

OPINION

No Voter Meltdown on Election Day

Make sure every vote is counted

BY MARC MORIAL

With the presidential election of 2008 less than a month away, voters must ask themselves two important questions: First, which candidate has the best long-term solution for fixing our economy and helping American families and homeowners get back on their feet. And second, are we prepared as citizens to make our voices heard, stand up for our rights and make sure every vote is counted.

That's why the National Urban League is launching an unprecedented "Vote to Empower" cam-



paign focusing on the urgent need for voter education, increased participation and the prevention of the kind of vote suppression that has occurred in the last two presidential elections.

We are demanding that all election officials uphold their duties and do what is necessary now and all the way to Election Day to prevent any infringements on voting rights. We are calling on governors to verify that they have contingency plans for all foreseeable problems associated with the predicted massive turnout. And we are urging the President and both political

campaigns to announce a zero-tolerance for voter suppression.

The National Urban League is ready to do its part. As a start, we are spotlighting areas of concern and issuing our first in a series of alerts and recommendations for citizen action. For example, in Michigan allegations have been made that foreclosure lists will be used to prevent citizens from voting. If true, this means that victims of foreclosure will lose their voting rights. A lawsuit has been filed to prevent this from happening and we will continue to monitor the situation. Other potential suppression efforts across the nation are also being investigated.

Finally, it is important that you educate yourself about the vot-

ing rules in your state and report any potential problems such as lack of voting machines or voter intimidation.

The swift action taken to address the growing panic in the financial markets reminds us of the government's fundamental responsibility to take action to avert national catastrophes. On Nov. 4, voters will have the last word. Preventing a voter meltdown in 2008 is just as important as preventing an economic meltdown.

Marc Morial is president and chief executive officer for the National Urban League.

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Portland Observer Endorsements

Nov. 4 General Election



• **U.S. President: Barack Obama**



• **U.S. Senator: Jeff Merkley**

• **Measure 54: Yes**

Allows 18-year-old voters in school board elections.

• **Measure 55: Yes**

Allows legislators to finish term in original district after redistricting.

• **Measure 56: Yes**

Eliminates double-majority election requirement

• **Measure 57: No**

Doesn't address root cause of crime. Costly, but better alternative to Measure 61.

• **Measure 58: No**

Unwise mandate on bilingual education.

• **Measure 59: No**

Unlimited federal tax deduction would reduce state budget by \$1.2 billion.

• **Measure 60: No**

Unfair to teachers.

• **Measure 61: No**

Way too costly. Doesn't address root cause of crime.

• **Measure 62: No**

Takes away money from schools.

• **Measure 63: No**

Sacrifices safety in building permit process.

• **Measure 64: No**

Limits political rights of public employees.

• **Measure 65: No**

Limits rights of political parties to nominate candidates.

Speak up on Transportation!

Help shape local, regional and statewide transportation funding decisions for the next four years.

Metro and the Oregon Department of Transportation invite you to comment on proposed transportation projects in the Portland metropolitan region at any one of two public meetings in October. Metro is seeking public input on the regional flexible fund allocations, and ODOT is seeking public comment on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

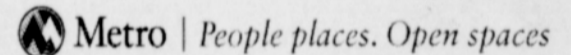
At these meetings you may:

- testify before elected officials and submit written comments on projects and programs eligible for regional flexible fund allocations
- testify before ODOT officials on the Region 1 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- get more information about a range of regional planning programs from roads to highways to transit and land-use planning
- talk with technical staff

Oregon City,
 Pioneer Community Center
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 5 to 8 p.m.
 615 Fifth St. (at Washington)
 TriMet lines 33, 34, 35 and Express 99

Metro Regional Center
Thursday, Oct. 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
 Council Chamber
 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland
 TriMet line 6, MAX red and blue lines to Oregon Convention Center, yellow line to Rose Quarter

Translators and interpreters available upon request.
 All facilities are ADA accessible.



Please Join

The **Portland Observer** Newspaper

at

Community Service Awards Banquet

RESCHEDULED TO

Friday, March 20

7 p.m to 10 p.m.

This celebratory event will include music from local talent, awards of scholarships, and community service awards for those in the community that realize the potential in our city and communities who strive to continually give of themselves.

Charles Washington, the Publisher of the Portland Observer Newspaper carries on the legacy of his mother's hard work in the community and her efforts in helping those in the community.

for tickets or table information contact:

Kathy Linder email kathyl@portlandobserver.com or call 503-288-0033