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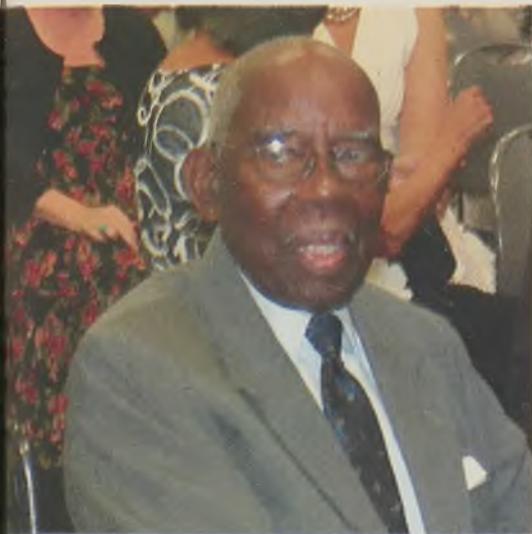
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## Affirmative Action Back Before Supreme Court

By George E. Curry  
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WASHINGTON - Affirmative action is back on the front-burner at the U.S. Supreme Court, with the justices hearing oral arguments Wednesday in Fisher v. University of Texas-Austin for the second time in two years.

At issue is whether Texas' affirmative action admission program - which uses a variety of factors including leadership, extracurricular activities, work experience, socio-economic status and race - is unconstitutional because it unlawfully denied a White woman admission to the state's flagship university.  
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R. Kelly Bryant

### R. Kelly Bryant Dies at 98

R. Kelly Bryant died Sun, Dec. 6, after a lengthy illness. Bryant was born in Rocky Mount, Lifelong friend Dr. John H. Lucas, described him as a man "that you could tell everything about" any body. "He was a man of character," Lucas said at the celebration of the 13th Amendment program at White Rock Baptist Church. Bryant has been described as a "local historian" for his efforts to keep the legacy of local African Americans made to the community. On June 21, 2014, the Durham County Library held a reception for Bryant.

They described the reception as "The Durham County Library North Carolina Collection will host a reception in honor of local historian and civil rights activist Mr. R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, at the Main Library, 300 N. Roxboro Street. City Councilman Eddie Davis will serve as emcee for the festivities and special guests, including community leaders John Lucas and Nathan Barrett, will be present to speak about Mr. Bryant's accomplishments. Since moving to Durham in 1941, Bryant has been active in the making of Durham history and its preservation and study. He worked tirelessly to bring equality to scouting during 37 years as a scoutmaster. He served as secretary-treasurer of the Black Solidarity Committee for Community Improvement, which orchestrated the most successful boycott of Durham stores in the city's history. Bryant was also the driving force behind obtaining a historic marker commemorating Durham's 1957 Royal Ice Cream Parlor sit-in. He worked for the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company for more than 40 years before retiring.

Bryant's collection of approximately 2500 funeral programs, obituaries and other materials, housed in the North Carolina Collection, is a treasure trove of information for researchers. These materials provide an invaluable record of Durham's black community. This program was sponsored by Durham Library Foundation.

The City of Durham named the Kelly Bryant Bridge Trail (A segment of the Pearson town, Rocky Creek Greenway). It is .03 miles in length and spans Hwy 147. It begins at S. Alston Avenue and ends at the corner of Lakeland and Mathison Streets. The lighted bridge was dedicated Sept. 16, 2010.

The bridge brings two communities that were separated by Urban Renewal and East-West Expressway. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Artelia Bryant.

### Sanders calls for accountability of Chicago officials

By Lisa Lerer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders said Dec. 4 that any official involved with suppressing the release of a video of the shooting death of a black teen by a white Chicago police officer should be "held accountable" and, if necessary, resign.

Though Sanders never mentioned his name, the comments appeared aimed at Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, a long-time ally of Bill and Hillary Clinton and former White House chief of staff to President Barack Obama.

"Any elected official with knowledge that the tape was being suppressed or improperly withheld should resign. No one should be shielded by power or position," Sanders said in a statement.

The October 2014 squad-car video showing police killing 17-year-old Laquan McDonald first surfaced while Emanuel was running for re-election and seeking support among the city's black community.

The recent release of the footage led to days of demonstrations in Chicago and prompted Emanuel to fire Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy on Dec. 1.

Emanuel also announced Dec. 1 that he has created a task force for police accountability and the expanded use of body cameras.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago has said it is actively investigating the case. Lisa Madigan, the state's attorney general, asked the Justice Department on Dec. 1 to investigate whether the police department's practices violate federal and constitutional law.

Hillary Clinton, Sanders' rival for the Democratic presidential nomination, has called for a federal investigation into the death but has stopped short of asking Emanuel to resign.

At a campaign event Dec. 4 in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Clinton said Emanuel "loves Chicago and I'm confident he's going to do everything he can to get to the bottom of these issues and take whatever measures are necessary to remedy them."

Both candidates have been working hard to woo black voters by focusing on policies to reform the criminal justice system. Last month, Clinton met with the mothers of several black men who were killed by police officers in Chicago.



Members of Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences Show Choir react as President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama join them in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House, prior to a Christmas Holiday reception, Dec. 4. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

## Justices take up meaning of 'one person, one vote'

By Mark Sherman

WASHINGTON (AP) - The growing political influence of Latinos could be slowed by a Supreme Court case over the constitutional requirement to make electoral districts roughly equal in population.

Two voters in Texas are asking the court, in arguments set for Dec. 8, to order a drastic change in the way Texas and all other states divide their electoral districts. Rather than basing the maps on total population, including non-citizens and children who aren't old enough to vote, states must count only people who are eligible to vote, the challengers say. They argue that change is needed to carry out the principle of one person, one vote.

They claim that taking account of total population can lead to vast differences in the number of voters in particular districts, along with corresponding differences in the power of those voters.

A court ruling in their favor would shift more power to rural areas and away from urban districts in which there are large immigrant populations that are ineligible to vote because they are too young or not citizens.

Civil rights groups note that Texas was the big winner in the 2010 census when it picked up four congressional seats, due mainly to growth in its Hispanic population.

There's only one explanation for the court fight, said Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund. "The plaintiffs in Texas are interested in stemming the growth of Latino political power," he said.

The legal challenge is being financed by Edward Blum, whose Project on Fair Representation also is behind a Texas affirmative action challenge that will be argued before the high court on Dec. 9, as well as the lawsuit that led to the 2013 decision that wiped away a key element of the federal Voting Rights Act.

A second case on Tuesday's agenda also involves the one-person, one-vote principle that the high court established in Reynolds v. Sims in 1964. The court held that a state's legislative districts must have roughly equal numbers of people.

In a dispute from Arizona, the justices are weighing whether even small differences in population among districts are appropriate if they are done for partisan advantage or to comply with the now-nullified advance-approval requirement in the Voting Rights Act.

Arizona voters who are challenging the decisions of an independent redistricting commission claim that Democrats benefited from the legislative district boundaries. The commission denies that its maps were drawn to benefit Democratic candidates and maintains that the Supreme Court has upheld small differences in population among districts.

The Texas case poses a question the justices have never answered: Must states count everyone, or just eligible voters? The court also might say states can choose between them without violating the Constitution.

The case brought by Texas residents Sue Evenwel and Edward Pfenninger highlights the difference in eligible voters in the mainly rural districts outside Houston where they live, and those in a downtown Houston district with equal population, but at least 170,000 fewer people eligible to vote.

Evenwel and Pfenninger argue that gives urban voters more sway than they have.

The only reference to population and political districts in the Constitution requires the use of the once-a-decade census as the basis for divvying up congressional districts among the states, said Stanford University law professor and political scientist Nathaniel Persily. He said the challengers are arguing that the only population count prescribed by the Constitution should not be allowed to be used to draw political districts.

Demographers who support the challenge argue in court papers that other samplings of the population produce sufficiently detailed information that already is used in redistricting and focuses on the number of eligible voters. The annual American Community Survey reaches 3.5 million U.S. households each year and helps political line-drawers ensure that districts comply with the Voting Rights Act, said Peter Morrison, former director of the RAND Corp.'s Population Research Center, and other demographers.

But Persily said that while that survey has useful information, it is too imprecise for use in redistricting.

Two players who often end up on opposite sides of court disputes are allies in this case. Texas Republicans, who already dominate the state government using total population, are defending their political line-drawing, in part as the way it's been "done for decades." They are joined by the Obama administration.

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