

VOTE

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Al Sharpton, Virginia Newell encourage local voters

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Over the past few weeks, Union Baptist Church (UBC) has been hosting a series of election forums where guests come together to discuss the importance of voting. And last week Rev. Dr. Al Sharpton and local legend Dr. Virginia Newell joined UBC senior pastor Bishop Sir Walter Mack during a virtual forum to ignite voters here in Forsyth County.

When discussing the need for the African American community to show up on Election Day, Sharpton, a well-known civil rights leader and founder of the National Action Network (NAN), said every time Black people take a step forward in this country, there has been a pushback or backlash. “We fought all the way through to Barack Obama, but this time the backlash came a little more manicured, a little more polished ... in the person of a reality star named Donald Trump,” said Sharpton during the



Dr. Virginia Newell

Photos by Tevin Stinson

virtual forum. He said the fact that our ancestors fought, bled, and died for the right to vote should be more than enough reason to exercise that right on Nov. 3.

“You and I should not need any message to vote,” Sharpton continued. “The fact that they didn’t want to give us that vote and people suffered and died,

paid the price with their life, to give us the right to vote. So everybody under the sound of my voice should get out and vote. You can vote early ... get everybody in your house to vote because we are not voting for a party, we are voting because our people paid the price for us to be able to vote and vote to keep those who will keep

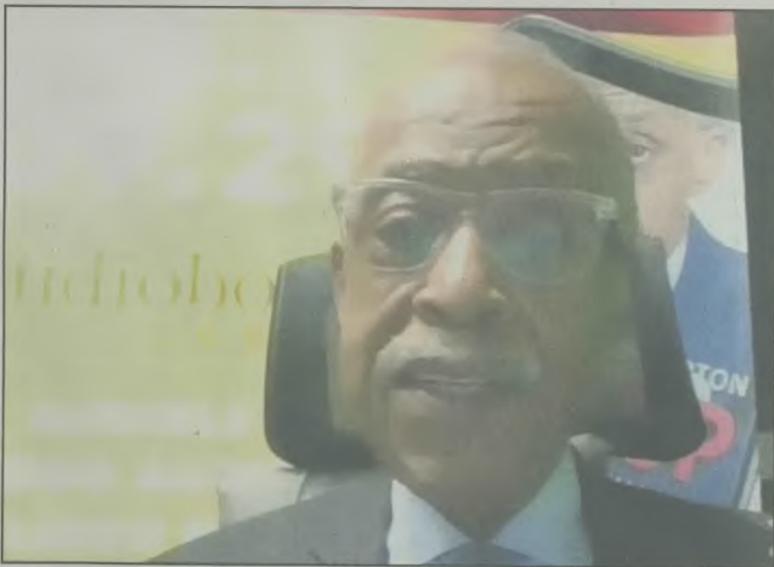
fighting for what is right.”

Dr. Newell, who recently celebrated her 103rd birthday, is one of the first Black women to be elected to the Winston-Salem Board of Alderman (now City Council). A proud supporter of the Biden-Harris ticket, Newell said “a voteless people is a hopeless people.”

“Everybody who is breathing and eligible to vote should go to the polls,” Newell continued. “We are living in a time that we need to vote. We have evil above us, we see it, we hear it, and all the people talk about it, and strangely enough some people believe it ... but we have the power to vote the right people in.”

The virtual election forum series hosted by Union Baptist Church will continue Thursday, Oct. 15, with special guest Judge Greg Mathis. The forum can be viewed on the Union Baptist Church Facebook page or by joining the Zoom meeting.

For more information, visit <https://unionbaptist-wsnc.org/>.



Al Sharpton

Voters’ guide compares judicial candidates side-by-side

BY HOWARD PEARRE

It’s probably a rare citizen who’s not made up his or her mind by now about how they’ll vote in the U.S. presidential race.

And it’s probably the same for most of the ballot’s other top tier races.

But some may find themselves in a head-scratching moment when they get to the section on judges. Unfortunately, the way many voters will resolve this quandary will be to skip the races if they don’t know anything about the candidates, or, just as bad, make choices based on guesswork.

Fortunately, the N.C. Board of Elections publishes a non-partisan Judicial Voter Guide that gives voters unbiased straightforward information about the statewide judicial candidates. The guide’s format allows voters to make comparisons of the candidates for each race. It is accessible on the N.C. Board of Elections’ website and also is being mailed to 4.7 million N.C. voter households.

“We are excited for voters to receive this year’s edition of the Judicial Voter Guide,” State Board Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell said in a press release. “Along with judicial candidate profiles, we’ve included a wealth of information to ensure North Carolinians are ready to vote in the upcoming election.”

Each candidate profile includes the candidate’s photograph, city of residence, education, current occupation, employer, legal experience, and a personal statement that allows the candidate to express why he or she is best suited for the position.

The guide provides information on candidates who are running for three N.C. Supreme Court seats and five seats on the N.C. Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court candidates include: Cheri Beasley, Democrat, and Paul Newby, Republican, for Chief Justice Seat 1; Phil Berger Jr., Republican, and Lucy Inman, Democrat, for Associate Justice Seat 2; and Tamara Barringer, Republican, and Mark Davis, Democrat, for Associate Justice, Seat 4.

N.C. Court of Appeals’ candidates include: Tricia Shields, Democrat, and April C. Wood, Republican, for Seat 4; Lora Christine Cabbage, Democrat, and Fred Gore, Republican, for Seat 5; Gray Styers, Democrat, and Chris Dillon, Republican, for Seat 6; Reuben F. Young, Democrat, and Jeff Carpenter, Republican, for Seat 7; and Chris Brook, Democrat, and Jefferson G. Griffin, Republican, for Seat 13.

Check your registration online—before it’s too late. While voters should have confidence in how elections are being conducted in North Carolina, it is important to check well in advance of the election to make sure one’s registration is “active” and that the information, especially the residential and/or mailing addresses, are current. Checking this is a two-minute operation and will save much grief later if there’s a problem. Here are the steps:

1. Google search NC VOTER LOOKUP.
2. Select VOTER SEARCH.
3. Enter first and last name and select

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