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2016 Election: Part 2: The Cycle Continues

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Black Votes Matter
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Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter

2016 Election: Part2: The Cycle Continues

From Part1:

“North Omaha voted at a poor rate. We did not vote large enough to make our collective voices heard in this election. Thus our preferences were defeated. For good or bad, our non-voting contributed to the victory of Trump and the defeats of Ashford and restoration of the Nebraska death penalty.... Beginning immediately there needs to be, A New Attitude; Demands for accountability from our leadership and outside forces to develop with the community new avenues for inclusion of wealth into north Omaha. Not grants, gifts etc., but job development, small business development and supporting services. A New Agenda; Unify the factions within the community to develop such avenues and necessary Action Plans. Time is of essence.”

Part2:

The Fifteenth Amendment (Amendment XV) to the United States Constitution prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." It was ratified on February 3, 1870, as the third and last of the Reconstruction Amendments. It should be noted that women were not given the right to vote until the 19th amendment in 1920.

After the passage of the 15th amendment, black folk registered and voted in tremendous numbers and resulted in a great surge of black elected officials in the late 1800's, including black Congressmen and Senators. That response from the black community signaled a cycle that continues today and can be found among the ashes of the 2016 election. The Cycle, simply stated, whenever the black community has stepped up and taken our destiny into our hands there has been a white, power and privilege response to shut us down. After black electoral response of the 1800's whites countered with full-fledged Jim Crow and massive voter impediments, including, poll tax. Literacy test, grandfather clauses, gerrymandering, intimidation and violence. They were successful in retarding the black vote for years and as a result, the cycle, a new black response emerged, the civil rights movement. After years of near civil war and thousands of deaths the cycle produced the 1964 Civil Rights Act, SELMA and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The cycle continued as Black responded by again registering and voting in great numbers, resulting in the massive increase of Black elected officials, and black political power. The power culminated in the election of major powerful Black Mayors, Congressmen and women and finally a Black President, Barack Obama.

The cycle continued as white began to dismantle the gains from the civil rights movement, affirmative action, the Supreme Court removing the powers of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the

resurgence of new Jim Crow measures, new voter impediments and the full court assault on every initiative of the Black President. Locally, the gerrymandering in congressional District 2 by Lee Terry has watered down the black and democratic vote. And now the election of Trump, the poster child of the new cycle to shut us down.

This time, this white response has a new ally, disengagement by many blacks, non-voters, angry and loss black poverty. Will there be a historical response by blacks to the attempts to shut us down, be strong and determined? Or will we be defeated once and for all? To repeat we need new attitudes, new agendas and new actions. We have work to do lets unify and get to work.

*To review previous Black Votes Matter column articles visit **Omahastar.com**. Or **prestonlovejr.com**. Preston love can be reached at prestonlovejr@gmail.com*

BVM.31