

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

ERNEST H. PITT
 Publisher Emeritus
 1974-2015

617 N. LIBERTY STREET
 336-722-8624
 WWW.WSCHRONICLE.COM



ELAINE PITT Business Manager
 DONNA ROGERS Managing Editor
 WALI D. PITT Digital Manager

Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

Tweet it: We're making Black History

Although Black History month is over, we still should be studying Black History.

Acknowledging individuals is fine, but we need to study Black History with emphasis on the history. We need to study strides African-Americans have made over the course of time. That could help us now, as we make Black History.

Look at what African-Americans are doing:

*In South Carolina, African-Americans came out in droves – more than 80 percent – to support Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary, showing political muscle.

*In North Carolina, at least nine African-Americans are running for statewide offices in the Democratic primary. Ken Spaulding, who has been endorsed by The Chronicle and the Winston-Salem Journal, is running for governor. (Will African-Americans in this state come out to vote like they did in South Carolina?)

*President Obama, the first African-American president in the almost 240 years of the United States of America, was voted into office for two terms on the strength of African-Americans, whose forefathers mostly were slaves. Now, President Obama has the chance to appoint a U.S. Supreme Court Justice that could be an African-American woman, which would make more Black History. If that person is Loretta Lynch, that would make North Carolina history as well.

African-Americans have weathered the storms America has thrown at us. We are still here. We are facing new storms. Are we ready?

Our forefathers fought so hard to get and keep the right to vote. Why did they have to do that when the 15th Amendment gives us African-American men the right to vote and the 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote? Why are we fighting over this now, in the 21st century?

The amendments have been presented with this editorial for you to savor. We are Americans. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't make Black History. Now, go tweet that!



United States Constitution

15th Amendment

Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

19th Amendment

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

John Larson understands neighborhoods; Vote for him

To The Editor:

As a long-term engaged resident in the South Ward, I strongly support and endorse John Larson for City Council. John Larson has a long history at Old Salem and understands the significance of preservation. Preservation translates into advocating the integrity of "neighborhoods" in South Winston-Salem and throughout the entire city. Having strong, healthy neighborhoods are paramount quality-of-life issues. Careful planning prevents uncontrolled commercial sprawl encroaching into residential neighborhoods causing increased unnecessary traffic, potential crime and lower property values. John Larson is a voice of reason, is community oriented, listens to constituents' concerns, does not talk over people, does not create divisiveness, unites people together and is committed to ensuring together, we grow a vibrant, enhanced, livable community for ALL citizens. John Larson cares that quality growth with diverse industry occurs in Winston-Salem with good-paying jobs created. John Larson is available, approachable and genuinely interested that all voices are heard and valued without putting political ambition above our neighborhoods! For protecting stronger, healthier neighborhoods Please vote JOHN LARSON for Winston-Salem City Council (South Ward) in the March 15 primary.

Brian L. Allison
 Winston-Salem

Photo ID woes can cause hours away from work

To the Editor:

Getting a photo ID may sound easy, but anyone who has ever sat for hours in the DMV should know how

frustrating it can be.

On Dec. 31, 1989, I married and in January we filed our first tax return. The person who prepared our taxes assumed what my last name would be, but when I applied for my new Social Security card, I decided to hyphenate my maiden and married names.

Years later when we moved, I took time off work to go to the DMV to get my address changed. I noticed (too late) that my last name was not hyphenated. I requested that they reissue my driver's license with my



correct name, but was told to come back and bring a document proving my name was hyphenated (and pay again).

The next week I again took time off work and after a lengthy wait, presented my Social Security card and was told that they didn't accept a government-issued Social Security card as identification! I was given a form to have notarized.

Not to be deterred, I took MORE time off work to go to the bank to have the form notarized, at which time the officer asked for a photo ID – my driver's license! I went back to the DMV for the third time. It took 12 hours off work and \$20 to get a hyphen in my last name.

As for the IRS, after 26 years I have yet to get them to correct my name.

I can only imagine what people may have to go through to get a photo ID. I suggest they vote by absentee ballot.

Judie Holcomb-Pack

Voting leads to transformation and empowerment

To the Editor:

The problems of gentrification, gerrymandering and voter suppression: We progressives are suffering. We have been researched, planned, prayed over, voted on and passed by the following individuals, governing boards and elected officials in North

Carolina.

Your city council, school board, county commissioners, state representatives, state senators, U.S. representatives, U.S. Sen. Richard Burr and Governor Pat McCrory turned North Carolina from a progressive educational state to the butt of jokes by late night comedians and some respected news outlets.

Most of the "shady" money shelled out to influence those extreme conservatives and "honorable" elected officers was provided by billionaires Charles and David Koch and our homeboy "little" millionaire Art Pope.

We must vote in the March 15 primary election to choose the candidate to represent us in the general election. Example: As a registered Democrat, I can only vote for Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders for president.

If you did not take the time to research the candidates and issues, please ask advice from someone you trust. It may be wise to ask three people and choose the one that got the most votes, then see how well that person or issue will change you and your family in a positive way. You can take a list into the voting booth, so write down the names and issues you plan to vote for.

YOU CAN'T USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN THE VOTING BOOTH.
 Call three or more progressive



people to go vote with you. Vote early to avoid the long lines and possible rain or emergency on Election Day.

Our local black newspapers are the best places to find true information on the candidates and issues. Please support them by buying ads, memorials and subscriptions.

Exodus 18:21 (paraphrased) But select capable men and women from all the people, men and women who fear GOD, trustworthy men and women who hate dishonest gain, and appoint them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

James J. Hankins
 Wilmington

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address: Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, www.wschronicle.com.

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

We welcome your comments at our website. Also, go to our Facebook page to comment. We are at facebook.com/WSChronicle. Send us a tweet on Twitter. We are at twitter.com/WS_Chronicle.

