

**Jesse L. Jackson Sr.**, who presently serves as host of CNN's Both Sides with Jesse Jackson and president of the Rainbow Coalition, is for many, a forerunner for the presidential election in 2000. After two presidential attempts in 1984 and 1988 proved unsuccessful and the scandal surrounding the Clinton-Gore team continues, Jackson might prove to be a contender.

Jackson attended North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in 1961 and entered the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1964. By 1965, he became a full time civil-rights activist and worked alongside Martin Luther King

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Jr. and Andrew Young. In 1971, he organized Operation Push and became president of the National Rainbow Coalition in 1984. Also in 1984, he became the first African American to make a serious run for president, and in 1988 he received twice as many votes for his second attempt.

**Jesse Jackson Jr.** was elected to the House of Representatives in 1995 and currently serves on the House Committee on Banking and Finance Services and the Committee on Small Business.

He graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1987, he went on to earn a Master's degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and in 1993, received his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Garnishing praise from the African-American community after the 1995 Million Man March, **Louis Farrakhan**, the leader of the Nation of Islam, could also exhibit even stronger leadership capabilities. As Louis Eugene Walcott, his birth name, he was invited to attend a Nation of Islam's Savior's Day Convention.

After immersing himself in the Nation of Islam and working his way up, in 1979, he founded the internationally circulated "The Final Call." In 1991, he re-introduced the Three Year Economic Program to establish an economic base for black-owned businesses. After the success of the Million Man March in 1995, Farrakhan went on a World Friendship Tour of Africa — which included being received by Libyan leader and American foe Muammar Ghaddafi — that caused both praise and scandal. In 1996, he formed a coalition of religious, civic and political organizations to represent minorities.

**J.C. Watts Jr.** (R-OK), who was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, has proven his leadership abilities from the start. He started the Community Renewal Project, a program that gives spiritual, moral and economic power to poorer communities.

He serves on the Transportation and National Security Committees and the board of representatives of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Oklahoma. He also serves as the leader for the Orphan Foundation of America and the March of Dimes.

He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where he served as the football team's quarterback leading them to consecutive Big Eight championships and Orange Bowl Victories.

He gained national attention after he delivered the Republican response to President Clinton's 1997 State of the Union Address.