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## Data: Virus impact disproportionate for blacks in Charlotte

CHARLOTTE (AP) - African Americans in the area of North Carolina's largest city are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19, according to data released by local health officials.

Figures from Mecklenburg County health officials show black residents accounted for 43.9% of 303 confirmed COVID-19 cases locally through April 4, The Charlotte Observer reported. By comparison, the U.S. Census estimates from last July show African American residents make up only 32.9% of Mecklenburg County's population.

George Dunlap, the chairman of the Mecklenburg County commissioners, said if black residents are disproportionately represented in the case count, it may be because they're more often seeking testing. So far, Mecklenburg County Public Health Director Gibbie Harris has not disclosed how many people have been tested for COVID-19 or released demographics for those who had negative test results.

Charlotte City Council member Braxton Winston, who is black, said leaders will need to "wrap our proverbial arms around our most high-risk communities."

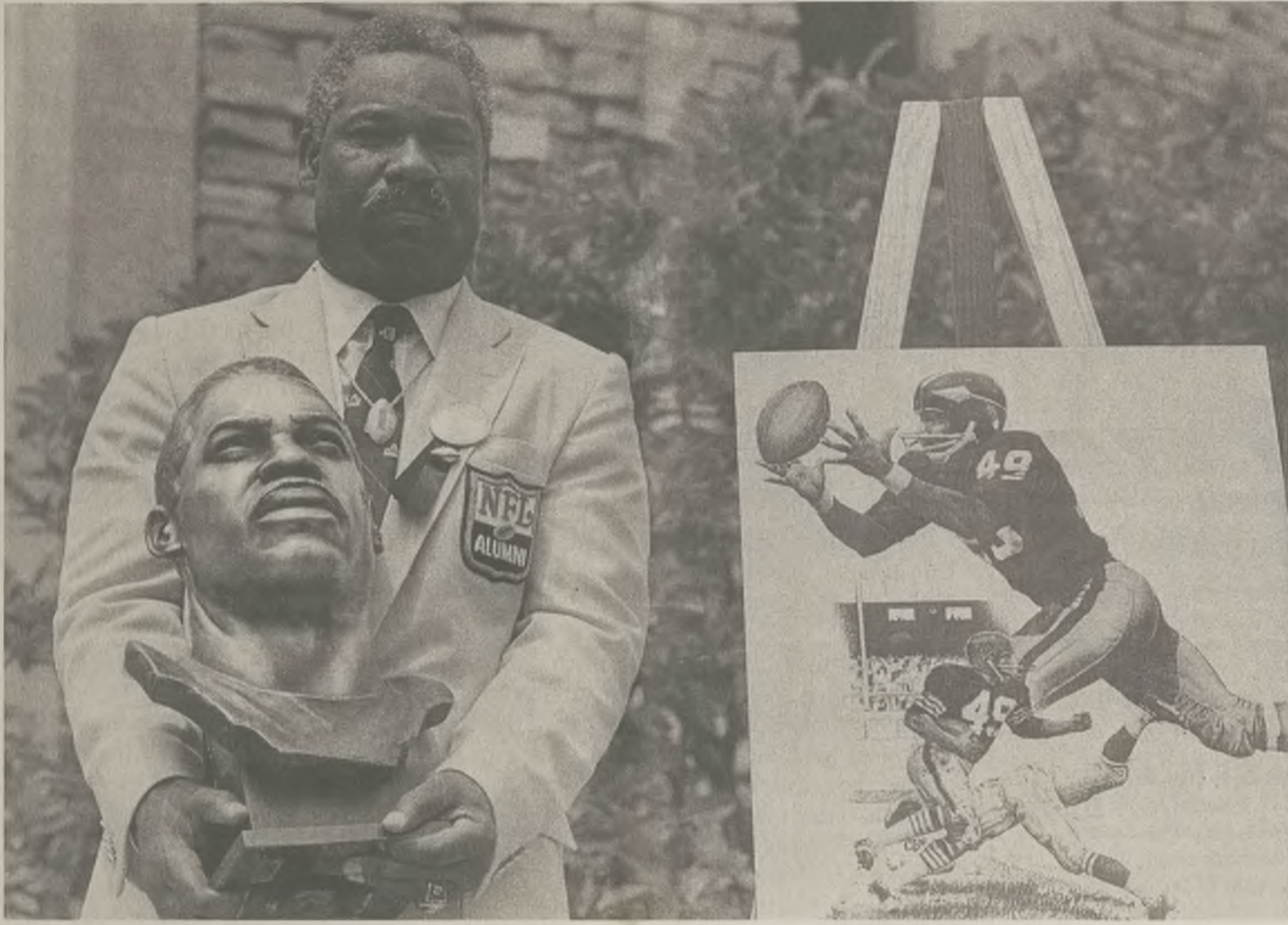
"That is going to be so important in flattening the overall curve ... Equity should really inform us of segments of our population that could be most disproportionately affected by convention until August, an unprecedented move that shows how the coronavirus is reshaping the battle for the White House.

The party had hoped that a mid-July convention would give them more time to rally behind a nominee and unify against President Donald Trump. But concerns that large crowds will spread the virus prompted Democrats, including presumptive nominee Joe Biden, to press for alternatives.

"In our current climate of uncertainty, we believe the smartest approach is to take additional time to monitor how this situation unfolds so we can best position our party for a safe and successful convention," said Democratic convention CEO Joe Solmonese.

Milwaukee will still host the convention, which is now scheduled for the week of Aug. 17. Republicans are sticking with their plan to meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, a week later to renominate Trump.

The social distancing required to combat the coronavirus has already prompted multiple states to delay their presidential primaries from April and May into June. But the postponement of the convention is the most significant change to the presidential section process to date.



FILE - In this July 30, 1983, file photo, former Cleveland Browns and Washington Redskins halfback and wide receiver Bobby Mitchell poses with his bronze bust after being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in ceremonies in Canton, Ohio. Mitchell, the speedy late 1950s and '60s NFL offensive star the Browns and the Redskins, has died. He was 84. The Pro Football Hall of Fame said Sunday night, April 5, 2020, that Mitchell's family said he died in the afternoon. (AP Photo/Gus Chan, File)

## Pro Football Hall of famer Bobby Mitchell dies at 84

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bobby Mitchell, the speedy Hall of Famer who became the Washington Redskins' first black player, has died. He was 84.

Mitchell split his career with the Cleveland Browns and Redskins and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1983. The Hall of Fame said April 5 that Mitchell's family said he died in the afternoon but didn't provide any other details.

"The game lost a true legend today," Hall of Fame President & CEO David Baker said in a statement. "Bobby was an incredible player, a talented executive and a real gentleman to everyone with whom he worked or competed against."

When Mitchell joined the Redskins in 1962, they became the last NFL team to integrate. After playing his first four seasons in Cleveland, he spent seven more with Washington and retired with the second-most combined offensive yards.

Mitchell became a Redskins scout and later served as assistant general manager.

"His passion for the game of football was unmatched by anyone I have ever met," Redskins owner Daniel Snyder said. "Not only was he one of the most influential individuals in franchise history, but he was also one of the greatest men I have ever known. He was a true class act and will be sorely missed."

Retired NFL running back Brian Mitchell, who has no relation to Bobby but became friends with him, said he learned from the Hall of Famer, "Tough times don't remain, tough people do, and you don't let what you go through change who you are unless it's for the better."

"I'm sure there was people saying stuff to him and doing things that (ticked) him off, but he wasn't bitter," Brian Mitchell said. "When you look at him when he was working for the Redskins early on, many people felt Bobby should've been the general manager of the Washington Redskins. He didn't get bitter. He kept doing the things he can do."

Bobby Mitchell said during a 2015 episode of Showtime's "60 Minutes Sports" that he understood pretty quickly upon signing in Washington "there was no one in this town used to having a black star." Friend and fellow Hall of Famer Jim Brown took it one step further.

"Bobby was an individual that was thrown into the arena of being a victim for no reason," Brown said. "He had to suffer for being black more than any person I know that played football at the time I played. With that kind of ability, if he were white, everybody on this earth would know who he was."

Mitchell played halfback for the Browns from 1958-61 and moved to flanker with the Redskins, leading the NFL in yards receiving in 1962 and 1963. He was a three-time All-NFL selection, played in four Pro Bowls, and his 7,954 all-purpose yards were the second-most in league history when he retired in 1968.

After retiring, Mitchell became active in the community and held an annual golf tournament raising funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society since 1980.

"You look at Bobby, his career was a Hall of Fame career, but I know for African-American people, he was a social activist, as well," Brian Mitchell said. "Not only was he a great football player and a guy who would go out there and fight for the rights of his people but he was also a guy who was a philanthropist, a guy doing everything that you're supposed to do."

Mitchell grew up in Hot Springs, Arkansas, played baseball in high school and starred in track and football at the University of Illinois. The Hall of Fame flag on the museum's campus in Canton, Ohio, will be flown at half-staff.

## Primary winner Murdock appointed to North Carolina Senate

(AP) - The winner of a North Carolina state Senate primary last month was appointed on Wednesday to fill for the rest of the year the seat she's aiming to win this fall.

Gov. Roy Cooper formally appointed Natalie Murdock the day after Durham County Democratic activists meeting online chose her to succeed Sen. Mickey Michaux, who resigned from the seat earlier in the day. State law required Cooper to follow the Democrats' wishes and appoint Murdock, who leads a marketing and communications firm, to the vacancy.

Michaux, who served in the state House over 45 years through 2018, had filled the 20th Senate District seat since January. It was previously held by Sen. Floyd McKissick until resigning to join the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

When appointed, Michaux said he anticipated stepping down so Cooper could appoint the March 3 Democratic primary winner to succeed him. Murdock won that primary.

Murdock faces Republican nominee John Tarantino in the November general election in the heavily Democratic district for a two-year term starting in early 2021.

The General Assembly is supposed to convene on April 28. Some want legislators to return earlier to pass bills related to COVID-19.

There will be another new legislator on the legislature's return. Cooper appointed physician Kristin Baker on March 19 to fill the unexpired term of Republican Rep. Linda Johnson, who died in February. Baker won the GOP primary last month.

## High Court declines case of 60s black militant H. Rap Brown

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court is declining to take the case of a 1960s black militant formerly known as H. Rap Brown who is in prison for killing a Georgia sheriff's deputy in 2000.

As is usual, the justices didn't comment April 6 inturning away Brown's case. Brown had argued his constitutional rights were violated at trial.

Brown converted to Islam and now goes by the name Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin. He gained prominence more than 50 years ago as a Black Panthers leader and was at one point the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

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