

# OP/ED



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## Black Vote Again Taken for Granted



**Cloves Campbell**  
Guest Columnist

There are less than 100 days until voters throughout the country cast their votes for the next president of the United States of America. The campaign war chests of President Obama and Mitt Romney total almost \$3 billion, however, as of this writing, not one dollar has been spent in the Black Press.

Once again, the Black Press has been unfortunately relegated to an "Oh By the Way" campaign that features one 1/2 page ad placed two weeks before the election in all Black newspapers for a shameful \$1.2 million. That is the money paid by Obama for America (OFA). The Romney Campaign has zero dollars allocated! To put this all into perspective, let me fill you in on the process.

In January of this year, we had conversations with the OFA campaign. At that time,

we were told that money was not coming in as expected so they could not talk about advertising in Black newspapers. In late April, after we found out that the OFA campaign had ONLY \$800 million, we put together a very detailed advertising proposal for \$21 million dollars, which included multiple insertions in all National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) publications from June through November. The plan suggested a campaign that encouraged three phases of action. The first steps were "voter registration," since you can't vote if you are not registered

and "proper ID." Understanding that voter suppression laws vary from state to state, it is important that voters know what to take to the polls in order to vote. The last stop was "GOTV - get out the vote." Mobilizing our communities to go to the polls is the key to winning the upcoming election. Our proposal also included an aggressive digital and social media campaign as well.

Today, we are once again in a position of being taken for granted. Does Jim Messina know something about Black folks that we didn't know? I am beginning to wonder where are the Black folks that are advising this campaign? Do they not see the money being spent around them? Are they not asking why are there no Black pollsters, ad agencies, placement firms, or other Black owned businesses reaping the benefits of the ONLY \$3 billion being spent in this campaign season. **SHOW ME THE MONEY!**

At the end of the election, when all the money has been spent, some people will be very happy. They will not care who wins. To take a quote from the movie "Trading Places," "No matter what happens....Duke and Duke still get their commission!"

What are we to do? Do we stand by and again wait four more years? Let's get moving now! Come on Roland Martin, Rev. Sharpton, Rev. Jackson, Cliff Kelly, Steve Harvey, Oprah Winfrey! Let's talk about this now. **SHOW ME THE MONEY!**

Cloves C. Campbell Jr. is chairman of the National Newspapers Publishers Association, an organization made up of more than 200 black-owned newspapers.



Obama

## Title IX Isn't Just About Sports



**Marc Morial**  
Guest Columnist

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

- Title IX

Two weeks ago, the nation celebrated the 40th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark Education Amendment of 1972, which mandated that girls and women receive equal access to academic and athletic opportunities in our nation's schools and colleges. A White House press release notes that, "At a time when many universities barred the admission of women and when female sports teams were scarce, Title IX marked a momentous shift for women's equality in classrooms, on playing fields, and in communities throughout our nation."

While best known for its emphasis on gender equality in sports, the law has been instrumental in advancing women's rights in many other areas. President Obama, who coaches his daughter Sasha's basketball team, commented that "Title IX isn't just about sports. From

addressing inequality in math and science education to preventing sexual assault on campus to fairly funding athletic programs, Title IX ensures equality for our young people in every aspect of their education. It's a springboard for success."

The Associated Press reports that "Before Title IX, fewer than 300,000 high school girls - one in 27 - played sports. Now, more than three million high school girls - one in two - play sports. More than 191,000 females played NCAA sports in 2010-11." Title IX is also responsible for the increasing numbers of women in the nation's law and medical schools. Education Secretary Arne Duncan is right when he says that "Title IX is one of the great civil rights success stories in education," but it is also true that girls and women are still underrepresented in many areas of education and there remain gaps in Title IX enforcement that must be closed.

A report by the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), notes that "In the last three fiscal years, OCR received nearly 3,000 Title IX-related complaints - more than ever before in a similar period - and launched more than 35 investigations." The study also found that while girls make up 49 percent of high school enrollment, they still only comprise 42 percent of athletes. And of the 10,000 schools in the study that offer single-sex athletics, 57

percent offered fewer athletic teams for girls than for boys.

In addition, while women outnumber men in the population and in college graduation, they remain woefully underrepresented in the STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] fields - the growth industries of the future. According to OCR, "In 2008-09, women earned fewer than 18 percent of all bachelor's degrees in computer and information sciences, and women from underrepresented minorities earned less than seven percent of bachelor's degrees in those fields." Less than four percent of degrees in engineering were awarded to women from underrepresented minorities.

Clearly, the promise of Title IX has not yet been fully realized. We applaud the Obama administration for taking steps to improve enforcement and further close gender gaps. And we will intensify our own efforts in support of quality education for all, including greater access to community-based STEM learning for African American boys and girls. Title IX has served the nation well for the past 40 years. We must uphold the spirit and the letter of the law for the next 40 years and beyond.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.



### Clarification

In last week's article, "Legacy of Katie B. Saluted," we neglected to mention the process involved in getting the historical marker placed near the site of the former Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital. The project was initiated by Dr. Betty Alexander (left) and took the involvement of others like Beverly Watson and Helen and George Phillips to make it a reality.

### SEE

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ited to the Red School House. Campers took regular trips to Salem Gymnastics for exercise classes.

At the camp, which is run by IFB's A Brighter Foundation, students receive instruction on everything from using canes to guide them to performing basic household chores.

"They come in here just to be with other kids that face the same challenges they do, the same kind of self-advocacy," Brighter Path Program Coordinator Jenny Viars said about the advantage of the campers being around other kids like them. "They encourage each other, probably without even knowing it."

Eleven-year-old Ben James has attended all five SEE camps. When asked what he got out of the camp, Ben had an adventurous answer.

"Lots of zip-lining," he said with a grin. "I didn't like it; I loved it."

SEE's annual zip-lining trips to places like Carolina Ziplines in Westfield is a tradition that's become a big hit with campers.

The School House also provides adventures for Ben and the other campers. One day last week, students scoured the grounds of the school searching for plastic, beeping eggs. Visually-impaired campers like Ben wore blindfolds during the egg hunt to make it fair for the blind kids.

On that same day, older campers visited a nearby Food Lion to do some grocery shopping. They then had to put the items they bought in three proper place in the School's kitchen. SEE instructor Jill Wilson used the activity to instruct campers on how to tell the difference between items like barbecue sauce and salad dressing by touching them.



Volunteer Israel Suarez with Jacob Gerancher, left.

This was Wilson's first year as a SEE teacher, but she's been teaching independent living to the blind and visually-impaired for more than 30 years.

Wilson, who has retinitis pigmentosa, has been visually-impaired her whole life and is now almost totally blind. She taught cooking at SEE and was glad to pass along what she knew.

"I liked to cook, and so I just kind of learned as I went along. Now, I want to help others who won't have to learn on their own," said Wilson, who, among other things, taught campers how to operate the microwave by placing trail stickers on the button panel.

Each camper was assisted by a volunteer like Israel Suarez, 17, who was teamed up with 12-year-old Jacob Gerancher. During the Food Lion outing, he helped Jacob, who is blind, find items on a trail grocery list. Israel was by Jacob's side as he pulled a shopping cart with one hand and used his cane with the



Ben James

### Lartey

from page A1

Western West Africa District is fortunate to have Lartey as their leader.

"These countries, they have been blessed to get a bishop that has a lot of vision, a lot of energy and a lot of connections," he declared. "These countries stand to benefit a lot from his bishopship. They are going to see a new bishop that will bring a new day to this land."

Lartey has overseen the creation of the Goler Institute for Development and Education, Inc., the Goler Community Development Corporation and the youth empowerment organization Operation Will Power during his time at Goler. He says he will draw from his experiences in revitalizing the historic Goler Depot area as he hashes out plans for the district. He believes his new position will provide ample opportunities for local residents to collaborate with those in the nations he now represents.

"For the local community, this now allows us to be at a level and a position to see more, to do more, to expand more and to provide more opportunities for all of us," said Lartey, who plans to travel to Africa this week to begin assessing the district's immediate needs. "Whatever it is that we have done here, we can now expand it. The opportunities are enormous."

The Piedmont Episcopal District will conduct a search for a new pastor to lead Goler, Lartey said. He plans to retain his position at Goler until the end of October.

"That will allow us to begin to identify a new path," he said. "We do not want any lapse in the work that Goler is doing in the community as well as in the church."

Hunder said Lartey's departure will be bittersweet for his congregants.

"We were praying for him to get the bishopship, but now we are sad that he's leaving," said Hunder, who hails from Liberia's Todee District. "We are very hopeful, we are very optimistic that God is going to touch the conference to send us someone the likes of Dr.

Lartey."

Watching Lartey return to their native Liberia with the charge of bringing about positive change is a source of pride for him, and for many in the community, concluded Hunder, the founder and president of the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont.

"Speaking on behalf of the Liberian community and the organization, we are just so proud of him," he declared. "We pray that God will continue to guide him, protect him and lead him."



James Hunder

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