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## NAACP on the Civil Rights Front Lines: Trump's War against Civil Rights

By Derrick Johnson (President and CEO of the NAACP)

BALTIMORE—Recently, the NAACP, alongside members of the Congressional Black Caucus, gathered on the steps of Capitol Hill to demand a halt of the Trump administration's continued attempts to force Thomas Farr—a known racist with ties to the late segregationist Senator Jesse Helms—into the federal judgeship of North Carolina.

Located in eastern North Carolina, this federal district under this judgeship has one of the highest densities of African American voters than any other part of the state, making Farr one of the worst possible candidates that could be considered. Sadly, instead of representing an anomaly, Farr instead represents the archetype for federal judge nominees put forth by the Trump Administration. Whether it's nominees that refuse to publicly support the Brown v. Board decision that desegregated our public schools or individuals with ties to known racist organizations, what we are seeing are people whose attitudes reflect norms more associated with the era of Jim Crow than our time.

It cannot be ignored that Trump's White House is engaged in none other than a war against civil rights. Though this is a battle we had hoped to have ended by now, it is not a fight we are afraid of nor is it one we will lose. We have waged war against the foes of civil rights for over 109 years. We fought hard against the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to the office of Attorney General and we will continue to fight against Trump's nearly all-white and mostly male federal judge nominees. Mr. Sessions' redirection of the Department of Justice (DOJ) away from its civil rights commitment under the Obama Administration to an agency that condones police brutality and other racially based injustices is hardly surprising. We knew he would push the DOJ to withdraw its support for our legal cases against voter suppression and he did. The simple point is that these moves against civil rights cannot be divorced from his boss—President Trump.

Over the past few months, the NAACP has sued the Trump administration on its failure to properly prepare for Census2020. This failure to prepare for the Census means that communities of color, including wealthy communities like Prince Georges County, Maryland, our partner in the lawsuit, will likely be once again undercounted. When this happens, our communities lose out on political representation, federal dollars, and resources that are rightfully ours. We've also taken the fight to this administration on the decision by Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos and the Department of Education to basically throw civil rights under the bus and arbitrarily determine that the department no longer has to investigate complaints of discrimination in our schools. We are also committed to ensuring that DeVos plans for privatization, plans that would destroy our public-school system, never come to completion.

There is a direct correlation between the racism emanating from the White House and the expansion of attacks on the humanity of persons of color. This is clear not only from Trump's poisonous rhetoric that disparages people, cultures, and nations, but



Derrick Johnson, the president and CEO of the NAACP, says that there is a direct correlation between the racism emanating from the White House and the expansion of attacks on the humanity of persons of color.

also in the policies that emanate from his office. The infection of blatant racist speech and behavior began the day after Trump was elected and it has continued to spread, giving inspiration to closet bigots and encouraging implicit and explicit racial biases that pervade from the golf course to the coffee shop and every space in between.

During our 109th Annual Convention July 14-18 in San Antonio, Texas, the NAACP will bring together some of our nation's most brilliant minds, activists, and legislators, as well as powerful voices from the hip-hop community to map out the agenda for moving forward. Our goal is to unite our voices into a powerful symphony that resonates with communities of color and inspires them to join us in standing against government-sponsored hate. This year's theme is simply "Defeat Hate—Vote."

We've extended an invitation to President Trump to attend our convention and once again he has declined. His refusal to address the nation's premier civil rights organization and its hundreds of thousands of advocates is, by default, a refusal to speak to the entirety of the Black Community. Regardless, we remain "unshook" and "woke," in terms of the challenges we face and must overcome in this administration and we're up for the fight.

All we ask of you is to join us to "Make Democracy Work." Pledge to vote by texting NAACP to 40649.

Derrick Johnson is the President and CEO of the NAACP. Follow him and the NAACP on Twitter at @DerrickNAACP and @NAACP.



Newly Elected Mayor London Breed

## Pressed on Every Side... But Not Defeated

### London Breed Overcomes Adversity to Become San Francisco's First Black Female Mayor

By Jeffrey L. Boney (NNPA Newswire Political Analyst)

Politics can be a dirty game. It can oftentimes bring out the worst in people. It isn't for the faint of heart.

On the flip side, however, politics gives us an opportunity to witness individuals rise above the negative elements usually associated with politics, as well as the other challenges they have endured to help them make their mark in history.

Such a feat was witnessed on June 13, as San Francisco Board of Supervisors President London Breed, 43, overcame tremendous adversity and challenges to become the first African American woman to become mayor of San Francisco.

The historic win by Breed also makes her only the second woman in San Francisco's history to become mayor and the only female mayor in any of the top 15 most populous cities in the United States.

This is a significant victory for African American female candidates. It also speaks to the power of establishing a broad coalition of voters, including targeting a large percentage of Black voters as a base.

While San Francisco has a population of roughly 870,000, it also has one of the smallest percentages of Blacks living there among all of the major U.S. cities—less than 6 percent.

Over 50 percent of the voting electorate came out to vote in this historic election, with a large percentage of Black voters choosing Breed as their candidate for mayor.

As a result of her historic win, Breed will now serve out the remainder of the term of Mayor Ed Lee, whose sudden death as a result of a heart attack in December created the need for the June 5th special election. Breed will serve until 2020, and will undoubtedly run again for a full four-year term.

After the general election, which was held on June 6, Breed found herself with a significant first-choice ballot lead over her closest opponents. She led former state Senator Mark Leno, who is White, by nearly 13 points and her colleague on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

Jane Kim, who is Asian, by over 12 points.

Because San Francisco does not use a traditional voting system, but rather a unique ranked-choice voting system, Breed and her supporters had to wait eight days before finding out the historic results.

To get a clearer understanding of what Breed went through to

become mayor of San Francisco, you have to better understand the ranked-choice voting system. Basically, when San Francisco voters cast their ballot they get to rank their top three choices for mayor. After all the first-choice votes are tallied, whoever comes in last place gets eliminated and that candidate's supporters get

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## Joe Jackson Dead at 89

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Joseph Jackson, the patriarch of the Jackson family of superstars, has died.

Family members said Jackson died at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday at a hospital in Las Vegas.

Jackson was 89.

After his own failed musical aspirations, Joseph Jackson help launch his children to international stardom in the 1960s and 1970s.

He managed the Jackson 5 before the group left Motown and was rebranded as the Jacksons.

Ultimately, the patriarch is responsible for the emergence of the biggest star in pop music history, the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

Last week, the family announced that Jackson was terminally ill following a long battle with cancer.

"He's very frail. It's any day now," Jermaine Jackson told reporters shortly before his father died.

## Roberts may hold key vote as Supreme Court moves right

By MARK SHERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - Chief Justice John Roberts is the Supreme Court's new man in the middle. It's just that the middle may have moved well to the right.

The retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy means Roberts probably will be the conservative justice closest to the court's four liberals, allowing him to control where the panel comes down in some of its most contentious cases.

Roberts will be the justice who determines "how far they go and how fast they go," said Washington lawyer John Elwood.

Kennedy played a similar role for many years - his votes on gay rights, abortion, the death penalty, the environment, voting rights and affirmative action basically determined the outcome of cases on which the court was divided between liberals and conservatives.

Roberts has typically been to Kennedy's right. He did not endorse a constitutional right to marry for same-sex couples. He dissented when the court struck down Texas abortion clinic restrictions in 2016. The chief justice also was in dissent from the court's first major climate change decision in 2007, when it held that the Environmental Protection Agency could regulate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as air pollutants.

New cases on any of those issues could be before the court soon and, even if Roberts is not prepared to overrule major Supreme Court precedents, he could be in position to cut back on environmental protections as well as gay rights and abortion rights.

Smaller steps might be in keeping with Roberts' preference for avoiding major divides where possible, and attracting votes from both conservatives and liberals. The 63-year-old chief justice may be in no hurry to move quickly, as he could be on the bench another 15 to 20 years.

"Chief Justice Roberts, more than any other justice on the court, believes in narrow rulings that attract broad majorities, answering no more than necessary to resolve a given case," Jonathan Adler, a professor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law, wrote on the Volokh Conspiracy legal blog.

In one sense, the Supreme Court's immediate future could look a lot like the term that just ended. Roberts seemed firmly in control of a court that overwhelmingly went conservative in divided cases, including upholding President Donald Trump's travel ban, striking a blow at public-sector labor unions, limiting workers' rights to band together to complain about pay and affirming Ohio's aggressive efforts to purge its voting rolls.

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