

6-16-2017

Letters from North Omaha

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Recommended Citation

Love, Preston Jr., "Letters from North Omaha" (2017). *Black Studies Faculty Publications*. 53.
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Black Votes Matter
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Black Lives, Black Poverty and Black Votes Matter

Letters from North Omaha

Dear Senator Ben Sasse,

Many voters in 2014 voted for your opponent Dave Domina, I was his deputy campaign manager. Once elected I expected that the communities and voters throughout Nebraska would be respected and their needs evaluated and some degree of dialogue. We are real, we are Nebraskans and have expectations of our elected officials. I am a resident and advocate for north Omaha. We have needs related to poverty, jobs, economic development, healthcare, home ownership, and more. To my knowledge there are no initiatives, no dialogue, nothing.

Additionally, it appears that there is no diversity on your senate staffs in Nebraska, that diversity can be a basis for understanding the needs of the diverse communities in Nebraska.

Your disrespectful lack of no visual or verbal reaction to Bill Maher racial remarks is no surprise. I urge you to represent all Nebraska in your service.

Dear Mayor Jean Stothert,

Congratulations on your re-election. I and my community north Omaha voted against you. Why would that be? To many of us, you are a Mayor who uses North Omaha and its recent progress for photo ops and ceremonial matters. Many of the good things you have accomplished in north Omaha have not been of your initiative or origination. Many of us do not bring fault for your participation but surely do not give you much credit for doing your job. Your persistent insistence that the city is inclusive as to our contractors is laughable. Your reference to the Chamber of Commerce's REACH program as providing proof, is also far reaching. Please produce data that can show some real progress of the city's inclusiveness. By the way please do not consider the use of Swain Construction as proof of anything other than hooray for Swain, not hooray for any real north Omaha Contractors.

Your reported second term priorities sound wonderful for many city sectors, surely not classic north Omaha. Downtown and the Riverfront is welcomed but it is not north Omaha. Your remaining priorities seem to forget the pressing needs of development, jobs and public investment in north Omaha. There needs to be an \$10 to \$20 million, at a minimum, investment in north Omaha. Your priorities say no!!

Dear North Omaha Voters

There were some disappointments, but the 2017 election represents a new beginning and direction of the political landscape for north Omaha. They include:

- We nearly doubled the Primary turnout in north Omaha in the General Election. 25% turnout in a municipal election is not great but a step in the right direction,
- We initiated a groundbreaking partnership with the south Omaha via The Heartland Worker Center and Black Votes Matter joining forces to maximize voter participation in north and south Omaha,
- We initiated a groundbreaking partnership between the black PAC MP2Action and Black Votes Matter to raise money and support political and social causes for the betterment of north Omaha. We reached thousands of voter's faces to face.
- We funded from black donor money, funding the Get Out the Vote (GOTV) canvassing and an awesome GOTV Rally featuring CNN Political Commentator Symone Sanders,
- North Omaha Clergy organized and lead a process to improve voter participation

Note:

Black Votes Matter is about to be formally incorporated under the name: *Black Votes Matter Institute of Community Engagement*. We will continue to provide voter participation activities but will add new services, a few to mention:

- o Seminars, workshops on Leadership, Candidate Development, Campaign Management
- o Youth Civic Club (providing civic education, projects, volunteerism)
- o Town Hall Meetings
- o Black Votes Matter newspaper column
- o Collaboration with the Heartland Workers Center and their north and south outreach efforts
- o Outreach to the African communities based in North Omaha

* A **Dear John letter** is a breakup **letter** to end a romantic relationship. When a romantic relationship was just not meant to be,

*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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