

FORUM

Black women's group sends open letter to all presidential candidates



Clinton



Trump



Johnson



Stein



In an effort to hear what issues Black women are most concerned with this election cycle, Higher Heights asked Black women across the country (at events and online), what is the most important issue facing Black women and their families. 49 percent stated that economic security was the most pressing issue.

No wonder this was the top response, considering Black women are paid just 60 cents to every dollar paid to a White man. In addition to economic security, the other top issues included education equity (19 percent), police violence (16 percent) and high quality affordable housing (14 percent).

According to 2013 U.S. Census data, 71 percent of Black women are in the labor force (69 percent for women overall). Black

women are more likely than women nationally to work in the lowest-paying occupations (like service, health care support, and education) and less likely to work in the higher-paying engineering and tech fields or managerial positions. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the percentage of Black women who are full-time minimum-wage workers is higher than that of any other racial group.

The late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan once said, "What the people want is very simple - they want an America as good as its promise." Higher Heights is asking you, as a candidate for the highest executive job in the country, to pledge to make good on this promise by putting forward a comprehensive economic security strategy and plan at the top of your list of priority issues on which you will focus in the

first 100 days of your administration, should you be elected.

Higher Heights is also asking Black women across the country to raise their voices on this issue at the ballot box this November. We know that when you fire up a Black woman, she does not go to the polls alone, she brings her house, her block, her church, her sorority and her water cooler. For us, this election is about harnessing the power of Black women's votes to ensure that you, as candidates, feel compelled to address and support building economically stable communities and the other issues of the greatest importance to Black women.

It really isn't that complicated. Black women are voting this November and economic security is the No. 1 issue they care about. The next President of the United States will

take office at a time of great opportunity for our nation. In the final weeks of the election, we encourage you to listen and devise a course of action to address the concerns of this very important constituency.

Sincerely,
Higher Heights

Higher Heights (www.higherheights-foramerica.org) is the only national organization exclusively dedicated to harnessing, organizing and mobilizing Black women's political power making sure they have the tools to effectively engage, advocate and lead. Higher Heights for America is a national 501(c)(4) organization, and its sister organization Higher Heights Leadership Fund, is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Republicans are willing to dance with the devil to win the white house



Julianne Malveaux

Guest Columnist

House Majority Leader Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is anticipating a Trump win in November. Or, at least, he is preparing for it. He says

that if Republicans hold sway in the White House, the House and the Senate, he plans to use budget reconciliation to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare) and give tax cuts to the wealthy.

Ryan says he will not even attempt any bipartisanship, as he shoves his regressive agenda down the throats of our people. Instead, he says that he can make it work, especially if he has a Trump White House.

This is, perhaps, why Republicans who appear to have at least a little bit of good sense are going for Trump's nonsense. They know that Mr. Trump, with his head in the cloud and his rhetoric in the gutter, will let them get away with anything they want.

He will agree to their tax cuts, because they coincide with his agenda to reward the wealthy. Trump will go along with cuts to Obamacare, because he wasn't loving it in the first place. He will let conservative Republicans hold sway, especially if they reward him with their votes in November.

Paul Ryan calls his plan a "Better Way" policy agenda. It is an aggressive move that assumes that Republicans will control both the House and the Senate. They might not - if people vote, and vote

down ballot, there is a real chance that Democrats can control the Senate. The House is a much bigger challenge, and it is likely that Republicans will continue to hold sway in the house. But there are too many folks who say they won't vote, and their votes could make a real difference. In Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan and Florida (among other states), those who choose to refrain from voting are really voting for a Trump-Ryan agenda.

The attack on Obamacare is especially problematic. While the President's Affordable Care Act is clearly flawed, it expanded health insurance for more than 20 million people. It isn't the desired single payer care, but it provides opportunity and takes the first step in expanding the social contract since the Roosevelt years. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) can be used as a foundation to expand health insurance coverage and, in my mind, get us closer to the ultimate goal of a single-payer system. But legislators rejected the single-payer plan that Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) proposed for decades. The Affordable Care Act is a compromise. We need to move forward in improving the ACA, not backward in repealing it. Trump and Ryan would restrict access to health care instead of expanding it.

According to Politico, Paul Ryan thinks that a divided government contributes to gridlock. He'd be happy if the presidency, the House of Representatives, and the United States Senate were all controlled by Republicans. What about the rest of us? Does he see our voice in this? Not according to Ryan. He tells Politico "I'm tired of divided government. It does-

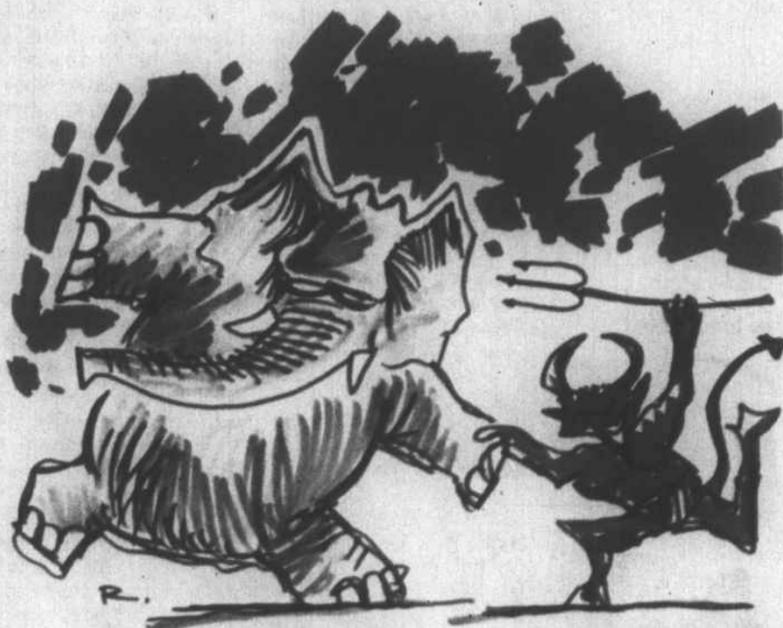


Illustration by Ron Rogers for The Chronicle

n't work very well." He seems to ignore the fact that there are legitimate differences among legislators and that these differences need to be worked out. He is uninterested in compromise. Instead, he wants to shove his position down the throats of other people.

Paul Ryan has explicitly called Donald Trump a racist. He has eschewed many of his policies. Other Republicans have been openly repulsed by their bellicose standard bearer and disturbed by his racist bluster and his wacky rhetoric, but they have thrown their discernment to the wind, embracing the man they have described as a rabid racist, because they prefer him to an embrace of integrity.

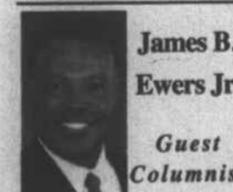
As we count down to the Nov. 8 election, people are coming forward to say they are either undecided, conflicted, or would rather vote for a third party candidate, because they can't tolerate Clinton Trump. The bottom line is that either

Clinton or Trump will win the Presidency. Really. Those Republicans who support Trump are openly supporting evil. They will dance with the devil to their detriment.

African-Americans, especially, need to look at what Trump has promised. He has promised discrimination. He has described our lives as hell. He has been a bully and a documented discriminator. He has been too much. He should be enough to repel us. Paul Ryan has called Trump a racist, but he is willing to dance with the devil because it serves his purposes. What about you?

Julianne Malveaux is an NNPA Newswire Columnist and an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com

Our voices will be heard in November



James B. Ewers Jr.

Guest Columnist

America is the home of the brave and the land of the free. One of the greatest privileges that we have is our right to vote.

Because we are in this great country called America, we probably take a lot for granted. Don't let

voting be one of them.

We are now experiencing tremendous unrest in our society. Our political environment is in a constant state of flux. Initiatives that we thought could never become enforceable are now laws. Take HB 2, for example, in North Carolina.

We can now discriminate in 2016 no less on the basis of who is going to use the restroom. Some estimate the controversial law will cost the state of North Carolina millions of dollars. Recently, the state dropped a lawsuit against the Federal government. The reason was that it would be too costly to litigate.

Don't be fooled and don't be hoodwinked when you hear a candidate empty on policy knowledge but full of venom and vitriol start to spout off giving you misinformation.

Donald Trump has taken narcissism to another level. I have never heard nor seen any person so full of himself. He is an embarrassment to his supporters yet he continues to plow through his own rubbish.

Most of us are rational and thoughtful people who are not swayed by chaos and confusion. However, we cannot think that this wolf won't bite, because he will.

Each time I listen to Trump I am even more convinced that he belongs in his house and not the White House.

My college tennis coach at Johnson C Smith University in Charlotte, Mr. Joseph L. Alston, always told our team that you have to kill a gnat with a sledgehammer. In other words, we must beat our opponents convincingly and give them no hope of winning.

The same phrase applies to defeating Trump. We must show up at the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016, in record numbers. Our sledgehammers will be our power to cast our ballot against him.

We must suffocate him with our voting power so as to give him no chance of winning.

We cannot stay at home on Election Day. Our neighbors and friends won't vote for us. We must vote for ourselves.

It is my opinion this election will go down in the history books. Yes, electing Barack Obama president of the

United States of America in 2008 was historic but we cannot pass on this election.

When elected, Hillary Clinton will become the first woman in history to be President of the United States of America.

Do you want a chance for hope and opportunity? If you do like I do, don't squander this opportunity to vote.

Wherever we live, work and worship, we must sound the clarion call to get out to vote. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

There is simply too much riding on this election. Think about those who have shed blood and lost lives in order that we could have the right to vote. When we vote change happens. Don't be silent at the polls.

Let us exercise our right to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8 2016.

James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D. is a former tennis champion at Atkins High School in Winston-Salem and played college tennis at Johnson C. Smith University, where he was all-conference for four years. He is a retired college administrator. He can be reached at ewers.jr56@yahoo.com.