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North Omaha Votes Matter: 2017 Election Result and its Impact

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North Omaha Votes Matter: 2017 Election Result and its Impact

What will it take for North Omaha to realize the importance of our vote? As the present President and his administration quickly begin to dismantle many of the gains from as far back as the civil rights administration; as the present administration talks of eliminating CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds to the cities, as this administration seeks to undo many of the Consent Decrees initiated and signed with cities and police departments, where their practices were deemed by the Obama administration as wrongful and required new rules and monitoring, as this administration executed executive orders by the President to target the Black Lives Matter movements to stop rogue police actions and brutality, repealing Obamacare, punitive strange immigrations policies, and the list goes on. This all because our black communities, including North Omaha failed to cast many votes.

Now that the local primary is over, let's take a quick overview of the results. In the city council races, there were no surprises. Incumbents all fared well. For North Omaha City Councilman Ben Gray won his race via a large margin. Grays receiving 48% of the vote.

Ben Gray.	2,097	48.59%
Krystal Gabel	444	10.29
Gwen Easter.	222	5.14
Bradley D. Whitmore, Jr.	175	4.05
Tanya Cooper	393	9.11
Maurice J. Jones	373	8.64
Dennis J. Womack	586	13.58
WRITE-IN.	26	.60

The General Election which is May 9th will pit Gray against challenger Dennis Womack.

While the entire city vote was poor at 22%, North Omaha voted at a dismal 13%. That's a 9% gap. Bad, bad.

The race for Mayor takes on enormous importance. In the next four years with our current President and his administration, local communities that are sensitive to the needs of its communities are going to have to fight against the negative financial and policy pressures of the Trump administration. North Omaha voters cannot standby again and miss the point of how important these races are. Federal policy will be changed beginning immediately based on the new makeup of the Supreme Court. Local cities are to be impacted from all sides. We need a Mayor who will fight the flow on behalf of all its diverse communities.

In the Primary Mayor Stothert and Heath Mello were very close, specifically, 3% apart. So, the votes in May will determine who will be our Mayor. For the record, Mello won the north Omaha vote 2 to 1. Mello cannot win without a strong north Omaha vote. I challenge the community to vote and prove, North Omaha Votes Matter.

Visit our Black Votes Matter Office at 2518 North 24th (3 doors down from the Love Art and Jazz Center). Attend the new Black Votes Matter Monthly Live Forum (*Black City Hall Live Forum*) at Fair Deal café every fourth Friday and broadcast live on 101.3 FM Mind and Soul radio. Next forum April 28th. Guest speaker **Diane Battiato, Douglas County Assessor/Register of Deeds**. She will discuss recent property evaluations.

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

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