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The Greensboro Times

April Parker,Greensboro City Council member, released a statement following white supremacist march



April Parker, Greensboro City Council member, District 3

As the Greensboro City Councilmember representing District 3, I want to be clear: organized racial hatred, violence, and intimidation have no place in our community.

Greensboro carries a painful history of racial and political violence, including the events of November 3, 1979.

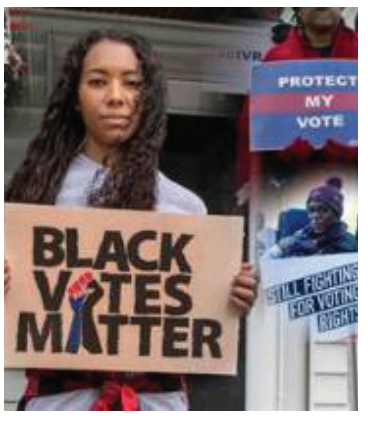
April Parker - page - 4

The 2026 Midterm Elections Are Coming: Here's What Voters Need To Know











Election season is creeping up, and whether you love politics, avoid it until the last minute, or simply want to know what's happening before you walk up to a polling site, the 2026 midterm elections are worth paying attention to. With Americans dealing with everything from inflation and high gas prices to layoffs and economic uncertainty, the people elected this

2026 Midterm Elections- page 4

White supremacist demonstration in downtown Greensboro draws counterprotesters; 'Racists, go home'

by: Justyn Araya-DeBusk, Gretchen Stenger



White nationalists protesting in Greensboro on Sunday share Nazi salutes.



Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler, 1937

GREENSBORO, N.C. (WGHP) — Tensions flared in downtown Greensboro as a group of white supremacist demonstrators marched in downtown Greensboro.

On Sunday(9/29/26} at about 3:30 p.m., a group of people dressed in black and wearing face masks, dark glasses and hats marched down North Eugene Street and the surrounding area, near Fisher Park. One person was carrying the Confederate Battle Flag. Another was carrying the first flag of North Carolina, which was adopted after joining the Confederacy.

White Supremacist DemonstrationPage 4

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NEWS NOTES

Justice Jackson Denounces Supreme Court's Frequent Emergency Orders

September 23, 2026



Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson isn't holding back anymore. Speaking at the University of the District of Columbia's law school Thursday night, she directly accused the Supreme Court's conservative majority of turning emergency rulings into a special privilege reserved almost exclusively for Trump's administration.

"We cannot expect the public to have faith in our judicial system if, without clear explanation, we are consistently green-lighting harmful acts that do real damage to litigating plaintiffs," Jackson said, according to the Washington Post. This so-called "shadow docket" allows the Court to issue rulings quickly, often without oral arguments and with little to no explanation, and Jackson says her conservative colleagues have used it as a backdoor to fast-track Trump's agenda without debate while everyone else waits their turn.

The receipts back her up. A recent study found the Supreme Court sided with the Trump administration roughly 80% of the time when it appealed lower-court rulings through this emergency process. That process has already been used to greenlight Trump's $400 million White House ballroom project, mass firings of tens of thousands of federal workers, and stripping protected status from hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan immigrants, all without the Court's usual full review.

The latest example, however, is one of the worst, with the Court using the shadow docket to allow the Trump administration to use Social Security records to verify voters' citizenship despite the Constitution's mandate that states control their own voting processes.

Jackson didn't mince words about what all this actually amounts to: "If we're not careful, the emergency docket can and will become an end run around the standard review process, a special avenue that certain privileged litigants can use selectively. Why is it that one party should get a fast pass to the Supreme Court of the United States when so many other parties are queued up, waiting patiently for the court's attention?"

And here's the kicker: the very same night Jackson delivered this pointed rebuke, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, half of the Court's conservative supermajority, were attending a lavish White House state dinner honoring Chinese President Xi Jinping, personally invited by Trump himself.

If that's not blatant, we don't know what is. While one justice publicly warns that the Court is bending its own rules to favor the president, three others are literally breaking bread at his table.

Jackson has raised these concerns before, at Yale in April and in a March debate with Kavanaugh himself, but this latest warning lands amid mounting evidence that the nation's highest court isn't just perceived as compromised. It's behaving that way in plain — and undeniable — sight.

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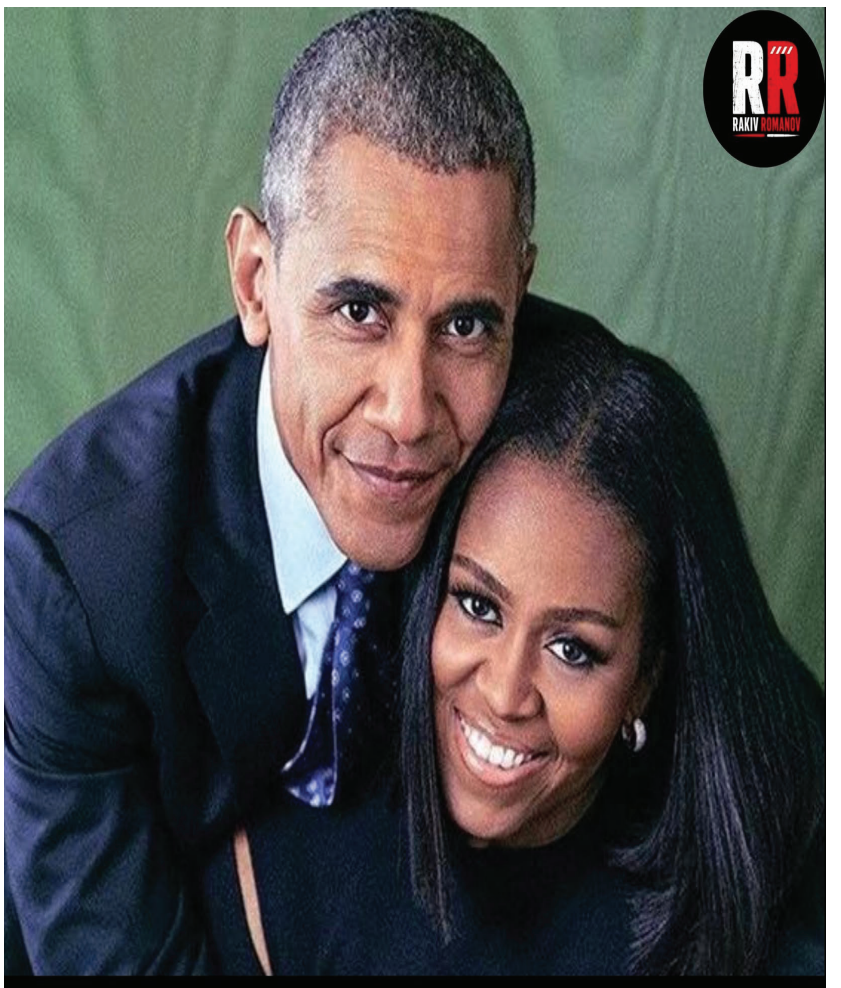
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SHELLY HEADEN

★FOR NC HOUSE★

Shelly lives in Oak Ridge, is a mother of three daughters, a CPA, a business owner, and the proud daughter of educators.

Shelly will fight for **fully-funded public schools, affordable healthcare**, and **fiscal responsibility** for working families.





Shelly Headen with her mother and three daughters — the people who inspire her commitment to family, community, and a stronger future for North Carolina's children.

MOM. NEIGHBOR. ADVOCATE.

"I raised three daughters in this community. I'm not a lifelong politician — I'm your neighbor, and someone who has spent years investing in and giving back to this community.

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2026 Midterm Elections from page 1



Students and community leaders are expressing outrage after the Guilford County Board of Elections voted 3–2 to eliminate the early voting site on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University—the largest HBCU in the nation (11-2625).

November could have a major say in the policies that affect everyday life — hopefully building policies that build a brighter future for us all.

So, when exactly are the midterms? Who's on the ballot? And what do you need to do before casting your vote? Here's your simple guide to the 2026 midterm elections.

When Are the 2026 Midterms?

Mark your calendar: Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026.

Midterm elections happen halfway through a president's four-year term. Unlike presidential elections, there's no White House race on the ballot, but there's still plenty at stake. Midterm elections give Americans the opportunity to elect local and state representatives, including governors, state legislators, and other local officials who can shape policies within their states. As noted by TIME Magazine, midterms also give voters a chance to weigh in on key issues and determine which political party will control Congress.

At the same time, midterm elections are often viewed as a referendum on the sitting president's performance. Historically, the president's party has frequently lost seats in Congress during midterm election cycles. So, if you're not particularly happy with how the Republican Party has been running things — and current polling shows President

Midterm Elections - page 5

White Supremacist Demonstration in Greensboro - from page 1

Abigail Seymour saw the demonstration firsthand. She described the group as young men. She says there were about 10 or 12 of them.

Seymour says, when she learned the group was in Greensboro spreading hate speech, she felt that it was important to not only document it but also make it clear that there is no tolerance for that kind of messaging here.

"It was mostly scary to see that kind of energy so close to home and so close to us," she said.

She said a group of community members started walking behind the demonstrators, telling them to leave. Seymour says this is when the group of men began yelling anti-Black and antisemitic slurs back at the community members.

As the demonstration continued, Seymour says more and more people joined the group of community members protesting against the demonstration. At one point they chanted, "Racists, go home." Within minutes, the counterprotesters outnumbered the demonstrators.

"Greensboro has a long history of civil rights activism, and that's what I felt as part of this small but then growing cadre of people that was coming behind them that, that is still the message that Greensboro has, which is that we don't tolerate that kind of hate speech," Seymour said. "But that kind of message, that kind of just hatred of other human beings. And I felt really proud to be part of a group of people that were going to run them off."

Public records show that five people called police to report the demonstration. Greensboro police say six officers were dispatched to the area.

She says the group ended up getting into cars and driving off. The demonstration lasted about 15 minutes.

April Parker Press Release Statement from page -1

We honor that history not simply by remembering it, but by confronting racism today and doing the work necessary to build a more equitable Greensboro. We still live with the consequences and realities of segregation and racial inequity in Greensboro.

Every resident of District 3 and throughout Greensboro deserves to live, work, worship, learn, raise a family, and participate in civic life without fear of racial hatred, discrimination, or intimidation. Our constitutional freedoms of speech, assembly, and political expression are fundamental and must be respected. At the same time, when threats, violence, harassment, or intimidation occur in our city, we must take them seriously and encourage residents to report them through the appropriate channels.

But opposing racism requires more than condemning individual acts of hatred after and when they occur. Antiracism calls on all of us to actively examine institutional and systemic oppression, reject racial hatred, challenge discrimination, learn from our history, and work to advance equity. I encourage residents to take action: learn about Greensboro's history of racial violence and resistance, speak out against racist rhetoric and intimidation, participate in community conversations, and report credible threats or criminal activity to the appropriate authorities.

Antiracism is a shared civic responsibility. Greensboro's history belongs to all of us and so does our future.



2026 Midterm Elections from page - 2

Trump and his administration facing approval ratings of around 39%, with disapproval hovering between 60% and 65% — the upcoming election is your opportunity to have a say in the direction the country takes. If you want change, the ballot is one of the most direct ways to help shape it.

Election rules vary depending on where you live. Registration deadlines, early voting, mail-in voting and ID requirements can all be different from state to state. You can check your local elections board for more information.

What's on the Ballot?

The biggest races are for Congress. All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election. About one-third of the U.S. Senate is also up for election. Depending on your state and local government, you could also be voting for a governor, state legislators, mayors and other local officials.

Some ballots will also include ballot measures, giving voters a direct say on proposed laws, constitutional amendments and other issues. In other words, your ballot may be much longer than you expect. So make sure to get informed about who's running before you hit the polls.

You can use Ballotpedia's "Who Represents Me" tool to find out more information about current federal, state, and local elected representatives. Alternatively, you can search Congress.gov for federal legislators' sponsored bills, committee assignments, and voting histories.

First Things First: Are You Registered?

Before worrying about candidates or campaign ads, make sure you're actually registered to vote. You can check your registration through your state's election website at Vote.Org, or a national voter-registration service. If you've recently moved, changed your name or haven't voted in a while, it's especially important to double-check your information.

Don't wait until Election Day. Registration deadlines differ by state, and while some states offer same-day registration, others require you to register weeks before voting.

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The Shout-Out Line

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Good morning, my neighbors and members of my church, for some reason they think I'm on top of everything that's going on in the community and area where I live. That's the Randleman Road area. Well, I don't keep up as people think. But! I do have a bit of news I think is reliable. Hardees fast food was tore down on Randleman Road five months ago. My understanding is that a bank is going to be built on the site. Chase Bank plans to build a new branch at that location. This is great news for residents and businesses in the area. Can't wait to see that empty lot completed with a new building complex.

Shout-Out

Hello G-times, you know I thought I had seen it all, but the Liar-In -Chief offering every American $5,000 who vote Republican in the midterm elections is just open in your face unlawful and corrupt and beyond imagination. The law is clear and no one in authority is trying to do anything about his promise of bribery to the American voters. The weak spineless news media included will not call him out on it. Under 18 U.S.C.section 597, anyone who "makes or offers to make an expenditure" to a person to vote, withhold a vote, or vote for or against a candidate can face criminal penalties. A willful violation can carry up to two years in prison. The law is clear. But, you know , the sad part about this is that some of the not to bright MAGA crew will buy into the lie of a bribery payoff. The Liar-In-Chief promise of a payday is just another lie on top of the millions of lies he's told over the years. He definitely has earned the title of Liar-In Chief.

Shout-Out

Just left the Doctor's office. I'm 85 and in good shape. We can't control our chronological age or genetics, but we can limit our exposure to toxins like smoking, excess drinking and regulate our sleep habits, move our bodies, and be mindful about what we eat. Just a little bit of thought and discipline, Thats all.

Shout-Out

Hello, racist attempts to hold Black people back financially shows up disguised in all forms. Latest example, the Protect College Act recently passed by the US Senate. What it does is deny Black athletes thousands of dollars of revenue as college football players. Most major individual football coaches at major universities make over $5 million a year and the colleges make close to a billion dollars annually. The NAACP and Congressional Black Caucus have come out against the law. For the Act to become law, it must pass the US House in late November.

Shout-Out

Hello, for your readers information, the Downtown Greenway will conclude its four-part Speaker Series this month with a conversation exploring public art, placemaking, and community connection. Organized as part of the community-wide celebration of the Greenway's completion earlier this year, the final talk will be held from 5:30-7 pm on Thursday, October 22, at the Weatherspoon Art Museum at University North Carolina Greensboro, 1005 Spring Garden St.
The event will feature Raleigh-based sculptor and painter Thomas Sayre in conversation with Dr. Emily Stamey, the Elizabeth McIver Weatherspoon curator of academic programming and head of exhibitions. Sayre creates paintings, sculptures, earthcastings and large-scale public art projects throughout the world. Inspired by a deep respect for natural materials, his work incorporates elements such as earth, fire, smoke, tar, and metal. He is particularly known for his earthcastings, which are monumental sculptures formed using molds dug directly into the ground. Chelsea Phipps, Greensboro's greenway coordinator release stated "Public art has been central to the Downtown Greenway from the beginning, helping us share stories, create landmarks, and invite people to experience the trail in new ways," said Chelsea Phipps, "This conversation offers a special opportunity to hear directly from one of the artists who helped shape this public space, and to explore how public art can build connection and belonging."
The Downtown Greenway's outdoor public art collection includes more than 50 original works, showcasing talent from Greensboro and across North Carolina alongside nationally and internationally recognized artists. history, culture, and natural environment. Four major cornerstones serve as anchors along the trail, featuring art that explores defining parts of Greensboro's past, including textiles, transportation, education, civil rights, the Revolutionary War, and the Underground Railroad.

Publisher's View

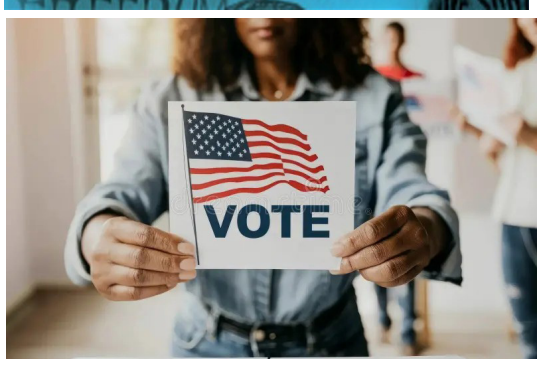


Earl Jones, Publisher
The Greensboro Times

A Fight to Protect Civil Rights: High Voter turnout critical for 2026 Elections







High voter turnout in the 2026 midterm elections is essential to protecting civil rights, preserving democratic institutions, and advancing economic opportunity—especially for African Americans.

The Trump administration's anti-DEI policies and actions to restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives have challenged programs designed to expand equal opportunity in education, employment, and public institutions. These policies, alongside efforts to roll back civil rights protections, raise serious concerns about the future of racial equality in America.

The ballot box remains a critical instrument of accountability. Midterm elections determine who will represent us from North Carolina in the US Congress and the North Carolina state legislature where decisions are made about voting rights, public education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and civil rights enforcement. The North Carolina Supreme Court plays a role to protect civil rights in their court rulings. Unlike most states, our judges are elected to the North Carolian Supreme Court.

We as African Americans must recognize that our political progress is neither permanent nor guaranteed. Generations fought, marched, endured violence, and sacrificed their lives to secure the right to vote. Allowing that hard-won power to go unused risks weakening African Americans' influence in decisions that shape our future.

High turnout alone cannot guarantee victory, but it ensures that Black communities have a greater opportunity to elect candidates that support our interest, influence public policy, and will hold elected officials accountable.

The call to action is clear: Register, verify your voting status, make a voting plan, encourage family and neighbors to participate, and vote. Early voting begins on Thursday, October 15th. General Election Day is November 3rd. Try to vote early if you can. The 2026 midterms are an opportunity to defend civil rights, demand equal opportunity, and ensure that African American votes make a difference at the ballot box.

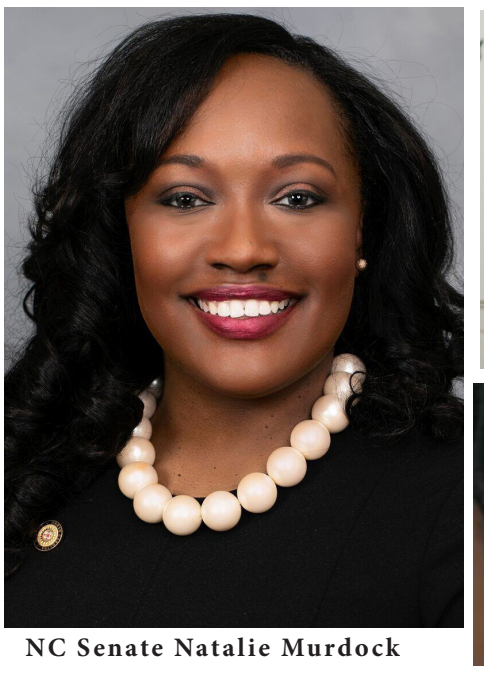


Black Maternal Health Crisis: Why North Carolina Mothers Still Struggle to Be Heard

Black women continue to face disproportionately dangerous pregnancy outcomes. Sen. Natalie Murdock and birth doula Courtney Hall explain how medical bias, limited access, and gaps in support place mothers at risk—and what must change.

by Phyllis Coley, September 27, 2026





NC Senate Natalie Murdock







DURHAM, NC — A Black woman's education, income or professional status may not protect her when her concerns are minimized during pregnancy or childbirth. In North Carolina, Black women are nearly twice as likely as white women to die from pregnancy complications, according to state health officials.

During the latest episode of PC Politics — Real. Raw. Relevant., N.C. Sen. Natalie Murdock and Courtney Hall, owner of Bump. Baby.Bliss. Doula, Counseling & Ultrasound Studio, examined how racial bias, limited access to maternity care and inadequate support before and after birth continue to endanger Black mothers.

Their shared message was direct: Maternal care cannot be reserved for families who can afford additional services or already know how to navigate the health care system. As Hall put it, "Pre- and postpartum care is a necessity, not a luxury."

Hall, a certified birth doula and licensed clinical social worker associate, said women do not always feel that their concerns are completely ignored. Sometimes, she said, they are minimized.

"My goal is to help families understand their bodies, understand when things are not right—or when things are right—and be confident enough to speak up for themselves," Hall said.

She emphasized that advocating for oneself does not mean fighting with medical providers. It means asking questions when a standard protocol does not appear to match what the patient is experiencing.

"Let's not dismiss what I'm feeling because of what protocol is saying, because protocol does not match every person," Hall said.

Hall described her own experience during her third pregnancy. Although she was already a mother and trained doula, she felt that something was wrong and insisted on receiving bloodwork earlier than initially recommended. Testing revealed that one of her hormone levels was dangerously low, allowing her providers to intervene.

"I could have lost my baby," Hall said. "But I didn't because I was very in tune."

The experience reinforced one of her central lessons for families: Each pregnancy is different, even when the mother has given birth before.

"It's Okay to Hold Space"

Hall encouraged women to believe that their questions deserve time and attention.

"It's okay to hold space," she said. "It's okay that if you feel it, to say, 'Can I speak with somebody else?'"

Requesting another provider or a more detailed explanation could prompt a medical professional to give the patient's concerns greater attention—or connect the patient with someone better positioned to help.

"Just being okay with holding space," Hall said, "really could save your life and your baby's life."

Murdock said Black women should not have to dress a certain way, cite their degrees or otherwise prove their status to receive respectful care.

"I don't care if you're 17 in flip-flops and leggings," Murdock said. "You still should be treated with dignity and respect."

A birth doula is a nonmedical professional who provides physical, emotional and informational support during pregnancy, labor, and the period immediately following birth.

Hall said doulas help mothers and their partners understand the birth process, prepare questions, develop birth preferences and communicate with medical providers.

That assistance can become critical when a mother is exhausted, frightened, medicated, or otherwise unable to express her wishes clearly.

"What if you pass out? What if you're not feeling your best?" Murdock asked. "You physically have that person there to advocate."

Murdock said doulas have become increasingly important as large health systems place time restrictions on medical appointments. A provider may have only 15 or 20 minutes with a patient, while a doula can offer additional education and regular check-ins.

Access remains uneven, however. Doula services are frequently paid for out of pocket, placing them beyond the reach of families who might benefit most.

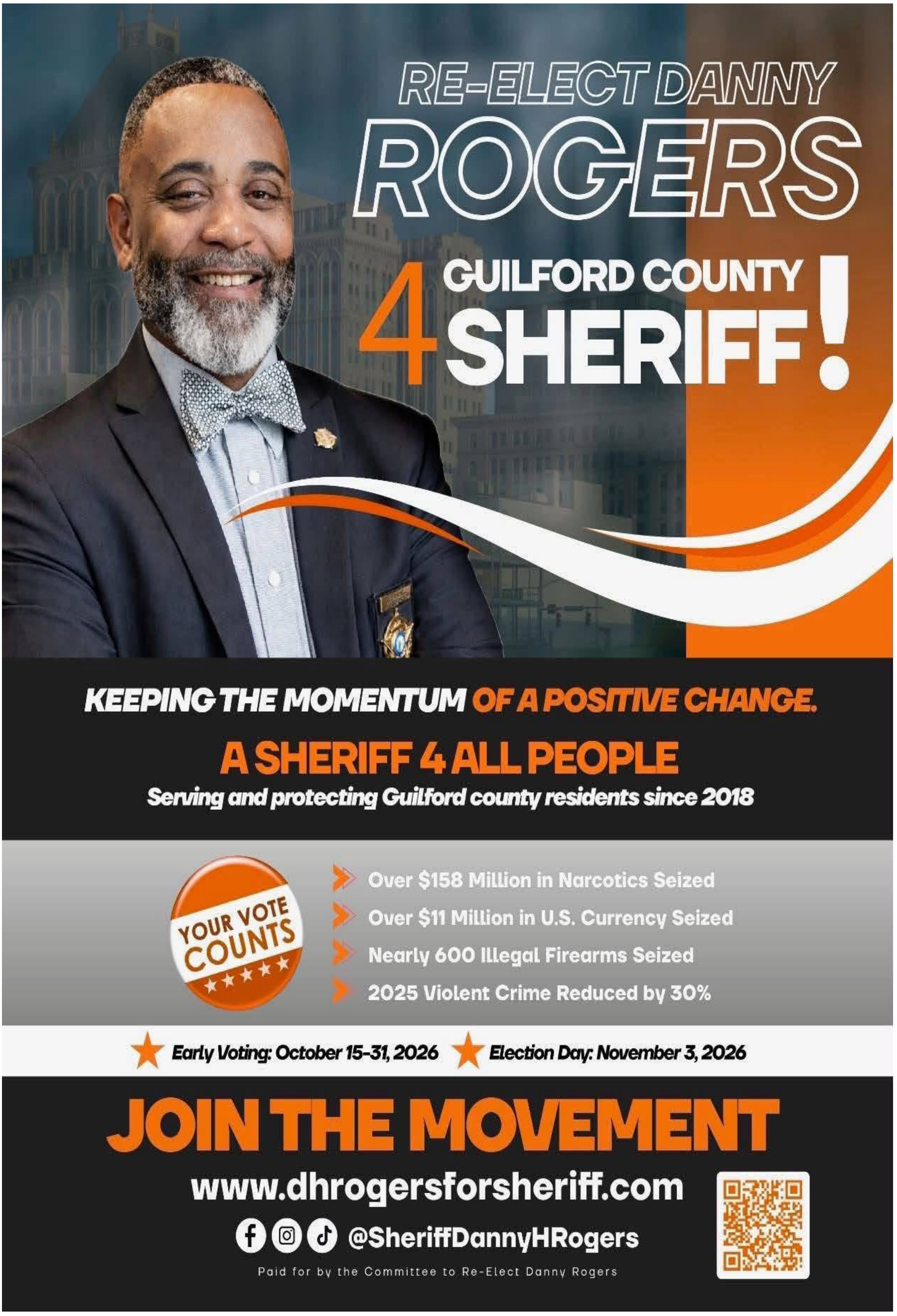
Hall said independent doulas also face administrative barriers when attempting to participate in Medicaid-funded programs. Extensive paperwork and insufficient reimbursement can discourage smaller providers from enrolling.

Hall expressed concern that some women are waiting longer for their first prenatal appointments, even though critical changes can occur during the first trimester.

"The earlier you find out, the earlier you should be connected," she said.

She encouraged women to seek reliable information, interview potential doulas and find providers who make them feel comfortable asking questions. The relationship

Black Maternal Health - page 13



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Orangeburg Massacre survivor shares lessons of activism, courage and responsibility with University 101 students

September 23, 2026



Sellers is the former Director of the African American Studies Program at the University of South Carolina. He served as president of Voorhees College, a historically black college in South Carolina, from 2008 to 2015. Sellars worked for the City of Greensboro in the 1980s, where he held the positions in the Human Relations Department and later as Housing Administrator.



Cleveland Sellers, center, stands with officers after his arrest in Orangeburg, S.C., where three were killed and 28 others wounded on Feb. 8, 1968. AP Photo



(Delano Middleton, Samuel Hammond, Jr, and Henry Smith)

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — A group of freshman students at South Carolina State University recently received a living history lesson from civil rights activist and educator Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers Jr.

The Denmark, South Carolina, native spoke to a group of University 101 students Sept. 23 about his activism and how the struggle for justice continues among a new generation of leaders.

"We have an opportunity that no textbook can replicate to hear directly from a man who witnessed and survived one of the most significant and tragic events in the history of South Carolina State University and the Civil Rights Movement," said Angel Pointer, SC State director of customer service and a University 101 instructor.

Remembering the Orangeburg Massacre

On the night of Feb. 8, 1968, during what has become known as the Orangeburg Massacre, three young men were killed when officers opened fire on a crowd of unarmed Black students who had rallied on campus after demonstrating against segregation at a local bowling alley.

Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond Jr. and Delano Middleton were killed, and 28 others were injured. Sellers was among the wounded and later arrested, becoming the only protester indicted and convicted in the case.

He served approximately seven months in jail. During his imprisonment, he wrote his autobiography, titled "The River of No Return: The Autobiography of a Black Militant and the Life and Death of SNCC."

"It's important for you to learn how to write," said Sellers, who received a full pardon 25 years later after the Orangeburg Massacre.

"I was pardoned but they didn't erase the sentence. I have spent more than three years in prison for crimes I did not commit. I was a student at Howard University. When I left, I was a member of a group called NAG, Nonviolent Action Group," he said.

The power of student activism

Sellers joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1962 as part of its NAG affiliate. He later became SNCC's program director in 1965, overseeing field projects including the Mississippi Summer Project.

"I talk about NAG because I have to talk about the importance of student activism. We were able to organize ourselves and go down to Mississippi in 1964 for what was called the Mississippi Summer Project," said Sellers, who shared the early history of his activism.

Better known as Freedom Summer, the project was a civil rights campaign launched to register African American voters in Mississippi and challenge the state's oppressive voting system.

"Mississippi Summer Project was a project of 800 students from all over the country. Our job was to go down and organize people into an independent political party called the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party," Sellers said.

He said the brutal death of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black boy from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and lynched Aug. 28, 1955, in Mississippi after being accused of whistling at a white woman, was an impetus for them to try to make a difference.

"That was the trigger for us.... We weren't frightened. We weren't scared. You have to decide for yourself whether or not you have the courage to make a difference, and if you develop that kind of courage, you can step onto the pages of history and actually make a difference," Sellers said.

'Young people stepped up'

He referenced the nonviolent protests SC State students launched in opposition to the selection of state Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette as the spring commencement speaker, with student leaders and alumni arguing she did not reflect the values and

Orangeburg Massacre/ Dr. Cleveland Sellars - page-13

PUBLIC REVIEW

Draft Division Needs' Assignment of Local Input Points

The Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) announces the availability of the Draft Division Needs' Assignment of Local Input Points for public review and comment.

The assignment of local input points for division roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian projects is an important step in communicating the MPO's priority projects for funding consideration in the FY 2028-2037 TIP development process.

- The public comment period is open through **November 9, 2026**.
- The draft document and **associated public input survey** are available at **www.guampo.org**.
- Virtual Public Meeting: October 21 at 12 noon. Register at www.guampo.org.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will consider the plan for adoption at its November 18, 2026 meeting. Additional details will be posted on the MPO website.

For more information, to submit comments, or to view the plan, visit www.guampo.org, email guampo@greensboro-nc.gov, call (336) 373-3117, or write to:

Greensboro Urban Area MPO

Attn: Division Needs LIP

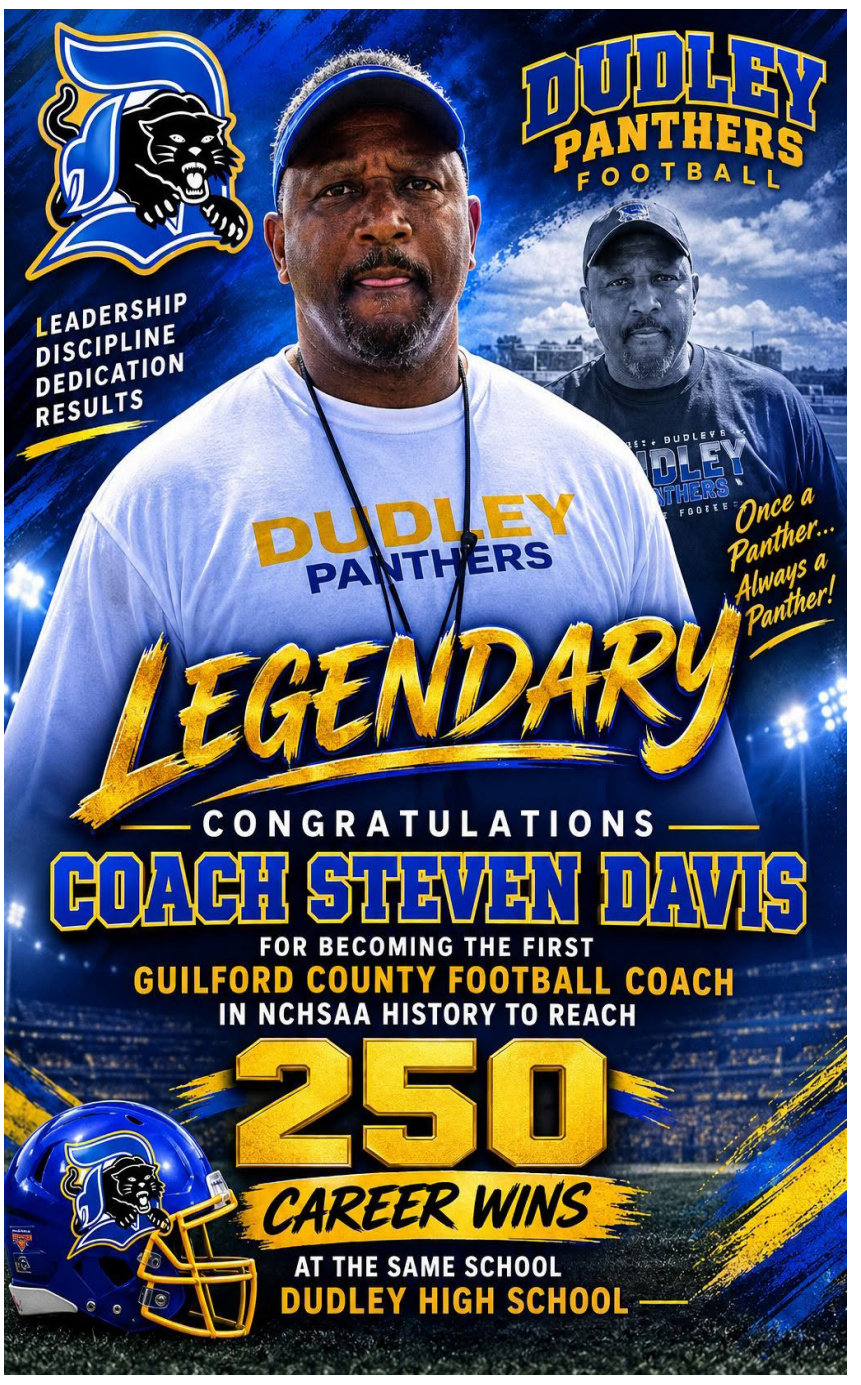
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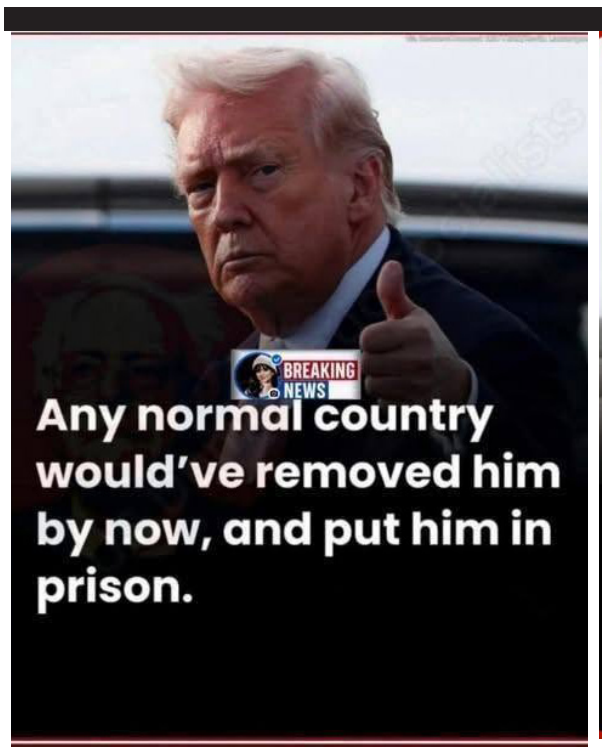
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Anyone in need of auxiliary aids or interpretive services may call (336) 373-3117.





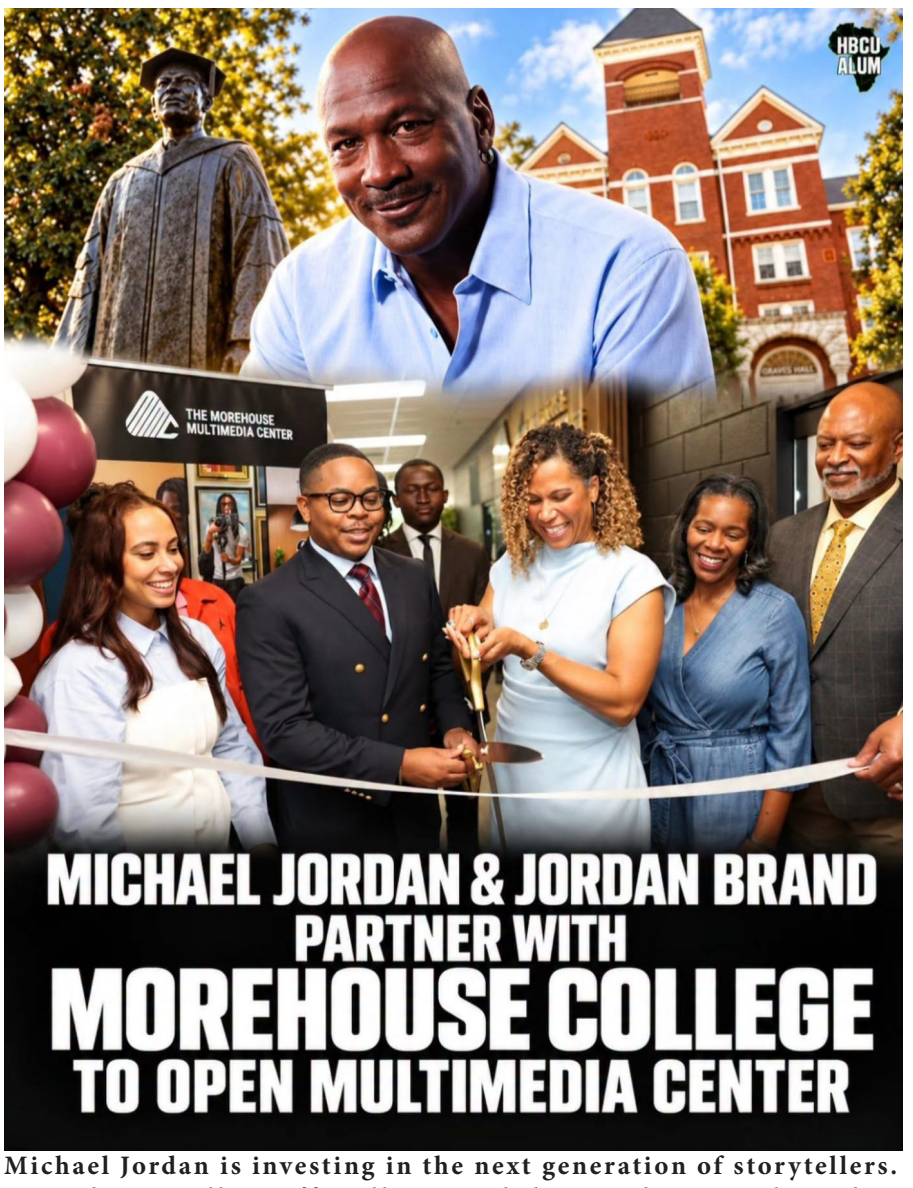








"We are not outnumbered. We are out-organized."
Brother Malcolm X



Michael Jordan is investing in the next generation of storytellers. #MorehouseCollege officially opened the Morehouse Multimedia Center this week, giving students hands on training in digital storytelling, sports broadcasting, podcasting, filmmaking and emerging media technology.

The center is backed by #JordanBrand's $1M+ commitment to journalism and sports media scholarships at Morehouse. Inaugural director Emani Saucier stated: "the center isn't just preparing students to participate in the future of media, but to lead it." Another example of an HBCU building the pipeline for the next generation of creators.

Angela Bassett earned $450,000 per episode for her starring role and executive producer duties on the hit drama series 9-1-1, making her the highest-paid Black actress in broadcast television history. 👏🏾







Ancient Egypt



Orangeburg Massacre/Dr. Cleveland Sellars from page - 10

experiences of the student body.

"I was so proud of the students here. There's a long and rich history of protest here at South Carolina State and Claflin, and a lot of times they were joined. I think that there is usually a crisis when it arises, but I remember the recent demonstrations," Sellers said.

"I remember the kind of leadership that stepped up. Young people stepped up and stepped in and did what they were supposed to do. That's because of the history," he said.

As he reflected on the Orangeburg Massacre, he said he didn't think the courage Smith, Hammond and Middleton showed on that fateful day had been explained enough in history.

"I don't think it explained the level of courage that the individuals that were murdered had to go through. This was the first place that a university had had a mass shooting of students in the country. This was unprovoked," Sellers said.

The courage to make a difference

Sellers said he felt it was important to come speak to the University 101 class about history. "Without some kind of Freedom School that intervenes at an earlier age, I know that young people don't know much about their own history. They don't understand the courage and the determination and commitment and dedication that go along with doing anything," Sellers said.

"I just came to kind of open that arena up so they can begin examine, see where they are, and go out and find some information and start getting aware of what's going on," he said.



Cleveland Sellers, February 5, 2018

Sellers said his civil rights journey has come with having to make sacrifices along the way.

"When I was going off to college in 1962, I became an Eagle Scout, and I received my award 50 years after that. So, you have to get used to those disappointments," he said.

Sellers expressed pride in his three children, whom he described as having "made the difference in my life."

The youngest is former state Rep. Bakari Sellers, an attorney and political commentator who served as the featured speaker during SC State's 50th anniversary commemoration ceremony for the Orangeburg Massacre in 2018.

After his activism, Sellers became an educator and president of Voorhees College, and later director of African American Studies at the University of South Carolina.

History comes to life for students

Tydaria Corbett, 20, a freshman psychology major from Charleston, said she learned details about the Orangeburg Massacre from Sellers that she had not known before.

"It was very informing. Actually hearing about it from someone that went through it made it more informing than just hearing it from someone who's heard it from everybody else," Corbett said.

"I heard about it, but I didn't do much research on it … until I got here. Having him speak was better than doing research online," she said, noting that she took notes.

Deja Wood, 18, a freshman chemistry major from the Bahamas, said she thought Sellers' speech was amazing.

"He talked about the Orangeburg Massacre happening in the height of the civil rights movement, putting it in perspective that segregation wasn't something ancient and still plays a big part in our life," she said.

"He talked about the Claflin and SC State students. It honestly felt so real seeing a part of history right in front of me," Wood said.

Black Maternal Health from page - 8

should feel like a good fit, much like selecting a therapist.

Murdock also pointed to maternal care shortages in rural communities. She said women in some counties must travel one or two hours to obtain maternity care, making community organizations, doulas, midwives and telehealth services increasingly important.

The risks and adjustments associated with childbirth do not end when the mother and baby leave the hospital.

Hall said families should discuss postpartum responsibilities before the baby arrives, including who will prepare meals, handle household chores and give the mother opportunities to rest.

Birth preparation should also include education about postpartum depression, anxiety and psychosis. Families should learn to recognize when a mother's thoughts or behavior have moved beyond ordinary fatigue and adjustment.

"A lot of it is simply being aware and not fearful of what's happening," Hall said.

The support plan should include partners and other trusted people who will remain involved after delivery. Hall also encouraged families to include fathers, who may experience anxiety, emotional stress and difficulty adjusting to their new responsibilities.

North Carolina extended postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months in 2022. Eligible beneficiaries receive continuous coverage through the end of the month marking one year after the pregnancy ends.

Murdock called the expanded coverage a major improvement but said coverage alone does not guarantee that mothers understand their benefits or can find timely care. Murdock discussed several proposals intended to improve maternal and infant health.

Senate Bill 906, known as MOMnibus 3.5, includes funding and policy proposals addressing maternal health disparities, community organizations, professional education and implicit bias. The bill was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee in April 2026 and has not been enacted.

Murdock has also supported proposals addressing Medicaid coverage for doula services, access to midwives and birth centers, stillbirth prevention and the maternal health workforce.

She urged North Carolinians to contact their state senators and representatives and ask whether they support maternal health legislation.

"We have to first acknowledge that it's a problem," Murdock said.

Despite an overall decline in North Carolina's infant mortality rate, serious racial disparities remain. State data show that non-Hispanic Black infants die at nearly three times the rate of non-Hispanic white infants.

Murdock argued that addressing the outcomes of the group facing the greatest risks will strengthen maternal care for every family.

"If health outcomes improve for Black women, they improve for everyone," she said.

The goal, she added, should be a health care system in which every woman is treated with humanity and supported by a team committed to ensuring that "mom and baby both go home alive."

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HBCU students sue Missouri for $549M, citing underfunding

by Lexi Lonas Cochran - 10/07/26 3:56 PM ET



Current and former students at Lincoln University of Missouri filed a lawsuit Wednesday alleging the state has underfunded the institution for decades.

The students want the state to pay almost $549 million to a fund that would go toward campus repairs and other university needs.

The case centers around a law that requires certain state money to go to land-grant universities. In 2023, the Biden administration found multiple states, including Missouri, held back funding for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

While the state raised the funds for the university in 2022, the lawsuit contends that it was not enough.

Lincoln University, which was not named in the lawsuit, said it has no comment on the new legal challenge.

The lawsuit states that Missouri "for more than three decades, withheld from Lincoln University the state funding that federal law required as a condition of the federal land-grant money Missouri accepted, and did so on a basis traceable to Missouri's prior de jure system of racially segregated higher education."

The Missouri governor's office said it "does not have a comment at this time."

The lawsuit also alleges Lincoln University was treated differently than the University of Missouri, another land-grant school, which received its full funding from the Show Me State.

"For decades, Missouri underfunded Lincoln compared with the University of Missouri and failed to provide the full state match required for Lincoln's federal land-grant funding. That disparity has had real consequences for Lincoln's students, faculty, classrooms, laboratories, and campus," said Don Calloway, lead counsel for the plaintiffs.

"Our clients are asking the court for a meaningful remedy for that historic underfunding and a permanent commitment that Missouri will fully and fairly match Lincoln's federal land-grant funds going forward," he added. "Lincoln was built by Black soldiers who invested their own pay to create an institution that has served Missouri for 160 years. The State should honor that legacy.



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