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Los Angeles News Observer

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Happy Thanksgiving! FROM THE OBSERVER

Volume 42 Number 11 | Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California | Thursday, November 26, 2026

Congresswoman Waters Remembers Huerta As a 'Gentle Lady' Who Built Bridges With the Black Community.

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Maxine Waters said nothing was going to keep her from Dolores Huerta's celebration of life.

"No matter what it took, if I had to walk to Bakersfield, I was going to get here," the Democratic Congresswoman told the Bakersfield News Observer during an interfaith memorial service for Huerta Nov. 20 at Dignity Health Arena.

Waters said that when she served in the California State Assembly, Huerta "used to walk the halls" lobbying for farmworkers, many of whom were sleeping on the ground without decent housing.

"She was there working for legislation to change the way the state of California dealt with farmworkers," Waters said.

Waters, 88, called Huerta "a woman of impeccable integrity, who really loves people," and someone who spent her life trying to create a better life for everybody.



A deep tie to Black leaders

While Huerta is best known for her fight for farmworkers and the Latino community, Waters said her relationship with the Black community was "very deep."

Waters referred to photos shown during the celebration of Huerta with the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis and other national leaders. She said Huerta worked closely with former President Barack Obama, had many Black friends and was a sought-after endorser.

"I used to go to her every election and say, 'Oh, I need you,'" Waters said of Huerta. "She said, 'You don't have to ask me. Just put my name on whatever you're doing.'"

For Waters, that history of trust and friendship is an important example of the possibilities of interracial solidarity. She said Black and Latino communities are working more closely now than ever in opposition to targeted raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

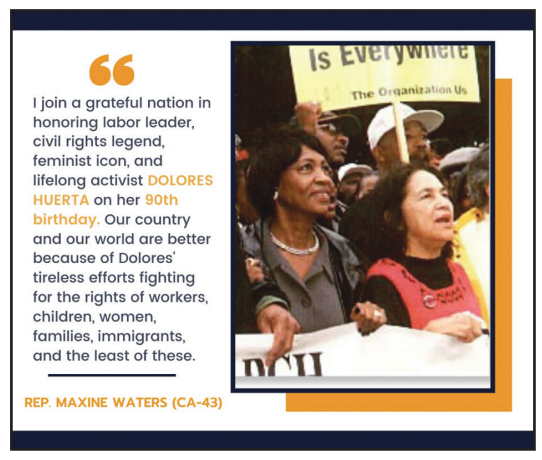
"ICE is not only directed at Latinos. It's directed at other citizens. Black, white, everybody's in danger," Waters said, adding that the two communities now have "a growing and strong relationship."

'Oh, Dolores, sit down'

Waters recalled Huerta joining her at an event at Southwest College for a program serving formerly incarcerated people who were working to change their lives. Huerta stayed on her feet for hours supporting the program.

"I kept thinking, 'Oh, Dolores, sit down,'" Waters said. "It made me understand, you know, despite our ages, she was very strong."

Waters said today's leaders could learn from how Huerta organized. She knocked on doors and trained young people to create change.



"Politicians don't get out in the community enough," Waters said. "It's not going to happen on the internet. It's going to happen when you knock on that door and someone sees you."

What people may not know of Huerta, Waters said, is that the tough organizer was also gentle.

"I've never heard her raise her voice. I've never heard her curse anybody out," Waters said. She described Huerta holding people by the hand and letting young people know she saw them.

"I think we could get more young people involved if they really believe we see them," she said.

Asked to describe Huerta's work in one word, Waters chose:

"Powerful."

Nelson Esparza's BOE Win Makes Him the 16th Member of the Black Caucus

By Edward Henderson
California Black Media

Fresno City Councilmember and longtime educator Nelson Esparza defeated Republican state Sen. Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) for California State Board of Equalization District 1, giving Democrats a victory in the Central Valley and adding a new member to the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC).

Esparza received 55.3% of the vote, or 1,495,228 votes, compared with Grove's 44.7%, or 1,208,111 votes, according to the latest reported results. The two finished close in June's primary, when Grove received 34.5% and Esparza received 34%.

Esparza celebrated the win in a Facebook post, thanking supporters and outlining his priorities.

"Thank you to our supporters and everyone who believed in our campaign. We could not have done this without you," he wrote. "I am honored to represent the 1st District on the Board of Equalization. I look forward to serving our communities and fighting for a fairer tax system in Sacramento."

Esparza will be the CLBC's 16th member in the 2027-28 session. The caucus will include 14 Black lawmakers serving in the Legislature, along with Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson) and Esparza, who both won seats on the Board of Equalization.

Three women elected to the Assembly — Dr. Ayanna Davis, Jackie Elward and Dr. Paula Swift — will also join the caucus.

"Our new members bring experience from city halls, school boards, classrooms, and small businesses. As we look to our next 60 years, their perspectives will strengthen our work on affordability, education, health, and economic opportunity for Black families across California," said Assemblymember Corey A. Jackson (D-Moreno Valley), the caucus' chair-elect.



Educator and Fresno City Councilmember Nelson Esparza has been elected to the California Board of Equalization District 1. Courtesy of Nelson Esparza's Facebook page.

Grove, who has represented Bakersfield in the state Senate since 2018, campaigned on her experience as a business owner and legislator. Her campaign emphasized reducing taxes and regulations and supporting farmers, ranchers and small businesses.

Born to a Mexican American mother and an African American father, and raised in Madera by his teenage mother, Esparza has said his upbringing shaped his understanding of the economic challenges facing working families. Spanish was his first language, and he was the oldest of five children.

His path into public service began in education. He was elected to the Fresno County Board of Education in 2016 and to the Fresno City Council in 2018. He is completing his second council term while continuing to teach economics at Fresno City College.

Esparza earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Riverside, and a Master of Public Policy from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. On the City Council, he chairs the Finance and Audit Committee, the EIFD Public Financing Authority and the School Liaison Subcommittee.

His work has included efforts to raise city revenue for infrastructure, expand affordable housing, improve public safety and support more equitable investment in Fresno neighborhoods.

In an October interview with KVPR, a local news station covering Fresno County, he said he entered the BOE race because he believed he could "make a financial difference for inland communities" and help vulnerable communities. He also said the board's role is to administer and execute existing tax laws, rather than create new taxes.

In his candidate statement to the California Secretary of State, Esparza said he would work to ensure corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share while opposing new taxes on working- and middle-class families. He also pledged to improve transparency, close tax loopholes and crack down on tax evasion.

Esparza will represent District 1, the largest of the board's four geographic districts. It covers 34 counties, stretching from California's northern border through the Central Valley and into San Bernardino County.

The board's responsibilities were sharply reduced in 2017. It now oversees property tax assessment practices among California's 58 county assessors, assesses certain utility and railroad properties, and hears some property assessment appeals. Property taxes help fund public schools, libraries, emergency services and other local programs.

Esparza is scheduled to take office Jan. 4, 2027, for a four-year term.

Thousands Gather in Bakersfield to Say Goodbye to Dolores Huerta



Dolores Huerta speaks during a public event, continuing her decades-long advocacy for farmworkers, civil rights and social justice. The legendary labor leader was remembered by thousands during a Nov. 20 memorial service in Bakersfield. (Courtesy photo)

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

Interfaith service at Dignity Health Arena blends prayer, music, and family stories.

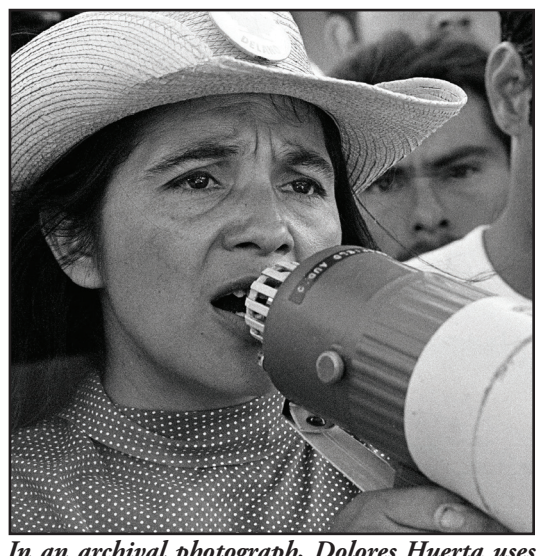
Thousands gathered at Bakersfield's Dignity Health Arena on Nov. 20 for an interfaith service in memory of Dolores Huerta, a giant of the farmworker labor movement.

With Huerta's wooden casket set before the stage, numerous faith leaders, family members, and elected officials - including incoming California Gov. Xavier Becerra and former President Bill Clinton - extolled the virtues of a powerhouse woman whose rallying cry "¡Sí, se puede!" - "Yes we can" - resonates with generations of social justice activists.

"Dolores didn't just chant 'People Power,'" Pastor Traco Matthews said. "She personified those words."

Many faiths, one farewell

Huerta died on Oct. 28 at her Bakersfield home at the age of 96. The cause was cancer.



In an archival photograph, Dolores Huerta uses a megaphone to address a crowd during her years of grassroots organizing. Her tireless fight for farmworkers' rights and equality helped shape generations of activists and inspired her famous rallying cry, "¡Sí, se puede!" (Courtesy photo)

Her memorial service included prayers and blessings from representatives of Christian, Sikh, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu traditions, alongside Indigenous spiritual leaders. Though their prayers and practices differed, their messages converged around a shared belief in human dignity, compassion and service to others.

Indigenous leader Leonard Manuel Jr. offered

Continued on page A2

FCC Gives Prisons Green Light To Jam Cellphone Signals

The FCC unanimously approved a rule allowing state prisons to jam contraband cellphone signals, citing concerns that incarcerated people use the devices to coordinate criminal activity and violence.

Ever since the images of Sean "Diddy" Combs using a cellphone in prison were released, there has been an updated effort to try and prevent incarcerated people from using cellphones.

On Thursday, the Federal Communications Commission acted to allow state prisons to begin jamming cellphone signals smuggled in to those incarcerated as the federal government works to prevent prisoners' access to phones, which authorities claim are the biggest security threat inside facilities.

NBC News notes that the vote was unanimous among the commissioners.

For years, state prison officials have pushed for permission to jam cellphone signals, arguing that the contraband devices are used to run drug operations, organize riots and order violence against correctional officers.

The new rule doesn't require prisons to install jamming technology, but facilities that choose to use it must conduct multiple tests to ensure cellphone service outside prison walls isn't disrupted.

And getting those phones inside isn't exactly difficult. According to NBC News, contraband devices have been smuggled in hollowed-out footballs, carried by corrupt employees and even delivered by drones flying over prison fences.

FCC Chairman Brendan Carr said the technology would give law enforcement another tool to combat a growing security problem. He noted that approximately 25,000 contraband cellphones are confiscated annually in state and local prisons.

Carr also pointed to the 2010 attempted murder of South Carolina corrections officer Robert Johnson, who was nearly killed in an attack at his home that authorities said was orchestrated by someone using a smuggled cellphone.

Johnson has undergone nearly three dozen surgeries and says he remains in constant pain. He has repeatedly advocated for cellphone jamming technology, describing the devices as "weapons of mass destruction" because of the violence they can facilitate.

"No one should have to go through what I went through," Johnson said Wednesday. "But I also believe that the Lord chose my wife and I to go through this because someone had to carry the banner, and he chose us to do it."

And while Diddy may not be responsible for every contraband cellphone floating around America's prison system, his very public prison cellphone controversy certainly isn't helping the' efforts for others to keep their phones.

14 Men Arrested for Committing a Series of High-Stakes Train Heists

Grand Theft Auto VI came out this week, but apparently a group of people in California felt like bringing Red Dead Redemption 2 to life. California prosecutors allege that a group of 14 men robbed several freight trains over the course of two years, stealing millions in products.

The New York Times reports that a group calling themselves Los Trenes, which is Spanish for "The Trains," carried out several meticulously planned heists of freight trains in Southern California. The group stole an estimated $22 million worth of Nike, Hoka, and Crocs shoes, as well as electronics and power tools.

Jim McDonnell, chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, said at a news conference on Thursday that the indictment "marks the largest property crime bust in L.A.P.D. and railroad history."

"This is much more than a modern-day train robbery," he said. "It was a highly coordinated operation that disrupted our nation's supply chain."

While this seemed like a fairly precise operation given the scale and frequency of the robberies, they made the fatal mistake that seems to plague the current generation of criminals: filming themselves committing the crime and posting it to social media.

"I encourage criminals to film themselves while committing crimes," Bill Essayli, the first assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, said at the news conference. "It makes our jobs a lot easier."

Essayli posted a video on social media showing who is alleged to be the ringleader of the group sawing into a container on a moving train and stealing the goods.



The group, calling themselves "Los Trenes," meticulously planned these heists but made the fatal mistake of filming themselves while committing the crime. Source: US Attorney Bill Essayli / X Video/Screenshot

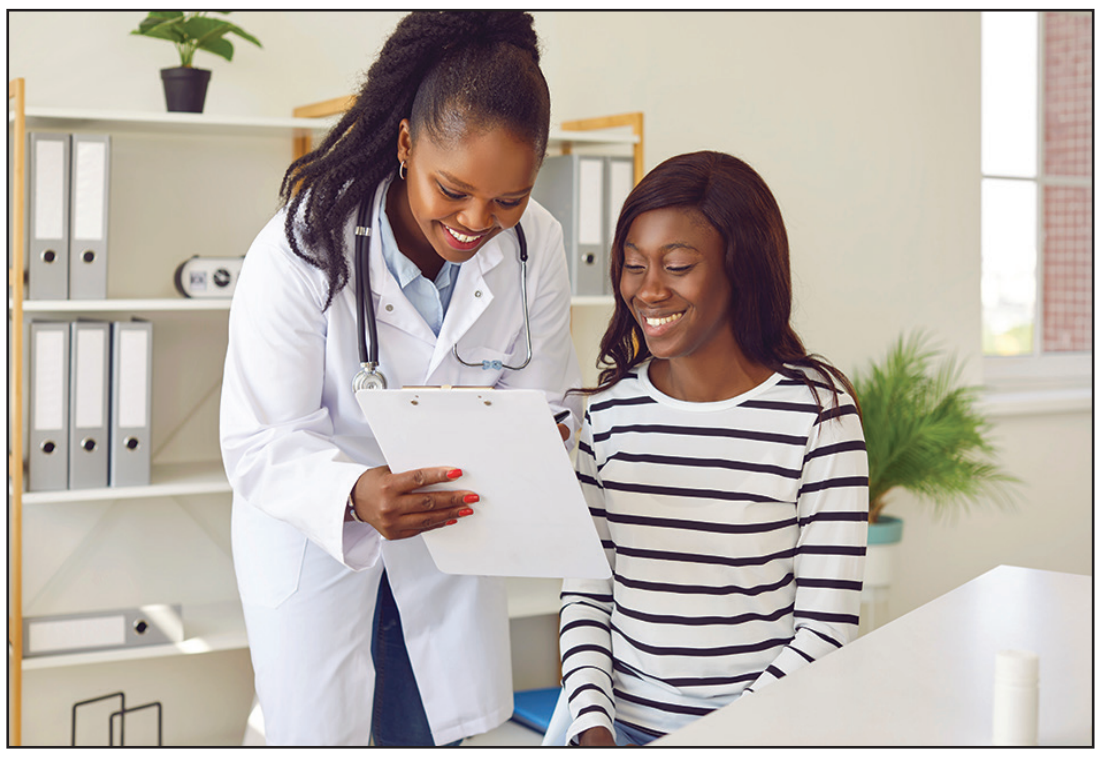
World & Nation

These Governors-Elect Campaigned on Expanding Medicaid. It Won't Be Easy.

By Sam Whitehead

Early in her election-night victory speech, Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, Georgia's next governor, alluded to one of her main campaign promises: granting more low-income adults access to government health insurance."This win is for the caregiver who can't afford healthcare and needs Georgia to finally expand Medicaid," she told a crowd of cheering supporters.The national Democratic landslide that will give the party control of Congress will also sweep Bottoms and other Democratic gubernatorial candidates into office in a handful of states that have for years resisted fully expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.Like Bottoms, governors-elect Cindy Holscher in Kansas, Gina Hinojosa in Texas, and David Crowley in Wisconsin campaigned on finally broadening access to the joint federal-state insurance program for those with low incomes or disabilities. More than a million people collectively in Georgia, Kansas, Texas, and Wisconsin could be covered by full Medicaid expansion, according to 2024 data from KFF, a health information nonprofit that includes KFF Health News.But expanding their Medicaid programs is no small task.These Democrats would have to surmount political and legislative hurdles at a time when the realities of Medicaid expansion have changed. Last year's GOP budget law eliminated a financial bonus for states to expand, imposed a work mandate, and implemented funding restrictions that are tougher on full expansion states."It's so messy," said Caylee Noggle, a former Georgia Medicaid director who is now president of the Georgia Hospital Association. "We're in this real moment where there are benefits and trade-offs to traditional expansion."Federal Changes

The Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, required states to expand Medicaid to millions more low-income adults. But a 2012 Supreme Court decision made that choice optional. Forty states plus Washington, D.C., have expanded Medicaid, most recently North Carolina in 2023. Ten states, including Georgia and Wisconsin, have declined to fully expand eligibility for the program. But those two states have offered coverage to some who would be covered under full expansion.The calculus for expanding changed last year. Along with eliminating the expansion bonus, President Donald Trump's signature One Big Beautiful Bill Act imposed restrictions on how much federal money states can draw down to help prop up doctors and hospitals that treat large numbers of Medicaid patients. And the limits are lower for expansion states than non-expansion states.Those funding restrictions will likely be a focal point for lawmakers in Wisconsin. Fully expanding Medicaid could threaten hundreds of millions of federal dollars flowing into the state, according to estimates from the Wisconsin Hospital Association.Bobby



A doctor reviews paperwork with a patient. Governors-elect in Georgia, Kansas, Texas and Wisconsin campaigned on expanding Medicaid, which could extend coverage to more than a million low-income adults. (Stock photo: Adobe Stock)

Peterson, a Madison-based attorney who helps clients navigate benefit programs, said any plan to cover more people with full Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin would likely hit headwinds, even with Democrats controlling the governor's office and both branches of the state legislature starting in January."These are going to be hard conversations," he said.Crowley, the state's incoming Democratic governor, embraced full Medicaid expansion early in his campaign. Later, he called for opening the state's partial Medicaid expansion to anyone who wants to buy a plan. Since his win, he's moved further away from full expansion.The Crowley campaign did not answer specific questions from KFF Health News about which policy he would pursue, and spokesperson Jonathan Fera said the governor-elect would share more about his agenda after his inauguration.When states expand eligibility, they get a larger federal funding match per enrollee in the expansion pool than for other people in their Medicaid programs. And having fewer uninsured patients can reduce the financial strain on hospitals and other players in the health system, which can win support for expansion from the hospital industry and rural politicians worried about facility closures in their communities.Still, states must find the money to pay their share for this bigger group of enrollees while wrestling with the new funding restrictions."It's a lot of complicated math," said Lawson Mansell, senior health policy analyst at the Niskanen Center, a think tank focused on free-market policies.Expansion also comes with new rules from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act requiring enrollees to prove they're working or completing at least 80 hours of other qualifying activities a month. Democrats would need to grapple with the politics of rolling out rules pushed by Republicans — and the potential of their congressional counterparts to change course again.The political landscape in Washington, D.C., has shifted with the blue wave entering Congress. Democrats have already pledged to roll back the Medicaid cuts in the GOP budget law but haven't said how. And it's unclear whether Trump would be on board."When states operate in an environment where they're uncertain about federal policy, that makes it harder for states to legislate," said Brian Blase, president of the right-leaning Paragon Health Institute. States would also need to figure out how to enact those work requirements if they hold. In Georgia, administrative hurdles for similar work rules made it difficult for people to enroll in the state's limited expansion program, which is set to expire at the end of the year. And many states that have already expanded Medicaid are struggling to implement the rules.On Nov. 13, the White House allowed states to delay the new work rules, originally set to take effect Jan. 1, by six months after pushback."Even if a state adopts the expansion, unfortunately, this could result in people still remaining uninsured just because of all these changes that essentially add more red tape," said Edwin Park, a research professor at Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families.Political Realities and Uncertainties

Enrollment in the Obamacare marketplaces has ballooned in several non-expansion states, including Texas, where more than 4 million people picked plans for 2026, according to KFF. Opponents of full Medicaid expansion have long warned against adding more people to Medicaid, a government program, rather than keeping them on private Affordable Care Act plans.Former Democratic U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke said he believes Medicaid expansion will be a priority for Hinojosa given her past work in the state legislature and her campaign messaging."The stories of people she met across the state struggling without healthcare really made an impact on her," he said. "It's clear that this is a priority for her."But while Texas Democrats won the governor's office and a majority in the state House, Republicans will still hold a majority in the state Senate.John Henderson, president and CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals, said he's skeptical that Republican legislators will reverse their long-standing opposition to expanding Medicaid."It's been several sessions since there was even a real attempt at a conversation around Medicaid expansion," Henderson said. "There was an appetite in the House, but never enthusiasm in the Senate."Full Medicaid expansion has also eluded lawmakers in Kansas, where Holscher won a close race for governor. She will replace Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat whose efforts to expand Medicaid were stymied.In this month's elections, Kansas Republicans maintained control of the state Senate and House, but Democrats broke the GOP supermajority in the latter body.The Holscher campaign did not respond to questions from KFF Health News about her plans to get Medicaid expansion through two GOP-controlled legislative bodies.But the additional seats Democrats won give them more leverage to get conversations about expansion moving again, said April Holman, executive director of the nonprofit Alliance for a Healthy Kansas."I've been working on this long enough to have seen a number of different Houses of Representatives in Kansas," she said. "This is the most encouraging group coming in — in a very long time."KFF Health News senior correspondent Renuka Rayasam contributed to this report.

Evitarus Director of Research Shakari Byerly, Other Pollsters, Report Generational Shift in 2026 Election

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Dr. Shakari Byerly, managing partner of Evitarus, said a generational shift helped shape voter behavior in the Nov. 3 general election.

At Capitol Weekly's Nov. 5 election postmortem in Sacramento, Byerly and other pollsters discussed the election's Democratic gains, changing voter demographics and the role of polling. Byerly said younger voters were making their concerns known at the ballot box.



Dr. Shakari Byerly, Director of Research, Evitarus

"What we saw nationally, as well as here in California in candidate races, is a generation shift," Byerly said at the event, held at the UC Student and Policy Center. "So, looking at what we saw in Texas, particularly with the governor-elect, Gina Hinojosa, there's a real generational change there. What we are seeing in the Los Angeles (mayoral race), there's a generational change there."

Hinojosa, a Democrat, won the Texas governor's race. In California, the Los Angeles mayoral contest also drew attention from the pollsters.

Founded in 2008, Evitarus is a Los Angeles-based public opinion research firm that conducts surveys, focus groups and interviews. The company describes itself as California's only Black- and Latina-led full-service public opinion research firm.

More than 20 speakers took part in six panels at the Capitol Weekly event, covering topics including the Democratic "blue wave," fuel costs, President Donald Trump's approval ratings and Proposition 50, which redrew California's congressional districts.

The luncheon keynote, "The Polls," featured Byerly, Mark Baldassare of the Public Policy Institute of California, Mark DiCamillo of the Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies and Paul Mitchell of Political Data Inc. Ashley Zavala of KCRA 3 moderated.

Panelists also discussed pre-election polling on Propositions 40, 41 and 42, measures involving state tax policy. Proposition 40 proposed a one-time wealth tax; Propositions 41 and 42 included provisions that could block conflicting measures if they received more votes.

Byerly said voters across California raised concerns about housing, health care, food costs and immigration enforcement. She said Evitarus spoke with voters statewide in five languages and across different ethnic, cultural, gender and age groups.

"What we hear was that accountability was really important," she said.

The panelists discussed the accuracy of election polling, the spread of fake polls and prediction markets, changes in survey methods and shifting voter demographics. Byerly cautioned that polls are snapshots of voter sentiment, not guarantees of election outcomes.

"Polls are not a crystal ball," she said.

California's election results were still unofficial as the post-election canvass continued.

County election officials have up to 30 days after Election Day to complete their tallying, auditing and certification work. The Secretary of State is scheduled to certify statewide results Dec. 11.

A Nov. 17 analysis by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) put turnout at 50.1% of eligible voters and said the 2026 midterm was on track to be among the state's strongest in 50 years.

Separately, the California Voter Foundation estimated that about 99% of ballots had been counted by that date.

Baldassare agreed that younger voters were responding to economic pressures and looking for change.

"Younger voters in California and nationwide have real challenges to just keep up," he said. "It's very different than it was 30 years ago when you could make it on your own."

Los Angeles News Observer

Adjudicated a Newspaper of General Circulation on July 2, 1991, Los Angeles Superior Court Decree, Case No. BS007262, Government Code 6023.

Bulk Mailing Permit 724 Bakersfield, CA 93385

Published every Thursday by The Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California, Inc.

Member: National Newspaper Publishers Assc. Associated Press, Better Business Bureau, GLAAACC

President: Ellen Coley
CEO: Jon Coley
Publisher/ Editor: James Luckey Jr.
Operations Manager: James Luckey
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The Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California, Inc.:

Bakersfield News Observer,
Los Angeles News Observer,
The Valley's News Observer

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Thousands Gather in Bakersfield to Say Goodbye to Dolores Huerta

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prayers and chants for Huerta's soul. He recognized her contributions to farmworkers, unions and children, describing her wisdom as something that would continue to pass from one generation to another.

Chanting with his granddaughter, Manuel Jr. said, "Songs are medicine, songs are prayer."

Pastor Matthews, who offered a prayer in the Christian tradition, drew from Proverbs 31:8: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ensure justice for those who are being crushed."

He related the passage to Huerta's lifelong advocacy for people whose voices were often overlooked.

Rabbi Susan Goldberg of the Nefesh community in Los Angeles explained the Jewish phrase, "May her memory be for a blessing."

"We intentionally make her memory be for a blessing when we think, 'What would Dolores do?', and do it in those situations again and again," Goldberg said.

Aziza Hasan, executive director of NewGround, an interfaith organization in Los Angeles, read from the Quran and prayed that those gathered remember "that justice is never won by a solitary soul, but built collectively by those who uplift one another."

Sudarshan Kapoor, professor emeritus at Fresno State, recalled Huerta's visits to the university's peace garden.

He led the crowd in one of Huerta's famous chants: "Who have has the power? We have the power."

'Our mother's first committee'

Huerta's children shared memories of the woman beyond the microphone.

Lori Huerta de Leon, her eldest, thanked the leaders who made it possible for Huerta to lie in honor at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Monday. She described her mother as a skilled organizer, savvy political strategist, motivating speaker and lover of jazz.

"Charlie Parker was her favorite," she said.

Other family members recalled their days as children passing out union leaflets in the grape fields of Coachella, the family's New Mexico roots stretching back 14 generations, and negotiations in which Huerta chose only to interpret so that the farm workers would learn how to speak up for themselves.

One family member remembered praying with Huerta in her final days; after the prayers, Huerta asked them to pray for everyone else who is hurting.

Other family members recalled the children passing out union leaflets in the grape fields of Coachella, the family's New Mexico roots stretching back 14 generations, and negotiations in which Huerta chose only to interpret so farmworkers could speak for themselves. One remembered praying with Huerta in her final days, when she asked that they also pray for everyone else who was hurting.

Her daughter, Camila Chavez, executive director of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, recognized that the family's deepest mourning might begin after the crowds had gone and public attention faded.

"People may expect us to fill her shoes, but she's going to be buried with her shoes," she said. "It's going to take all of us here and there that are viewing us to fill those shoes."

Camila Chavez said the responsibility of carrying forward her mother's work belonged not just to the family but to everyone committed to human rights, dignity, justice and peace.

'May we continue the work'

Family and friends led a litany for causes close to Huerta's heart, including farmworkers, immigrants, women and girls, LGBTQ+ people, voting rights, children in war zones and the Earth. After each petition, the arena answered: "May we continue the work."

The Rev. Jaquie Fernandez followed with a litany of gratitude and a set of commitments, saying, "The true measure of power is not whom it can control, but whom it can uplift."

In the final farewell, three Catholic clergy members blessed and sprinkled holy water over Huerta's casket in a funeral rite recalling her baptism and Christian faith.

"God of compassion and love, you knew her before the world knew her. Receive her into everlasting peace," prayed Fr. Miguel Bustos.

Celebration of life

During the celebration of life ceremony, later in the day, more tributes and musical performances filled the air for four hours.

Xavier Becerra, a former California attorney general who will assume office in January as the state's first Latino governor, credited Huerta with helping make his rise to public service possible.

"I know why I'm here. I know how I got here," he said. "Dolores demanded it."

Attorney General Rob Bonta, joined by his mother, Cynthia Bonta, said his family lived in a trailer at La Paz, the United Farm Workers headquarters, where his parents organized alongside Huerta.

"I learned that people power is the most potent power that there is," he said.

Former president Bill Clinton, who sent in a video tribute, said: "Huerta gave everything because she knew that the people she was fighting for couldn't afford for her to give up, so she never did."

Randy Villegas, the representative-elect of California's 22nd Congressional District, said earning Huerta's endorsement "meant more than any endorsement I will ever receive from any organization or party."

He urged those gathered to honor Huerta by continuing to organize and fight for justice as he rallied the crowd with the chant of the day, "¡Sí, se puede!"

Entertainment

King Charles and Idris Elba Team Up for Netflix Documentary



King Charles meets with actor Idris Elba during a visit to Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua, Nov. 2, 2026.

By Jennifer Hassan
USA TODAY

King Charles III and Idris Elba are joining forces for a new documentary.

The duo will feature in Netflix's "The Trust," a documentary exploring the impact of The King's Trust, a charity founded by the monarch in 1976 to help young people build brighter futures.

The trust, which is marking its 50th anniversary, has supported 1.5 million people including Elba, who received a grant from the charity when he was 16. Being given $1,900 from the trust allowed Elba to join the prestigious National Youth Music Theatre, which kickstarted his acting career.

"There is a world where my life would play out in an entirely different way from this," the "Luther" star says in a trailer for the documentary, released on Monday Nov. 23; the documentary airs on Netflix, Dec. 26. "Can't exactly remember how it all came together, but I do know this guy, the king, helped shape it," he says

"There is something magical that happens when you add a touch of focus and possibility to people's lives," Elba continues as he praises the trust. The king used pay from his Navy severance to fund the initiative when Britain faced mass unemployment fifty years ago.

Last year, the king awarded Elba a knighthood for services to young people. The London-born actor was honored as Dr. Idrissa Akuna Elba on Dec. 29 for his work against youth violence, specifically knife crimes, in Britain.

The alum of the King's Trust, now 54, has been involved in the charity's work to support young people, calling on the British government to take a firmer stance when it comes to reducing knife crimes.

In the trailer, the king says that when he launched the trust as the "prince's trust" decades before he became monarch, he hoped the initiative would be "an investment in people's lives," adding that witnessing the charity's impact is "wonderful."

The trailer ends with the king telling Elba, "I'm very proud of you, you know that." The London-born actor replies, "Thank you."

The king and Elba were spotted together earlier this month amid the monarch's nine-day tour of the Caribbean. The pair's surprise run-in came as Charles visited Nelson's Dockyard in Antigua ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting while the actor was attending an event at the site.

The pair were seen sharing a joke and shaking hands.

From Tamela Mann to Patti LaBelle, Here Are 10 Celebrity Recipes to Whip Up This Thanksgiving

From traditional holiday sides to creative dishes, these 10 celebrity recipes bring a little star power to the Thanksgiving table.



By Kay Wicker

"I start baking my pies, and I have to bake enough because my family [will] start cutting into them and eating beforehand," she told Woman's World in an interview earlier this month.

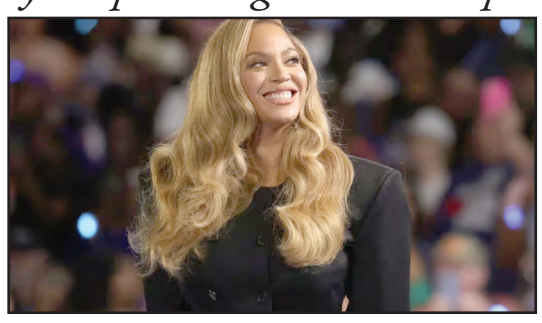
The 60-year-old Grammy-winning gospel singer and actress opened up ahead of the holiday about her Thanksgiving plans this year, which just may include expecting as many as 60 guests.

"It's usually a lot of us, and then somebody always brings somebody. I don't ever want anybody to feel like they're left out," she explained.

The Tyler Perry's "Madea" franchise star, alongside her husband David Mann, prepares a massive feast complete with all of the famous holiday staples like cornbread dressing, candied yams, collard greens, and mac and cheese, and more.

It's the kind of Thanksgiving spread many of us grew up looking forward to or dreaming of but now even at most of our big ages the thought of actually hosting one ourselves can be downright intimidating. Have no fear, though. Amid growing discourse about the decline in family gatherings and frustration with younger generations for not picking up the baton and quite literally losing recipes in the process, Mann is doing her part to keep that kitchen wisdom going through her cooking series, "Mama Mann's Kitchen."

In the series on her and her husband's YouTube channel, she shows viewers how to prepare the dishes that have graced our tables for generations and is helping a new crop of home cooks work their way toward becoming the aunties, uncles, and grandparents who once made it all look so easy. And thankfully, she's hardly the only celebrity who has been willing to share a recipe or two. Whether you're hoping to finally master a dish so the elders can get their well-earned rest, looking to put a new spin on an old staple, or simply searching for something delicious to bring to the table this Thanksgiving, we've rounded up 10 celebrity recipes worth trying.



Beyoncé's Guacamole

When Beyoncé headlined the Super Bowl Halftime show in 2013, she brought the house down, and she gifted the world the recipe for her favorite Super Bowl party staple: guacamole. Looking for a dip to serve with your appetizers or during any Thanksgiving weekend football games? Well, get in formation!



Snoop Dogg & E 40's Honey Walnut Shrimp

In 2023, Snoop Dogg and E 40 met minds on the cookbook "Goon with the Spoon," jam-packed with inventive recipes, including their hit air-fryer honey-walnut shrimp. In under 15 minutes, you can add a little more swag to that shrimp cocktail and leave them wanting more!



Tabitha Brown's Vegan Thanksgiving Plate

As veganism continues to rise among Black people, more and more of us are welcoming the plant-based hive around the table. However, tailoring a dish or two for the less meat-inclined doesn't have to mean forgoing any of the soulful flavor; just ask vegan food guru Tabitha Brown and her delicious, decadent Thanksgiving plate that includes her viral vegan potato salad, yams, greens, and, of course, her slow-cooked jackfruit in Turkey's stead.



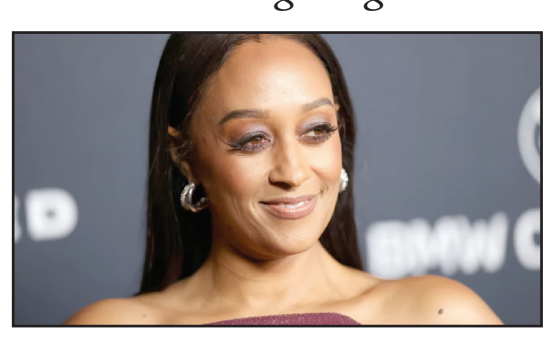
John Legend's Mac & Cheese

Being tasked with making the mac & cheese, one of the most in-demand and hotly contested sides, is a lot of responsibility. Thankfully, the one and only John Legend has a recipe for a mac & cheese casserole that will more than live up to the pressure.



2 Chainz's Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Mashed potatoes, a given on any Thanksgiving spread, are an easy, low-hassle crowd-pleaser, but if you're looking for a way to liven them up, turn to none other than the luxury connoisseur himself, 2 Chainz, and his recipe for garlic mashed potatoes from his cookbook "Meal Time."



Tia Mowry's Collard Greens

Let's face it, Thanksgiving really is all about the sides. Right behind mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, and sweet potatoes is, of course, collard greens. If you like yours with a little kick to 'em, may we recommend Tia Mowry's recipe? It calls for a zesty combination of spices, including cayenne.



Kelis' Ginger Cornbread

Kelis, who made the move to get a culinary degree from Le Cordon Bleu in 2008, has a variety of recipes and cooking tutorials worth checking out, but one we think deserves to resurface, especially on Thanksgiving, is her ginger cornbread. The easy-to-make dish combines ginger with the sweet taste of corn for a surprisingly tasty original flavor.



Big Boi's Banana Cream Pudding

Many of our favorite celebrity recipes have been passed down to them, making them that much more special. In 2020, Big Boi shared his mother's banana cream pudding recipe as part of a campaign with Meals on Wheels Atlanta, which could make for the perfect excuse to bust the classic holiday dessert out this year.



Pattie LaBelle's Sweet Potato Pie

Sweet Potato pie is that rich, decadent dessert many of us look forward to each year. So it's little wonder why, when Patti LaBelle, whose iconic Grammy-winning musical talent is only rivaled by her cooking prowess, released frozen versions of her hit sweet potato pie recipe, they sold out instantly. Spring for the boxed stuff or roll up your sleeve, turn to her recipe, and finally whip up some of Pattie's famous pies.



Chef Marcus Samuelsson's Moroccan Spiced Turkey

Year after year, we gather to eat the big bird, the supposed star of the meal—turkey—even though year after year we also all complain about how bland it can be, how it's usually served one of two ways: deep-fried or roasted. It's predictable. This year, the turkey doesn't have to be the most predictable part of the meal when there are recipes like Chef Marcus Samuelsson's Moroccan Spiced Turkey, which really livens things up with a splash of citrus, chutney, and more.

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Features



Working Families Party state director Jorge Contreras (right) poses with the group's national director Maurice Mitchell (left). Photo courtesy of Working Families Party.



Group photo taken at the Working Families Party 2026 held convention in Los Angeles in July. Photo courtesy of Working Families Party.

Working Families Party Builds Power as California Turns Even Bluer

By McKenzie Jackson
California Black Media

Wayne Jones, 38, of Hollywood, has voted Democratic since he was a teenager in metro Atlanta. But in this month's election, amid instability in the entertainment industry where he works for Paramount Pictures, Jones cast his vote further left.

He voted for Nithya Raman, the progressive City Council member who defeated incumbent Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

Jones said Republicans "don't offer anything" beyond division and tax breaks for large corporations. But he also believes traditional Democrats have not addressed the concerns of their base.

"Raman is just as flawed as any other who takes that office, but Karen Bass had missteps that were costly," he said. "The Democrats have been resting on their careers for way too long. When people wanted action, they didn't meet the moment and shrugged saying they had no real power."

Jones' choice reflects a broader shift in California politics, where progressive candidates and the California Working Families Party (WFP) made gains in the Nov. 3 election.

At UC Law San Francisco last January, more than 2,000 people registered for a congressional forum hosted by the California WFP and allied groups. Organizers opened overflow space for the crowd, which came to hear candidates running to succeed former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-11), who had announced she would not seek reelection. A nearby bar hosting a watch party also filled up, and the party's Discord server crashed as viewers logged on.

WFP State Director Jorge Contreras said the party saw similar interest at 400 events in 77 cities this year. He described a hunger to organize, particularly outside the Bay Area and Los Angeles, including in the Inland Empire and Central Valley.

"I'm telling you," said Contreras. "Traveling the state, especially in places outside the Bay Area and L.A., you could just tell there was a hunger. People wanted to organize and fight back and find a political home," he said.

With results still awaiting certification, Contreras estimated that about 240 WFP-endorsed candidates would win local, state and congressional races.

Among the Black candidates the party endorsed were Joanna Paun, who won a seat on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors; Jackie Elward, who won California's 12th Assembly District, covering parts of Marin and Sonoma counties; and Stevevonna Evans, who won the Adelanto mayoral race.

In an Instagram post, Evans invited voters to watch her be sworn in Dec. 9 at Adelanto City Hall.

"The election may be over, but the WORK is just beginning! PEOPLE OVER POLITICS. THE TIME IS NOW!" she wrote.

Contreras credited Black organizations and community leaders with helping build the California WFP, saying they wanted an alternative to a Democratic Party they viewed as too aligned with corporate interests.

The party's major victories included former California WFP State Director Jane Kim's win over state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) in the insurance commissioner's race. Longtime WFP leader Randy Villegas defeated Republican incumbent David Valadao in California's 22nd Congressional District.

The WFP says it supports 12 California mayors and has at least one affiliated elected official in 72 cities statewide. Contreras called the results historic, saying the party had challenged Democrats directly and won.

Founded in 1998, the national Working Families Party recruits and trains candidates who run primarily in Democratic primaries. It has more than 600,000 members and is active in 18 states. The Working Families National Committee is led by Executive Committee co-chairs Andrea Serrano and Jacob Feinspan.

Many WFP-backed candidates are Democrats and can receive endorsements from both parties. The WFP urges its candidates to reject corporate money and rely on community organizing, canvassing and volunteers.

Notable national WFP-backed victories included Michigan Sen.-elect Abdul El-Sayed. The party also endorsed Zohran Mamdani in his 2025 New York City mayoral campaign.

A coalition of community organizations, labor groups and others established the California WFP in 2020. The party represents more than 30 grassroots organizations and labor unions, with nearly 100,000 members statewide.

Contreras, a former Democratic operative who left the party in 2016, said the WFP needed to distinguish itself from Democrats. He said it aimed to move beyond the 2017 "resist" movement and become "the party of working people."

The party's "Working Families Party Guarantee," which promotes living wages, union jobs, quality health care, immigrant protections and affordable housing, also resonated with voters, Contreras said. He pointed to door knocking, phone banking and conversations among neighbors as key parts of the campaigns.

WFP candidates also faced well-funded Democratic opponents, Contreras said. In Santa Ana, WFP leader and City Councilmember Jessie Lopez defeated fellow councilmember David Penaloza for the Assembly District 68 seat, despite millions of dollars in corporate spending supporting Penaloza. The contest was among the state's most expensive legislative races.

"I am deeply grateful to our coalition partners, our hardworking families, and every voter, volunteer, and supporter who made this historic victory possible," Lopez said. "This victory is a powerful reminder that our democracy belongs to Californians, not the corporations and wealthy special interests that too often wield outsized influence over our politics."

Ramon G. Griffin: A Morehouse Man on a Mission

By Sam Plo Kwia Collins Jr.
Black Press USA Wire

Shortly after becoming 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year, Ramon G. Griffin appeared on WHUR 96.3 FM, where his story reached thousands of listeners, including a mother who he said later wrote him a two-page letter in request of guidance for her teenage son.

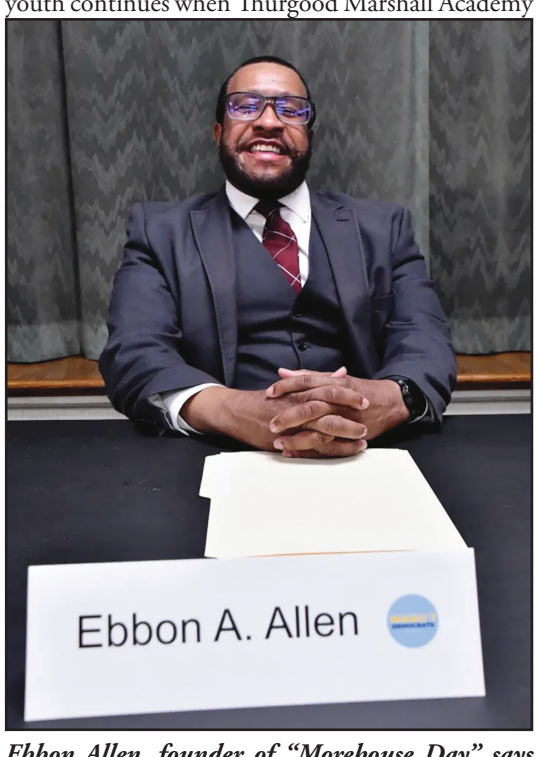
"I look forward to reaching out to her and assisting her in that process and that goal," said Griffin, an African-American history instructor at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School in Southeast. "The meaning of this Teacher of the Year award is that I am able to have a voice and representation on a larger scale so that others can be inspired and so that I can help individuals. It's my objective to work more closely with young teachers to aid them in their skill set, to make sure our children are being educated properly and effectively."

On Oct. 26, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser — flanked by D.C. State Superintendent Dr. Antoinette Mitchell, Ward 8 D.C. State Board of Education Representative Dr. LaJoy Johnson Law, and others — announced Griffin as 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year during what several students, faculty and staff at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS thought was an assembly organized in celebration of the school's 100% college acceptance rate since its inception.

"In my spirit, I can honestly say I knew I won," Griffin told The Informer. "When she switched it up and said 'I'm here for a teacher,' the first thing that came to mind was that this may be it. Then she stated a quote from a documentary that was done on me last year, and she stated where I originate from, and I said I'm about to be awarded D.C. Teacher of the Year. That's when it set in."

Griffin, a self-described griot, has 13 years of teaching under his belt, seven of which have been at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS. That's where he currently serves as an instructor of AP African-American Studies and African American History through Film and Music. Both courses, he told The Informer, allow him to engage students in storytelling.

Ebbon Allen, founder of "Morehouse Day," says Ramon G. Griffin helped him organize an event that will take place on Jan. 15, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 98th birthday. (Robert R. Roberts/The Washington Informer)Within a couple of months, Griffin's endeavor to shape the minds of youth continues when Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS hosts yet another "Morehouse Day." This event, held at several District schools, connects male students with members of the Morehouse Alumni Association Washington, DC Chapter, many of whom graduated from District public and public charter schools before pursuing higher education.



Ebbon Allen, founder of "Morehouse Day" says that Ramon G. Griffin helped him organize an event that will take place on Jan. 15, which would have been the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 98th birthday. (Robert R. Roberts/The Washington Informer)

"We have Morehouse men who come in: those who are elders to me, those who were there during my tenure and those who are younger," said Griffin, a member of Morehouse's Class of 1998 and key influence in at least three Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS alumni's matriculation to the HBCU. "What it shows is that we as Black men are not what they portray in the news. We're not about bringing each other down. We're about standing out, building, and making sure that our race is looked upon proudly, not for others, but for self and for the next generation."

An Inside Look: 'Morehouse Day' at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS

The upcoming "Morehouse Day" at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS is scheduled to take place on Jan. 15, which would've been the 98th birthday of Morehouse alumnus the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This intergenerational gathering also happens around the same time that Howard University men's basketball team plays its home game against Morehouse College.

For Morehouse alumnus and "Morehouse Day" brainchild Ebbon Allen, it was a perfect storm that only Griffin could help make happen.

"Before we even knew that Ramon was going to be awarded and honored, we've been on 'Morehouse Day' as teammates for the last two years," Allen told The Informer. "We definitely had a meeting within the last two or three months to designate 'Morehouse Day' for MLK's birthday weekend. Ramon just shows the epitome of a Morehouse man: well-versed, well-traveled, and definitely educated."

Speaking more about his fellow Morehouse alumnus, Allen said that Griffin has long put in the work to boost college enrollment among young Black men.

"He's had a lot of young men going to attend Morehouse College," Allen told The Informer. "We're still trying to work on a pipeline to send more young men from Thurgood Marshall Academy down to Atlanta."

Since the inception of "Morehouse Day" in 2021, Allen and other members of the Morehouse Alumni Association Washington, DC Chapter have spoken to more than 2,000 young men attending: Calvin Coolidge High School; Dunbar High School; Eastern Senior High School; Friendship Technology Preparatory High School; H.D. Woodson High School; Kelly Miller Middle School; and Ron Brown College Preparatory High School.

The upcoming "Morehouse Day" at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS will be the second seminar of its kind on school grounds. Allen said that students will delve into violence prevention, entrepreneurship, college and career readiness, and the scholarship application process. His goal, he said, centers on providing them space to imagine how to achieve their dreams.

"We wanted young Black men to understand that they can learn about self-advocacy and learn the value of being a Black male in today's society," Allen told The Informer. "There's going to be a new [mayoral] administration so our young men need to get well-versed and become well-educated about their rights and the opportunities to create a space of learning about strong advocacy."

Allen, who followed in his three uncles' footsteps to attend Morehouse College, credited the HBCU with exposing him to the different caliber of Black men. He told The Informer that, like him and other Morehouse men, Griffin has embedded in him a passion for working hard and laying a foundation for those coming after him.

"Ramon Griffin sets the bar for other Black male educators about how much of an impact and difference they can make," Allen told The Informer. "By coming to Thurgood Marshall Academy in Southeast Washington, D.C., he'll make more young Black men…find out what it takes to get back in a positive light. You don't always have to be an entertainer. You don't always have to be in athletics, but you can take an education pathway and still be awarded for your service, commitment and dedication."



Ramon G. Griffin, an African-American history teacher at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School, accepts the 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year award on Oct. 26 with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 8 D.C. State Board of Education Representative Dr. LaJoy Johnson Law and D.C. State Superintendent Dr. Antoinette Mitchell. Ramon G. Griffin, an African-American history teacher at Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School, accepts the 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year award on Oct. 26 with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, Ward 8 D.C. State Board of Education Representative Dr. LaJoy Johnson Law and D.C. State Superintendent Dr. Antoinette Mitchell. (Ja'mon Jackson/The Washington Informer)

Out of the Mouths of Babes

C'khai Morgan, a senior at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS, said he counts Morehouse College among his top choices for business management and human resource management, thanks to Griffin.

"He literally embodies the meaning of a Morehouse Man," C'khai told The Informer. "You go in any classroom he ever had, you're going to see something Morehouse. You catch him on a good day, he's probably wearing a Morehouse sweater."

C'khai, who also applied to Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and Temple University in Philadelphia, was a student in Griffin's AP African-American Studies course last school year. On his way to scoring a 4 on the Advanced Placement exam and clinching college credits, he participated in Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS' "My Brother's Keeper" program, where he got to learn more about the man he now regards as an uncle.

"I started seeing a different side of Mr. Griffin that I never heard of," C'khai said. "He always wants the best for somebody, but other students who lack maturity or just lack the understanding of his purpose would be like 'Mr. Griffin be trying hard. He be pressed to get somebody in trouble.' It reminded me that you can't let somebody else's opinions refer to someone as such."

Students who take Griffin's African-American History through Film and Music course take a trip through the Jim Crow, the Great Migration, and Harlem Renaissance, among other time periods, to understand how the blues genre originated from Africa, came into form during enslavement, and traveled with African Americans who moved into northern U.S. cities.



Reporter Sam Plo Kwia Collins Jr. interviews 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year Ramon G. Griffin and his students C'khai Morgan and Kailani Marshall. (Courtesy of Gigi Aklilu/Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School)

Although Griffin has a curriculum, he often deviates from it, as Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS student Kailani Marshall noted, by recounting his family history. She told The Informer about learning African-American history through stories of Griffin's grandmother who migrated from Mississippi to Detroit, where he was born and raised.

"He makes sure that students actually retain the information and it's entertaining as well," said Kailani, a senior who hopes to study sociology either at Georgetown University, Howard University, Spelman College, or Temple University. "I can't say that about a lot of classes. The way he teaches really allows students to understand topics fully."

Reporter Sam Plo Kwia Collins Jr. interviews 2027 D.C. Teacher of the Year Ramon G. Griffin and his students C'khai Morgan and Kailani Marshall. (Courtesy of Gigi Aklilu/Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter School)

During her junior year, Kailani took Griffin's AP African-American Studies and African-American History through Film and Music courses. She, too, scored a 4 on her AP exam, due to what she called Griffin's demand for excellence.

"You can't be mediocre. It's not an option," Kailani said about Griffin. "He's passionate about instilling confidence and success into students. You can't say that about a lot of teachers. He really is one of the few teachers who actually care for their students and care for their future."

During Griffin's first year of teaching AP African-American Studies at Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS, 87.5% of his students passed the AP exam. This feat follows other achievements at Dunbar High School, where he directed climate and culture, and at Kingman Academy Public Charter School, where he served as a founding member.

Even with Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS' 100% college acceptance rate, Griffin acknowledged that it takes great effort to earn a bachelor's degree. That's what he said he emphasizes to his students as he shares his coming-of-age story and integrates writing and math enrichment into his assignments.

"You don't want to be a 20-year-old counting on your fingers. You don't want to be a 20-year-old starting a sentence and ending it at the end of the page with one period," Griffin said. "You just have to put in the work, and I give them examples of times during my high school years and during my college years. Whatever you want in life, you can have. You definitely will accomplish it, but you have to have a plan. It's not going to be given to you."

Legal Notices

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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
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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
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SUMMONS
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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

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: 2026237534
Doing business as:
L & I ASSOCIATES at 2008 TALISMAN DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
YOLANDA AMARO at 2008 TALISMAN DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **YOLANDA AMARO, OWNER**
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: 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: 11/10/2031
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: 11/10/2031
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
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 19, 26, Dec 3, 10, 2026

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
D-202-DM-2026-1572
JACQUELYN LANKFORD, Petitioner v. NATHANIEL CUNDIFF, Respondent.
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Rule 1-004(K) NMRA that a Verified Petition to Adjudicate Parentage, Custody and Child Support has been filed in the above-captioned cause. Unless Respondent, Nathaniel Cundiff, files a responsive pleading or motion within thirty (30) days, judgment or other appropriate relief will be rendered in this cause against Respondent, Nathaniel Cundiff, by default.
Respectfully Submitted,
DAVIS MILES, PLLC.
/s/ Matthew J. Huggins
Matthew J. Huggins
Attorney for Respondent
2440 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Suite 300
Albuquerque, NM 87110
mhuggins@davismiles.com
(505) 948-5050
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 7, 2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JEM ELLIE LOWE JR. (A.K.A. JAMES EDWARD LOWE JR.)
CASE NUMBER: 26AHPB00011
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JEM ELLIE LOWE JR. (A.K.A. JAMES EDWARD LOWE JR.).
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JAMIE MARIE GORDON in the SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.
150 WEST COMMONWEALTH, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801
A L H A M B R A COURTHOUSE
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JAMIE MARIE GORDON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
Date: January 6, 2027
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept.: 3
Room: 300
Address of court: same as noted above
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner:
JAMIE MARIE GORDON
430 CHAPARRAL DRIVE, CLAREMONT, CA 91711
Telephone: (678) 836-8672
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER
26STCP04401
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of LOS ANGELES
111 N. Hill Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Stanley Mosk Courthouse
PETITION OF: **ZHUO KANG HUANG**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **ZHUO KANG HUANG**
Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name
ZHUO KANG HUANG
Proposed name
KENNY HONG WONG
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: JAN 19 2027
Time: 8:30am
Dept: 511
Room: 511 5TH FL
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
Date:
UPINDER S. KALRA,
Judicial Officer
David W. Slayton,
Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court
Petitioner:
ZHUO KANG HUANG
5308 Temple City Blvd,
Temple City, CA 91780
(626) 807-3386
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 7, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER
26NNCP00700
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of LOS ANGELES
300 E. Olive Ave.,
Burbank, CA 91502
North Central District
PETITION OF: **ANDRANIK ANDY POGOSYAN**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **ANDRANIK ANDY POGOSYAN** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name
ANDRANIK ANDY POGOSYAN
Proposed name
ANDRANIK POGHOSYAN
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 1/8/27
Time: 9:00 AM
Dept: A
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
Date: **11/19/26**
Judge Roberto Longoria,
Judicial Officer
By: A. Oliva,
Deputy Clerk
Petitioner:
Andranik Andy Pogosyan
616 East San Jose Ave. Unit 104,
Burbank, CA 91501
818-266-6897

LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 7, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026231565
Doing business as:
TINY DUMPSTERS at 9639 BURNET AVE, NORTH HILLS, CA 91343, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
LOS ANGELES WASTE COMPANY INC. at 9639 BURNET AVE, NORTH HILLS, CA 91343
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **BRANDAN CHAVEZ, CEO**
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: 11/2/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: DENHAM GARCIA,
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: 11/2/2031
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 7, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026232662
Doing business as:
THE WORKING CREW at 6307 CEDROS AVE., VAN NUYS, CA 91411, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
MIGUEL ALVAREZ at 6307 CEDROS AVE., VAN NUYS, CA 91411
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **MIGUEL ALVAREZ, OWNER**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/2021
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: 11/4/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: DAYAN HAMILTON,
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: 11/4/2031
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 7, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026243104
Doing business as:
PAWPIER at 3630 S SEPULVEDA BLVD APT 141, LOS ANGELES, CA 90034, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Mailing address: 10008 NATIONAL BLVD #726, LOS ANGELES, CA 90034
County: Los Angeles
Full name of registrant(s):
STEVEN LUCAS DOTSON at 10008 NATIONAL BLVD #726, LOS ANGELES, CA 90034
The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: **STEVEN LUCAS DOTSON, 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: 11/18/2026
DEAN C. LOGAN
Los Angeles County Clerk
By: LORENA VALDEZ,
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: 11/18/2031
LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 7, 2026



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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

Three California Democrats Elected to U.S. House Leadership

Three California Democrats will hold leadership posts as House Democrats prepare to take the majority in the 120th Congress. Reps. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) and Ted Lieu (D-CA-36) were elected to roles in the caucus.

Speaker-designate Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-08) will lead the team, with Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA-05) as majority leader and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-02) as assistant speaker. Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14) will serve as caucus vice chair, and Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY-03) as caucus leadership representative.



Left to right: Reps. Pete Aguilar (D-CA-33), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) and Ted Lieu (D-CA-36) were elected to roles in the caucus.



U.S. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), House Democratic Leader, represents New York's 8th Congressional District. (Official Congressional Photo)

Aguilar, who represents parts of the Inland Empire, will serve as House majority whip. He said Democrats, with at least 260 members, plan to focus on lowering costs, protecting health care and rooting out corruption.

"As Whip, I will listen to and advocate for each of our Members and always work to find consensus to ensure our caucus delivers on the issues that matter most to the American people," Aguilar said.

Kamlager-Dove, whose 37th District covers parts of Los Angeles County, will co-chair the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, which helps shape the party's policy and messaging. She will share the post with Reps. Sarah McBride of Delaware and Maxwell Frost of Florida. Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan will chair the committee.

Lieu, whose 36th District includes coastal and western Los Angeles County communities, was elected Democratic Caucus chair. He will be the first Asian American to hold the post.

Lieu said the new leadership reflects the caucus's diversity and historic representation across several groups.

"With this election, our Caucus has made history. We will have the largest Women's Caucus, the largest Black Caucus, the largest Hispanic Caucus, the largest Asian Pacific American Caucus, the largest Equality Caucus, and one of the largest Veterans Caucuses in history."

Legislative Leaders Pledge to Build State Cash Reserves as LAO Warns of $35B Deficits

California's legislative leaders pledged to strengthen the state's reserves after the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) warned that a stock market downturn could drive annual budget deficits above $30 billion.

"We will continue to strengthen our reserves and protect health care, food aid, emergency response, and our schools," Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) said.

Senate President pro Tem Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) said Senate Democrats would protect taxpayers by "building reserves, paying down debts" and exploring ways to offset federal cuts.

The LAO projects a $2 billion deficit for the 2027-28 budget year under its main forecast. But if the stock market peaks at the end of 2026 and falls sharply through 2027, annual deficits could reach about $35 billion.

On Nov. 18, Legislative Analyst Gabriel Petek said California's reliance on stock market-driven tax revenue has increased its exposure to market swings. Income taxes account for about 70% of general fund revenue, with a disproportionate share paid by high-income taxpayers.

Since late 2022, the Nasdaq 100 has risen about 150%, while the S&P 500 has more than doubled, according to Petek's presentation. He said several indicators suggest the market has entered "classical speculative bubble territory," including record household stock holdings relative to disposable income and high levels of margin debt, or money borrowed to buy stocks.

Asked whether the indicators suggest a downturn may be approaching, Petek said, "We do think all of these kinds of indicators are pointing us in the direction that we could be getting close."

He cautioned that the timing of a decline is impossible to predict.

In the LAO's crash scenario, revenues would fall more than $130 billion below the main forecast over the projection period, while reserves would cover only a fraction of the shortfalls. Petek stressed that the office is not predicting a crash in its main forecast. Instead, it has built heightened market risk into its projections as a form of insurance.

"The state budget is overextended at this point," Petek said, pointing to California's continued reliance on temporary fixes despite strong revenue growth. The state has accumulated nearly $30 billion in budgetary debt.

"We really encourage the Legislature to plan a budget for the upcoming year that is centered on relatively cautious revenue estimates," he said.

The LAO also cited recent Medi-Cal changes and Proposition 2, which strengthens the state's reserves and provides for additional debt payments, as steps toward improving California's fiscal position.



Photos courtesy of Gov. Gavin Newsom's Facebook page.

Governor-Elect Becerra Meets With California's Most Diverse Slate of Constitutional Officers in State History

Gov.-elect Xavier Becerra met with California's statewide constitutional officers and officers-elect on Nov. 17 to discuss shared priorities and ways their offices can work together ahead of his administration.

The state is poised to have its most diverse slate of constitutional officers in state history. For the first time, all eight statewide offices will be held by people other than White men.

Attending the meeting were Lt. Gov. and Treasurer-elect Eleni Kounalakis, Attorney General Rob Bonta, Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Controller Malia Cohen, Insurance Commissioner-elect Jane Kim and Superintendent of Public Instruction-elect Richard Barrera. Bonta and Weber participated virtually.

Current Treasurer Fiona Ma, who is lieutenant governor-elect, was unable to attend.

According to Becerra's transition team, the officials discussed lowering the cost of housing, stabilizing homeowners' insurance and reducing utility bills. Other topics included holding artificial intelligence companies accountable, strengthening election security, investing in schools and protecting Californians from threats ranging from El Niño to actions by the federal administration.

Speaking to reporters, Becerra said the meeting focused on addressing the rising cost of living and ensuring state leaders work together to deliver results.

"Californians watch the cost of living climb every time they pay the rent or open a bill," said Becerra. "Our job is to make sure they can see and feel the work we're doing to bring these costs down, and that work starts with everyone at this table pulling in the same direction."

Kounalakis said she looked forward to working with Becerra on managing state borrowing and investing in priorities that matter to California families.

Bonta said the incoming administration would have opportunities to work together on affordability, public safety and defending California's people, values and resources. Weber described the meeting as an opportunity to establish ongoing communication and information-sharing among the state's constitutional offices.

Cohen said she welcomed Becerra's commitment to working with the officers, emphasizing the importance of government oversight and accountability. Kim highlighted the need for a more affordable and stable insurance system.

Barrera said affordability also affects schools, pointing to the cost of housing for teachers, access to child care and early learning, college affordability and student homelessness and food insecurity.

Becerra's transition team said the officials agreed to continue working together on the priorities discussed at the meeting as the incoming administration prepares to take office.

Washington, D.C.: Gov. Newsom Meets With Speaker-Designate Jeffries; Addresses Crisis Facing Men and Boys

Gov. Gavin Newsom met with U.S. House Speaker-Designate Hakeem Jeffries in Washington, D.C., to discuss federal priorities, including wildfire recovery funding for Los Angeles, while also addressing the challenges facing boys and men at a national summit.

Newsom met with Jeffries on Nov. 17 as part of his efforts to secure $12.98 billion in federal disaster recovery assistance for communities affected by the January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires. The governor is urging Congress to approve the funding before lawmakers adjourn in December.

Speaking to the Washington Examiner, Newsom expressed confidence that Jeffries would win the Democratic caucus vote to become the next House speaker.

"I don't think he needs any of our help," said Newsom. "I think he's uniquely positioned."

Newsom praised Jeffries for supporting Proposition 50, California's redistricting measure, and campaigning in the state during the 2026 election cycle. He credited the congressman with helping Democrats gain five House seats in California.

"He enjoyed a pretty significant night, including being instrumental in creating the conditions that led to Proposition 50 and picking up those additional five seats," said Newsom. "So. there's a lot of respect and support for him."

Separately, Newsom spoke at the inaugural summit of the American Institute for Boys and Men, joining its founder, Richard V. Reeves, for a fireside chat about the challenges facing boys and men and California's efforts to address them.

"Too many boys are falling behind in school. Too many men are disconnected from work, from friendships, from people they can turn to. Too many are losing their lives," said Newsom. "This is a crisis of isolation and opportunity, but its effects are not isolated — everyone feels it."

The governor also said, "It is up to us to make sure these young men are seen, supported, and connected before a crisis becomes a tragedy."

Newsom highlighted California's initiatives to expand mentorship, employment and mental health support. The state's Men's Service Challenge has engaged more than 11,000 men as coaches, tutors, mentors and community leaders, exceeding its initial goal of 10,000.

The administration also reported that young men's use of Soluna, a free online behavioral health resource, increased 91% since September 2025. Fathers' engagement with BrightLife Kids rose 62%, and the state's school-linked behavioral health program has reached more than 77,000 students.

After Feds Block Billions in California Medicaid Cash, Calif. Sens. Padilla and Schiff Launch Inquiry

U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff, both D-Calif., along with four other Senate Democrats, are demanding answers from the Trump administration about billions of dollars in federal Medicaid funding withheld from California and other Democratic-led states. They also accuse federal health officials of weakening programs designed to prevent fraud.

The senators sent a letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Mehmet Oz seeking records about the agency's enforcement actions, staffing, and use of Medicaid fraud-prevention funds.

CMS has imposed more than $3.4 billion in federal payment deferrals tied to California's In-Home Supportive Services and personal care programs. The senators said the agency has not provided specific evidence of wrongdoing to justify the deferrals. They also raised concerns about federal funding withheld from Minnesota and the decertification of Medicaid Fraud Control Units in Hawaii and New York.

"The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is running the most aggressive public enforcement campaign against state Medicaid programs in the agency's history, while accelerating the systematic dismantling of the federal infrastructure Congress funded to prevent Medicaid fraud in the first place," the senators stated.

The letter accuses CMS of weakening the Medicaid Integrity Program, which Congress established to help detect and prevent fraud and abuse. The senators said the agency eliminated dedicated fraud research functions, reduced in-person training for state investigators and replaced comprehensive on-site reviews with remote assessments.

They also questioned whether CMS is complying with a federal requirement to maintain at least 100 employees dedicated to Medicaid program integrity. The senators said publicly reported information indicates staffing has fallen below that threshold.

The inquiry cites a reported mathematical error in CMS's investigation of New York Medicaid, where a figure used to calculate annual beneficiaries was allegedly off by a factor of 10. It also points to Minnesota's lawsuit challenging the attempted withholding of $243 million in Medicaid payments.

The senators are seeking information about CMS's Medicaid Fraud War Room, including its funding and evidence supporting publicly announced fraud figures.

They also want details about artificial intelligence pilots intended to identify suspicious Medicaid billing before payments are made, including the data sources and funding behind the projects.

The letter requests 10 categories of records, including staffing and budget reports, contracts, state payment deferrals and documentation supporting the agency's fraud claims. The senators gave CMS until Nov. 27 to respond and requested a staff-level briefing within two weeks.

"Program integrity in a program of that scale demands sustained investment, deep expertise, and genuine partnership with states," the senators stated.

Moving forward, CMS's response could determine whether the senators' concerns lead to further congressional action. According to Padilla's office, the requested records are intended to clarify how federal Medicaid funds are being spent and what evidence supports the administration's actions against California and other states.



From left to right: State Controller Malia Cohen; Lt. Gov. and Treasurer-elect Eleni Kounalakis; Gov.-Elect Xavier Becerra; Insurance Commissioner-elect Jane Kim; and Superintendent of Public Instruction-elect Richard Barrera.

Features

Election 2026 - What the Voters Said, and What They Didn't

By Craig J. DeLuz
Special to California Black Media Partners

Note: This is a rebuttal to David B. DeLuz's "The Great Cleansing Election of 2026."

My brother David calls the Nov. 3 election "The Great Cleansing Election of 2026."

I'll grant him the scoreboard. Democrats flipped seven Republican-held Senate seats and more than 40 GOP-held House seats, reaching into Kansas, Iowa, Ohio, Texas and South Carolina. When red states send that message, the party in power had better listen.

But "cleansing" is not a description. It is a verdict dressed up as one, and measured against history, it does not hold.

In 1994, Bill Clinton's Democrats lost 54 House seats. In 2010, Barack Obama's Democrats lost 63, plus about 700 state legislative seats and 20 chambers. In 2018, Trump's Republicans lost 40. This year's net House loss of around 40 matches 2018, and Democrats' five governorships and up to 12 legislative chambers fall short of 2010. Nobody called 2010 a cleansing, and Obama was reelected two years later. What David calls a reckoning; history calls a pendulum.

That matters. A party that believes the country has been purged of an error governs as if its majority were permanent, and it is usually corrected within two years.

Voters judged results, not intentions. Gas prices rose, much of it tied to the conflict with Iran. Republicans held power, so Republicans owned the consequences. That is accountability, and conservatives should not complain about it.

But David says voters rejected "a government that seemed more devoted to one man's political interests than to the people it was elected to serve." That is a sentiment, not a finding. Voters answered a question about grocery bills and gas tanks. They did not vote for higher taxes, more energy regulation, or making it harder to build housing or start a business. Point to the ballot where that question appeared.

David's own evidence makes my case. He notes that Republican vote share fell 14 points in majority-Latino counties after Latino voters moved toward Trump in 2024. But voters who swing 14 points one way in two years can swing 14 points back. That is not a cleansing. It is a persuadable electorate shopping for results.

He concedes this was "no Democratic Socialists of America sweep" and that voters "did not endorse every Democratic proposal." Exactly. The country fired the managers and kept the business plan under review. And if Republican maps could not withstand the national mood, as David argues, Democratic assumptions will not either.

Now, the hard part belongs to Democrats. Energy prices do not fall because a different party holds the gavel. David urges a focus on affordability and health care. Worthy goals, but goals are not policies, and every policy has a price, paid through taxes, borrowing or inflation, by the same families who just asked for relief. The question is not whether the winners mean well. It is who bears the cost when results fall short of the rhetoric.

Immigration, which David never mentions, shows how this works. Voters asked Republicans to secure the border, and crossings fell. But enforcement moved into neighborhoods, in part because sanctuary jurisdictions refused to hand over people already sitting in county jails, and 59 percent of voters told NBC's exit poll they disapproved of ICE. Success removed a reason to vote Republican; its methods supplied a reason to vote against them. How a policy is carried out is part of the policy. Voters did not vote to reopen the border, and if the new majority uses the purse to hobble enforcement, that choice will be theirs to own.

To Republicans: do not blame the voters or the candidates. Lower costs and show it in results families can see.

To Democrats: David is right that a repudiation is not a mandate. I would put it more bluntly. A protest vote is a loan, not a gift.

David says this election's meaning depends on Democrats "understanding the assignment." We agree on that. We differ on what the assignment is. This was not a cleansing. It was a grade, and Republicans earned it. The next test starts now, and voters will judge the new majority the same way: not by what it intended, but by what it delivered.



Craig DeLuz

More Sleep and Lower Blood Pressure -- An Overlooked Connection

By Joe W. Bowers Jr.
California Black Media

Lack of sleep can contribute to high blood pressure, yet sleep often receives less attention than medication, diet and exercise in discussions about heart health. During sleep, blood pressure normally declines, reducing the demands placed on the heart and blood vessels. When sleep is insufficient or frequently interrupted, blood pressure can remain higher for longer periods.



Joe W. Bowers

For Black Americans, the connection deserves particular attention. Nearly 58% of Black adults have high blood pressure, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A National Center for Health Statistics report found that 40.2% of Black adults experienced short sleep, compared with 28.9% of White adults.

The figures do not prove that inadequate sleep explains why Black adults have higher rates of hypertension. They do show why sleep belongs in the discussion about Black cardiovascular health.

That connection became personal for me during a routine visit to my cardiologist. My blood pressure was 143/90. I was already taking blood pressure medication, but I had not been monitoring my pressure at home. I had no warning that the reading had changed.

High blood pressure often produces no noticeable symptoms, even while increasing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

The absence of symptoms became even clearer to me at a local festival where free blood pressure screenings were offered. I spoke with a woman whose systolic pressure — the top number — was 198. She said she felt fine.

A systolic reading above 180 is considered severe hypertension and requires prompt medical attention, even without symptoms. Her reading reinforced what I had learned from my own experience: Feeling fine does not mean that blood pressure is normal.

After my cardiology appointment, I began looking at possible reasons for my elevated reading. I considered what I ate, how much I exercised and whether I was taking my medication as prescribed. Then I thought about my sleep.

I was sleeping four to five hours a night. I was not deliberately choosing to sleep less. I would become busy in the evening, move from one activity to another and go to bed later than I intended. Over time, that pattern became routine.

After researching the relationship between sleep and high blood pressure, I began going to bed earlier. I increased my sleep to seven or eight hours a night and continued monitoring my pressure. My medication remained the same.

Within weeks, my blood pressure readings moved into the normal range. One recent reading was 114/68.

I know that one change in my routine does not prove cause and effect. I had no home readings from before the cardiologist visit, so I do not know when my pressure started rising. Blood pressure also changes with stress, activity, time of day and how it is measured.

Still, my medication remained the same while I slept longer and my blood pressure readings improved.

Research has linked inadequate sleep to hypertension.

"When a person doesn't sleep enough or doesn't get quality sleep, it can increase their risk of hypertension," Dr. Chandra Jackson, a senior investigator at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, said in an interview published by the institute.

The American Heart Association added sleep to its Life's Essential 8 measures of cardiovascular health in 2022. The association recommends seven to nine hours of sleep a night for most adults, which is the amount I now get.

Getting more sleep is also not simply a matter of personal discipline. Work schedules, multiple jobs, caregiving responsibilities, neighborhood noise, housing conditions and concerns about safety can make regular sleep difficult.

Dr. Girardin Jean-Louis, director of the Center on Translational Sleep and Circadian Sciences at the University of Miami, has studied racial disparities in sleep.

"Black and Latino people in the U.S. sleep around 30 to 60 minutes less per night than White people," Jean-Louis said in an article published by the university.

Racism and discrimination also contribute to stress that can interfere with sleep.

"Things like racism and discrimination, these affect our sleep," Dr. Dayna Johnson, a sleep epidemiologist at Emory University, said in an interview with North Carolina Public Radio.

Sleep quality matters, too. A person can spend seven or eight hours in bed and still not get restorative sleep. Sleep apnea causes breathing to stop and restart during the night and increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke. Warning signs include loud snoring, gasping during sleep, morning headaches and excessive daytime sleepiness. The condition is more common among Black adults than White adults.

The lesson from my experience is not that sleeping longer cured my high blood pressure. Sleeping longer does not replace medication, medical care or regular monitoring. I told my cardiologist about the change in my sleep schedule, and his concern remained whether my readings were under control.

What changed was my understanding of sleep as part of protecting my heart. I had treated sleep as the time left after I finished everything else. Going to bed earlier was a change I could make, and monitoring my pressure allowed me to see what was happening.

For me, inadequate sleep was a risk factor I had overlooked. Getting enough sleep is now part of how I manage my heart health. I did not know it mattered. Now I do.

If Food Is Medicine, Teach Doctors How to Prescribe It

By Dr. Bret Scher
BlackPressUSA

The Department of Health and Human Services recently announced an initiative to improve nutrition education across every stage of physician education and training. As part of the effort, dozens of medical schools have pledged to include 40 hours of nutrition training -- or a competency-based equivalent -- in their graduation requirements.

Those pledges target a longstanding gap. Medical schools currently devote less than 1% of lecture hours to nutrition, and until recently, roughly three-quarters of schools didn't require a dedicated nutrition course.

As a cardiologist, I welcome this initiative.

But adding hours alone won't be enough. More nutrition education won't meaningfully improve our nation's chronic disease crisis unless medical schools also rethink what they teach. For decades, medical and dietetic societies -- even the government -- have promoted similar dietary guidance, yet metabolic disease continues to rise.

Rather than repeat the same nutrition mantra, schools should focus on two priorities: teaching physicians how to evaluate nutrition evidence and translate it into individualized patient care.

Since diet is first-line therapy for many of the most common chronic diseases afflicting Americans, physicians should be as comfortable evaluating nutrition evidence as they are interpreting the science behind the medications they prescribe. That starts with understanding how nutrition research differs from many other areas of medicine.

A conventional drug trial can often isolate a single intervention and compare it with a placebo under tightly controlled conditions. Nutrition rarely fits that model.



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

Nutrition science therefore relies on observational studies, controlled feeding trials, mechanistic research, and clinical interventions.

Medical schools must teach future physicians how to weigh these different forms of evidence and understand what each study design can -- and cannot -- tell them.

Evaluating the evidence is only half the job -- physicians also need to know how to apply it to the patient in front of them.

For decades, major medical groups have recommended a one-size-fits-all approach to healthy eating: reduce saturated fat, increase whole grains, eat less, and move more. But that conventional advice has failed to stem the rise of metabolic disease.

Today, approximately 90% of Americans show at least one sign of suboptimal metabolic health, while obesity and type 2 diabetes have steadily increased. It's increasingly clear that a dietary strategy that works for a metabolically healthy patient may not be the best starting point for someone whose body is struggling to regulate glucose and insulin.

Future physicians need a toolkit that recognizes a range of evidence-based dietary approaches. For instance, research routinely shows that low-carbohydrate and ketogenic diets can improve glycemic control, weight, and other metabolic markers for many patients. Mediterranean-style or plant-based dietary patterns that emphasize whole, nutrient-dense foods can also offer benefits.

Medical schools must therefore teach future physicians how to match the right strategy to the right patient.

With this initiative, HHS has created an opportunity to rethink nutrition education for the next generation of physicians. Now it's up to policymakers and accrediting bodies to ensure that the new requirements define competencies, not merely hours.

Get that right, and those 40 hours can produce better doctors -- and healthier Americans.

America's Healthcare System Isn't Sustainable. What Would a Better Alternative Look Like?

By Marc Boutin
BlackPressUSA

Virtually no one in America is satisfied with the healthcare status quo. Not doctors. Not hospital executives.

Not drug or insurance company leaders. And most certainly not patients.

This nearly universal anger is setting the stage for seismic reforms. Policymakers in both parties are planning ambitious healthcare overhauls.

Rather than waiting for Washington to impose changes from the top down, it'd be far better for patients, providers, insurers, employers, drug companies, and pharmacy benefit managers to work together now -- to reimagine, and ultimately redesign, the system with a shared vision.

America boasts the most talented doctors and best hospitals in the world. Our researchers develop the lion's share of new medicines. And far more of those treatments are available here than in other peer nations, at least in theory.

Yet despite all these advantages, our current healthcare system fails to deliver the outcomes that matter most to families -- because it was simply never designed to do so. We often cannot agree on what healthcare should ultimately accomplish, which outcomes matter most, or what tradeoffs we are willing to tolerate.

In the absence of this shared understanding, companies default to prioritizing their own short-term finances

-- even if that's not in the long-term interests of patients, families, or society.

For instance, consider the dilemma facing health insurers. Americans frequently bounce from insurer to insurer as they change jobs, move states, retire and enroll in Medicare, or simply select new plans that better fit their needs.

So even when an expensive treatment would clearly improve a patient's health and prevent future complications, the insurer or employer that shoulders the upfront cost likely will not reap the eventual savings.

Consider the dilemma posed by gene therapies, which target the underlying genetic malfunctions and mutations that cause certain diseases.

In many cases, a one-time dose of these therapies can completely cure a patient's disease for life -- and prevent millions of dollars in spending on hospitalizations and other care down the road.



Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA.

Multiple gene therapies are cost-effective, even with price tags exceeding $1 million.

In all likelihood, insurers that cover these therapies will see only a fraction of the return before patients switch plans. They therefore have a strong incentive to limit access, even when everyone agrees these treatments offer good value over a lifetime.

This behavior makes perfect sense from the perspective of an individual insurer or employer. But it makes no sense for society as a whole.

We need a genuinely market-based system in which providers, drug companies, and insurers can transparently compete for customers on both price and quality.

And that competition cannot happen unless we first adopt new valuation metrics to better understand the full costs and benefits of different treatments and care models -- and then redesign payment and insurance rules so that organizations are rewarded, rather than penalized, for investing in patients' long-term health.

The question is whether stakeholders can set aside their differences, agree on a shared definition of success, and implement reforms that improve patients' long-term physical, mental, and financial health.

If they cannot, Washington will eventually impose changes from above.

Marc Boutin, J.D., a three-time cancer survivor and caregiver, is president and CEO of IVI and previously served as CEO of the National Health Council, where he led policy initiatives that helped shape national health care reform. This column originally appeared at DCJournal.com

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Sports

JuJu Watkins Sweeps National Weekly Honors After Leading USC Past Baylor

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — USC senior guard JuJu Watkins continues to add to her impressive basketball résumé, earning national recognition from both The Associated Press (AP) and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) after leading the Trojans to a dramatic comeback victory over previously unbeaten Baylor.

Watkins received the AP National Player of the Week award and the USBWA Ann Meyers Drysdale National Player of the Week honor on Tuesday, Nov. 24. The selections mark her seventh career AP weekly award and ninth career USBWA national weekly honor. She has now earned both national recognitions twice this season, following her selections Nov. 10.

The senior delivered a spectacular performance Friday in the inaugural Hollywood Hardwood Classic at Intuit Dome, finishing with a season-high 36 points, 11 rebounds, four assists, one block and a career-high-tying six steals.



Photo by: Katie Chin/USC Athletics

Her performance helped USC overcome a 15-point deficit to defeat Baylor, 78-69, giving head coach Lindsay Gottlieb her 350th career victory.

Watkins took control when the game was on the line, scoring 11 points in the third quarter before accounting for USC's final 10 points to secure the win.

She made a season-high 13 field goals, including three 3-pointers, and connected on seven of nine free throws. Watkins directly accounted for 45 of USC's 78 points, or 57.7% of the team's scoring, while recording four assists against just one turnover.

Her six steals also disrupted Baylor's offensive rhythm.

The performance marked Watkins' 23rd career 30-point game, moving her within two of the USC program record of 25, held by legendary Trojan Cheryl Miller. Watkins also surpassed 500 career rebounds.

USC improved to 22-1 when Watkins scores at least 30 points.

Her outstanding week continued Monday night when the Trojans defeated Northern Arizona, 100-52, at the Galen Center. Watkins recorded 17 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and two steals in just 22 minutes of action.

It was her third double-double of the season and 20th of her career.

Watkins was also named Big Ten Women's Basketball Player of the Week on Monday, Nov. 23, earning her second conference honor of the season and ninth of her career.

Through six games, Watkins is averaging 25.2 points, 8.2 rebounds, four assists and 3.5 steals per contest. She has scored in double figures in every appearance as USC continues its early-season campaign.

The 2025 AP and USBWA National Player of the Year remains one of the nation's most productive players, demonstrating her ability to score, rebound, distribute the basketball and make defensive plays.

For the Women of Troy, Watkins' leadership and all-around production will be critical as the team prepares for its next challenge.

USC travels to Nassau, Bahamas, for the Baha Mar Hoops Nassau Championship. The Trojans open against Saint Joseph's on Friday, Nov. 27, before facing Iowa State on Sunday, Nov. 29.

Both games are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Pacific time at Baha Mar Resort and will stream live on bdG Sports Live.

With national honors continuing to come her way, Watkins is making another strong statement about her place among the nation's elite women's basketball players.

Bruins Have Tough Time in Big House

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

No. 4 UCLA had won its first 10 games of the season by taking care of the football. As the late Garry Heath once said, "Turnovers will kill you dead." Those words proved prophetic Saturday as the Bruins lost the turnover battle, 3-1, in the Big House.

The result was an 18-16 loss before 109,618 fans at Michigan Stadium.

"We can't turn the ball over all the way down there by the goal line and hand points away," UCLA coach Bob Chesney said.

The Bruins (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten) let an opportunity slip away to reach the Big Ten championship game and move closer to earning a first-round bye in the 12-team College Football Playoff. UCLA entered the contest ranked No. 4 in the CFP rankings.

Michigan (6-5, 3-5) became bowl eligible under embattled coach Kyle Whittingham.

"That's a positive," Whittingham said. "We get to play together one more time — hopefully."

Michigan made a defensive stop against UCLA backup quarterback Madden Iamaleava to open the third overtime. Under the college football overtime format, teams alternate two-point conversion attempts from the 3-yard line.

Michigan quarterback Bryce Underwood then rolled to his right and delivered a strike to Jalen Hoffman in the corner of the end zone for the winning conversion.

"Bryce threw a bullet and Jalen did a good job with the route," Whittingham said.

Maize-and-blue-clad fans filled the Big House, celebrating a victory in the Wolverines' final home game of what has been a difficult season.

UCLA refused to go quietly. With just 10 seconds remaining in regulation, running back Anthony Woods took a direct snap, headed toward the line of scrimmage and tossed a 1-yard jump pass to Brayden Loftin for a touchdown, tying the game at 10-10 and sending it into overtime.

The Bruins suffered another setback when Dieffenbach was injured during an overtime run. He was placed on a stretcher and carted off the field with what appeared to be a hip injury.

"Not the greatest moment to lose him," Chesney said.

With Dieffenbach unavailable, Madden Iamaleava, who had seen limited action this season, stepped in. He is the brother of Nico Iamaleava, UCLA's starting quarterback before a season-ending leg injury in a victory over Oregon last month.

"We face adversity a lot," Chesney said.

UCLA opened overtime with Mateen Bhaghani connecting on a 38-yard field goal. Michigan answered with Jacob Baggett's 29-yard kick.

In the second overtime, Baggett converted from 52 yards, while Bhaghani answered with a 38-yard field goal.

The contest ultimately went to a third overtime, where Michigan's defense came up with the crucial stop before Underwood connected with Hoffman for the decisive play.

Underwood, making his first start since losing the starting job Oct. 17 against Penn State, completed 11 of 24 passes for 127 yards. He threw his first touchdown pass since Sept. 26 but also lost a fumble.

For UCLA, the loss was a painful reminder of how costly mistakes can be. After opening the season with 10 straight victories, the Bruins learned that one afternoon of turnovers can change everything.



Nov 21, 2026; Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA; UCLA defensive back Ta'Shawn James (27) celebrates during the first quarter against Michigan at Michigan Stadium. Mandatory Credit: Rick Osentoski-Imagn Images | IMAGN IMAGES via Reuters Connect

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Local

Rain Couldn't Stop the Giving: Brotherhood Crusade Brings Thanksgiving Cheer to Los Angeles Families

BROTHERHOOD Crusade

Sowing Seeds and Growing a Strong Community

Annual Thanksgiving Grab and Go draws strong community turnout despite rainy weather, providing holiday meals and support to families in need

LOS ANGELES, CA — Rainy skies couldn't dampen the spirit of giving as Brotherhood Crusade welcomed a strong turnout of Los Angeles families to its annual Thanksgiving Grab and Go food distribution on Thursday, November 19, at Algin Sutton Recreation Center in South Los Angeles.

Despite the wet weather, families arrived for the free, drive-through event, where volunteers and community partners came together to distribute whole turkeys and traditional Thanksgiving meal essentials, including vegetables, cornbread dressing, cake mix, frosting and more. Gift cards were also made available to the first 500 vehicles, helping families prepare for the holiday season.

The annual event reflected Brotherhood Crusade's longstanding commitment to serving the community, particularly as families continue to navigate rising living costs and financial challenges. More than a holiday food distribution, the gathering was a powerful demonstration of compassion, generosity, and the strength of community partnerships.

"Let's give it up for the Brotherhood Crusade for being here every year and all the organizations that are with us today," said Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, who joined the community effort. "A big round of applause for everybody for not giving up on our community, not giving up on Thanksgiving." Harris-Dawson also emphasized the importance of coming together during the holiday season, encouraging everyone to "enjoy community, enjoy giving back, and enjoy each other."

Throughout the event, dedicated volunteers and community partners worked together in the rain to distribute holiday food essentials, demonstrating that even challenging weather could not stand in the way of serving the community.

"For Brotherhood Crusade, Thanksgiving is more than providing a meal. It's about reminding families that they are seen, valued, and supported," said Charisse Bremond Weaver, President and CEO of Brotherhood Crusade. "Despite the rain, our partners, volunteers, and community came together with a shared purpose—to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Los Angeles families. That's the spirit of giving that defines Brotherhood Crusade and the community we proudly serve.



(Courtesy Photo)



(Courtesy Photo)



(Courtesy Photo)

Brotherhood Crusade extends its heartfelt gratitude to a broad coalition of corporate, nonprofit, labor, healthcare and community partners, including AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), Baby2Baby, Bank of America, Chris Paul Family Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Kurka Children's Health Fund, LAEDC, LA Rec & Parks, Labor Community Services Los Angeles, Langdon Park Capital, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Los Angeles Sentinel, Mamba & Mambacita Sports Foundation, McDonald's Owner Operator Kerry Harper Howie and Nicole Harper Rollins, Micah's Voice, Pava World Environmental Foundation, SoCalGas, Social Justice Learning Institute, Southwest Carpenters, Spectrum, St. John's Community Health, Target, UCLA Health, Webb Enterprises and Western States Carpenters.

Special thanks to Kaiser Permanente and Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson.

About Brotherhood Crusade: Brotherhood Crusade was founded in 1968. The organization's principal mission is to champion equality and equity by removing and/or helping individuals overcome the barriers that deter their pursuit of success in life and facilitate opportunities for a better quality of life by effectuating improved health & wellness, facilitating academic success, promoting social & economic growth, providing access to artistic excellence & cultural awareness, increasing financial literacy, and supporting community agencies.



(Courtesy Photo)



(Courtesy Photo)