



CA Democrats Head Into Governor's Race Without a Chosen Candidate

California gubernatorial candidates (from left to right): Former State Controller Betty Yee; Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond; San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan; former California State Assemblymember Ian Calderon; and Xavier Becerra, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Photo by Antonio Ray Harvey, CBM

By Tanu Henry
California Black Media

California Democratic Party (CADEM) delegates arrived in San Francisco this past weekend for a tense endorsement fight to determine who the party will back in the race to replace Gov. Gavin Newsom.

They also got a history lesson.

Breaking with a tradition stretching back more than half a century, the party could not endorse a candidate for governor at its 2026 state convention -- a striking signal that the governor's race this year is open and fragmented.

"Our threshold for endorsement is 60%. It's unlikely we'll get to an endorsement," said party chair Rusty Hicks from the convention floor. He was right. No candidate came close. Preliminary delegate preference results showed U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell leading with roughly 24% support, followed by former State Controller Betty Yee and former U.S. Attorney General Xavier Becerra.

The non-endorsement is a major development in a state where party backing has historically served as a powerful organizing tool ahead of the June 2 primary.

Public polling reflects the same disorder. A February 2026 Emerson College/Inside California Politics survey shows Republican commentator Steve Hilton leading at 17%, with Swalwell and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco tied at 14%, former Rep. Katie Porter at 10%, and Tom Steyer, a former presidential candidate and climate activist, at 9%. A striking 21% remain undecided.

Dr. Shakari Byerly, managing Partner of

EVITARUS, a public opinion research and strategic consulting firm, said candidate's perspectives on a number of issues will influence how Californians vote.

"Black Californians, like all Californians, are highly concerned about issues related to affordability, particularly housing affordability and issues of economic opportunity," said Byerly.

"For example, in recent polling EVITARUS conducted on behalf of the Urban League of the Greater San Francisco, Black residents identified housing affordability and home ownership;

| Candidate | Votes | % |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Eric Swalwell | 971 | 24.09% |
| Tom Steyer | 316 | 8.20% |
| Antonio Villalpando | 110 | 2.85% |
| Betty Y. Yee | 411 | 10.64% |
| Katie Porter | 222 | 5.75% |
| Tony Thurmond | 189 | 4.88% |
| Xavier Becerra | 234 | 6.03% |
| Ian Calderon | 21 | 0.54% |
| No Endorsement/No Preference | 203 | 5.24% |
| Total | 2,376 | |

One provisional ballot was cast and validated. It is included in the totals above and did not affect the final results.

2026 Endorsing Conference Results: If a candidate receives 60% or more of the votes cast in an Endorsing Caucus, that candidate will be placed on the consent calendar. If no candidate reaches the 60% threshold, the caucus will be recorded as having "no consensus" on an endorsement. If "No Endorsement" receives 60% of the vote, the final decision will be "No Endorsement."

addressing homelessness; and inflation and the cost of living as the top issues they would like state and local leaders to address."

On the campaign trail, candidates are sharpening their pitches. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond has centered his campaign around public education and support for working families. Swalwell is leaning into national security credentials and party unity. Steyer continues to champion bold climate policy and economic reform.

California's top-two-primary system adds further unpredictability. All candidates share a single ballot, and only the top two advances to November regardless of party. In a fractured Democratic field, that creates a real opening for a Republican like Hilton or Bianco to claim one of the two general election slots.

California Black Media has been meeting directly with candidates on these issues and will publish an ongoing series giving readers access to each contender's plans. Over the next several weeks we will release Q&As starting with two candidates. These will come in no particular order.

The party's non-endorsement is more than a procedural footnote. It signals that this cycle, grassroots organizing and coalition-building will matter more than insider nods and backing of the party. With one-fifth of voters still undecided, California voters -- not convention delegates -- will choose who carries the Democratic banner into November.

For the first time in decades, they'll do it without a script.

Jailer is Accused of Stealing Honey Buns from the Inmates

Moore, a 24-year veteran of the Morgan County jail, turned himself in on Feb. 13, WAFF reports. Moore denies the allegations and believes his arrest was an act of retaliation from the jail following a leaked video of a man who died in jail custody.

Sheriff Ron Puckett said the charges stem strictly from Moore's conduct. According to Moore's attorney, Scott Morro, the items that Moore is accused of stealing are not specified in the indictments.



Neither are specific threats.

Moore, who said he is diabetic and doesn't even eat honey buns, "[just wants] the people to know that I didn't do this. And it is killing me to be plastered all over the world that I am this and I'm that and I am not that."

Moore faces seven extortion counts following an August investigation, with court records alleging he threatened inmates to obtain their personal property. Moore claims he was told in September he was being fired over stolen honey buns, though Puckett said the case goes far beyond snack cakes.

Moore said jail policy allowed officers to confiscate commissary from inmates who misbehaved and redistribute it to those with good conduct, saying the practice had existed for years. Morro said honey buns are often seized because they can be used to make homemade alcohol in jail and are typically taken when inmates possess excessive items.

Moore claims his firing and arrest were retaliatory. He says he was accused of leaking surveillance footage showing John Scott Jr. being dragged inside the jail before Scott's death in custody last April. He added he was repeatedly passed over for promotion to lieutenant and that his arrest came weeks after he endorsed Ana Franklin for sheriff.

Puckett disputed those claims, saying Moore was interviewed twice for the role but never selected. He denied any retaliation. "It was a result of the actions of Mr. Moore's hands," Puckett added.

The felony charges have made it difficult for Moore to keep a job. After leaving Morgan County, he briefly worked at the Madison County jail but was terminated following his arrest because he was still on probationary status.

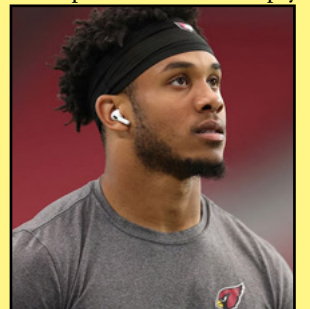
Moore is scheduled to appear before a judge on May 27.

NFL Wide Receiver Rondale Moore Found Dead at 25

The Indiana native was found deceased in his hometown of New Albany, Indiana, on Saturday night. Police say the cause of death may be a suspected self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Rondale Moore has died at age 25. Authorities confirmed he was found deceased in his hometown of New Albany, Indiana, on Saturday night (Feb. 21).

The Floyd County Coroner said Moore's death is not a threat to the public and an autopsy would be conducted on Sunday, per NFL News. TMZ Sports is reporting that the cause of death may have been a self-inflicted gunshot wound, citing the police chief of the New Albany, Indiana, Police Department. The investigation is ongoing.



In its statement, the NFL said the organization is "deeply saddened by the tragic passing of Rondale Moore. Our thoughts are with Rondale's family, friends and teammates during this difficult time."

Moore's team, the Vikings, as well as head coach Kevin O'Connell, have also released statements. The Vikings said they have spoken with Moore's family and are "in communication with our players, coaches, and staff, and will make counseling and emotional support resources available to anyone in need."

O'Connell wrote he is "devastated by the news of Rondale's death."

"While Rondale had been a member of the Vikings for a short time, he was someone we came to know well and care about deeply. He was a humble, soft-spoken, and respectful young man who was proud of his Indiana roots. As a player, he was disciplined, dedicated and resilient despite facing adversity multiple times as injuries sidelined him throughout his career. We are all heartbroken by the fact he won't continue to live out his NFL dream and we won't all have a chance to watch him flourish."

The NFL Players Association, which is the union for the players in the league, has written that Moore's death is an "immense loss is felt deeply across our union, and we value his service as a player rep."

Moore was born and raised in New Albany, Indiana, and was a standout athlete at New Albany High School, according to WLKY News, and was the recipient of the Gatorade Player of the Year in 2017. He was an All-American at Purdue University and began his professional career with the Arizona Cardinals as a second-round pick in the 2021 NFL draft. He has joined the Vikings in 2025 and was recently recovering from a knee injury.



AFL-CIO Remembers Legendary Civil Rights Leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson

By Liz Shuler AFL-CIO President and **Fred Redmond** AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer

America's unions mourn the passing of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a towering moral force whose lifelong commitment to justice reshaped both the labor and civil rights movements and left a lasting mark on the nation. Jackson was a full-time organizer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference before being appointed national director of Operation Breadbasket by his mentor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In this role, Jackson led boycotts and campaigns that secured thousands of new jobs for Black workers. His two presidential campaigns would break barriers and expand the political imagination

of our country. Through Operation PUSH and the National Rainbow Coalition—later united as Rainbow PUSH Coalition—he brought communities together with a simple, powerful truth: economic justice and civil rights are inseparable. Throughout his life, Rev. Jackson fought tirelessly for workers, both at home and around the world. He upheld the labor movement's highest ideals—walking picket lines, supporting workers at the bargaining table, and insisting that women and people of color be fully included in union protections. He stood with the AFL-CIO at major mobilizations and worker rallies, from the coalfields to campaigns for janitors and public-sector workers. In 2002, he joined the AFL-CIO and

local unions in organizing laid-off Enron workers to secure fair severance pay. On the international stage, he confronted global corporations to defend the dignity and rights of workers across supply chains. At every turn, he reminded us that the fight for good jobs, living wages, and union rights is inseparable from the fight for justice and equality. As we honor the Rev. Jackson's memory, we reaffirm his belief that "the American worker is not asking for welfare, he's asking for a fair share—not for charity but for parity." Our hearts are with the Jackson family, his loved ones and all those who are mourning this immeasurable loss. May he rest in power.

World & Nation



Sadia Zapp started taking anxiety medication after surgery and treatment for breast cancer. She says it has helped reduce the noise in her mind, allowing her to focus again. (JACKIE MOLLOY FOR KFF HEALTH NEWS)



Zapp takes Lexapro, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, or SSRI. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has criticized such anxiety medications, claiming they are addictive and harmful. Health care clinicians say they have been proved safe, and they point to broader social changes to explain their increased use. (JACKIE MOLLOY FOR KFF HEALTH NEWS)

As More Americans Embrace Anxiety Treatment, MAHA Derides Medications

By Phillip Reese

After a grueling year of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation to treat breast cancer, Sadia Zapp was anxious — not the manageable hum that had long been part of her life, but something deeper, more distracting.

“Every little ache, like my knee hurts,” she said, made her worry that “this is the end of the road for me.”

So Zapp, a 40-year-old communications director in New York, became one of millions of Americans to start taking an anxiety medication in recent years. For her, it was the serotonin-boosting drug Lexapro.

“I love it. It’s been great,” she said. “It’s really helped me manage.”

The proportion of American adults who took anxiety medications jumped from 11.7% in 2019 to 14.3% in 2024, with most of the increase occurring during the covid pandemic, according to survey data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That’s 8 million more people, bringing the total to roughly 38 million, with sharp increases among young adults, people with a college degree, and adults who identify as LGBTQ+.

Even as psychiatric medications gain public acceptance and become easier to access through

telehealth appointments, the rise of a class of antidepressants called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, known as SSRIs, has triggered a backlash from supporters of the “Make America Healthy Again” movement who argue they are harmful. Doctors and researchers say medications such as Prozac, Zoloft, and Lexapro are front-line treatments for many anxiety disorders, including generalized anxiety disorder and panic disorder, and are being misrepresented as addictive and broadly harmful even though they’ve been proved safe for extended use.

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has decried broadening SSRI use. During his Jan. 29 confirmation hearing, he said he knows people, including family members, who had a tougher time quitting SSRIs than people have quitting heroin. More recently, he said his agency is studying a possible link between the use of SSRIs and other psychiatric medications and violent behavior like school shootings.

Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary has also suggested that SSRI use among pregnant women could lead to poor birth outcomes.

SSRIs’ common side effects include upset stomach, brain fog, and fatigue. Some SSRIs also can reduce libido and cause other sexual side effects.

For many people, however, the side effects are mild and tolerable and the benefits of treating chronic anxiety are worth it, said Patrick Kelly, president of the Southern California Psychiatric Society. “The statements about SSRIs were just not grounded in any sort of evidence or fact,” Kelly said of Kennedy’s comments.

A recent comprehensive study showed that over half of people with generalized anxiety disorder taking an SSRI saw their anxiety symptoms reduced by at least 50%. Side effects prompted about 1 in 12 to stop taking an SSRI.

“When it’s being done right and when you’re also using appropriate therapy techniques, SSRIs can be really, really helpful,” said Emily Wood, a psychiatrist who practices in Los Angeles.

MAHA Blames Anxiety on Poor Diet, Lack of Exercise

Supporters of MAHA have partly blamed poor dietary choices and the increase of a sedentary lifestyle for the rise of a number of health problems, including anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders. As a remedy, they have called for measures such as reducing consumption of ultraprocessed foods, which studies in recent years have connected to depression and anxiety, and cutting back on screen time in favor of exercise.

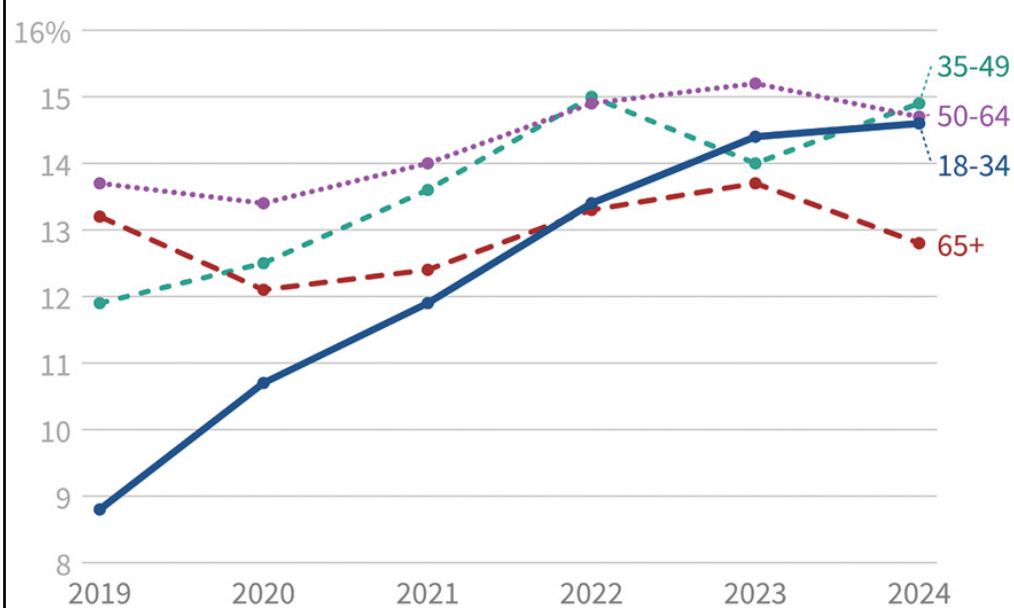
Psychiatrists often encourage a healthy diet and exercise as an adjunctive therapy for anxiety and depression. Wood said those who can manage anxiety without medication should also consider talk therapy. The proportion of American adults using mental health counseling boomed from 2019 to 2024 as teletherapy grew in popularity, federal data shows. “Anxiety disorders are amongst our psychiatric disorders that really respond well to cognitive behavioral therapy,” she said.

But medication can help. Studies show the risks of taking SSRIs during pregnancy are low for mother and child. By contrast, “depression increases your risk for every complication for a mother and a baby,” Wood said, adding that recent statements by government officials about SSRI use during pregnancy are “potentially leading to real harm for these women.”

Some people who stop taking antidepressant medication will experience nausea, insomnia, or other symptoms, especially if they quit suddenly. But “the concept of addiction simply does not apply to these chemicals,” Kelly said, a statement backed up by studies.

Young Adults Largely Drive Increased Use of Anxiety Meds

The proportion of young adults taking anxiety medication grew sharply from 2019 through 2024. U.S. seniors did not see an increase.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Credit: Phillip Reese for KFF Health News

Addiction, though, is a possibility with benzodiazepines such as Xanax that are often a second line of treatment for anxiety. These controlled substances can also increase the risk of opioid overdose in patients taking both types of drugs. During congressional hearings last year, Kennedy also decried benzodiazepine overuse as a problem.

While benzodiazepines are effective for short-term use, they require monitoring and care, Wood said.

“Those are really great meds for acute anxiety and not great as long-term anxiety medications, because they are habit-forming over time,” Wood said. “If you’re taking them on a daily basis, you’ll need more and more to get the same effect, and then you have to come down from them in a tapered way.”

And an increasing number of people are also occasionally taking beta-blockers such as propranolol for anxiety. Some people use beta-blockers to prevent a racing heart before a public speech or other big moments, even though they are not FDA-approved for treating anxiety and are prescribed “off-label.”

Beta-blockers can cause dizziness and fatigue, but they are “nonaddictive, really helpful for bringing down the autonomic nervous system, going from fight or flight to something more neutral, and really safe,” Wood said.

Social Shifts Drive Increased Use of Anxiety Meds

A number of leading theories could explain why so many more people are taking anxiety medication, including increased social media use, more isolation, and heightened economic uncertainty, physicians and researchers say.

Plus, the medicines are relatively easy to get. Many people obtain SSRI and benzodiazepine prescriptions from their primary care physician. Others obtain the medications after a brief teletherapy appointment.

Many social media influencers talk about their mental health struggles, easing some stigma among young people and encouraging them to get help. About a third of teens in a recent study said they get mental health information via social media.

Still, increased access to anxiety medication can be a problem when combined with a trend of self-diagnosis based on social media trends. A Google search for “buy Xanax online” leads to sponsored promises of same-day treatment, though fine-print disclaimers clarify that a prescription is not guaranteed.

“I think increased access is good, but that’s not the same thing as, you know, ordering Xanax online,” Kelly said.

Young adults are largely driving an increase in anxiety medication use. The proportion of Americans ages 18 to 34 taking anxiety medication rose from 8.8% in 2019 — the first year such survey data became available — to 14.6% in 2024. By contrast, the rate didn’t change much among adults 65 and older, CDC data shows.

The pandemic and covid lockdowns greatly increased stress among many American adults, particularly young adults.

And data shows more women than men take anxiety medication. Jason Schnittker, a department chair and professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, said that’s because they’re more likely to need them. They are also likelier than men to report when they feel anxious, and doctors are “inclined or see anxiety more readily in their female patients than their male patients,” Schnittker added.

Broader trends could also be at work. Schnittker said studies have shown anxiety growing more prevalent among ensuing generations for much of the 20th and 21st centuries. Schnittker, author of *Unnerved: Anxiety, Social Change, and the Transformation of Modern Mental Health*, said growing income inequality could be partly to blame, with people feeling stress over improving their economic status. Social and religious activities have been replaced by more isolation. And people have become more suspicious of others, creating a sense of unease around strangers.

For Zapp, the cancer survivor, it took a few months on Lexapro before she started seeing clear results. When she did, she said, it felt like her mind was less noisy, making it easier to focus. She also underwent talk therapy, but now her chronic anxiety is stabilized on medication alone.

“It definitely helped me get back to my day-to-day in a way that was productive and not just riddled with my anxieties throughout the day,” she said.

KFF Health News’ Holly Hacker, Maia Rosenfeld, and Lydia Zuraw contributed to this report.

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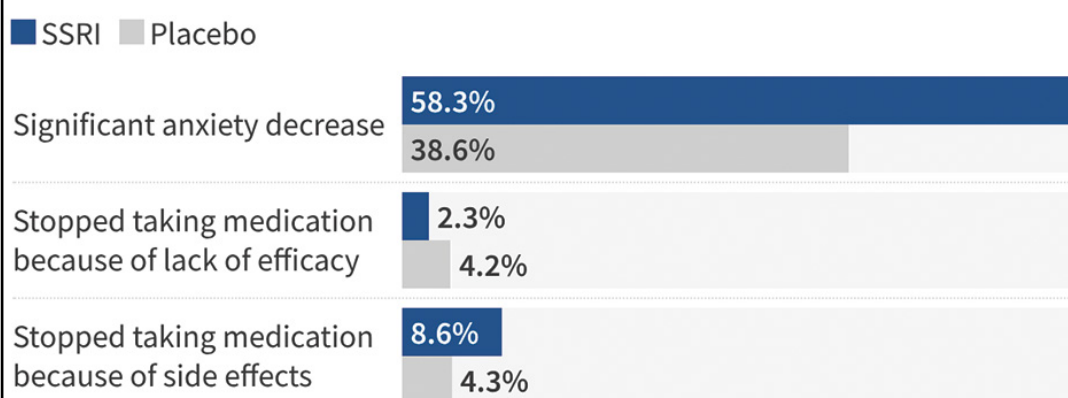
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Most With Generalized Anxiety Disorder Respond to SSRIs

Results from a January 2025 study on selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors.



Note: Participants may have dropped out for other reasons.

Source: Cochrane Library

Credit: Phillip Reese for KFF Health News

Don't Miss Out!

*Read the News
Observer Every Week!*



Claressa Shields, right, and Franchon Crews-Dezurn fight Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit. Credit: David Guralnick, Detroit News

Claressa Shields Defends Undisputed Heavyweight Crown in Decisive Win Over Franchon Crews-Dezurn

The Flint native improved to 18-0 after a hard-fought rematch with longtime rival Franchon Crews-Dezurn, who delivered one of the most competitive bouts in recent women's boxing memory.

Claressa Shields and Franchon Crews-Dezurn promised fireworks heading into their long-awaited rematch, Sunday night (Feb. 22) in Detroit, they delivered exactly that.

In front of more than 17,000 fans at Little Caesars Arena, Shields successfully defended her undisputed heavyweight championship with a unanimous decision victory over her longtime rival. All three judges scored the 10-round bout 100-90 in favor of the Flint, Michigan, native, pushing Shields' undefeated record to 18-0.

But the scorecards didn't fully capture the intensity inside the ring.

"I felt like I had to take my time," Shields told reporters after the fight. "Franchon hits hard, and she's tough, and you got to be very tricky with her. She was trying to cause the upset today and got me with some shots."

The matchup marked a full-circle moment for two fighters whose careers have long been intertwined. Shields and Crews-Dezurn first met

as amateurs before facing off in their professional debuts in 2016, when Shields earned a decision win in Las Vegas. Nearly a decade later, both women entered Sunday's bout as champions who helped elevate women's boxing into a global spectacle.

From the opening bell, Crews-Dezurn lived up to her nickname, "The Heavy Hitting Diva," pressing forward with aggressive combinations and forcing Shields to adjust early. The challenger found success in the first two rounds, landing heavy shots that briefly shifted momentum.

By the middle rounds, however, Shields' experience began to show.

Leaning on timing and precision, the two-time Olympic gold medalist established control behind a sharp jab that slowed Crews-Dezurn's offense. By round five, Shields' rhythm and ring IQ began to create separation, as she consistently beat her opponent to exchanges and dictated the pace.

Even in victory, Shields acknowledged the challenge.

"I haven't seen a fight that exciting in women's boxing in a very long time, and I haven't been in one where a girl could rumble like that," she said. "I know the scorecards was 90 to 100, but I think she got me two rounds. I just don't know which two."

The bout left visible marks, including a stitch on Shields' face, evidence of the competitive battle fans witnessed. After 10 hard rounds, the rivals shared a warm embrace at center ring, underscoring the mutual respect built over years of competition.

Crews-Dezurn, who dropped to 10-3 but still holds a super middleweight title, praised Shields afterward.

"She inspires me," Crews-Dezurn said. "She came in at a time where I was dominant and shook the table up. When I'm seeing her, I'm like, 'OK, that's a point I could get to.' It's never a jealousy thing. I'm proud of her."

The night carried hometown energy for Shields, who entered alongside rapper Lil Boosie performing

"Set It Off," while a star-studded crowd including Terence Crawford, Tee Grizzley, Mike Epps and Michael Blackson watched ringside.

Sunday's victory marked the second defense of Shields' undisputed heavyweight crown, which she captured in February 2025 with a unanimous decision win over Danielle Perkins. Despite another dominant showing, Shields already has her eyes on what comes next.

She named Shadasia Green as a potential future opponent, followed by a possible catchweight bout against Mikaela Mayer.

Beyond boxing, Shields also hinted that her timeline inside the ring may soon shift.

"In 2027, I think I want to take some time off and have my own kids," she said while holding her niece during the postfight press conference.

For an athlete who has spent her career chasing history, the comment offered a glimpse into what legacy may look like beyond championship belts: building a life she's fought just as hard to earn.

National Youth Foundation Announces 2026 International Student Poetry and Art Competition Promoting Equality

With a goal of promoting kindness and activism, global youth changemaker Isabella Hanson created the "I Matter" Poetry and Art Project. A component of the "I Matter" Project is the annual poetry and art competition, which is sponsored by the National Youth Foundation (NYF). The competition provides a platform for youth to utilize writing and art to advocate for peace. This initiative grew from 150 participants from 26 states in 2020 to over 2,500 participants from 49 states and 64 countries in 2025. Hans, who is currently a junior at Cornell University, created "I Matter" when she was 14 years old. Now in its 6th year, the "I Matter."

Project invites students from around the world to submit original poetry and art on the theme of equality. The winning entries, which are due by July 23, 2026, are published in a compilation hardcover book, and the top entries earn \$250.

The National Youth Foundation was selected as a recipient of the Born This Way Foundation's 2025 Kindness in Community Fund grant to support their grassroots work for youth mental health and well-being. As a recipient of the 2025 Kindness in Community Fund, the "I Matter" Project continued to expand its community-based workshops for students, both in-person and virtually.

In the workshops, Hanson and her team of student leaders educate youth impacted by violence and racial trauma about how to utilize the arts to process their feelings and to advocate peacefully for change. Thanks to the generous support of Pivotal, Cotton On Foundation, Sephora, Haus Labs, and others, NYF was among the 55 Kindness in Community Fund grant recipients across 11 countries, selected with direct input from young people worldwide.

The National Youth Foundation is a non-profit



organization based in the Philadelphia region. NYF uses creative educational programming to promote diversity, gender equality, and kindness while

helping young students develop their literary skills through academic and team-building projects. Learn more at NationalYouthFoundation.org

For press inquiries, send an email to ContactNationalYouthFoundation@gmail.com

Kara Braxton, 2 Time WNBA Champ, Dies at 43

Kara Braxton was a decorated WNBA who played for the Detroit Shock, Phoenix Mercury, and New York Liberty across the 2000s and 2010s.

Much of the sports world and beyond remains in shock following the death of WNBA star Kara Braxton.

"It is with profound sadness that we mourn the passing of 2x WNBA Champion Kara Braxton," the league wrote alongside a photo of Braxton holding her son.

"A 10-season veteran, Kara played with the Detroit Shock, Tulsa Shock, Phoenix Mercury, and New York Liberty. Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and former teammates at this time."

According to The Oregonian, on Friday, Feb. 20, Braxton died in a car accident in Atlanta, Georgia. She was 43.

A two-time WNBA champion, Braxton played 10 seasons in the league after being selected seventh overall by the Detroit Shock in 2005. Over the course of her career, she also suited up for the Phoenix Mercury and New York Liberty, winning championships in 2006 and 2008. She was named to the WNBA All-Rookie Team in 2005 and earned All-Star honors in 2007. She played in the WNBA

until 2014 and continued playing professionally overseas through 2019 before retiring.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, Braxton was raised in Oregon, where she and her twin sister first made a name for themselves in the late 1990s at Westview High School. The pair went on to continue their basketball careers together at the University of Georgia. At the time of her death, Braxton had been living in Atlanta.

Braxton is survived by her two sons, Jelani Thurman, who played on the Ohio State football team that won the national championship in 2024, and Jream Jackson. She is also survived by her husband, Jarvis Jackson, and her twin sister, Kim, according to KGW8.

A two-time WNBA champion, Braxton played 10 seasons in the league after being selected seventh overall by the Detroit Shock in 2005. Over the course of her career, she also suited up for the Phoenix Mercury and New York Liberty, winning championships in 2006 and 2008. She was named to the WNBA All-Rookie Team in 2005 and earned All-Star honors in 2007. She played in the WNBA until 2014 and continued playing professionally overseas through 2019 before retiring.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMONS

(CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 25NWLCO3961
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 YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Iver Capital Corporation
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse

nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a

continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado,

es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
 12720 Norwalk Blvd.,
 Norwalk, CA 90650

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del

demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
 Ali Nabavi, Coastal Crest Law Firm, APLC
 SBN 232910
 24310 Moulton Pkwy,
 Suite O-1007,
 Laguna Woods, CA 92637
 Tel. (949) 751-6788
 DATE (Fecha): January 27, 2025
 David W. Slayton,
 Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
 By V. Jimenez, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED:
 You are served.

LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 12, 19, 26, Mar 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026 025436

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
ANCESTRAL SOAPS at 1150 W Avenue J7, Lancaster, CA 93534
 Mailing: same
 County: Los Angeles
REGISTERED OWNERS(S):
SHIRLEY J PRESSGROVE at 4083 W Avenue L 205, Lancaster, CA 93536
 The business is conducted by: an Individual
SIGNED: SHIRLEY J PRESSGROVE, Owner

The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: January 2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: February 3, 2026
 DEAN C. LOGAN, Los Angeles County Clerk
 By: Shameka Melton
 Deputy

NOTICE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (a) OF SECTION 17920, A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT GENERALLY EXPIRES AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014, THE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE AFFIDAVIT OF IDENTITY FORM.

This statement expires on February 3, 2031

LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 12, 19, 26, Mar 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026 031578

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
PERFECT PLACE INTERIORS & EVENTS / CURE-IOUS PODCAST at 1001 Wilshire Boulevard, PMB # 2071, Los Angeles, CA 90017
 Mailing: same
 County: Los Angeles
REGISTERED OWNERS(S):
GRACE'S SON HOLDINGS, LLC 1001 Wilshire Boulevard, PMB # 2071, Los Angeles, CA 90017
 State of incorp. or org.: CA
 The business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: BRYNWN COFFMAN, CEO

The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: February 2026

This statement filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: February 11, 2026
 DEAN C. LOGAN, Los Angeles County Clerk

By: Savannah Rodriguez, Deputy
NOTICE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (a) OF SECTION 17920, A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT GENERALLY EXPIRES AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014, THE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE AFFIDAVIT OF IDENTITY FORM. This statement expires on February 11, 2031

LOS ANGELES NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Feb 19, 26, Mar 5, 12, 2026

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Features

Q&A With California Gubernatorial Candidate Steve Hilton: "California Can Be Golden Again"

By Tanu Henry
California Black Media
Editor's Note:

This California Black Media Q&A series with California's gubernatorial candidates is intended to inform voters about where the candidates for governor stand on key issues. The opinions, assertions, and claims expressed are those of the candidates and have not been independently verified; they may or may not be supported by publicly available data.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton says he's running for governor to "restore the California dream." The political commentator, entrepreneur, and former adviser to British Prime Minister David Cameron says he's watched California become a place where middle-class families can no longer afford to buy homes, small businesses struggle under red tape, and schools fail to deliver for working parents.

Hilton, who moved to California from the U.K. in 2012 and previously taught at Stanford University, argues that the state's challenges -- from homelessness to energy costs -- stem from what he calls "ideological extremism" and "political corruption." He believes the solution lies in accountability, transparency, and a return to common sense.

In a recent conversation with California Black Media (CBM), Hilton discussed his decision to run, the policies he'd prioritize as governor, and why he believes California's leaders have "betrayed working families."

The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

What made you decide to run for governor of California?

It wasn't one single moment. Over the years, I just saw more and more people struggling to live normal lives here -- families priced out, businesses crushed by regulations, people leaving the state in frustration. I came to California full of optimism.

I taught at Stanford, started a tech company, and loved it here. But I also saw how the system was rigged against working people. That's what pushed me to step forward. I want to fight for those who've been left behind.

You'll be running against several big names -- Katie Porter, Xavier Becerra, Tony Thurmond. What sets you apart?

I've worked in three worlds -- business, government, and media -- and I understand how they connect. I've seen what works and what doesn't. I know how to get things done in government because I've done it before. And through my media work, I've learned how to communicate ideas clearly and directly to people. California doesn't need another politician -- it needs someone who can bring fresh thinking and real-world experience.

Gov. Newsom championed redrawing California's congressional maps before the 2026 midterms--which he achieved. What was your reaction? It was a disgraceful abuse of power. They're trying to change the rules to protect themselves. Newsom claims it's about fairness, but it's really about his own political ambitions -- it's part of his national campaign in disguise. This scheme cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and undermined our democracy. California is already one of the most gerrymandered states in the country. It takes three times as many votes to elect a Republican to Congress here as it does a Democrat. That's not democracy.

You've criticized California's independent redistricting process before. How should it be done instead?

We need a truly independent process. The so-called Citizens Redistricting Commission here is a joke -- they hired only one law firm to guide them, and it's a Democratic law firm tied to the DNC and the Obama-Biden campaigns. That's not independence; that's capture.

I'm not saying this to defend Republicans. I'm

saying it because fairness matters. Every Californian's vote should count equally, no matter their party.

What's your overall vision for the state?

To bring back the California dream -- the idea that you can work hard, buy a home, raise a family, and feel safe in your community. Right now, that dream is out of reach for too many people. We've got the highest taxes, the highest poverty rate, and the least affordable housing in the country. I want to replace ideology with common sense. I want to focus on jobs, education, safety, and affordability. It's about making California work again for everyone.

How does California politics compare to the U.K., where you worked in government?

Great question. The biggest difference is scale. California's bureaucracy is massive. There are more layers of government, more regulations, more interest groups. Reforming anything here takes enormous effort because the system protects itself. In both places, bureaucracy holds people back, but in California, it's on another level. That's why real change here has to start with cutting red tape and empowering local communities.

Black Californians continue to face gaps in wealth, health, and education. How would you address those disparities?

The foundation of opportunity is education. That's where it starts. We need to hold schools accountable -- every school should get a clear, public grade based on performance. Teachers should be evaluated fairly but honestly, and tenure shouldn't be automatic after 16 months. Parents also deserve choice. If a school isn't working, families should be able to take their funding elsewhere -- through

education savings accounts, charter schools, or open enrollment.

Every child deserves a good education, no matter their ZIP code.

California's homelessness crisis remains severe. What would you do differently?

We need compassion with accountability. The first step is enforcing the law -- encampments are not humane, for the people living in them or the communities around them. Second, we must dramatically expand mental health and addiction treatment -- more than 80% of unhoused people struggle with one or both. But we also have to end "housing first" as the only policy. Help should come with responsibility -- treatment, sobriety, participation in recovery. That's how you truly rebuild lives.

Do you support the 2035 zero-emissions vehicle mandate?

I'm against all mandates. No, it's unrealistic and harmful. It drives up costs for working families while doing little for the environment. California imports oil from halfway around the world while sitting on abundant natural gas here at home. It makes no sense. I'm all for clean energy, but it has to be affordable and practical. Let innovation, not government mandates, lead the way.

What do you love most about California?

Everything. The people, the energy, the beauty -- this is the best place on Earth. People come here to live freely, to create, to dream big. That spirit is still alive. My mission is to protect it and restore what's been lost. I want California to be golden again -- for everyone.



Steve Hilton Republican candidate for Governor State of California.

Q&A With Katie Porter: Gubernatorial Candidate Talks About Her Platform and Willingness to Work With Black Leadership



The Hon. Katie Porter Democratic candidate for Governor State of California.

By Edward Henderson
California Black Media
Editor's Note:

This California Black Media Q&A series with California's gubernatorial candidates is intended to inform voters about where the candidates for governor stand on key issues. The opinions, assertions, and claims expressed are those of the candidates and have not been independently verified; they may or may not be supported by publicly available data.

Once seen as a leading contender to succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom, former California U.S. Rep. Katie Porter spent much of the summer and early fall of 2025 at the top of many Democratic primary polls.

In some surveys, she held a clear edge over her rivals, and she earned significant early endorsements that fueled her momentum.

But the glow dimmed in the months that followed as her support eroded amid a series of campaign setbacks and shifting voter preferences, with recent statewide polling showing her trailing other contenders and well behind the front of the pack. At the 2026 California Democratic Party Convention, which was meant to help shape party endorsements, Porter ultimately placed fifth in the internal delegate vote with roughly 9% support, behind figures like Eric Swalwell, Betty Yee, and Xavier Becerra.

California Black Media (CBM) spoke with Porter on new ideas in her platform, promising to stand up to Trump in Washington and her willingness to collaborate with the California Black Caucus and reparations task force if elected.

The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

What is motivating you to run for Governor of California?

I think with Trump in the White House, we really need a governor in California who's going to stand and be fearless in protecting Californians. We're seeing attacks on healthcare. We're seeing attacks on our workforce, and we're seeing attacks on our education system. As a member of Congress, I took on Trump. I held his advisors and his cronies accountable, both in congressional hearings and in the real world. So, I think making sure that we have someone who continues to protect California when we're under attack.

In your campaign video you talk about fresh ideas, and especially with the crowded candidacy. What are some of your fresh ideas? What do you think separates you from the crowd?

I'm the only candidate in this race who's not taking contributions from corporations. I can't be bought, not by anybody. So that's why I think voters can trust me to focus on good ideas.

With regard to some of the ideas I've been working on, one of them is focusing a lot on homelessness prevention. So, it's not just what do we do when we have people experiencing homelessness, but how do we stop that from happening in the first place? And we haven't done much on that. And I

think that's what people want to see. They don't want to see people struggling. They don't want to deal with the effects in our community and the harms that people are facing on the streets.

We want to get ahead of that and protect people -- so that means things like eviction prevention and rapid rehousing. Can we identify people at risk before they get to that point? Because once they get there, it's really a tough situation for them and for our whole community.

With regard to healthcare, I've done a lot of work in Congress on bringing down the cost of pharmaceuticals. I think there's a lot California can do with CalRx and we have to think about how we can bring down those costs. It's going to be really important.

If elected, what is your stance when it comes to working with the reparations task force or along with the legislative Black Caucus to tackle the most pressing issues for Black Californians.

California is so fortunate to have thoughtful and strong and talented, Black Caucus members who come from a lot of different professional backgrounds. And, so, I think we've seen their leadership on issues like making our communities safer, addressing issues of police violence, addressing issues in disparity in mental health care.

I think the reparations task force has been a really important process for Californians to understand what our history is of our nation, what the consequences of that history are, and what are the tools that we have at our disposal to do something about it.

I think you have to, as a leader, be honest about this. Black Californians face disparities. They continue to face disparities. This is not a problem of the past. This is an ongoing harm: worse health outcomes, less likely to own a home, more pollution in their neighborhoods. And so, I think we have to be really thoughtful about what are the different pathways to address that.

And I think the reparations task force came up with a number of different ideas, a number of different approaches that we could use. But I think we have to recognize that the reparations committee is about what we do about these harms of the past. But we also have to be thinking about how these proposals will build a better future for all Californians, regardless of race, including those who might not be descendants of of American chattel slavery, but might still be experiencing systemic racism and its harms in their communities.

What is your favorite thing about California?

California has such a sense of energy and a willingness to push forward. I think we see that going back in our history -- both parts of our history we're proud of and not proud of. But California has always determined what comes next.

That's really what excites me about it. What comes next is how do we build green energy in a way that does not repeat the harms, the environmental injustices of the past? How do we look forward and do better than our past?

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Features



Jasmyne A. Cannick, Political strategist. Cultural commentator. Photo courtesy Our Weekly News.

The Resistance Needs Rent Money

By Jasmyne A. Cannick

Our Weekly News

"F— Trump" has become cultural currency. YG made it a hook.

Timelines on fire.

Group chats activated.

Think pieces flying.

Boycotts declared between brunch reservations.

But here's the part nobody wants to talk about:

If you really want to hit back at Trump and his administration, you're going to have to open your wallet.

Yes. Your wallet.

The right understands something the left keeps pretending not to: Power requires infrastructure, and infrastructure requires money. MAGA treats funding as a duty, not a debate. That's how movements survive.

While we're busy tweeting clever drags, this administration is busy strangling the very institutions that keep marginalized communities informed, organized, and sane.

The non-profits.

The community radio stations.

The grassroots advocacy groups.

The arts organizations.

The "DEI" programs corporations have suddenly decided are "too political."

The same spaces people claim to love? They're bleeding.

Funding cut.

Corporate sponsors spooked.

Foundations nervous.

Boards scared to be seen as "too aligned."

And a lot of folks who claim to be in the resistance are watching it happen like it's a documentary.

Let's be clear about something.

When Trump and his people attack "DEI," they aren't attacking an HR training slideshow.

They're attacking infrastructure.

They're attacking the pipelines that create leadership.

The community outlets that tell the truth.

The organizations that train young activists.

The legal funds that fight voter suppression.

The local stations that broadcast information when mainstream outlets won't.

They're going after the ecosystem.

And if that ecosystem collapses because we were too comfortable to sustain it? That's not just unfortunate.

That's a win for them.

And before someone says, "Well, I'm not wealthy."

Nobody asked you to be.

This isn't about writing six-figure checks with your name engraved on a plaque. This is about participation.

Five dollars.

Ten dollars.

Twenty-five if you can swing it.

Recurring if you're serious.

The same way people find money for streaming services, concert tickets, sneakers, brunch, and DoorDash convenience fees — you can find a

small, consistent amount to keep the institutions you claim to care about alive.

Movements are not funded by billionaires alone. They're sustained by ordinary people deciding something matters enough to contribute to it.

You don't have to be rich.

You just have to be invested.

And if enough regular people decide to show up financially — even modestly — it replaces what corporations pulled back in fear.

Collective power isn't theoretical. It's arithmetic.

You cannot claim you're fighting authoritarianism while letting the last independent platforms standing quietly suffocate.

You cannot say you care about democracy while refusing to financially support the institutions that defend it.

You cannot shout "resistance" and then treat community organizations like optional subscriptions.

Trump doesn't need to shut these places down if we let them starve.

That's the part that should make people uncomfortable.

Because outrage is free.

Infrastructure is not.

If you're furious about corporations backing away from DEI, then replace the funding.

If you're angry about grants disappearing, then become the grant.

If you care about independent Black media, immigrant advocacy, LGBTQ youth spaces, women-led nonprofits — then treat them like the

essential services they are.

Set up recurring donations.

Sponsor an event.

Buy the membership.

Underwrite the program.

Share the fundraising links.

Actually show up.

Not just when it's trending.

Sustained support is what keeps movements alive. Not hashtags.

And let's be honest — some of these organizations are the last places holding the line. They're preserving culture. Protecting voting rights. Fighting book bans. Providing legal help. Training young leaders. Giving people somewhere to land when the news cycle feels like psychological warfare.

Letting them fold because corporations got scared is not resistance.

It's surrender dressed up as inconvenience.

If Trump and his allies want to weaken communities by choking off resources, and we shrug because it's not personally convenient to give

\$25 a month?

That's not sticking it to anyone.

That's letting them win quietly.

You want to fight?

Fund the fight.

Because the loudest statement you can make in this moment isn't another post.

It's keeping the lights on where it matters.

Economic Empowerment Has Always Been a Part of Black History

Photos courtesy OIC of America.

By Louis J. King II,

President & CEO, OIC of America

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, I'm reflecting on the century of economic volatility and roadblocks that have often defined the experiences of disenfranchised communities. Our collective legacy is marked by resilience to overcome the economic challenges faced while trying to achieve the American dream. For the last 50 years, many have pushed a single narrative: success can only come from a four-year college degree. While this opened pathways to education, access, and wealth creation, this singular focus doesn't account for the diverse ways people work to make our world function. That path doesn't fit everyone, and it doesn't have to. Check the news: the best-kept secret is out, and it is a career in the trades. Starting a career in the skilled trades now means entering an industry with financially rewarding, in-demand careers that are essential to the future of our economy. Skilled trades — like construction, plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, masonry, and HVAC — are not only in high demand, but they're also recession-resistant. As America rebuilds its infrastructure, provides disaster relief, and moves toward a greener economy, these trades are leading the way. And at OICA we are building America's workforce to rebuild America by enrolling thousands of people per year to start their careers in the skilled trades. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 500,000 skilled trade workers are needed each year to fill open positions. With roughly 40% of skilled trades workers expected to retire over the next decade, demand will continue to grow, and more pathways to the middle class will open. These are careers that can't be outsourced and that AI won't replace. They require technical know-how, problem-solving



skills, and hands-on training. Another pathway to build a financially stable life. At OIC of America, along with our affiliates across the country, we're working to dismantle the negative assumptions around vocational careers and open doors for young people and adults alike to explore these life-changing opportunities. We're also making sure women, returning citizens, multicultural and multigenerational folks are at the table — and in the field — where these good-paying jobs are waiting. By 2030, we're on track to place over 50,000 people in the skilled trades per year — a pivot that opens up a world of economic potential they were previously locked out of. A career in the skilled trades is not just about working with your hands. It's about building an economic future — for yourself, your family, and your community. In my view, that's truly one of the best ways to honor the legacy of Black History Month. For more information, or to be connected to a training program near you, visit www.oicofamerica.org.

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Features

Political Playback:

California Capitol News You Might Have Missed

By Bo Tefu and Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

State Dem Convention: Nichelle Henderson Stuns Field, Topping Delegate Vote in Superintendent of Public Instruction Race



Nichelle Henderson candidate for CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Black Democratic candidates walked away from this weekend's state party convention with a mixed but telling set of results.

One race in particular delivered a headline-making surprise. The biggest jolt came in the contest for Superintendent of Public Instruction, where educator Nichelle Henderson outpaced better-known contenders, including former Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, to lead the delegate vote. In a field that included seasoned political figures with statewide name recognition, Henderson's strong showing signaled that grassroots appeal and an education-centered message may be resonating more deeply with party activists than traditional political resumes.

Her first-place finish positions her as a candidate to watch as the primary approaches and suggests that delegates are open to elevating new voices over established power players.

Beyond Henderson's breakout performance, other Black candidates saw varying degrees of success that offered an early measure of organizational strength and enthusiasm within party ranks.

In the race for lieutenant governor, former Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs captured 24% of delegate support in a competitive field. While not enough to dominate the contest, the share reflects a meaningful base of backing among activists and underscores his continued relevance in statewide politics.

Secretary of State Shirley Weber, running unopposed, demonstrated overwhelming party support with 96% of delegate votes. Controller candidate Malia Cohen, also without opposition, secured 95%, reinforcing her strong standing within the party establishment.

The results were more challenging in the race for Insurance Commissioner. Former Sen. Steven Bradford trailed competitors Jane Kim, a former member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) in delegate backing, highlighting the uphill climb he faces in a contest featuring candidates with broader statewide visibility.

Meanwhile, Mike Gipson, running unopposed for Board of Equalization District Three, earned a whopping 80% of delegate support.

| Superintendent of Public Instruction | Votes | % |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Josh Newman | 411 | 18.82% |
| Nichelle Henderson | 609 | 24.73% |
| Ed Mariscalde | 637 | 21.87% |
| Richard Barera | 312 | 12.77% |
| Anthony Rendon | 428 | 17.43% |
| No Endorsement/No Preference | 183 | 6.28% |
| Total | 2,444 | |
| Exception: No Consensus | | |

2026 Endorsing Conference Results: If a candidate receives 60% or more of the votes cast in an Endorsing Caucus, that candidate will be placed on the consent calendar. If no candidate reaches the 60% threshold, the caucus will be recorded as having "no consensus" on an endorsement. If "No Endorsement" receives 60% of the vote, the final decision will be "No Endorsement."

Former Alameda County DA Pamela Price Blasts Gubernatorial Hopeful Eric Swalwell Over Racist Video Repost

Former Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price held a press conference Feb. 21, in San Francisco during the California Democratic Party Convention, calling on party leaders to condemn gubernatorial candidate Eric Swalwell for reposting what she described as a racist and dehumanizing video of her.

Swalwell currently serves in the U.S. House of Representatives representing California's 14th Congressional District.

Price, who announced Dec. 4, 2025, that she is seeking to reclaim the seat she lost in a 2024 recall election, said Swalwell's decision to share the video with his more than 460,000 social media followers represented "an all-time low in civic discourse."

"It was disparaging enough that the video was first posted on the Internet in 2024, but Congressman Eric Swalwell added insult to injury by reposting it to share with his network," Price said. "To post the statement 'Why dehumanize someone you disagree with? This bigotry doesn't make a point. It sets your point back. Let's do better' while at the same time posting the dehumanizing

video, is gaslighting and disingenuous."

Price compared Swalwell's actions to the inflammatory rhetoric of former President Donald Trump, accusing the congressman of engaging in "petty politics disguised as public discourse."

"With this type of poisonous discourse Eric Swalwell is tantamount to Trump," she said. "I agree with Swalwell, 'Let's Do Better.' Let's do better than to have someone like Swalwell who has consistently demonstrated such a lack of character and wisdom leading the 4th largest economy in the world."

Price was joined by members of the party's Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus, who she said were "shocked" by the repost. The news conference called on Democratic leaders to formally denounce the video and Swalwell's decision to amplify it.

Swalwell, a Bay Area congressman and declared candidate for governor, has not publicly responded to Price's remarks as of press time.

California Democratic Lawmakers Reaffirm Commitment to DEI



Sen. Smallwood-Cuevas: Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 89 at the State Capitol to reaffirm the state's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) as foundational to justice, opportunity, and good governance. The resolution is a direct response to growing efforts by the federal government and some in the private sector -- specifically under the Trump administration -- to dismantle DEI programs and policies. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey Feb. 19.

On Feb. 19, Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 89, a measure affirming California's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

"We are California. DEI is in our DNA," Smallwood-Cuevas said. "We're proud to stand with our communities, who deserve the dignity and respect that DEI provides."

The press event, held at the State Capitol, brought together stakeholders focused on social justice, civil rights, and workforce equity. Lawmakers and community advocates presented a united front against efforts in other parts of the country to roll back DEI policies.

SCR 89 passed the Senate the same day on a 29-7 vote. A Senate Concurrent Resolution is approved by both the Senate and Assembly and expresses the joint will or intent of the Legislature. It does not carry the force of law and does not require the governor's signature.

The resolution urges local, state, and federal policymakers -- as well as educational institutions and private employers -- to uphold DEI principles while protecting constitutional rights and guarding against retaliation.

Among the legislators in attendance were Assemblymembers Mia Bonta (D-Alameda), Chris Ward (D-San Diego), Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood), Mike Fong (D-Monterey Park), Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters), and Senators Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles) and Caroline Menjivar (D-Burbank), all of whom voiced support for SCR 89.

"Today, I'm proud to stand with Sen. Smallwood-Cuevas and my colleagues to reaffirm California's commitment to uplifting all communities and protecting inclusive educational environments in the face of federal rollbacks," said Fong, chair of the California Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPPI) Legislative Caucus. "Here in California, when we defend DEI measures, we protect opportunity for students, immigrants, and diverse communities."

In January 2025, President Donald Trump began dismantling federal DEI programs through a series of executive orders targeting initiatives in federal agencies, the military, and among contractors. He described such programs as "radical" and discriminatory, arguing that opportunity should not be determined by race or sex.

Smallwood-Cuevas said Trump's actions have cast DEI in a negative light and caused harm in California. She argued that SCR 89 reinforces DEI as foundational to achieving the American Dream.

She also criticized the reported firing of 2,000 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission workers and the closure of civil rights offices, calling the moves detrimental to underrepresented communities.

Lawmakers emphasized that DEI efforts are also vital to people with disabilities, noting that equity ensures access, representation, and meaningful opportunity.

"Addressing structural disparities in our state is essential to California's survival and prosperity," Smallwood-Cuevas said.

Emergency Cash: Gov. Newsom Approves \$590 Million Loan to Stabilize Bay Area Transit Agencies

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation authorizing a \$590 million emergency loan to stabilize Bay Area transit systems, including Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), San Francisco Bay Area Municipal Transportation Commission (MTC), Caltrain and Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC) Transit.

The measure allows the California State Transportation Agency to loan funds to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to help cover operating deficits as agencies continue recovering from steep pandemic-related ridership losses.

"California is stepping up to support Bay Area transit. This agreement will help protect transit

service for more than three million monthly riders," Newsom said. He added that growing ridership, cleaner air and less congestion demonstrate "the benefits of a strong transit system."

State Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin called the loan an emergency bridge to maintain reliable service while the region works toward a long-term funding fix.

"This \$590 million emergency loan helps ensure Bay Area communities continue to have reliable service as ridership returns," he said.

State Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) said the funding would "avert a traffic catastrophe" and prevent devastating service cuts, describing the agreement as "a major win for securing a bright future for Bay Area public transit."

Sen. Jesse Arreguin (D-Berkeley) called it "a major victory for our region's transit operators, workers, and the communities that depend on public transit."

According to regional leaders, Bay Area commuters take 900,000 daily trips on the transit network.

MTC Chair Sue Noack said the loan "keeps the transit system running smoothly next year," helping commuters avoid increased congestion.

The loan is structured as a temporary bridge while the region pursues a potential November 2026 ballot measure that would generate new operating funds starting in 2027. Under the agreement, MTC will repay the loan to the state over 12 years, with interest-only payments during the first two years. Repayment will be backed by State Transit Assistance revenues.

The legislation also directs state officials to ensure existing capital projects are not disrupted and requires monitoring of regional transportation funds.

Officials say the emergency financing is designed to stabilize service now while laying groundwork for a more financially resilient transit system in the years ahead.

Rest in Peace: California Leaders Mourn the Passing of the Rev Jesse L. Jackson

Gov. Gavin Newsom, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-11), and State Sen. Akielah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) were among a number of California leaders who joined the nation in publicly mourning the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, who died Feb. 17, 2026, at age 84 in Chicago.

Speakers honored him as one of the nation's foremost civil rights leaders and described him as "one of America's greatest civil rights champions" and "a patriot who had the love in his heart to preach a gospel of hope."

In statements dated Feb. 17, the Newsoms highlighted Jackson's decades-long activism and his impact across the country.

"His footprints are found in every civil rights movement in modern history, both as a leader and as a supporter, lending his strength and his spirit to communities around the country," they said in a statement.

The Newsoms noted Jackson's work in California, including standing with farmworkers in the Central Valley, advocating for racial and economic justice in Los Angeles and Oakland, and empowering young voters and activists on campuses throughout the state.

Pelosi reflected on Jackson's national influence, recalling his 1984 Democratic National Convention speech in San Francisco, when he said, "Our flag is red, white and blue, but our nation is a rainbow, and we're all precious in God's sight."

She praised Jackson for broadening the civil rights movement to include working-class communities, people of color, women, LGBTQ Americans, and others striving for a better future. Pelosi said his life and leadership continue to inspire a new generation of change-makers.

Weber Pierson released a statement honoring Jackson's legacy, calling him "a relentless advocate for equality and justice whose courage and vision paved the way for progress across our nation and here in California."

"His legacy lives on in the hope he inspired, the barriers he broke, and the generations he empowered, giving courage to those who believed change was possible because he showed them it was," Weber Pierson posted.

The leaders emphasized Jackson's enduring message of fellowship and justice.

"Today, we grieve his loss -- and tomorrow we honor the Reverend by picking up his mantle, by keeping hope alive, and fighting for the world he dreamed of," the Newsoms said.

Pelosi extended condolences to Jackson's wife, Jackie, and their five children, Santita, former Congressman Jesse Jr., Congressman Jonathan, Yusef, and Jacqueline, while acknowledging the national and global mourning of Jackson's passing.

Jackson, founder of Operation PUSH and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, ran for president in 1984 and 1988 and spent decades fighting for racial and economic justice.

California Signs Climate Deal With U.K.; Pres. Trump Reacts

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a strengthened climate partnership with the United Kingdom, signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Ed Miliband to deepen cooperation on clean energy and sustainable development.

The announcement was followed by a meeting with UK clean-tech company Octopus Energy, which pledged nearly \$1 billion in investments for California projects focused on clean energy, carbon removal, and nature-based solutions.

"California is the best place in America to invest in a clean economy because we set clear goals and we deliver," Newsom said. "Today, we deepened our partnership with the United Kingdom on climate action and welcomed nearly a billion dollars in clean-tech investment from Octopus Energy."

Octopus Energy Generation CEO Zoisa North-Bond highlighted California's strong policy framework and entrepreneurial ecosystem as ideal for long-term investment that benefits both California and the UK economy. The UK government described the partnership as part of its broader mission to cut energy costs, create jobs, and tackle climate change.

Newsom also met with UK Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy to explore expanded collaboration in climate, trade, and business. The California-UK agreement builds on a growing network of international partnerships, including deals with Chile, Colombia, Nigeria, Brazil, Australia, China, Denmark, and Canadian

provinces, covering areas such as methane reduction, forest conservation, zero-emission energy, and climate adaptation.

California's climate leadership extends to global coalitions, including the Under2 Coalition, the Beyond Oil & Gas Alliance, and the Subnational Methane Action Coalition. Domestically, Newsom co-chairs the bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance and the America Is All In coalition, working with states, cities, tribal nations, and businesses to advance climate goals.

Under Newsom's administration, California has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 21% since 2000 levels while growing its economy by 81% over the same period. Battery storage has surged to nearly 17,000 megawatts, and in 2023, the state was powered by two-thirds clean energy.

President Trump reacted to the California-U.K. deal by questioning whether a state should enter international climate partnerships, calling the deal "inappropriate" and saying the U.K. "shouldn't be dealing with" Newsom on climate policy. California officials defended the partnership, citing the state's track record of delivering measurable emissions reductions while creating jobs and investment opportunities.

A New Legislative Bloc: Assemblymember Mia Bonta Is Founding Chair of the Children's Caucus

Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda) formally launched the California Legislative Children's Caucus (CLCC) on Feb. 17, creating a bipartisan, bicameral bloc dedicated to advancing policies for the state's more than 8 million children. The inaugural caucus includes 40 legislators from both parties who were joined by child advocates at a press conference in Sacramento.

"It's about time California focused on children. That's why we decided to found the California Legislative Children's Caucus," Bonta said. "Nearly one in every five children in California are living in poverty in the fourth-largest economy in the world. We know that we can do better for our kids."

The caucus will organize its work around key priorities including childcare access, foster youth, children's health, education, civic engagement, youth justice, housing security, environmental sustainability, economic security, financial literacy, and overall child welfare.

Several legislators highlighted the importance of child-centered policy. Assemblymember Alex Lee (D-San Jose) said, "By putting California's children first, the caucus will play a critical role in meeting our youth's most basic needs, including education, health care, and economic security."

Assemblymember Robert Garcia (D-Rancho Cucamonga) called children "both our most vulnerable population and our most valuable asset."

Assemblymember Liz Ortega (D-San Leandro) emphasized that supporting children's health and futures must be a top priority.

At the launch, Bonta introduced two new bills. Assembly Bill (AB) 1969, the It Takes a Village Act of 2026, proposes the establishment of a three-year grant program to build and strengthen cradle-to-career networks statewide. AB 1996, the No More Child Poverty Act, aims to cut child poverty in half within 10 years and proposes an 18-member council to track the state's progress.

Other caucus members also shared legislative priorities, including Assemblymember Juan Alanis (R-Modesto), the sponsor of AB 528, which seeks to protect child victims in the legal system.

"As a member of the California Children's Caucus, I am proud to champion AB 528 which safeguards vulnerable child victims from further trauma in our legal system," Alanis said.

Former State Sen. Steve Bradford Announces New Endorsements of His Campaign for Insurance Commissioner



The Hon. Steven Bradford, candidate for CA State Insurance Commissioner. (file photo Antonio Ray Harvey, CBM)

Former Assemblymember and State Senator Steve Bradford announced a wide-ranging slate of new endorsements in his campaign for California Insurance Commissioner, signaling growing support from local leaders, elected officials, and labor organizations across the state.

"These leaders understand firsthand how insurance impacts families, businesses, and entire communities," Bradford said. "From homeowners struggling to keep coverage, to cities recovering after disasters, Californians need an Insurance Commissioner who will protect consumers and stabilize the market. I'm honored to earn the support of leaders who are on the front lines every day."

Bradford's supporters include mayors, city council members, county supervisors, and school board officials from across California, such as Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, Inglewood Mayor James Butts, Compton Mayor Emma Sharif, Sacramento Sheriff Jim Cooper, and city leaders from Gardena, Lawndale, Carson, Culver City, Torrance, and Victorville. Education leaders also backing Bradford include Tanya Ortiz Franklin of the Los Angeles Unified School District and Sunny Zia of the Long Beach Community College District.

Labor and advocacy groups have joined the coalition as well, according to Bradford's campaign, including Teamsters California, the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 13, and Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA).

State and federal officials endorsing Bradford include U.S. Congressmembers Adam Gray (D-CA-13) and Luz Rivas (D-CA-29), California Treasurer Fiona Ma, Secretary of State Shirley Weber, former Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins, and Assembly Speaker Emeritus John A. Pérez.

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every challenge.

*Your voice in
uncertain times.*

— LEIMERT PARK —

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Sports



Los Angeles Angels designated hitter and center fielder Mike Trout (27) | Christopher Hanewinkel-Imagn Images



Mike Trout | Rick Scuteri-Imagn Images

Kurt Suzuki Begins New Era as Angels Manager

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Angels are turning the page in 2026, and at the center of the franchise's reset is a familiar face. Kurt Suzuki begins the season as the club's new skipper, stepping into the role with both history in the organization and hope for a turnaround. Suzuki, 42, is no stranger to the Angels. After concluding his 16-year playing career with the club from 2011-22, he spent the past three seasons as a special assistant within the organization. Now, he takes over a team seeking stability and direction after a decade of struggles. A native of Wailuku, Hawaii, Suzuki makes history as Major League Baseball's first Hawaiian-born non-interim manager — a milestone that adds cultural significance to his appointment. From Player to Leader

Originally drafted by the Oakland Athletics in the second round of the 2004 MLB Draft out of Cal State Fullerton, Suzuki quickly built a reputation as a steady presence behind the plate. At Fullerton, he led the Titans to the 2004 College World Series

championship, setting the tone for a career defined by leadership.

Over 1,635 games, Suzuki compiled a .255/.314/.388 slash line with 143 home runs, 295 doubles and 730 RBIs. His career included stops with the Athletics, Washington Nationals, Minnesota Twins, Atlanta Braves and the Angels. He was part of the Nationals' 2019 World Series championship team, further cementing his championship pedigree.

His familiarity with the Angels clubhouse may prove invaluable. Suzuki was teammates with current Angels including Mike Trout, Logan O'Hoppe, Taylor Ward, Reid Detmers, Jo Adell, Chase Silseth and Anthony Rendon during his final seasons. General manager Perry Minasian also has history with Suzuki from his time as an assistant GM in Atlanta.

A Franchise Seeking Direction
Suzuki inherits an Angels team that has endured 10 consecutive losing seasons and has not reached the postseason since 2014. The club finished 72-90

in 2025 — an improvement over its franchise-worst 63-99 mark in 2024 — but still far from playoff contention.

The expectation is that Suzuki's calm demeanor and player-first approach can help reshape a culture that has struggled to find consistency.

Trout's Return to Center
A major storyline entering the season is Trout's return to center field. The 34-year-old, three-time American League MVP and 11-time All-Star prefers moving back to his longtime position after spending last season in right field.

"I talked to 'Zuk.' I definitely want to play center," Trout said. "I told him I'll play anywhere, but obviously prefer center. It was good communication with him and Perry, and they're on board with it."

Trout added that he feels more comfortable — and physically at ease — in center.

"I feel like I'm at my best when I'm in center," Trout said. "But if I had to go to the corner, I would go to the corner. Honestly, I felt like when I was in center, it was less on my body than the corners. In

right, it felt like I was running a lot, but it's just like a preference thing. I just feel confident in center."

Suzuki echoed that flexibility. "We had a conversation and his preference is center field," Suzuki said. "But at the same time, he came up to me and he said, 'Hey, Zuk, I'll play wherever you need me. I'm comfortable left, right, center — wherever you need me to play.' And he kind of left it as that. So we'll keep our options open, but he does prefer center, so we'll take a look."

Building Forward
For Suzuki, the challenge is significant. But so is the opportunity.

With deep ties to the clubhouse, a championship background and a firsthand understanding of the grind of a long season, Suzuki represents both continuity and change.

For Angels fans eager for a new direction, 2026 marks the beginning of a new era — one led by a former catcher who understands that rebuilding confidence is just as important as rebuilding a roster.

Kyle Tucker Brings Star Power — and the Right Mindset — to Dodgers

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

The Los Angeles Dodgers made headlines this offseason by adding one of baseball's most coveted free agents, right fielder Kyle Tucker. But beyond the record-setting contract and All-Star résumé, the 29-year-old slugger may be an even better fit for the clubhouse than he is for the lineup. Tucker signed a four-year, \$240 million contract — an eye-popping \$60 million per year, the highest annual salary in baseball this season. Yet for Tucker, joining the "Men in Blue" wasn't about the spotlight. "It doesn't bother me, it really doesn't," Tucker told USA Today of the attention surrounding his deal. "I'm sure it would have probably happened in some aspect regardless of where I would have went. But I think with this team, winning the last two years, probably made it bigger." Built to Win

The Dodgers have positioned themselves as baseball's standard-bearer, assembling a roster loaded with elite talent and postseason experience. Tucker understands he's stepping into a culture designed for championships.

"I just happen to be on the team this front office assembled," Tucker said. "Every team would want to get the best players on their own team, but it doesn't always work out like that. But this team does a pretty good job trying to put the best product out on the field for the fans."

"They've done that the last couple of years, putting themselves in a position to win a World Series."

A four-time All-Star, two-time Silver Slugger and World Series champion, Tucker arrives in Los Angeles with proven production. Before injuries slowed him the past two seasons with the Houston Astros and Chicago Cubs, Tucker averaged 30 home runs and 104 RBIs over three consecutive seasons. He owns a career .865 OPS — 40 points above the



Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Kyle Tucker plays against the San Diego Padres during a spring training game at Peoria Sports Complex.

league average — and finished fifth in American League MVP voting in 2023.

A Seamless Fit

Inside the Dodgers' clubhouse, expectations are high — but so is the support system. Tucker's low-key personality aligns well with a veteran roster

that values preparation over publicity.

"They make it pretty easy to come into this clubhouse and just be yourself and enjoy baseball," Tucker said. "This organization is first class. We do have some really great players and great people on this team, so I've felt comfortable ever since I got here. I'm just going to do my thing regardless of where I'm at."

That dynamic could be critical over the grind of a 162-game season. With so many established stars around him, Tucker won't be asked to carry the franchise alone — even with a \$60 million salary attached to his name.

"When you come to a new team like this, you don't have to be the main guy," said Dodgers outfielder Teoscar Hernández, who shifted from right field to left to accommodate Tucker. "So it will be great for him because he won't have that extra pressure on him. He can just be himself."

Manager Dave Roberts appreciates Tucker's quiet competitiveness.

"I love guys who just come to work and value playing and love playing and competing," Roberts said. "He just wants to win. He's not a self-promoter. He's not going to give you guys a lot of great sound bites. He wants to play to win."

"I love guys like that."

More Than a Contract
In Los Angeles, where expectations run sky-high and championships are the standard, Tucker's arrival reinforces a simple truth: talent matters, but temperament does too.

For a Dodgers team chasing another title, Tucker's bat will draw headlines. But his steady presence — focused, team-first and unfazed by the glare — may prove just as valuable.

And in a city that demands excellence, that might be the perfect fit.

Pat Riley Receives Monumental Tribute at Crypto.com Arena

By Earl Heath
Contributing Sports Writer

Former Los Angeles Lakers coach Pat Riley recently received a "super" honor when the franchise unveiled an 8-foot bronze statue in his likeness outside Crypto.com Arena. The tribute immortalizes the Hall of Fame coach who masterminded the electrifying "Showtime" era that defined Lakers basketball in the 1980s. Riley, 80, stood before family, former players and fans as the Lakers revealed the statue in Star Plaza. The sculpture captures him in one of his signature Giorgio Armani suits — arms folded, hair slicked back — embodying the polished confidence that became synonymous with championship basketball in Los Angeles. The statue stands between those of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson, two pillars of the Lakers' five championships during the 1980s. Together, the trio represents one of the most dominant dynasties in NBA history. Architect of Showtime

Riley was an assistant coach for the Lakers' 1980 championship team before owner Jerry Buss elevated him to head coach in 1981 — despite Riley never having previously held the position. The gamble paid off.

In nine seasons as head coach, Riley led the Lakers to four NBA titles (1982, 1985, 1987 and 1988) and seven Finals appearances. His fast-paced, high-scoring system blended Hollywood flair with disciplined execution, giving rise to the "Showtime Lakers" identity that captivated fans nationwide.

"The time has gone so fast," Riley said during the ceremony. "I feel like everything I've ever done, I've been blessed. I was surrounded by greatness."

Under his leadership, the Lakers became more

than a basketball team; they were a cultural force. The Forum turned into a celebrity hotspot, and the Lakers' style of play symbolized excellence, entertainment and Black athletic brilliance on a global stage.

A Lifetime in the Game
Riley's NBA journey spans nearly six decades. He won championships as a player (1972), assistant coach (1980) and head coach. After leaving Los Angeles, he found continued success with the New York Knicks and later the Miami Heat, where he remains team president.

With the Heat, Riley won an NBA championship as head coach in 2006 and as an executive in 2012 and 2013, further cementing his legacy as one of the league's most accomplished figures.

Still, Riley has never forgotten where his professional roots were planted.

He spent nearly two decades with the Lakers organization — as a player, broadcaster and coach — collecting six championship rings in purple and gold. Los Angeles remains central to his story, and his impact on the city's sports identity is undeniable.

Praise From Legends
Both Abdul-Jabbar and Johnson offered heartfelt tributes during the unveiling.

Abdul-Jabbar reflected on a friendship with Riley that dates back to their high school days in New York. Johnson, meanwhile, credited Riley as a visionary who helped shape the Lakers' championship DNA.

"When they say, 'City of Champions,' we can look at you as one of the architects of that slogan," Johnson told Riley. "You've done more for us than we could ever thank you for."

A Lasting Legacy
For Lakers fans — particularly in the African American community that embraced and elevated the Showtime era — Riley's statue is more than bronze and steel. It is a reminder of a transformative time in sports and culture when excellence, style and teamwork redefined what championship basketball

looked like.

Now permanently etched into Star Plaza, Riley's likeness stands as a symbol of leadership, vision and the pursuit of greatness — a fitting tribute to a coach who helped turn Los Angeles into the epicenter of basketball brilliance.



The 8-foot tall, 510-pound bronze statue unveiled by the Lakers outside Crypto.com Arena on Sunday features legendary coach Pat Riley wearing a Giorgio Armani suit. Kirby Lee-Imagn Images



Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. receives the NNPA Lifetime Achievement Award during its annual conference in Norfolk, VA. (Photo: Mark Mahoney / DreamInColor Photography.)

Eternal Salute to The Reverend Dr. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

By Rev. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.,
President and CEO, National Newspaper Publishers Association

God always will bless the oppressed with leaders who are fearless, brilliant, audacious, and transformative. We thank God for the life, the legacy, and the iconic leadership of The Reverend Dr. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

On behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) representing the Black Press of America, we extend our sincerest condolences to the Jackson family. Leadership matters. Jesse Jackson's leadership in the Civil Rights Movement in America and the human rights movement throughout the world was outstanding. Jackson uttered a strong penetrating voice for the voiceless. His courage on the battlefield for freedom, justice and equality was unparalleled.

There is an old African proverb that says when a leader of the village transitions, the spirit of the leader remains at the center of the future of the village. Certainly, today in 2026 our nation and

world are still challenged by racism, antisemitism, hatred, and inhumanity. The spirit of Jesse Jackson lives on at the center of the ever evolving and unfolding "freedom movement" throughout the world.

Golden Frinks, the North Carolina State Field Secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) under the leadership of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther, Jr., recruited me when I was 14 years old in 1962 to be the NC Statewide Youth Coordinator for SCLC. I grew up in the Civil Rights Movement. Jesse Jackson was a mentor and a colleague who I admired. I have hundreds of vivid memories of when we worked and struggled together for the liberation of all humanity.

I mourn the passing of Jesse Jackson, Sr. by rededicating my life and ministry to keep fighting for freedom and equal justice.

I witnessed firsthand the integrity, the movement-building genius, and the audacity of Martin Luther King, Jr. and all those who worked with him including The Reverend Andrew Young, The Reverend David Abernathy; The Reverend

Hosea Williams, The Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, The Reverend Wyatt T. Walker, The Reverend Joseph Lowery, and The Reverend Jesse Jackson along with many others.

From the March on Washington in 1963, to the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in 1965, to the Poor Peoples Campaign in 1968, the Civil Rights Movement was successful in getting into law the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

After the tragic and brutal assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, TN, the Civil Rights Movement was stunned and fractured. Thanks, however, to the steadfast courage and determination of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and others in SCLC, the Civil Rights Movement moved into the 1970s with renewed vigor to keep Dr. King's dream alive and vibrant.

In 1972, Jesse Jackson was one of the keynote speakers to the National Black Political Convention in Gary, IN. I remember conferring with Rev. Jackson while in Gary about the escalating violence against public school desegregation in North

Carolina and across the South. In the 1980s, Jackson's two presidential campaigns ignited unrepresented Black voter turnout and helped to transform the Democratic Party to be more progressive. The Reverend Wyatt T. Walker and I were the clergy coordinators for Jesse Jackson's campaigns for president and "Run Jesse Run" became the anthem of the progressive political struggle across the nation.

Reverend Jesse Jackson was a great orator. But he also was a serious and effective writer of civil rights commentaries for the Black Press of America for decades. It is our responsibility to ensure that the legacy of Reverend Jackson will continue to be cherished and used as a stimulant for "Keeping Hope Alive." Jackson was a "freedom fighter."

Each generation has to take the baton of history and to continue to win victories for freedom even in the face of those in power who attempt to erase our history and to stifle the freedom movement.

God bless the legacy of Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. Long live the spirit of the freedom struggle. Eternal salute to The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.



INVENTORS AND INVENTIONS ACTIVITY SHEET



Hi Everybody!
I love inventors! Sankofa 82' was my invention. Let's talk about some notable inventors and their inventions. Let's identify some useful, practical, innovative and helpful creations invented by some amazing African Americans!

JUDY REED (1826-1905)
Reed invented a dough kneader and roller. She was the first African American woman to receive a U.S. patent and revolutionized the baking industry. She made preparing dough more efficient. She paved the way for more women and minorities to obtain patents and contribute to the commercial baking field.

MICHAEL CROSLIN (1933-1989)
Croslin invented the blood and pulse monitoring device. His invention revolutionized blood monitoring with its computerized technology. The Medtek 410 eliminated the guesswork, providing doctors with accurate and reliable data for making informed treatment decisions instead of relying on their instincts.

SARAH BOONE (1847-1904)
Boone invented the improved ironing board. Born into slavery, Boone built a curved ironing board with a narrower width, making ironing women's clothing easier. Her design of the ironing board was patented in 1892.

ALFRED L. CRALLE (1866-1920)
Cralle invented the ice cream scoop. Ladles and spoons were never meant to be the right tool for serving ice cream. He developed a purpose-built tool inspired while he was working at a hotel in Pittsburgh. Nobody knew he was the creative mind behind the design and he did not profit from his idea.

JOSEPH R. WINTERS (1824-1916)
Winters invented the fire escape ladder. From observing a firefighter struggling to unload a traditional ladder from a wagon during a fire emergency, he developed this ladder by mounting it on a vehicle. His invention was more efficient and safer. Winters' fire escape ladder invention and his contributions to the Underground Railroad helped countless lives and made him a significant figure in African American History.

BETTY WRIGHT HARRIS (1940-PRESENT)
Harris invented the TATB spot test, which stands for Triaminotrirobenzene (a high temperature explosive). During her career, Harris became a leading expert in hazardous water treatment, explosives and environmental remediation. Her most notable invention is the TATB spot test, a method for identifying explosives. She was awarded the patent for this invention in 1984. Harris's test allowed for rapidly detecting explosives in the field, greatly improving safety in various industries.

JOHN LEE LOVE (1889-1931)
Love invented the portable pencil sharpener. He aimed to make everyday tasks easier. Before the pencil sharpener, people used a knife to sharpen their pencils, but Love's invention offered a more affordable and practical solution.

JACK JOHNSON (1878-1946)
Johnson invented the wrench. He invented a wrench that could loosen and tighten fasteners. He was granted a patent for it in 1922. Johnson's invention of the wrench was significant and contributed to the development of modern tools. Jack Johnson was also a professional boxer and became the first African American World Heavyweight Champion.

LLOYD RAY (1860-1940)
Ray invented the dustpan. His invention was patented in 1897. Before the invention of the dustpan, dust and debris on the floor was swept up by hand using a broom or a brush. The dustpan as designed by Ray remains largely unchanged to this day. It has become an essential household tool in homes, offices and commercial establishments worldwide paving the way for future cleaning technology innovations.

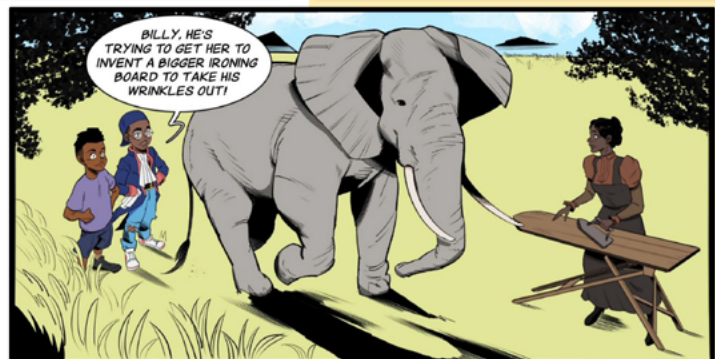
MATCH ME!!
Match the correct inventor to the correct invention.

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|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| A. Judy Reed | B. Michael Croslin | C. Sarah Boone |
| D. Alfred L. Cralle | E. Joseph R. Winters | F. Betty W. Harris |
| G. John L. Love | H. Jack Johnson | I. Lloyd Ray |

Dustpan _____ Wrench _____ Pencil Sharpener _____
TATB Spot Test _____ Fire Escape Ladder _____ Ice Cream Scoop _____
Ironing Board _____ Blood/Pulse Device _____ Knead Roller _____

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
In one minute or less, unscramble the words. The first letter of the word is in bold.

teaPnt
torvenIn
teareC
venIniont
buteCnotri
proImve



ANSWER KEY

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
MATCH ME!
H C F E D C B A