Chapel Hill No 27599-0001

**VOLUME 97 - NUMBER 40** 

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018** 

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PRICE: 50 CENTS



MS. JAMEERAH ALI

## NCCU Student Named White House Initiative Scholar

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) junior business major Jameerah Ali has been named as a 2018 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), a program that recognizes outstanding student performance in higher education.

Ali is among 63 students selected based on high achievement in academics, campus involvement, entrepreneurial ethos and civic engagement. To be considered for the honor, students must submit their college transcripts, résumés, an essay and letters of recommendation.

"Jameerah is a great example of an Eagle soaring and her selection as an HBCU Competitiveness Scholar is an acknowledgment of her continuous pursuit of excellence in academics and service," said Dr. Ontario Wooden, associate vice chancellor for Innovative, Engaged and Global Education.

Ali participated among other HBCU Competitiveness Scholars in the White House HBCU Week Conference held Sept. 16-18 in Washington, D.C. She was formally presented with the award during the initiative's Excellence in Innovation and Competitiveness Awards ceremony on Sept. 17.

Over the course of the next year, Ali will also take part in other national events and engage via web chats with professionals and fellow scholars from a range of disciplines.

"Representing NCCU as a HBCU Competitiveness Scholar is a

great honor," Ali said.

Ali is currently devoting her fall semester to studying marketing,

banking, finance and strategic management at Mahidol University in Salaya, Thailand, which is 30 miles from Bangkok.

Most recently, Ali spent her summer break with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage as a Sales and Service Systems intern. She has also contributed greatly to the NCCU community through her work as an intern for the Internal Audit Office and also an assistant for the

Department of Residential Life.

The Philadelphia native has been involved with several student organizations, including the Financial Management Society, Alpha Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and NCCU's student chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants Inc., where

she serves as president.

Ali, who is a member of the University Honors Program, also devotes her time to the community. In her spare time, she volunteers for Durham Public Schools and the Durham Rescue mission, a non-profit organization for that assists families who are homeless.

## North Carolina legislative remap challenges still in court

By Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH (AP) - Court arguments on General Assembly district lines that Republican legislators originally approved seven years ago have yet to be exhausted as state judges Sept. 28 weighed whether lines for several House seats should revert to how they were drawn in 2011.

At issue are provisions in North Carolina's constitution that say state legislative districts "shall remain unaltered" until the release of each decade's census numbers. There are exceptions to this mid-decade redistricting ban when courts order changes, as they have in the 2010s.

The U.S. Supreme Court said in June that a lower federal court went too far in ruling 2017 map changes in Mecklenburg and Wake counties violated the state constitution's prohibition of mid-decade redistricting because it wasn't the lower court's job to decide. The alterations were part of a larger remap by the General Assembly and an outside expert after the same lower court had declared nearly 30 House and Senate districts were illegal racial gerrymanders.

Before the justices ruled, the state NAACP, League of Women Voters, other groups and voters had already sued in state court saying four Wake state House districts violated the mid-decade prohibition. They wanted the districts returned to their 2011 shapes.

Allison Riggs, an attorney for the plaintiffs, told the state judges Sept. 28 that altering the Wake districts adjoining two districts that had been struck down for racial bias was proper, but the four other districts weren't unlawful and should have been left alone. Her clients argue that Republicans changed three of the four districts to improve chances for Republican election victories this fall.

The three-judge panel didn't rule immediately from the bench after two hours of oral arguments. The case won't affect this fall's election but could alter the map in 2020, a year before the next round of redistricting begins based on census figures.

Riggs told the panel that past state redistricting eases show the mid-decade prohibition "must be enforced to the maximum extent possible," provided it doesn't contradict federal law.

"You don't have to change every district in the county to correct the racial gerrymander" found by federal judges in the two districts, Riggs told the state judges.

Phil Strach, a lawyer for

Republican mapmakers, told the judges redrawing more Wake districts was one way to comply with both the federal court ruling that found the 28 racially gerrymandered districts and the prohibition. Strach cited a previous court opinion suggesting the legislature could redraw districts

that were "directly and indirectly affected" by a court decision.

"There's a menu of options and a menu of possible reasonable options, and this court is bound to accept the one that the legislature used as reasonable," Strach said.



"Today on National Voter Registration Day, we're urging everyone to use their power to register and mobilize new voters and get involved in one of the most important election in our nation's history." — NAACP President & CEO Derrick Johnson

## NAACP Ramps up Voter Outreach Campaign on National Voter Registration Day

Power of 5 Campaign Looks to Translate Personal Networks into Votes

during Midterm Elections

BALTIMORE – NAACP, the nation's foremost civil rights organization, is looking to mobilize personal networks, activists and supporters to energize its base ahead of the 2018 midterm elections on November 6.

"Our lives are on the ballot this year, so it is absolutely crucial that African-Americans as a whole participate in these midterms elections at rates that reflect our true voting power," said NAACP President & CEO Derrick Johnson. "Today on National Voter Registration Day, we're urging everyone to use their power to register and mobilize new voters and get involved in one of the most important election in our nation's history."

President Johnson's statement echoes the urgency of NAACP's message for voting this year. The increase of brutal #livingwhileblack incidents, the continuous stream of hateful rhetoric, disrespect and racist policies coming from the White House, all point to the notion that Black lives, civil rights and the issues of communities of color matter less and less to the President and elected officials in our nation. The NAACP recognizes this threat and is engaging voters based on the all too real idea of "Vote! Our lives depend on it."

NAACP, Derrick Johnson, National Voter Registration Day, African Americans, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, NAAACP Voter Mobilization, the Power 5 Challenge, #livingwhileblack, White House,

At the very core of the campaign is a radical voter registration and mobilization tactic utilizing social media platforms and personal networks. Fifty-five days out from election-day, NAACP launched the Power of 5 challenge, asking people to tap into the concept of relational organizing. Enlisting the help of top tier celebrities, civic leaders, artists, elected officials and everyday heroes, NAACP used a portrait and PSA series to task people to engage their own networks by registering 5 people to vote, volunteering for 5 days between now and the election, and sharing the message with 5 friends.

"The most important player in this year's election; and sharing the message with 5 include."

Vice President of Civic Engagement. "Our recent poll showed a majority of voters of color and nearly all Black women felt disrespected by President Trump. People of color also believed this president has set back race relations and these numbers will play a role in both how and why they'll vote in the midterm elections."

The NAACP voter mobilization efforts includes the activation of its over 2200 branches across the country and key on-the-ground strategic initiatives in Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. It will engage faith partners, community leaders and other social justice organizations, and will serve as a catalyst for NAACP's five-year civic engagement plan.

"This campaign is about the power of our personal networks to mobilize voters and to ensure that no elected officials can feel comfortable in disrespecting our communities or taking our votes for granted," added Watkins

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. You can read more about the NAACP's work and our six "Game Changer" issue areas here

Legislator, state NAACP propose voting changes post-Florence

RALEIGH (AP) - A civil rights group and key legislator are concerned enough about how residents displaced by Hurricane Florence will be able to vote that they're seeking action on ballot and registration access.

The state NAACP held a news conference Monday, Oct. 1 asking the state elections board to extend the traditional voter registration deadline from Oct. 12 to Oct. 17 in 29 eastern counties. State law gives the board's executive director power to act unilaterally in some situations.

NAACP leaders also want absentee ballot deadlines eased, options for more voting places and voter education efforts.

Rep. Waters Lashes out at 'False Allegations'

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Contributor @StacyBrownMedia

Democratic California Rep. Maxine Waters went on the defensive when pundits and media friendly to President Donald Trump accused one of her staff members of secretly releasing the personal information of three Republican senators.

Waters and Trump have long feuded with the president calling her names and Waters simply calling for his impeachment.

However, as the contentious confirmation hearings of Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, roared on, allegations continued.

While the testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford took place in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing room, South Carolina's Sen. Lindsey Graham and his GOP counterparts, Sen. Orrin Hatch and Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, saw information that included their phone numbers and addresses leaked onto Wikipedia.

Gateway Pundit and RedState, both Trump-friendly sites, reported that the IP address responsible for the leak was associated with Waters' office and a staff member was responsible.

Waters went on the offensive:
"Lies lies and more despicab

"Lies, lies, and more despicable lies. I am utterly disgusted by the spread of the completely false, absurd, and dangerous lies and conspiracy theories that are being pedaled by ultra-right-wing pundits, outlets, and websites who are promoting a fraudulent claim that a member of my staff was responsible for the release of the personal information of Members of the United States Senate on Wikipedia," she said in a statement sent to various news outlets, including the NNPA Newswire.

"This unfounded allegation is completely false and an absolute lie," Waters said.

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REP. MAXINE WATERS

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