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Ladies and Gentlemen Start Your Engines: 2017 Election is Now

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

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North Omaha, once again I am disappointed in our ability to see how important our vote is. We like other black communities around the country did not vote in numbers high enough to ward off the Trump vote and as a result we got Trump as the President of the US. For the last weeks we are now seeing the effects of our lack of recognition of the importance of our National and State elections. It should be noted that part of the blame for a reduced black voter turnout is the continued and increased voter suppression efforts by Republicans all over the country. Voter ID requirements, reduced polling places in our community to induce long lines and inconveniences. That being said, Trump's rise to the Presidency is partly our fault for not voting. In Douglas County we lost the opportunity to keep Brad Ashford as our congressman and we lost the opportunity to give Hillary Clinton an electoral vote from Nebraska.

So here we go. The 2017 elections for City Council and for Mayor. April 4th is the Primary and May 9th the General Election. The Primary will narrow down all of the candidates down to two finalists in the General. Need it be said, we need to vote and vote in our own self-interest. Ladies and Gentlemen Start Your Engines: 2017 Election is Now.

Black Votes Matter has opened an office at 2518 N. 24th , 68101. Come register to vote, apply to for Early Ballot to be sent to your home, volunteer to get the vote out, give rides to the polls.

Mark your calendars for our major issues forum Saturday, March 18th at 2pm at the Black votes office. Go to Prestonlovejr.com to review the flyer or call 402-812-3324.

New Polling Place Information

The Douglas County Election Commission has made four polling place changes affecting North Omaha voters for the upcoming City Elections (Primary April 4 and General May 9). All voters, that will experience polling place changes from previous elections, will receive notification by post card approximately three weeks prior to the election.

While this article references ward and precinct numbers, we realize most people do not know their ward and precinct number. If you think you might be affected by the changes listed below, or just want to make sure you have the right information, there are three ways to verify your polling location:

First visit the Black Votes Matter office or call us: 402.812-3324

The second is to visit the Election Commission website (votedouglascounty.com) and fill in the "Find Your Voting Information" box found on the left side of the home page. Provide the information requested, and your polling place, precinct number and offices within your jurisdiction will be displayed.

The thirdly is to simply call the Election Commission office at 402-444-VOTE (8683). They will look up your voting information and provide you with accurate information regarding your polling place.

One of the polling place changes is required because of City Council precinct redistricting. Precinct 01-01 has been divided. The northern part of the precinct will join Precinct 01-02 and now vote at the Florence Recreation Center, 2820 Bondesson Street. The southern portion of Precinct 01-01 will form a new precinct 02-24. Precinct 02-24 will continue voting at Mount Olive Church, 7301 North 28th Ave. Please note that the two precincts will vote for different City Council members.

Girls Inc. of Omaha, 2811 North 45th Street, will return as the polling place for Precinct 02-13 after being one of two precincts that voted at Holy Name Parish Hall for the previous three elections due to reconstruction at Girl's Inc. Voters in Precinct 02-14 will continue to vote at Holy Name Parish Hall, 2901 Fontenelle Blvd.

The final change affects two precincts. University Inn, which previously served Precinct 03-02, is under renovation and cannot serve as a polling place. The polling place for 03-02 will move to Omaha Public Schools TAC Bldg., 3215 Cuming, which is located within the precinct. Voters from Precinct 02-16, who previously used the TAC bldg. for a polling place, will now vote at Starlight Chateau, 1310 North 29th street, which is located within their precinct.

As a reminder, your polling place is determined by your current address. If you have moved, you need to update your voter registration. You may call the Election Commission at 402-444-VOTE (8683) to check your registration. Updating your registration can be done online from a link on the Election Commission website (votedoouglasscounty.com) or by downloading a Voter Registration Application from the same website and mailing it to the Commission, as well as in-person at the Douglas County Election Commission office at 225 North 115th Street (two blocks south of West Dodge Road). Updating your registration to vote can save you time and travel on Election Day by avoiding the need to go to a different precinct and voting a Provisional Ballot.

*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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