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## Election Night Celebrations

November 10 - November 16, 2018 53rd Year Volume 28 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Victory Night For Richmond and Napoleon

## Candidates Win Handily in 2018 Election Bids

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Newly Elected Rep. Colin Allred (D-TX 32nd)

### Newsmaker

**A Big Win  
for House  
Democrats**

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**Celebrating  
300 Years of  
NOLA Jazz**



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# Historic Election in New Orleans



Winner of the race for Civil District Court, Chelsey Richard Napoleon enjoying a moment with family, friends and supporters.

Photos by Glenn Summers.

**Benjamin Bates**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

## Historic Election

It was a historic night for voters nationwide. In New Orleans citizens went to the polls to vote for several elected offices and Louisiana Constitutional Amendments on the ballot. Including Constitutional Amendment 2, a controversial Jim Crow Law where persons in the state could be convicted of serious felonies with 10-2 non-unanimous votes could lead to long prison sentences. (story on Amendment 2 appears in page 11 of this issue).

Data News Weekly in our role as "The People's Paper" want to give you a snapshot and insight on several races we've been focusing on and their importance to our community.

## U.S. House of Representatives

In the race for Louisiana Congressional District 2 incumbent Cedric Richmond handily won re-election winning 81 percent of the vote. In this session of Congress, with the House of Representatives being controlled by Democrats many issues surrounding healthcare, the economy, Criminal Justice Reform and of course fighting against the Trump agenda.

In this session the voices of the Democrats can be a voice to be reckoned with in legislative matters. And on a local front as Cedric Richmond has ascended to a leadership position as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and a leader in many issues including championing Criminal Justice Reform. He joined with many leaders across the state to support Amendment 2. It is a time where we look to our elected leader in the nation's capital to continue to work with other local and state elected officials to have more resources allocated to our state to deal with many of the issues we face in Louisiana. And with a leader in Richmond, who has the experience, knowledge, position and relationships we have a person who will fight for the people of Louisiana's Congressional District 2.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

<b>Terry B. Jones</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Art Direction &amp; Production</b>
<b>CEO/Publisher</b>	Piper Thurman	Pubinator.com
Edwin Buggage	Julianne Malveaux	<b>Editorial Submissions</b>
<b>Editor</b>	Charlene Crowell	datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Cheryl Mainor	Benjamin Bates	<b>Advertising Inquiries</b>
<b>Managing Editor</b>	Glenn Summers	datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Calla Victoria	Bob Donaldson, Post Gazette	<b>Distribution</b>
<b>Executive Assistant</b>	Stacy M. Brown	On The Run
June Hazeur	People Magazine	Courier Services
<b>Accounting</b>	Penner via Wikimedia Commons	

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

### Clerk of Orleans Parish Civil District Court

In the race for Clerk of Orleans Parish Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon won in a hotly contested race against District D, City Councilman Jared Brossett. Inside of CAVA, a restaurant in the Lakeview section of New Orleans she was surrounded by family, friends and her supporters. Already experienced in running the office, being the Chief Deputy for 11 years, she vowed to continue to innovate the office and to serve the people of the city with honor and integrity.

While many focuses on offices such as the Mayor and City Council, this office is one where many may find themselves having to go in their day-to-day activities. This office consists of two divisions - Land Records and Civil. Our Civil Division is where civil cases, such as personal injury, accidents, successions and foreclosures are filed. Domestic matters, such as divorce and child support, are also handled in the Civil Division.

Their Land Records Division is where documents regarding property are recorded. Documents regarding changes in ownership, sales donations, as well as, mortgages, liens, and encumbrances are recorded in our Land Records Division.

The Notarial Archives Research Center is also located in our Land Records Division. These documents, which date back to the 1700s, represent the rich history of New Orleans. Their archives can be used for property, genealogical, architectural and landscaping research.

### First City Clerk of Court

In the race for First City Clerk of Court, a post that handles small claims and evictions was won by former Louisiana State Representative, Austin Badon over Timothy David Ray, 64 to 36 percent. Ray, a local attorney who made his second run at an elected office. He was the interim Clerk of First City Court replacing previous officeholder Ellen Hazeur, who won an election to serve on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court.

Badon is returning to elected office after serving as a Louisiana State Representative representing District 100 from 2003 to 2015 when he was term limited. During his time in as a State Representative



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones with Clerk of Civil District Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon.

Badon, sponsored a bill to reduce penalties for possession of marijuana, supported state tax incentives to bring an NBA team into the state and voted for state income tax deductions for taxpayers contributing to college scholarship funds.

### Run-off Election December 8th

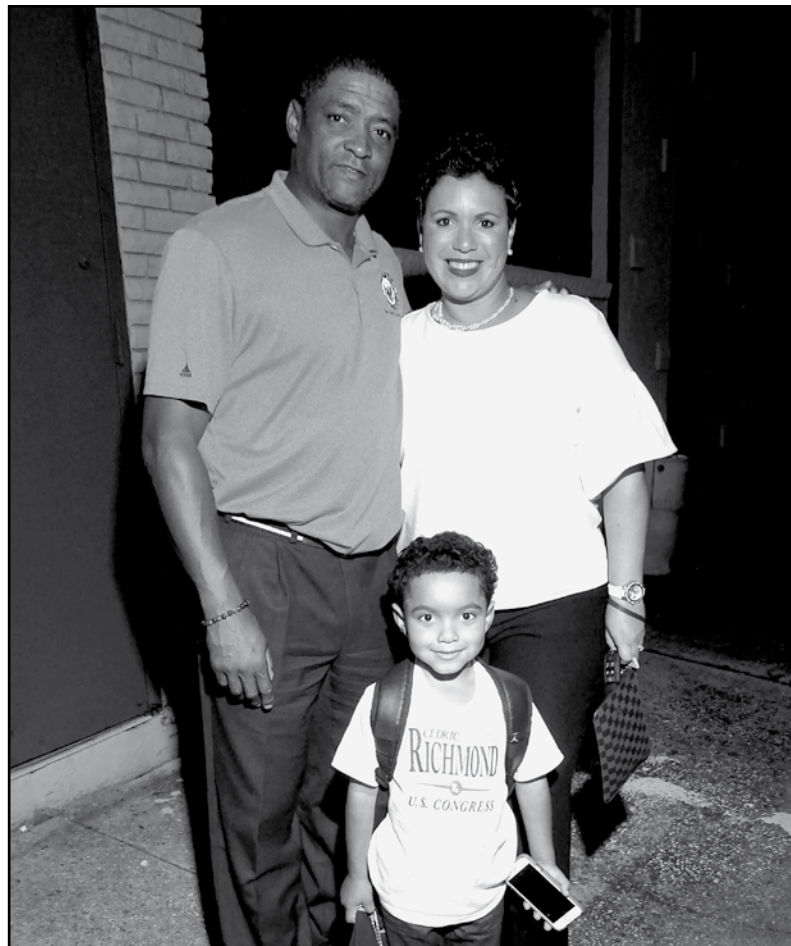
#### Judge Civil District Court, Division E

In the race for Civil District Court, Division E, Attorney Omar Mason placed first and will be in a run-off election against second place finisher Attorney Marie Williams.


#### Louisiana Secretary of State

Also, on the ballot on Dec. 8th there will be the run-off for Louisiana Secretary of State with Republican Kyle Ardoin, against Gwen Collins-Greenup.

Data News Weekly would like to thank all those who came out and voted and we encourage all our citizens to get involved in issues that affect our community.



US Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA), his wife Raquel Geenup-Richmond and their son Cedric Jr. depart from Richmond's watch party after the election where he was re-elected by a wide margin of 81% of the vote.



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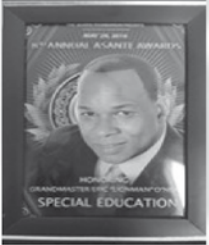
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[info@BLUELIONKarate.com](mailto:info@BLUELIONKarate.com)

[www.LIONMANWorld.com](http://www.LIONMANWorld.com)  
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# Midterm Election Results Means a Congress Divided

*House Democrat Rules, Senate Remains in Republican Majority Hands*

Data News Weekly Staff  
Edited Report

Democrats on Tuesday captured the House of Representatives and are set to exert a major institutional check on President Donald Trump, while breaking the Republican monopoly on power and ushering in a younger, more female and more racially diverse political generation.

But the GOP solidified their Senate majority after an acerbic midterm election that enshrined America's deep divides and shaped a highly contentious battleground for the stirring 2020 presidential race.

The opposite trends in the House and the Senate underscored a political and cultural gulf among diverse and affluent liberals living in big cities and their suburbs and the mostly, white, working class and rural conservative bloc of voters for whom Trump remains an iconic figure.

In his first reaction to a mixed night, Trump chose to celebrate Republican successes even though



the loss of the House meant his record of busting political convention could not defy the traditional first-

term midterm curse faced by many of his predecessors.

"Tremendous success tonight.

Thank you to all!" he tweeted.

But the new Democratic House will pose a perilous problem for the President, who must now brace for the novel experience of oversight from Capitol Hill with Democratic committee chairs promising constraints on his power that the GOP never attempted.

Nancy Pelosi, the former House speaker who is in position to lead again, pledged that the new majority would work to rein in the White House as well as to improve health care, lower the cost of drugs and protect millions of Americans with pre-existing conditions.

"Today is more than about Democrats and Republicans. It is about restoring the Constitution's checks and balances to the Trump administration," Pelosi said.

Democrats could win more than 30 seats in the House, above the net gain of 23 seats that they needed to take control for the first time in eight years. But they lost significant ground in the Senate, losing incumbents in Missouri and Indiana and North Dakota, where Trump is still wildly popular. With several races too close to call, the GOP advantage was expected to grow.

And liberal hearts were broken in several closely fought marquee races, including Andrew Gillum's failure to become Florida's first African-American governor and rising star Beto O'Rourke's failed bid to unseat Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. O'Rourke's narrow defeat, however, proved his ability to compete

even in conservative territory and he will get buzz as a potential 2020 presidential candidate.

Two years after the trauma of Trump's shock defeat of Hillary Clinton, Democrats could dare to dream again.

They won the House, which will change hands for the third time in 12 volatile years, by performing strongly in suburban areas where Trump's flaming rhetoric is toxic. They also attracted a higher proportion of younger voters than at the last midterm elections four years ago and will change the face of Washington.

"We have the beginning of a new Democratic Party, younger, browner, cooler, more women, more veterans, can win in Michigan, can win in Pennsylvania, can win in Ohio," said Van Jones, a CNN political commentator. "It may not be a blue wave, it's a rainbow wave," he said.

One potential pitfall for Democrats will be to hold Trump to account without being seen as overreaching. After all, some presidents, including Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, had tough midterm elections but leveraged attacks by Capitol Hill foes to help them win reelection. Trump, who loves nothing more than to identify new enemies, will be a formidable opponent.

Within minutes of their victory being confirmed, other Democrats were already threatening to go after Trump and to probe his business interests, including his tax returns.

Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler, who is slated to steer the House Judiciary Committee, warned that the election was about accountability for Trump.

"He's going to learn that he's not above the law," Nadler told CNN.

The next step for Congressional Democrats is to elect a new speaker of the House. Nancy Pelosi has made her intentions known to run for the position again, but many newly elected Democrats pledged not to vote for her during their campaigns, and there are others who are also interested in the powerful position which is third in line to the presidency. Congressman Elijah Cummings, (D-MD) has been a name being pushed to the forefront for consideration of the speakership with a commentary being penned by Dr. Ben Chavis, President & CEO of the National Newspaper Publisher's Association leading the way.

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# Jazz Greats Celebrate 300 Years of New Orleans Music

By Piper Thurman  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Instruments like drums, trumpets, and tambourines echoed off the walls and The Saints Go Marching In directed the crowd of residents to dance in single file down a second-line on Nov. 4, 2018. Not a single seat in the ballroom in the University Center on Xavier University's Campus was empty at The Tricentennial: A celebration of 300 years in music.

"By the early 19th Century New Orleans was one of the most musical cities in the world, and what started it all was the rich culture running through African music," said Jazz Clarinetist Dr. Michael White, who led the tribute.

Other world-renowned performers like Deacon John, Luther Gray, and Wendell Brunious also attended. Starting a successful band called The Ivories is why Deacon John was inducted into the Louisiana Blues Hall of Fame in 2008. He briefly had an acting career, playing in movies like *The Last Exorcism* and *Treme*. Another keeper of the arts, Luther Gray, co-founded The Congo Square Foundation in 1989, an organization dedicated to keeping the culture alive in New Orleans music. Wendell Brunious, another famous musician and bandleader of The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, was a notable trumpeter in New Orleans. They came together to salute the artform as being the definitive contribution of the City to the world.

White, a well-respected jazz clarinetist got his start in music playing for Doc Paulin's Brass Band and was a recipient of the 2008 National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor in traditional arts. The Xavier professor discussed how the Civil Rights Era was another prominent time for music in New Orleans. While African-American musicians fought to perfect their craft and to become known for their music, they also fought against the Jim Crow Laws at that time. New Orleans heavily forbid integration, so integrated bands faced restrictions at social functions where African-American musicians were not allowed. Places like New York and Los Angeles were flourishing and became attractive for musicians, triggering



Members of the Hot 8 Brass Band perform during a Tricentennial Tribute to New Orleans music. (Photos by Piper Thurman)



Renowned Jazz Clarinetist Dr. Michael White leads a second-line at The Tricentennial Tribute to New Orleans music on Nov. 4, 2018.

a migration from the South.

"Louis Armstrong was one of the first African-American musicians to rise and make a name for himself, for jazz and blues and he put New Orleans on the map," White said. "His talent made people look beyond his color," he added.

People from all over the community danced and sang around the ballroom, and many discussed their appreciation for their city, even those that weren't natives. Jaland Green, who studies pre-medicine at Xavier said he learned not only about music, but about his own history. Although he was born in Detroit, his grandfather

played with Motown Records, and always expressed his love and admiration for New Orleans and some of its greats.

"My great-great grandfather was a musician who loved [greats] like Louis Armstrong," he said, "So being able to almost go on this journey through this New Orleans' music era today is not only informative, but it makes me even more proud to be Black. Look at how many contributions we have made," Green said.

New Orleans native and Katrina survivor, Tamela Ross, danced and turned with her beaded umbrella to the rhythm of the trum-

pets and guitars being played.

"I just love the celebration and sense of community integrated in our music, whether that be through song or through just strictly instruments, we just always find a way to make it more than just music," Ross said, "It's in our roots," she added.

According to White, music in New Orleans doesn't just sound good, it has helped build the city, and bring people together. Even through the hardest times, something as simple as a little song has brought New Orleans far.

"Music is the life of the city and it has helped us appreciate and celebrate where we come from," White said. "It brought us back from Katrina and forced people to put race and religion aside the only way New Orleans knows how to - through celebration and music," White said.

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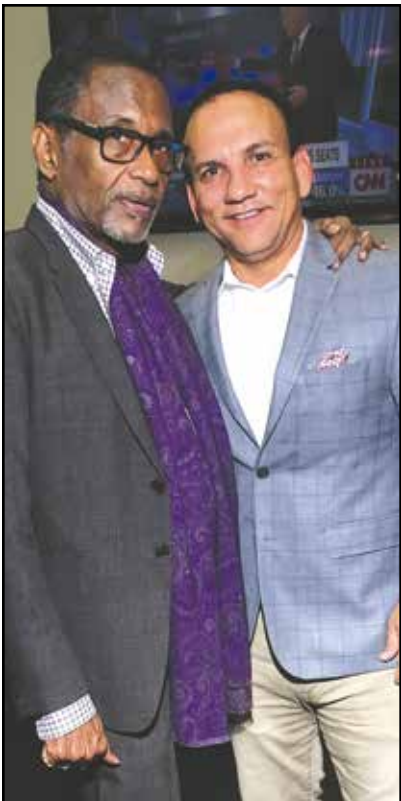
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# Election Night

**Glenn Summers**  
Data News Contributor

It was a historic night in New Orleans. Citizens went to the polls to vote for several elected offices and several Louisiana Constitutional amendments. Data News Weekly attended several election watch parties where candidates and their families, friends and supporters were in attendance. Data News Weekly was there when all the votes were counted. Congratulations to Rep. Cedric Richmond and Chelsey Richard Napoleon on your victories.



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# Ava DuVernay Confirms Prince Documentary in Works

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire  
Contributor

In about three minutes, singer Alicia Keys captured the very essence of the late pop megastar, Prince.

Now, over the course of nearly two or more hours, famed movie maker Ava DuVernay will capture the "Purple Rain" hitmaker's life and career on film. DuVernay on Tuesday confirmed that she's been tapped to direct a new documentary on the icon, who died in 2016 at the age of 57.

"Prince was a genius, a joy and a jolt to the senses. He

was like no other," DuVernay wrote in a Tweet confirming that she's working on the documentary for Netflix.

"He shattered preconceived notions, smashed boundaries, and shared his heart through his music. The only way I know how to make this film is with love and great care. I'm honored to do so and grateful," she said.

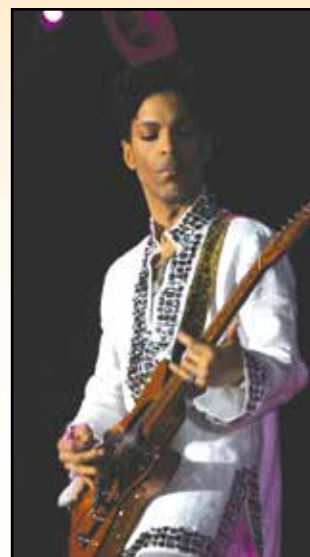
Prince Rogers Nelson was born on June 7, 1958, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His early music career saw the release of the albums, "Prince," "Dirty Mind," and "Controversy," which his biography aptly notes drew attention for their

fusion of religious and sexual themes.

He then released the popular, critical and successful albums "1999," and "Purple Rain," cementing his superstar status with No. 1 hits like "When Doves Cry," and "Let's Go Crazy."

A seven-time Grammy winner, Prince had a prodigious output that included later albums like the seminal "Sign O' the Times," "Diamonds and Pearls," "The Love Symbol Album," and "Musicology."

The latter was released in 2004, the year Prince earned induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Prince playing at Coachella 2008. Photo by penner via Wikimedia Commons

"There are many kinds," Alicia Keys said in a three-minute plus induction speech, as she inducted Prince. "But there is only one Prince. There is only one man who is so loud who makes you soft, so strong he makes you weak, so honest you feel kind of bashful," she continued.

"So bold, he defies you to be subtle and so super bad he makes you feel so super good."

When news of Prince's sudden death in 2016 spread, Outkast's Andre 3000 was among the millions who paid tribute to Prince.

**DataZone/Continued  
on page 8**

## GRAND OPENING



  
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For more information, visit [www.amerihealthcaritasla.com](http://www.amerihealthcaritasla.com)  
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# Hate and Horror — When Does It Stop?



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

As strange as it seems, I now view the Bush years with nostalgia. Both Big Bush (POTUS 41) and his son Shrub (POTUS 43) incurred the ire of Democrats, with Shrubs Supreme Court-complicit theft of the 2000 election prompting anger and protests. Both Bushes, perhaps because of their love of country, comported themselves as gentlemen despite the protests. In the face of Democratic anger, they exuded civility. And why not? Each won his election, each loved the country, neither had to be mean or hateful to Democrats, people of color, immigrants, Jewish people, the GBLTQ community or anyone else. While they did not budge on their ideology, neither painted their political opponents as enemies.

Fast forward. Now we have a President who lost the popular vote by 3 million. He bullied his way into the Republican nomination, doing the kind of name-calling that we'd put a 5-year-old on a timeout for. And he has blustered his way into the Presidency with the same invective, hate, anger, and crowd-pleasing tirades that marked his

campaign. Even when he attempts to be decent, which means merely reading from the teleprompter language someone else has drafted, he has to stop, mid-comment, to pat himself on the back and remind us that he is "being good." Really! A 70-year-old man trumpets that he is "being good" and he expects applause.

The tragedy of Trump is that his Republican allies have not condemned his nonsense because they see political gains in his "leadership." Motivated by 45, Cesar Sayoc has "allegedly" mailed at least 15 pipe bombs to Democratic political figures that Trump has criticized. Instead of doing the decent thing (like calling his predecessors, Presidents Obama, and Clinton to pledge to use federal resources to get to the bottom of this madness), he spent time speculating that perhaps this was a Democratic set-up. Even when Sayoc, with a van emblazoned with Trump paraphernalia and anti-CNN propaganda, was caught, he had little to say to condemn the bomber. We don't know if Sayoc worked alone or had company. We do know that Democratic leaders are being forced, now, to take precautions against insanity.

During the same week that Sayoc was arrested, on October 24, a white man, Gregory Bush, 51, tried to break his way into First Baptist Church, a Black church in Jeffersontown, Kentucky, a suburb of Louisville. When he failed to gain entry to the church, he went to a nearby Kroger and shot a Black

woman Vicki Jones, 67, in the store. Then he shot Maurice Stellard, 69, in the parking lot, in front of his 12-year-old grandson. A white

whether this is a hate crime or not?

The end of a week when hate prevailed was the occasion of the worst crime of that week. Robert Gregory

“Motivated by 45, Cesar Sayoc has “allegedly” mailed at least 15 pipe bombs to Democratic political figures that Trump has criticized. Instead of doing the decent thing (like calling his predecessors, Presidents Obama, and Clinton to pledge to use federal resources to get to the bottom of this madness), he spent time speculating that perhaps this was a Democratic set-up.”

man had the possibility of shooting him to stop him, but when Bush assured the white man that “white people don’t shoot white people,” he let him go. Thankfully, law enforcement officers caught him, but it took them four days to declare his crimes a hate crime. Why? Have we so normalized the shooting of Black people that it is okay for an armed bigot to go into a public space and kill Black people and law enforcement officials have to think about

Bowers, 46, entered the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and massacred 11 people. The oldest was a Holocaust survivor in her 90s, the youngest, a pair of disabled brothers in their 50s. Bowers has now pleaded not guilty to 44 counts of murder, attempted murder and hate crimes. Our hateful President, despite community pleading, insisted on visiting Pittsburg for a photo op (he says to pay his respects).

It is futile to think that a man who

uses hateful rhetoric as his stock in trade will back down, even as it is clear that the rhetoric is working. It is pointless to think that Republicans will call him to task because they are gaining too much from his hate. It is fruitless to think that some of the Republican white men in power – Senator Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senator Lindsey Graham, and others – will talk to white men like Gregory Bush, Robert Gregory Bowers, and Cesar Sayoc – to explain why their actions are unacceptable. The new reality is that we have an unchecked leader who spews hate and his loyal army follows with hateful actions, whether it is assaulting people who come to his rallies, chanting ugliness, or sending bombs and killing people.

The week of October 22 may have been one of the saddest weeks in our nation’s recent history. It is unfortunate because of the hate spewed and the lives lost, but also because of the delayed news coverage of the Jacksontown massacres of two Black people at a Kroger’s store. Initially, the media failed to connect the dots, leaving many Black people ready to shout, again, Black Lives Matter. Hate is hate is hate is hate, and we have to resist it all! Republicans of conscience, where are you.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.juliannealveaux.com](http://www.juliannealveaux.com)

## DataZone, Continued from page 7.



“Back in the day, entertainers were singers, they were dancers, they had great style, they had great personality,” he said.

“We’ve lost a lot of that today, and so when it comes for me to do mu-

sic, Prince is most definitely one of my greatest inspirations.”

DuVernay said she and her production crew have paid regular visits to Paisley Park, Prince’s iconic home and music studio in prepara-

tion for the film, which is expected to include previously unreleased concert, rehearsal and other footage as well as scores of never-before-heard music.

While the late singer’s estate has agreed to give DuVernay full control of the project, reportedly, Prince himself choose her to make the film.

“Before he passed away, Prince reached out to the ‘Queen Sugar’ creator directly about working together, I’ve learned,” Deadline Hollywood’s Dominic Patten and Dino-Ray Ramos wrote in the publication, which also noted that DuVernay is working on a film about the Central Park Five.





# Debt and Rising Home Costs Continue to Defer Homeownership

By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Do you ever get the feeling that when it comes to news about the nation's economy you're in a different world?

I certainly do. And what's more, I think much of America – especially Black America — feels the same.

A decade has passed since the housing collapse. In that time, bank profits are back and continue to rise. Despite occasional trading fluctuations, the stock market remains profitable for most investors. Then there's the low rate of unemployment that is often cited as if economic strides have included nearly everyone.

But unemployment data does not reflect the vast number of people who today are working and earning less, otherwise known as the underemployed.

People who toil at jobs that pay less than in previous years often have a work ethic that is bigger than their paycheck. Even for those who take a second job, the extra and modest earnings seldom free them from hoping they have enough money to make it through each month.

The stark reality is that between the rising cost of college and the equally rising costs of homeownership, much of the country that works for a living is in a financial catch-22.

This contention is borne out by an updated consumer survey that annually measures profiles of both home buyers and sellers. Each year, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) surveys consumers who purchased a primary home in the past year. For 2018, NAR used a 129-question survey of consumers who purchased a home between July 2017 and June 2018.

Summarizing results, NAR concluded that current housing trends are affected by "mounting student



While married couples comprise 63 percent of home buyers, single females represent 18 percent, purchasing homes at a median price of \$189,000.

debt balances," along with rising interest rates, higher home prices and larger down payments.

"With the lower end of the housing market – smaller, moderately priced homes – seeing the worst of the inventory shortage, first-time home buyers who want to enter the market are having difficulty finding a home they can afford," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "Homes were selling in a median of three weeks and multiple offers were a common occurrence, further pushing up home prices."

Despite the financial hurdles noted by the NAR survey, there was a single glimmer of encouraging news. For the second year in a row, single female buyers are successfully pursuing their own American Dream. While married couples comprise 63 percent of home buyers, single females represent 18 percent, purchasing homes at a median price of \$189,000.

But for the rest of the home buying market, NAR found that the past year meant a median home purchase price of \$250,000 required a median household income of \$91,600 for a successful mortgage application. Additionally, the nation's median home down payment

now is 13 percent, or \$32,500 for that \$250,000 priced home.

How long does it take for families to amass \$32,000 for a home down payment? Longer than most families would want to wait, I'm certain. According to new research by the Urban Institute, median wealth for Black parents is \$14,400 compared to white parents at \$215,000, and \$35,000 for Hispanic parents.

"As the NAR report shows, the share of first-time homebuyers continues to lag far behind historical

norms," commented Mark Lindblad, a Senior Researcher with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL). "Efforts should be directed toward pairing low-down payments with affordable and responsible mortgage products so that low-income households and borrowers of color have equal access to the opportunities that come from owning a home of one's own."

The most recent figures from the Census Bureau report that nation's 64.4 percent homeownership

rate in the third quarter of 2018 was not statistically different from that of 2017 when it tallied 63.9 percent. Geographically, homeownership in the Northeast, Midwest and South remained the most stagnant.

In stark contrast, the financial outlook for the 64 percent of Americans who already own a home brought a hefty median equity gain of \$55,000 when they sold their residence over the past year. Additionally, after selling their homes, 44 percent traded up to a large home.

In other words, if you can find a way to become a homeowner, the costs incurred will likely be outweighed by the economic gains.

But making that important financial transition from renter to homeowner will become harder as mortgage interest rates climb from the historic lows of recent years. Additionally, should home inventories remain low, the likelihood of 'supply and demand' economics will keep driving prices higher as well.

Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).



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# Annual Kwanza Celebration

Dr. Clyde Robertson and the Southern University Center for African and African-American Studies invites you to attend its Annual Kwanzaa Celebration.

The Center for African and African-American Studies (CAAAS) of Southern University at New Orleans was formally established in 1989. As part of Southern University at New Orleans' continuing and growing commitment to international and cultural studies, the Center seeks to provide innovative African and African-American Studies Programs in teaching, research, and public service.

This year's event will present the stage play, *El Hajj Malik, The Life and Times of Malcolm X*, written by Norbert R. Davidson and directed by Anthony Bean.

The Kwanza Celebration takes place on Monday, November 12, 2018 at the University Conference



The Kwanza Celebration will present the play, *El Hajj Malik, The Life and Times of Malcolm X*.

Center, 11:00 AM.

The Anthony Bean Community Theatre will also be receiving the prestigious "August Wilson American Century Cycle Award" on November 12, 2018.

August Wilson is one of the four or five greatest American playwrights. This award honors theater companies that have completed his epic 10-play cycle. It is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, his hometown newspaper, and co-sponsored by the August Wilson House, his childhood home, with the collaboration of Constanza Romero Wilson and the August Wilson Estate. So far (fall, 2018), some 15 companies of every size have qualified; the Anthony Bean Community Theatre was the tenth.

For more information on the Kwanza Celebration, please contact 504-286-5006 or [caaas.suno@gmail.com](mailto:caaas.suno@gmail.com).

## Louisiana Voters Put Away Jim Crow Era Jury Law with Passage of Amendment 2

*Former Split-Jury Policy was rooted in post-Civil War, Jim Crow Laws and White Supremacy.*

### Data Staff Report

Supporters of a constitutional amendment ending split jury verdicts are celebrating their victory in what was a rare alliance of conservative and progressive organizations working together to end a practice with roots in post-Civil War racism.

The amendment takes effect Jan. 1 and will leave Oregon as the only other state allowing split verdicts. It reverses a Jim Crow-era practice that made it easier to imprison non-whites by allowing as few as 10 members of a 12-member jury to convict defendants in felony cases not involving death sentences.

The amendment was pushed through the Louisiana Legislature by Sen. J.P. Morrell, a New Orleans Democrat. It received more than

the necessary two-thirds approval in the House and Senate and drew strong support from factions rarely on the same page: On the right, supporters included the Christian conservative Louisiana Family Forum and Americans for Prosperity, a conservative organization funded by billionaire Charles Koch.

On the left, supporters included the American Civil Liberties Union and Innocence Project New Orleans. Supporters of the change noted the wide-ranging support the measure received as they celebrated their victory Tuesday.

"We have shown the nation that the people they are used to seeing fight against each other will come together for the common cause of freedom. That we will fight side by side for the liberty of our neighbors," said

Norris Henderson, state director of the Unanimous Jury Coalition.

The state director for Americans for Prosperity said people in the state can feel better about the justice system after the amendment's passage.

"This amendment protects the rights of the accused and ensures that any verdict handed down is truly beyond a reasonable doubt. Passage of this amendment is proof that no matter the ideology, we can come together and change our society for the better," John Kay said.

Some district attorneys and their supporters in the Legislature opposed the measure, not wanting to make prosecutors' jobs more challenging. The Louisiana District Attorneys Association stayed neutral, and a number of district attor-

neys supported the measure.

Ed Tarpley, former district attorney in Grant Parish, championed the amendment.

"Once you know the history of this law, then you have to vote to repeal it," Tarpley told The Press Club of Baton Rouge in July. "This is something that is a stain on the legacy of our state."

He was referring to the split-jury policy's post-Civil War roots in white supremacy.

But a racist legacy wasn't the only reason supporters sought to overturn non-unanimous verdicts. There was also a view shared by those across the political spectrum that government doesn't always get things right.

It was an attitude summed up in words flashing across computer

screens in a 30-second online add by AFP. "Imagine your child is charged with a crime she didn't commit," the ad said. "Multiple jurors agree she is innocent but the government sends her to prison anyway. It happens in Louisiana."

Critics of the old system said that the non-unanimous jury verdict law said it was based in Jim Crow-era racism.

"In 1898 the threshold was nine to three. And that was created to make it easier to convict Black folks. But also it was created to nullify the Black vote in the event that if African Americans were to get on the jury, their votes could be discarded and their voices simply could not count," William Snowden, an attorney at the Public Defender's Office, said.



# Stacey Abrams Vowed to Push On in Hopes of a Runoff Election

*'We Still Have A Few More Miles To Go'*

## Data News Weekly Staff Report

As Election Day gave way to the early morning hours Wednesday, the bruising, often bitter race to become Georgia's next governor continued to defy a ready resolution. With nearly all votes counted, Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp enjoyed a slim lead — but his defiant Democratic opponent, former state lawmaker Stacey Abrams, has vowed to push on in hopes of a runoff election.

Georgia's electoral rules require a candidate to garner a majority to win the governorship. If neither nominee manages to win more than 50 percent — and with Libertarian Ted Metz also on the ballot, that remains a possibility — Kemp and Abrams would need to square off again in a new round of voting.

"Tonight we have closed the gap between yesterday and tomorrow. But we still have a few more miles to go," said Abrams, who is vying to become the first female African-American governor in U.S. history.

She addressed her supporters early Wednesday morning, in a speech far more characteristic of a campaign than a concession.

"We believe our chance for a stronger Georgia is just within reach, but we cannot seize it until all voices are heard," she added. "And I promise you tonight, we're going to make sure that every vote is counted. Every single vote."

The renewed push could open a new chapter in a race that has been marred for months by controversy and confusion — much of which stemmed from Kemp's continued role as secretary of state.



Georgia's Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Stacy Abrams, addressed her supporters early Wednesday morning in which she stated, "We believe our chance for a stronger Georgia is just within reach, but we cannot seize it until all voices are heard," she added. "And I promise you tonight, we're going to make sure that every vote is counted. Every single vote." (photo courtesy of People Magazine)

In that position, he has acted as an official referee for the very election he was running in, defying calls from Abrams and others — including former President Jimmy Carter — to resign his position during the campaign.

He has come under heavy criticism for a massive purge of Georgia's voter rolls months after declaring his candidacy for governor, as well as the delay of tens of thousands of voter registration applications.

Kemp defended the moves as merely complying with the state's strict protocols when it comes to voter registration. He has dismissed criticisms of his conduct as

a "publicity stunt" by his political opponents.

In the waning days of the race, with Election Day looming, Kemp announced that his office had opened an investigation into "potential cyber crimes" by the state's Democrats. He did not provide any evidence to back up his claims, prompting Democrats to decry the move as a "reckless and unethical ploy."

On Election Day, further complaints streamed in from Georgia voters about the status of certain polling stations. Some voters waited an estimated five hours to cast their votes, and Asia Burns of Atlanta member station WABE notes that

others complained of failures with the voting equipment.

"Issues with voting machines were reported in at least five polling locations in the Atlanta metropolitan area," Burns reported. "The state's voting machines are 15 years old and use a variant of the Windows 2000 operating system that is no longer supported by Microsoft."

Some voters were reportedly still in line at 11 p.m. — in other words, hours after Georgia's polls had been scheduled to close. And as of 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, the two nominees stood separated by fewer than 10,000 votes, with the Associated Press refraining from projecting a winner.

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### Job Opportunity

### Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

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If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

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