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EARLY VOTING ENDS OCT 7

A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People - L.E. Austin



REV. DR. WILLIAM BARBER

Historic Week For NCNAACP As Dr. Barber Steps Down

By Cash Michaels
Special for NCBPA
newspapers

The 74th Annual NC NAACP Convention this week, Oct. 5 - 7, will go down in history for a monumental changing of the guard, as Bishop Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the state conference of the nation's oldest civil rights organization or the past 12 years, officially relinquishes his office.

There is little question that throughout the long history of the NCNAACP, with the exception of Kelly Alexander Sr. in the 1940s, Dr. Barber is credited with being the most consequential president since it's founding in the early 1900's.

First elected in 2005, Dr. Barber leaves an impressive history of accomplishments behind him, including the Historic Thousands on Jones Street marches and rallies; Forward Together/Moral Monday Movement demonstrations; Wake School Board protests (where he was handcuffed by police and jailed for disrupting proceedings); several Million Voters March registration campaigns; lobbying for One Stop/Early Voting (which ultimately helped Barack Obama, the first black president, win North Carolina, and the White House in 2008); the Truth and Hope statewide poverty tour; countless sermons and speeches (including at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia); numerous court victories against the Republican-led NC General Assembly to defeat voter suppression laws and schemes; among many other achievements.

"I never dreamed that I would have the opportunity, as an adult, to serve this particular state conference that has had such a storied history, and such an important role in the cause of civil rights," Barber, who started out as the president of the Youth Branch of the Washington County NAACP when he was a high school student, recalls.

He adds that while he is joining the national Poor People's campaign, but will remain an active member of the NCNAACP Executive Committee, and will remain pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro.

Indeed, many credit Dr. Barber with saving the NCNAACP.

"It had become a dormant and ineffective organization which had the label of being the defender of civil and constitutional rights in North Carolina for African-Americans, but had lost its will and ability to fight the critical battles which needed to be fought," says attorney Irving Joyner, chair of the NC NAACP Legal Redress Committee.

Barber ultimately created, and then led, a multi-racial, multi-generational coalition of social activists from every corner of the state, building the largest state NAACP conference in the South, making him a force to be seriously reckoned with by every political leader in North Carolina.

After 12 years of Barber's dynamic leadership, two candidates are now vying to be the next NCNAACP president elected at the convention this week - Rev. Dr. Portia Rochelle, president of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP; and Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman.

"Because of the firsthand experience that I have had in working with the [Raleigh-Apex] branch here in Wake County," Dr. Rochelle said, when asked why she would be best suited to serve as president. "We've had to tackle numerous issues, and we are at the forefront of most issues that occur here in North Carolina, whether we desire to be or not. The general public calls on us, and that has given me a vast amount of experience as far as working through civil rights issues with the community, and the people injustices are being done to. I've had nine years of experience, and I feel that I can

do it on the state level."

When asked the same question, Dr. Spearman replied, "I've seen a great deal of merit in the work of Dr. William J. Barber II, and want to see this movement continue that has

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Supreme Court opens pivotal term with Trump nominee in place

By Mark Sherman

WASHINGTON (AP) - Disputes over a wedding cake for a same-sex couple and partisan electoral maps top the Supreme Court's agenda in the first full term of the Trump presidency. Conservatives will look for a boost from the newest justice, Neil Gorsuch, in a year that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has said will be momentous.

President Donald Trump's travel ban appears likely to disappear from the court's docket, at least for now.

But plenty of high-profile cases remain.

The justices will hear important cases that touch on gay rights and religious freedoms, the polarized American electorate, the government's ability to track people without search warrants, employees' rights to band together over workplace disputes and states' rights to allow betting on professional and college sporting events.

Last year, "they didn't take a lot of major cases because they didn't want to be deadlocked 4-to-4," said Eric Kasper, director of the Center for Constitutional Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. "This year, that problem doesn't present itself."

Gorsuch quickly showed he would be an ally of the court's most conservative justices, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, most recently joining them in objecting to the court's decision to block an execution in Georgia.

While justices can change over time, Gorsuch's presence on the bench leaves liberals with a fair amount of trepidation, especially in cases involving the rights of workers.

The very first case of the term, set for arguments Monday, could affect tens of millions of workers who have signed clauses as part of their employment contracts that not only prevent them from taking employment disputes to federal court, but also require them to arbitrate complaints individually, rather than in groups.

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Candidates For Mayor Answer The Carolina Times Questions

(Part Two)

Tuesday, October 10th is mayoral primary for Durham, and, as always, The Carolina Times encourages all of our readers to vote.

Citizens will choose from among six candidates to serve as the Bull City's next presiding officer after current Mayor William Bell steps down after 16 years.

The top two primary winners will then face-off against each other in the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 7th, and that winner will be sworn into office in December.

The mayor serves a two-year term.

The six candidates in contention are Farad Ali, 50 - President/CEO of The Institute (<https://faradali4mayor.com>); Pierce Freelon, 33 - musician and founder of Blackspace (<https://www.freelonfordurham.com>); Shea Ramirez, 44 - owner of a tax preparation agency (<http://thepeoplesmayor.net>); Steven Schewel, 66 - Duke University visiting professor (<https://www.stevefordurham.com/>); Rev. Sylvester Williams, 62 - pastor and retired financial analyst (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/103209079781459/>); and Tracy Drinker, 56 - retired police officer (<http://www.tracydrinkerformayor.com>).

Several weeks ago, The Carolina Times sent a five-part questionnaire to the campaigns of all six primary candidates, asking them to reply in writing no later than Friday Sept. 22nd. All of them responded, and we thank them for taking the time.

Though former candidate Michael Johnson's name will be on the ballot, he dropped out of the race weeks ago.

Here now are the fourth and fifth questions that were asked, accompanied by some abbreviated answers from the five Durham mayoral candidates who replied.

The first three questions and the candidates' answers to them were published in last week's edition of The Carolina Times.

4 - While there are indeed areas in Durham that are prospering, there is still a good deal of poverty that remains. What can be done to help train those in low wealth neighborhoods in Durham to develop useful skills that will help them earn their way out of poverty?

1. FARAD ALI - At a time when parts of the city are experiencing great prosperity, others are being left behind. Durham has won national acclaim for our growth, economic development, business, and universities -- but 17.9% of our people live in poverty. That is higher than the state average, and it is unacceptable. Further, nearly a quarter of all census tracts in Durham County are designated as high-poverty. Some have child poverty rates above 63%. We must give children and families a chance to have a quality education/skill, excel in school, secure a job and earn a living wage. Access to housing, a safe community, food, and good health care are also paramount. It is time to get serious about tackling poverty and bringing opportunity to all people.

For me, by assuring we are able to identify and bring into the fold those citizens in need. It begins with further community engagement in propelling the efforts of the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty -- newly designated at the Ten for ten Initiative. It requires a multi-faceted approach. Providing a job without transportation or without a livable wage does not move the dial on getting out of poverty. Providing training for a mother that is without childcare or a teen that has dropped out of school

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3 police officers not charged in man's fatal shooting

(AP) - A North Carolina prosecutor says he isn't going to charge any of the officers involved in the fatal shooting of a man.

Durham District Attorney Roger Echols said in a statement Sept. 26 that he had determined that the officers fired at 24-year-old Kenneth Lee Bailey because they were afraid for their lives. Echols said state criminal investigators found empty bullet shells and a handgun near where Bailey fell.

Bailey was gunned down on a residential street in a public housing complex in February after he ran from a house where officers had come to arrest him. Bailey had violated terms of his pre-trial release on armed-robbery charges.

An autopsy found Bailey was hit by two bullets, one of which pierced his lungs and major blood vessels.