith and Davis Allen stepped up as receiving targets. Safety Kamren Kinchens also delivered a key interception to help shut down Arizona's offense.

Smith, who had just returned to the team after being released, made the most of his opportunity.

Los Angeles also played without two of its top offensive weapons. Wide receivers Puka Nacua, sidelined with knee and toe injuries, and Davante Adams, dealing with a hamstring injury, were both unavailable.

Despite those absences, Stafford and the offense continued to find ways to move the football.

Corum Helps Put the Game Away

The Rams began pulling away in the third quarter when Corum powered into the end zone on a 1-yard touchdown run, extending the lead to 24-6.



*Myles Garrettt put pressure on CARDS QB*

Arizona quarterback Jacoby Brissett threw an interception on the Cardinals' ensuing possession, and Los Angeles quickly capitalized.

Stafford connected with Allen for a 19-yard touchdown, pushing the Rams' advantage to 31-6 and putting the game firmly out of reach.

The Rams' ability to turn defensive stops into offensive points demonstrated the team's balance and execution.

Cardinals Continue to Struggle Against Los Angeles

The Cardinals have had little success against the Rams since Sean McVay became Los Angeles' head coach in 2017.

With this latest victory, the Rams improved to 16-3 against Arizona during McVay's tenure, including a 15-3 regular-season record and a postseason victory.

Arizona managed just one regular-season win against Los Angeles in each of the 2021, 2022 and 2024 seasons. Kyler Murray was the starting quarterback for two of those victories, while Colt McCoy led the Cardinals in the other.

Current Arizona quarterback Jacoby Brissett has yet to defeat the Rams. He went 0-2 in two starts against Los Angeles last season, with Arizona losing those games by a combined score of 82-37.

McVay Praises Team's Resilience

Rams coach Sean McVay credited his players for maintaining their focus and responding to adversity throughout the season.

"I've been proud of the resilience, the mental toughness that's been developed the past month," McVay said. "Like anything else, in those tough moments, it sucks, it doesn't feel good, but it does force the most growth if you have the right people who can respond and go back to work."

With four consecutive victories, the Rams are showing that their success does not depend on having every starter available.

The bye week provides an opportunity to recover, regroup and prepare for the next challenge as Los Angeles looks to maintain its winning momentum.

# Trojans Fall Short Against No. 6 Indiana as Turnovers Derail USC's Big Ten Hopes

**By Earl Heath**
*Contributing Sports Writer*

USC's hopes of making a run at the Big Ten championship and College Football Playoff took a major hit Saturday as the Trojans fell 27-13 to No. 6 Indiana before 54,336 fans.

Indiana quarterback Grant Wilson threw two touchdown passes in his first start for the Hoosiers, while Khobie Martin broke a tie with a 1-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter. Two fourth-quarter interceptions helped Indiana put the game away.

The victory improved Indiana to 9-1 overall and 6-1 in Big Ten play, keeping the Hoosiers in contention for a conference championship and a College Football Playoff spot.

For Wilson, the moment was especially meaningful.

"It's been a long time, seven years, and it's just such a blessing to be here with these fans and these players," Wilson said.

Wilson, who previously played at Fordham and Old Dominion, returned for his seventh college season with the goal of winning a second national championship.

Wilson makes most of first start

Wilson took over for injured starting quarterback Josh Hoover at halftime two weeks ago and helped Indiana rally for an overtime victory over Minnesota.

After that performance, Indiana coach Curt Cignetti decided to give Wilson the starting job as Hoover continued recovering from a right shoulder injury.

Wilson rewarded that confidence against USC, throwing two touchdown passes and helping the Hoosiers control the game when it mattered most.

Martin's 1-yard touchdown run late in the third quarter gave Indiana the lead, and the Hoosiers' defense took over from there.

USC struggles in the red zone

The Trojans entered the contest needing a victory to keep their Big Ten title and playoff hopes alive. However, their inability to finish drives proved costly.

USC quarterback Jayden Maiava completed 26 of 42 passes for 311 yards and one touchdown. He also threw three interceptions, including two in the fourth quarter. One of those interceptions came inside Indiana's 5-yard line, ending a promising scoring opportunity.

USC managed just one touchdown in five red-zone trips and also missed two field goals.

"He was a big part of us moving the ball the way we did, and the first interception he made a good decision on," USC coach Lincoln Riley said. "But the red-zone (interception), that one really hurt us."

Despite moving the ball effectively between the 20-yard lines, the Trojans could not consistently turn their opportunities into points.

Trojans face an uphill battle

The loss dropped USC to 7-3 overall and 4-3 in Big Ten play, leaving the Trojans in a difficult position as the regular season approaches its conclusion.




*(Photo: Shotgun Spratling | USCfootball.com, 247Sports)*

For Riley, the defeat also continued a difficult trend against ranked opponents on the road. His record in those games fell to 1-8.

The Trojans had opportunities to make the game closer, but red-zone mistakes, missed field goals and costly turnovers ultimately proved too much to overcome.

Indiana capitalized on those mistakes and walked away with a 27-13 victory.

USC must now regroup and look to finish the season strong, knowing that its margin for error has become increasingly small.

## Bruins Keep Trucking:

# UCLA Survives Illinois, Stays Unbeaten at 10-0



*BRUINS Defense 20 - Scott Taylor90 - Amir Washington94 - Marcus Alameda all celebrate safety vs Katin Houser (4)and Illinois*

**By Earl Heath**
*Contributing Sports Writer*

UCLA continues to roll.

Behind a resilient performance from quarterback Ty Dieffenbach and another dominant showing by its defense, No. 4 UCLA remained unbeaten with a hard-fought 22-14 victory over Illinois before 45,800 fans at the Rose Bowl.

Dieffenbach threw for 232 yards and two touchdowns while overcoming an injury that briefly sent him to the locker room. His return provided an emotional lift for the Bruins, who improved to 10-0 overall and 7-0 in Big Ten play.

The victory marked the third time in program history UCLA has opened a season with 10 consecutive wins.

"The confidence I think that was gained from that, from him being back, and the confidence he was portraying and showing to them, exuding, that was certainly something that they all felt and understood," UCLA coach Bob Chesney said.

Dieffenbach delivers when it matters

Dieffenbach connected with Aiden Mizell, who hauled in six catches for 176 yards and a touchdown. Semaje Morgan added 56 receiving yards and a score.

But the afternoon took a frightening turn with 35 seconds remaining in the first half.

Following a hit by Illinois defensive lineman Carter Janki, Dieffenbach fell hard on his left elbow and upper arm. He left the game and remained in the locker room while experiencing what Chesney described as a "nervy" feeling in his arm.

Third-string quarterback Madden Iamaleava took over for the next three series.

With 55 seconds remaining in the third quarter, Dieffenbach returned to the field to a thunderous ovation from the Rose Bowl crowd.

The Cal Poly transfer immediately made his presence felt. On his first possession back, he directed an eight-play, 75-yard scoring drive, capped by a 26-yard touchdown pass to Morgan.

"That crowd reaction was unbelievable," Dieffenbach said. "I mean, that was one of the best moments of my life hearing that crowd. And just to feed off that energy and go in there and go score a touchdown, it was unbelievable."

The former Cal Poly quarterback improved to 5-0 as UCLA's starter. He took over the position after Nico Iamaleava, Madden's older brother, suffered a season-ending knee injury against Oregon on Oct. 10.

"To go back in there and to lead the team down the field," Chesney said, "he's a warrior."

Defense continues to dominate

While Dieffenbach provided the offensive spark, UCLA's defense once again demonstrated why it has become one of the nation's toughest units.

Cornerback Scooter Jackson recorded two interceptions, including one with 2:50 remaining that helped shut down Illinois' comeback hopes.

Jackson's performance earned him Big Ten Co-Player of the Week honors. The Compton native became the fifth Bruin this season to receive a weekly Big Ten award and the fourth defensive player.

UCLA finished with three interceptions, a fumble recovery and a safety while limiting Illinois to just 240 yards of total offense.

The Bruins have now held seven consecutive opponents to 20 points or fewer and increased their season takeaway total to 31, the most in the nation.

UCLA also carried a 10-0 lead into halftime, marking the sixth time this season the Bruins have shut out an opponent for an entire half.

"They bring a lot of different things. They bring a lot of different looks. They were able to bring and create some pressure. Seemed to have all the answers for us in certain regards," Illinois coach Brett Bielema said.

Illinois struggles against Bruins defense

Illinois quarterback Katin Houser, a former St. John Bosco standout, completed 16 of 34 passes for 176 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions.

Kaden Feagin caught an 18-yard touchdown pass, while Collin Dixon added a 7-yard scoring reception.

The loss dropped Illinois to 6-4 overall and 4-3 in Big Ten play, ending the Fighting Illini's four-game winning streak.

Bruins eye historic finish

With the victory, UCLA matched its program record for single-season wins with 10.

The Bruins now turn their attention to a road matchup against Michigan before returning home to host USC in the regular-season finale.

At 10-0, UCLA has positioned itself for a historic finish. With an explosive offense, a resilient quarterback and a defense that continues to create turnovers, the Bruins are showing no signs of slowing down.

# UCLA's Scooter Jackson Earns Big Ten Co-Defensive Player of the Week Honors

**By Earl Heath**
*Contributing Sports Writer*

UCLA cornerback Scooter Jackson delivered a standout defensive performance against Illinois, recording two interceptions, one tackle and a pass breakup to earn Big Ten Co-Player of the Week honors.

The Compton, California, native becomes the fifth Bruin this season to receive a weekly Big Ten award and the fourth defensive player. No other Big Ten school has had more than two defensive honorees this season.

As a defensive unit, UCLA held the visiting Fighting Illini to 176 passing yards and a season-low 240 yards of total offense.

Jackson now has five interceptions this season, the most in the Big Ten and tied for second-most in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

His two-interception performance continued an impressive stretch of play. Jackson has recorded at least one interception in each of UCLA's last three games, totaling four during that span.

He is the first Bruin to record four interceptions over a three-game stretch since Sheldon Price accomplished the feat in 2012. Jackson also became the first UCLA player to record an interception in three consecutive games since Michael Norris in 2008.

Game-changing defensive plays

Jackson's first interception was a highlight-reel play. He made an over-the-shoulder catch in the back of the end zone early in the second quarter, taking away a potential touchdown from Illinois.

His second interception came late in the fourth quarter and essentially sealed the victory for the Bruins.

Jackson's ability to make big plays at critical moments has made him a key presence in UCLA's secondary. His recent production also puts him among the nation's top interception leaders.

With five interceptions on the season, Jackson continues to establish himself as one of the Big Ten's most productive defensive backs while helping UCLA's defense deliver one of its strongest performances of the year.



*Scooter Jackson has two picks vs. Illinois and was named Big 10 Co-defensive Player of the Week*

Local

# Staying Ready: What Every Californian Should Know About Preparing for El Niño

**By Solomon O. Smith**
*California Black Media*

Recent storms soaked parts of Northern and Southern California, brought heavy snow to the mountains and coincided with king tides that contributed to hazardous surfing conditions along sections of the coast.

As more storms are expected this winter, state and local officials are sharing resources to help Californians prepare. Rain has already caused flooding in several communities.

At an online briefing hosted Nov. 13 by California Black Media (CBM), American Community Media (ACoM) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), officials discussed how residents can prepare for severe weather.

"California is heading into a winter shaped by one of the strongest El Niño patterns on record," said Matt Notley, Cal OES' deputy director. "But the state has been preparing since last summer and our efforts now are about making sure our preparedness message reaches every community."

El Niño is a climate pattern marked by warmer-than-average ocean temperatures in the tropical eastern Pacific. It can shift weather patterns and increase the odds of a wetter winter in California, though it does not guarantee severe storms in every area. NOAA says a strong to very strong El Niño is likely through January to March 2027. The storms also come on the heels of a longer-than-usual fire season.

Michael Anderson, the California Department of Water Resources' climatologist, said elevated ocean levels can "amplify" flooding during king tides. Californians typically experience king tides in late fall and winter. Anderson said residents can expect rain to arrive in bursts lasting two to three days.

"Timing, pace, and scale of the storms drive the impacts. Storm size and time between the storms are really important," said Anderson. "Coastal impacts have already started. They will amplify as the season evolves. So, if you are along the coast, please be careful."

Understanding weather patterns is one part of preparing. Gov. Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency on Sept. 21 because of the developing 2026-27 El Niño, an early step to prepare for potential severe weather, according to Brian Ferguson, Cal OES' chief deputy director of policy.

The Department of Water Resources has seven interagency incident management teams statewide, with more than 250 staff members ready to respond to flooding. The department has staged flood-fighting materials at locations across the state, including sandbags and rock for emergency repairs. It also trains local responders in flood fighting and provides Flood Emergency Response grants to communities that need support.



*Motorists travel along a rain-soaked California freeway on November 28, 2019, as rainfall creates wet and potentially hazardous driving conditions. CBM file photo | November 28, 2019*

Cal OES prepares for El Niño year-round through partnerships with tribal leaders, federal agencies and local community organizations.

The Ready California website offers disaster alerts, preparation guidance and printable materials, including flip books and fact sheets, in multiple languages.

Among its recommendations, Ready California advises residents to check whether their home or workplace is in a flood-prone area; clear gutters and storm drains; fix roof leaks; trim trees; and get sandbags early. Residents should also sign up for local emergency alerts, prepare a Go Bag with medications and important documents, keep flashlights and charged phones nearby, and follow evacuation orders. This is a partial list of tips.

Cal OES is coordinating with local agencies responsible for infrastructure that could be affected by storms, including dams, levees and reservoirs. The governor's office has placed the California National Guard on alert in case it needs to activate the Guard under Title 32, which allows it to serve under state command with federal support. Ferguson also emphasized streamlining processes to support "priority populations," or people who face the greatest risks.

"So, we're really trying to start early by talking to folks, getting the word out, and also how do we support communities on the front end so we can ultimately keep as many folks safe as possible," said Ferguson. "Taken together, these actions help reduce the risk that we face and also improve public safety before the storms arrive."

The California Water Watch website lets users check precipitation and other water conditions by address or ZIP code. Anderson said California should see short periods of stormy weather "every couple of weeks."

The state is encouraging residents to prepare now. Cal OES and the governor's office have emphasized the importance of having an emergency plan.

For more information, visit the Ready California website, sign up for emergency alerts,find disaster help or read preparedness materials and make a plan.

# Landfill Geyser Erupts at Chiquita Canyon in Castaic

## *Trash explosion at Chiquita Canyon Landfill capped, but smell lingers*

CASTAIC, Calif. (KABC) -- An explosion of gases sent a thick black geyser shooting into the air above the Chiquita Canyon Landfill in Castaic on Monday, prompting an evacuation advisory for nearby residents.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to the incident in the 29200 block of Henry Mayo Drive around 4 p.m.

The plume, visible for miles, rose about 500 feet into the air and was accompanied by a noxious odor. Black smoke billowed into the air before turning white.

An explosion of gases sent a thick black geyser shooting into the air above the Chiquita Canyon Landfill in Castaic.

The city of Santa Clarita advised residents to avoid the area near Henry Mayo Drive and Highway 126. An evacuation advisory was issued for several zones, including CAS-VALVERDE-A, CAS-HASLEY, CAS-HILLCREST, CAS-CAMBRIDGE, CAS-INDUSTRY and CAS-LIVEOAK.

L.A. County Fire Department officials sought to reassure residents as hazardous materials teams monitored air quality.

"No one is at risk. We wouldn't be standing here without respiratory devices if there was any sort of risk," L.A. County Fire Department Capt. Aaron Katon told reporters.

According to fire officials, the eruption occurred during routine drilling operations intended to vent the landfill. Crews working in an area that had not been addressed in some time struck an underground deposit of gases, triggering the release.

At least four workers were taken to a hospital for evaluation as a precaution, according to the fire department.

By Monday night, the plume had diminished significantly and changed from black to white. First responders said they were not concerned about a secondary gas explosion.

Fire officials said crews had capped the leak by 11 p.m. and that it was no longer off-gassing. Hazardous materials teams planned to remain at the site overnight to continue monitoring air quality.

In a statement, Chiquita Canyon said, "During a routine drilling operation to install a new well at Chiquita Canyon Landfill to help address the elevated temperature landfill event, crews encountered a pressurized pocket within the landfill, resulting in an above-ground release of gases and particulate material at the drilling location. No liquids were released. Work was stopped immediately and the area has been secured. Chiquita is in communication and coordinating with state and local regulatory agencies and emergency response personnel."

"As a precaution, Chiquita Canyon is reviewing data from all local air quality monitoring equipment."

The incident renewed attention on the landfill, three weeks after California Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a lawsuit against its owners alleging a pattern of hazardous waste violations.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger said she was "not pleased" by the incident.

"The families of Castaic and the surrounding communities have lived with the burden of this landfill for far too long, and they should not have to wonder whether they are safe," Barger said in a statement. "I want answers, and I will not accept vague explanations."

Barger told Eyewitness News she believes the incident reflects mismanagement rather than a mishap.

"This has got to be addressed, and that's why the county filed a lawsuit to require Chiquita to provide financial resources for those who want to relocate," she said. "People shouldn't have to live in fear."

L.A. County public health officials have issued a directive to the operators of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill to immediately offer relocation assistance to community members affected by the incident.

"The LA County Fire Department continues to monitor air quality with no hazardous findings currently. However, the resulting strong odors from the November 16 incident may cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, and irritation of the eyes, nose, or throat," the L.A. County Department of Public Health said in a statement.

The health department recommends that impacted residents reduce exposure, consider temporary relocation and pay attention to symptoms.

KEMET

## UMOJA KARAMU CELEBRATION ACTIVITY SHEET




### UMOJA KARAMU CELEBRATION




This celebration is all about the unity of the black race while highlighting events and periods that helped shape the Black American family. It is becoming an alternative holiday for many Black American families who want to distance themselves from the traditional Thanksgiving. It was created in 1971 by Dr. Edward Sims Jr. in hopes that this symbolic ceremony would draw black people closer by celebrating their common history and cultural heritage.

### MEANING OF THE COLORS

The celebration is based on five periods of Black American life, each represented by a color to be used in the ceremony.

| COLOR | PERIOD | REPRESENTS |
|---|---|---|
| BLACK | Prior to Slavery | Black families in Africa before slavery |
| WHITE | In Slavery | Scattering of black families during slavery |
| RED | Emancipation | Blacks' liberation from slavery |
| GREEN | Liberation Struggle | Civil rights and equality struggle |
| GOLD / ORANGE | Future | Hope for the Future |

UMOJA

### ORDER OF THE CELEBRATION

1. **Prayer** - starts the celebration
2. **Libation** - liquid is poured in honor of the family's ancestors
3. **Period Presentation** - elders share advice/encouragement, read narratives, play music, pass the foods that represent the five different colors
4. **Feast** - after the food is enjoyed, unused food is given to the poor/homeless

### MATCH THE COLOR TO THE TIME PERIOD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A. BLACK | ____ | Liberation from Slavery |
| B. WHITE | ____ | Civil Rights Struggle |
| C. RED | ____ | Hope for the Future |
| D. GREEN | ____ | Africans Before Slavery |
| E. GOLD | ____ | African Americans During Slavery |

### FOOD OF MANY COLORS!

Each color is represented by a specific food. Write the correct color next to the celebrated food.



WHITE
GREEN
BLACK
RED
GOLD / ORANGE

Black-eyed peas _____

Tomatoes _____

Rice _____

Collard Greens _____

Sweet Potatoes/Corn _____

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Nawi
Dahomey
Slave Trade
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