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The Black Vote: Ignored or Taken for Granted?

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

The Black Vote: Ignored or Taken for Granted?

As of this writing it appears that the lineup for the 2016 Presidential race is set. Republican Donald Trump will be running against Democrat Hillary Clinton. Election to be November 8, 2016. What does mean to the African American community. What does it mean to the North Omaha's African American community and what should be our posture.

This column is intentionally not a partisan column. While, we attempt to raise consciousness, educate and suggest actions that will positively affect our community, favoritism toward Democrats or Republicans is not the objective. Truth is that our community is predominantly Democratic and so my messages tend to be oriented toward the realities, with a Democratic Party bent. But under no circumstance, will this column ignore the best interest of the community regardless of party. We call it like it is!!

Donald Trump will be a disaster for black communities all over this country including ours. At a recent meeting, I spoke of the need for our community to get out and vote in order to help insure, Trump does not get elected. A respected Black leader spoke up and said that republicans have had a good record of getting things done for our communities. Well that is arguable, but he missed the bigger point, Trump. It's Trump we should be against not some mystical analysis of Republicans. This gentleman is well educated, but what's missing in his analysis is common sense. Common sense shared by most African Americans about Trump. If he gets elected we will be forced to play defense for at least four (4) years, he will be horrible. That's why I am urging my community to wake up and vote this November. By the way, the Republicans ignore our vote. No financial support of our community during the elections, no visits, no proposals to address our needs, no campaign offices, no dialogue from the candidates. Republicans ignore us.

Over and over I feel that Democrats are taking us for granted. Knowing that our community votes mostly all Democratic, the Democratic Party falls into a habit of taking that vote for granted. How does that manifest itself? Very little money is spent in the community during election time. No financial support of the major voter efforts, no support of our important institutions, no advertising in our media, no in depth dialogue regarding the issues facing our community, and more.

Currently the Nebraska Democratic party is experiencing a challenge and fight for leadership. Bernie vs Hillary, establishment vs new blood, "Good old boy" vs inclusiveness. Back room deals for positions, promises and favors for party jobs. The Nebraska Democratic Party is meeting in Kearney this week-end and the drama will play out. African Americans have not been included in the fray, we have been ignored.

Do we need to remind the Democratic Party (and ourselves) that Black Votes Matter?

1990, Ben Nelson won the Governorship by a margin of only 4000 votes. Strong registration (Theme: Register to vote, not your frustration) and votes from North Omaha are credited for making the difference.

2008, North Omaha Registered over 13,000 new voters, led the efforts to educate and train county voters on the new Nebraska Caucus, voted at 62% and was the difference in the history making split electoral vote for Obama.

2009, North and South Omaha led the way with strong votes to elect Jim Suttle for Mayor of Omaha.

2010, South Omaha vote fell off, but North Omaha initiated a strong campaign (Don't let Rich fat cats reverse your vote) and a strong vote to save Suttle from a recall.

2012, North Omaha led the challenge against the election commission, after the massive and punitive polling place closings. As a result of the challenge, media and public awareness and pressure, polling places were restored, an advisory committee was established and after a major mobilization effort, the black vote was 55%.

2016, Primary Election: North Omaha in the first time in over 20 years voted on par with the rest of Douglas County.

The Black Vote: Ignored or Taken for Granted? The answer is both!! Our community needs to demand better from both parties. But first we need to prepare to vote. This column will be rolling out the plans and timetables for our community to register, learn the candidates, volunteer, get Black Votes Matter yard signs, forums and events, and stay tuned.

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