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**African American Health Coalition, Inc.**

Presents for your health,

### Wellness Within REACH Activity Calendar

#### Aerobics

**Mallory Ave. Christian Church**  
Mon, Wed, Fri, 6-7am, Pierce • 5:30-6:20pm,  
Granville • 6:30-7:30pm, Nickerson

#### Low Impact Aerobics

**Daniel's Memorial Church**  
Tue, 7:15-8:15pm, Granville

#### Water Aerobics (Contact AAHC)

**Columbia Pool, Matt Dishman**

#### African Exercise

**Matt Dishman**  
Sat, 10-11am, Addo

#### Body Conditioning

**Wild Oats Market**  
Sat, 9:30-10:30am, Nickerson

#### Chicago Step

Classes Will Resume Soon

#### Kickboxing

**Mallory Ave. Christian Church**  
Tue, Thu, 6-7pm, Keller

#### Pilates (Contact AAHC)

**Matt Dishman**  
Tue, 8-9pm

#### Stretching/Body Sculpting

(Class courtesy of Matt Dishman)

**Matt Dishman**  
Tue, Thu, 7-8am, Lois

#### Tai Chi (Contact AAHC)

**St. John's Community Center**  
Tue, 6:30-7:30pm

#### Walking Group

**Peninsula Park**  
Sat, 12:30pm, Woods  
**Lloyd Ctr, 1st Fl. in front of Sears**  
Tue, Thu, 6:30pm, Woods

#### Weight Mgmt./Conditioning

**Whitaker Track**  
Tue, Thu, 9-10am, Hasan

#### Yoga

**Wild Oats Market**  
Tue, Thu, 7:30-8:30pm, Wren

Columbia Pool, 7701 N Chautauqua  
Daniel's Memorial Church, 1234 NE Killingsworth  
Mallory Ave Christian Church (Gym), 126 NE Alberta  
Matt Dishman, 77 NE Knott

Peninsula Park, 700 N Portland  
St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central  
Whitaker Track, NE 42nd & Killingsworth  
Wild Oats Market, 3535 NE 15th

\*\*Please contact AAHC before attending the first class and for more information at 503-413-1850 or [kdempsey@aahc-portland.org](mailto:kdempsey@aahc-portland.org). Please receive approval from your doctor before beginning exercise class. Must be 18 or older

**REACH**

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health  
A Program of the African American Health Coalition, Inc.  
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Contact AAHC at 503-413-1850 or visit our web site at [www.aahc-portland.org](http://www.aahc-portland.org)

# OPINION

## Power of Money in Elections

Public campaign financing would create fairness

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

Now, more than ever, it is time to implement public financing for campaigns.

Nearly four billion dollars was spent on this year's U.S. presidential, congressional and senate campaigns - a 30 percent increase from four years ago, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

Corporations, wealthy donors and other interest groups donated most of the money as a way to impose their will on the American people and buy influence from their favorite politician.

Leading the way were industries that have a stake in pending federal regulations that may or may not be good for the American people. The pharmaceutical and healthcare industries, which have the most at stake given the push for reforms, were, of course, the biggest donors. Even the sports industry got in on the act, giving over \$14 million, primarily to conservative Republican candidates. I wonder if the black athletes know they're helping their bosses finance candidates that legislate against the interests of black people?

Public financing would remove the corruption that is

rampant by virtue of corporate financing. When politicians are elected on someone's bill, the group or groups who financed that election own the politician for the duration of the politicians' term. When that happens, the interests of the people take a far back seat to corporate interests.



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— Judge Greg Mathis

Public financing would also level the playing field by enabling the average person to run for office. With the incredible amounts of money behind campaigns, the vast majority of those who run for office are in the upper two percent of the wealthiest Americans.

Maine is leading the way in the financing reform effort. The state implemented public financ-

ing reforms that have cut the costs of running for office and made it feasible for anyone with a commitment to public service to achieve their goal of becoming an elected official.

It should be the goal of a democracy that any and every citizen has the potential to become an elected official. The people of Maine understand this truth. The rest of the country should take notice.

Public campaign financing makes the motto of government being "for, of and by the people" attainable.

Judge Greg Mathis is chairman of the Rainbow PUSH-Excel Board and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

## Election Marred by Voting Barriers

Our democratic principles betrayed

The NAACP, the nation's oldest Civil Rights group, released the following report on the eve of the Presidential Election:

Reports of dirty tricks campaigns designed to intimidate or discourage voters escalated in the 2004 election.

In some cases, public officials used the power of their offices to encourage efforts to disenfranchise voters rather than devoting their energies to resolving the kinds of problems that disenfranchised millions of Americans nationwide in 2000, according to a report by the NAACP, People for the American Way and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

"The failure to resolve those problems and the existence of ongoing organized voter suppression efforts represent a profound failure of leadership and pose a tremendous moral challenge to Americans and their elected representatives," said Julian Bond, chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors.

Since the original report was issued six weeks ago, incidents of voter suppression have been reported at such an alarming rate a new report had to be issued.

Among the trends detailed in the report included a strategy by Republican Party officials to launch last-minute challenges to voter registrations by the tens of thousands in several states, a variation on the so-called "ballot integrity" strategies of the past.

There was a new, aggressive strategy to place extraordinary numbers of partisan challengers inside polling places to challenge individual voters as they try to cast their votes.

There were decisions by elections officials that tended to discourage voting, rather than encourage record numbers of new voters. Anonymous flyers, fake letters and misleading phone calls gave voters false information about polling places and voting regulations, or falsely advised voters to vote by phone.

There were house-to-house voter scams wrongly informing voters that they can vote on a computer, record their votes with a visitor or hand over their absentee ballots to fake election officials.

Several states received reports of voter registration workers assigning new registrants to political parties without their knowledge or consent or of voter registrations being destroyed on the basis of political

preference.

In Wisconsin and Ohio, the Republican Party issued last-minute challenges to more than 30,000 voters in each state, leaving little time for voters to prove their eligibility in time to cast a vote.

In Florida, the Secretary of State told elections officials they must reject voter registrations if the voter forgot to check the "citizenship" box, even though the final signature on the form is a clear, written affirmation of citizenship.

In Ohio, the Secretary of State ruled that new voter applications must be printed on 80-pound paper - postcard quality - until public outcry forced him to reverse the decision.

In Minnesota, the Secretary of State came under fire for distributing posters warning of possible terrorism at the polls that could serve to discourage voters.

In Arizona, the local Fox Network affiliate accused a group of college students of illegal voter registration, despite a state law requiring only that voters establish a residency of 29 days for eligibility.

In Pennsylvania, an official-looking flyer announced that due to high turnout, Allegheny County had declared that Republicans were to vote on November 2, and Democrats on November 3.

In Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, registration programs run by consultant Nathan Sproul have been accused of destroying voter registrations for

partisan purposes, or masquerading as opinion pollsters or nonpartisan vote registration organizations.

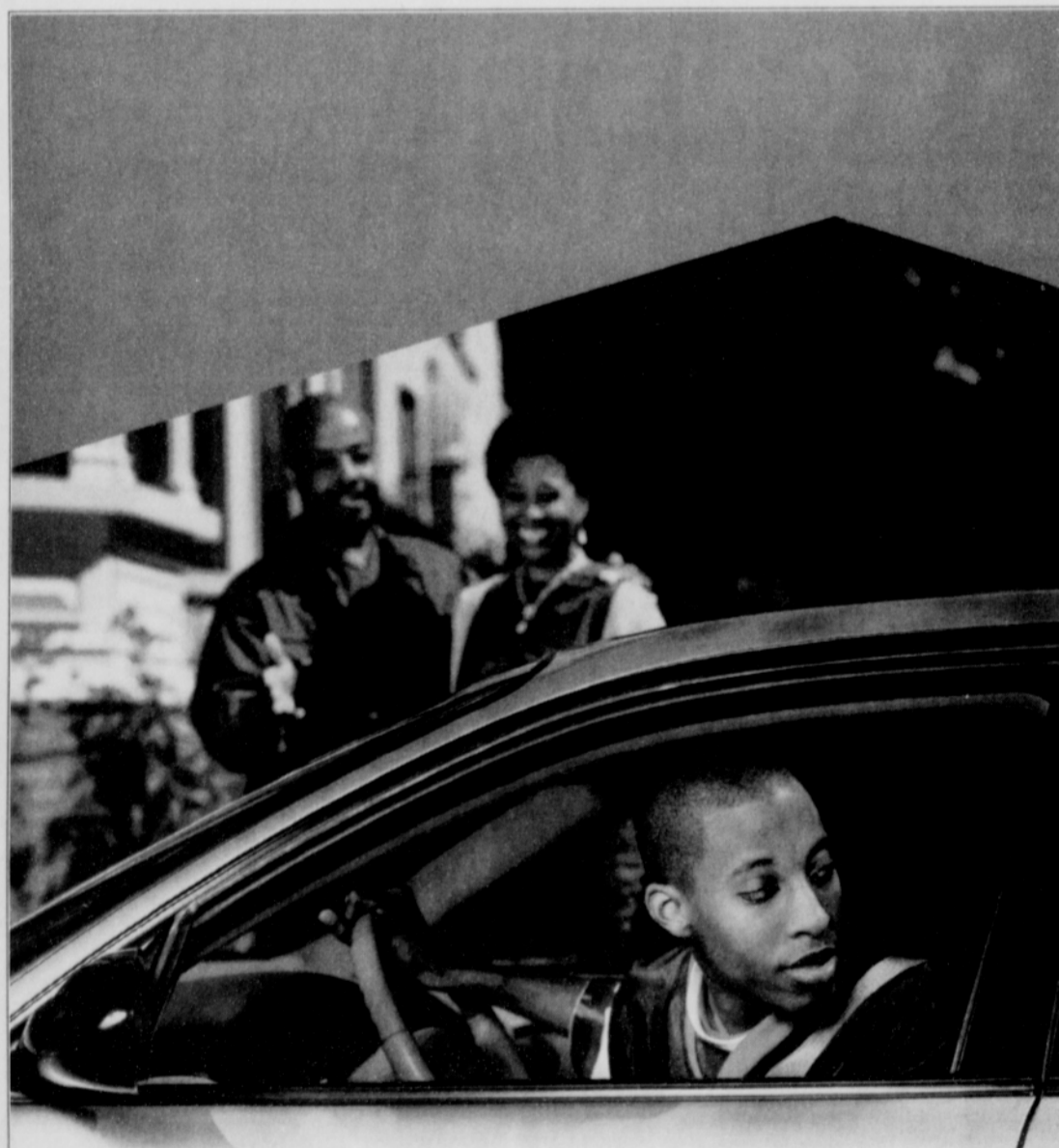
In Lake County, Ohio, a fake letter appearing to come from the Lake County Board of Elections was mailed to newly registered voters, telling voters signed up by the Kerry or Capri Cafaro campaigns or the NAACP that their registrations are illegal and they will not be able to vote.

In Milwaukee, Wis., flyers were circulated under the heading "Milwaukee Black Voters League" with some "warnings for election time." The false information on the flyer included these warnings: "If you've already voted in any election this year you can't vote in the presidential election." Also, "If anybody in your family has been convicted, you can't vote in the presidential election."

The failure to resolve systemic problems and the existence of aggressive organized voter suppression efforts represent a failure of leadership and a betrayal of our nation's democratic principles.



NAACP Chairman  
Julian Bond



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