

Capital Outlook endorsements for the August 24th primary election



After great deliberation, contemplation and thoughtfulness, Capital Outlook's Political Panel would like to recommend several candidates that have been endorsed by the board for the August 24, 2010 primary election.

The panel was comprised of a diverse group of leading citizens in this community. We spent many hours interviewing and studying the candidates that we think will serve this community with dignity and vision.

We know that our readers are the most insightful, intelligent and well read citizens in this community. We simply want to recommend for your careful and judicious consideration the candidates listed below:

1. City Commission-Mayor:

John Marks

We believe that Mayor Marks deserves to be re-elected. The mayor has proven again and again that he has the compassion, vision and leadership to continue to move this city progressively forward.

2. County Commission-At-Large, Group 2: Nick Maddox and Cliff Thael

We endorse both Nick Maddox and Cliff Thael. We believe that Mr. Maddox has the energy, compassion and determination to represent this county. Furthermore, we believe Mr. Thael has given this county clear and concise leadership.

3. County Commission-District 5: Kristin Dozier

We enthusiastically support the candidacy of Kristin Dozier. Ms. Dozier has the right temperament, excellent communication skills, character, civility and vision to serve her district and this county extremely well.

4. City Commission, Seat 5: Erwin Jackson

We recommend Mr. Erwin Jackson. Mr. Jackson will bring to the City Commission a strong, positive, and forceful voice that can help lower utility rates, create jobs, strengthen small businesses and make government more transparent.

5. City Commission, Seat 3: Nancy Miller

We believe that Nancy Miller is uniquely gifted and qualified to serve on the City Commission. Ms. Miller is a proven leader, a quick learner and has an impressive record in community service.

6. School Board, District 5: Georgia "Joy" Bowen

Joy Bowen is perhaps one of the best school board members to have ever served. Mrs. Bowen

has exceptional leadership qualities and skills. She is an extraordinary advocate for students, parents and teachers.

7. State Representative, District 9: Rick Minor

Our choice is Rick Minor. Mr. Minor knows the importance, for this state, of developing a comprehensive "green economy." Mr. Minor is smart, energetic, enterprising and engaging when it comes to articulating the various needs that are facing his district and the state of Florida.

8. Circuit Judge-Circuit 2, Group 9: Barbara Hobbs

Barbara Hobbs has the training and knowledge base to become a very good judge. Attorney Hobbs knows the law; she has worked diligently and successfully in both criminal and civil law.

9. State Senator, District 6: William "Bill" Montford and Curtis Richardson

We recommend Bill Montford and Curtis Richardson. Mr. Montford has served as a commissioner on the Leon County

Commission, as Superintendent of Leon County Schools, and presently as Executive Director of the Florida Association of School Superintendents. These experiences have given him immeasurable knowledge to serve as a state senator.

Mr. Richardson served for eight years in the Florida House of Representatives with honor and distinction. He also is prepared to serve in the Senate.

These are our endorsements. Please consider them and vote with your conscious and conviction in the August 24th primary election.

The members of the Capital Outlook Political Panel are

Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr., Mr. Keith Bowers, Attorney Matthew Carter, Ms. Doby Flowers, Dr. Linda Fortenberry, Ms. Patricia Griffin, Mr. Terrance Hinson, Attorney Bishop Holifield, Attorney Chuck Hobbs, and Dr. Bertha Murray.

I would like to thank the panel for their diligence and dedication to this process.

Be encouraged!

Capital Outlook

Published by
LIVE Communications, Inc.
1363 East Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Capital Outlook Bulk Rate,
Permit No. 562 Postage Paid
at Tallahassee, Florida
Send address changes to
Capital Outlook
1363 East Tennessee St.

Founded in 1975 by
Stephen K. Beasley

PUBLISHER/PRESIDENT
Rev. Dr. R.B. Holmes, Jr.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Pinkie Whitfield

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Ricardo Lewis

MANAGING EDITOR/
SPORTS DIRECTOR
Alvin Hollins, Jr.

YOUTH EDITOR
Delaitre J. Hollinger

OFFICE MANAGER
Tarahsha M. Sanders

DISTRIBUTION/GRAPHIC
DESIGN
Rev. Rashard X. Gardner

ADVERTISING
(850) 77-0105
advertising@capitaloutlook.com

PRESS RELEASES
pressreleases@capitaloutlook.com

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING
OFFICE

1363 East Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Phone: (850) 877-0105
Fax: (850) 877-5110

Email: info@capitaloutlook.com
Website: www.capitaloutlook.com
Annual subscription rate: \$40
Published weekly on Thursday
Adversintg and Information
Deadline: 5 p.m. the preceding
Thursday
Office Hours 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Marian Wright Edelman • NNPA Columnist

The importance of healthy communities for boys of color



A new report was released in June that sheds a sobering light on how many Black and Latino boys grow up in communities that are, in a number of ways, dangerous to their health. Called "Healthy Communities Matter: The Importance of Place to the Health of Boys of Color," the report contained contributions from scholars and researchers at the RAND Corporation, PolicyLink, the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School, and the Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice and the Department of Emergency Medicine at Drexel University. It was funded by the California Endowment. Some of its data and best practices focus on California but the lessons learned apply to communities across the country.

The researchers found that boys and young men overall experience worse health outcomes than girls, that these health disparities are even more profound for black and Latino boys, and

that many of these disparities can be connected to community patterns. As they explain: "Negative health outcomes for African-American and Latino boys and young men are a result of growing up in neighborhoods of concentrated disadvantage, places that are more likely to put boys and young men directly in harm's way and reinforce harmful behavior. In other words, if you grow up in a neighborhood with a good school, where it's safe, where you can walk and play outside, where you have a regular doctor and where you have access to good food, you are more likely to live a long and healthy life. On the other hand, if you grow up in a neighborhood where you're not safe, where your school is failing you and where you do not have a place to go when you are sick or a basic grocery store, then you are far more likely to live a shorter life, to earn less money, to be party to or victim of violence and to be far less healthy emotionally and physically. If you are African American or Latino, you are likely to face not just one of those challenges, but many or all of them at once."

They found disparities for Black and Latino boys and young

men in a number of areas, including infant mortality, childhood asthma hospitalizations, childhood obesity, post-traumatic stress disorder, rates of HIV and AIDS, and lack of health insurance and access to health care. They also found safety disparities, including higher rates of exposure to domestic and community violence, child abuse and neglect, lifetime likelihood of going to prison, and gun violence and homicide death rates. The researchers also were able to track how social inequalities and negative neighborhood conditions work together to shape the life course of boys and young men in schools and communities of "concentrated disadvantage." They note that these schools' and neighborhoods' common characteristics, including concentrated poverty, community violence, high rates of incarceration, overexposure to unhealthy foods, and lack of recreation often work together to lead to disruptive behavior and psychological conditions for boys and young men of color.

But there are solutions. As these researchers say, "To recalibrate the life trajectory of African-American and Latino boys

and young men, policymakers, community activists and government officials must view the health of a community not in individual parts, but as an unbroken whole, made up of individual but virtually inseparable parts." The report profiles several California organizations and public/private partnerships that are doing just that and achieving results including the California Endowment's Healthy Returns Initiative, which is designed to address the growing number of youths with untreated health and mental health needs in the state's juvenile justice system; Youth UpRising, a successful Oakland youth organization and community center that includes health and mental health care, a healthy café, and job training among its offerings; and Safe Community Partnership, which is using a public health approach to help stop gun violence.

The researchers summarize their findings this way: "If we have a clearer understanding of [the problems facing Black and Latino boys and young men], then we are all more obligated to do something about it."

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund.

James Clingman • NNPA Columnist

Blackonomics



What has this country become since Barack Obama was elected President? Or, has it always been this way? Where have all the evil, vicious, malcontents been hiding for 100 years? Or, have they been here all the time? How is it that we have not achieved that state of nirvana so many talked about on January 20, 2009? Or, is it really unreachable?

Do you remember the column I wrote during inauguration week? It was titled, "The Morning After," which alluded to the state of this country, especially black people, after the dust had settled, the hoopla had died down, and the euphoria had dissipated. Now that we can take a real honest look at ourselves, do we like what we see?

Politically speaking, I am not surprised by the shenanigans of the so-called "far right" and "far left" wings; but it is a bit disconcerting to see some of the so-called progressives and centrists getting their shots in as well. It

simply begs the question: Have we really come as far as we say we have? And, brothers and sisters, that answer is a resounding "NO!"

On the economic side of the coin, black folks are still fighting for survival, now along with many others in this country, for employment, inclusion, and business support. We are still being "dissed" by the banks when it comes to loans, interest rates, and credit card fees. Our bailout, long overdue, has yet to come and probably never will come.

Socially, although many pretend to be in a state of mutual respect and brotherly love, we are still at odds with one another due to inequity, suspicion, and fear. One hundred and forty-five years after black people were so-called "freed," disparities continue to exist, institutionalized by various entities, and many are still advocating for "race dialogues" between whites and blacks. You would think that black folks just arrived here rather than being in this country since it started.

We know the situation that exists in the areas of education and criminal justice. So what ties it all together, this web of discontent and despair? It seems to me, based on what is taking

place among the so-called leaders of our society, along with the big-wig movers and shakers, it all boils down to a scarcity rather than abundance mindset. Too many folks are out simply to get theirs and to get as much of yours as they can. The poor are competing for crumbs and, with their zero sum mindset, are afraid that if you get a dollar or a job it takes a dollar or a job away from them.

Where will it all end? Will this country change before it collapses under the weight of its own greed, injustice, intolerance, and hate? I don't know if we will make it or not, but by the looks of things I do know we have a long way to go, and we better get busy turning this battleship around.

Our representatives, those we elect to help us, are bilking us. They have the best of everything but would deny us even a smidgen of relief. They have the best healthcare, but have to debate and decide if we should have it. They have the best retirement plans but ponder cutting our Social Security, a system in which they do not even participate. They go into office in many cases, just as broke as we are but come out as millionaires by working the political system to enrich themselves rather than looking out for our interests.

How is it that we, the electorate keep returning these same characters to office even after they have done absolutely nothing for "the people"?

Corruption, excess, self-indulgence, and greed rule the day, much akin to some of the great empires we read about in years past. Evil acts are being perpetrated against good people, such as Shirley Sherrod, the U.S. Department of Agriculture employee who was summarily fired for what amounted to helping a white farmer. Isn't it strange that no one has been fired for the years of discrimination against black farmers, which has resulted in a \$2 billion punitive award (who knows when it will be paid)? Sherrod gets fired for a positive comment, and for decades other USDA employees keep their jobs while blatantly discriminating against black farmers. What a country, huh?

We are, as they say, "In a pickle." We are in the belly of the beast. And we had better get busy making appropriate changes before the vaunted "United" States of America goes down the proverbial tube.