

2016

Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter

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¹**Black Votes Matter**

UNO Adjunct Professor, Preston Love Jr.

Prestonlovejr.com

Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter.

North Omaha it is time for our community to “straighten up and fly right”. That’s an old black phrase and a line in an old song translated means let’s get our act together. Once again we have a major election year, 2016, facing us. Once again we have a lot at stake. Once again we have an opportunity to make a difference for our community by voting in our own interest. Once again I am pleading to our community to not again squander our power and our leverage by not voting. My beloved here is too much at stake. Review this list, every office listed can help or hurt our cause and our community:

Up for election in the 2016 elections are the following:

Douglas County commissioner

Douglas County offices of great importance including the courts

Educational Service Units

Learning Community Council members

State Senate legislators

MUD board

OPPD board members

OPS school board members

State Board of Education

NRD

Workers Compensation Board

Don’t forget our US Congress Representative and the President and Vice President of the United States. Maybe even yes or no on the Death penalty. We have a lot at stake. We can make the difference, and that difference can work for our community. **Black Votes Matter.**

¹ BVM.2

In Douglas County we have 321,654 registered voters. Roughly 123,000 Republicans, 119,000 Democrats and 76,000 non-partisans. North Omaha voters represented within City Council district two (2) boundaries, 31,269 registered voters. I have spoken and written many many times about our lackluster voter turnout and our wasting of our power by so many not voting.

On the positive side, we have fought back efforts to force Voter ID on our community, effective September 21, on-line voter registration will start in Nebraska. We fought back and restored most of our closed precincts (we now have 23). In 2008 and 2012 we showed Nebraska and ourselves how **Black Votes Matter** by voting once in for all strongly. We made national history by our vote providing Obama an electoral vote from Nebraska. Then we fell back asleep when Obama was not running, in spite of many very important issues and offices that were up for grabs in 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014.

Join in and help make 2016 another historic voting year for our community.

Voter Registration: Make sure you and all you know are registered. If you have moved you need to re-register. Ex-felons can vote after being off paper for two years, tell them they can register and vote. On-line registration will be available starting this month. You can register at libraries and the DMV.

Voter Education: Read up on the issues, read up on the candidates. Don't evaluate your vote based on what you see and hear on the TV news shows. Understand the value of the local elections and the direct affect it will have on our lives. There will be voter guides to assist you, speakers and my organization (north Omaha Voter Project) that will help on education. Go to forums, town hall meeting, be informed.

Rides to Vote: There will be rides to early vote and ride to vote on Election Day.

Vote: Vote early at your convenience. Vote early have your ballot sent to your house and then just mail it in or drop it off at the outside voting boxes, there is one at the Charles Washington Library (29th & Ames). Vote at your polling place. If you are not sure about your polling place, call me.

If you are a Democrat attend your caucus March 5th.

Volunteer: Help us with voter registration, phone calls, door knocking, rides to vote and more. Call, we have started. Contact me at 402-812-3324.

Next issue we will discuss Nebraska's upcoming 2016 Caucus and Primary

