

THE SkannerChallenging People to Shape
a Better Future NowBernie Foster
Founder/PublisherBobbie Dore Foster
Executive EditorJerry Foster
Advertising ManagerChristen McCurdy
News EditorPatricia Irvin
Graphic DesignerArashi Young
ReporterMonica J. Foster
Seattle Office CoordinatorSusan Fried
Photographer

The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published every Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc.

415 N. Killingsworth St.
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228Telephone (503) 285-5555
Fax: (503) 285-2900

info@theskanner.com

www.TheSkanner.com

The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

All photos submitted become the property of *The Skanner*. We are not responsible for lost or damaged photos either solicited or unsolicited.

©2016 The Skanner. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission prohibited.

THE Skanner.com

Local News
Pacific NW News
World News
Opinions
Jobs, Bids
Entertainment
Community Calendar
RSS feeds

**BE A PART
OF THE
CONVERSATION**
#SkNews

Opinion

President Obama Makes Urgent Call for Black Voter Turnout

On Sept. 17, we were pleased to witness, firsthand, President Barack Obama's keynote address at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 2016 Phoenix Awards Dinner; it was his final speech, as Commander-In-Chief, at the celebration that included Black members of Congress, celebrities, civil rights leaders, journalists and corporate partners. Thousands of guests in their black-tie attire gave the President of the United States of America a rousing standing ovation in response to his speech that focused on the progress that we've made, as a nation, during Obama's eight years in the White House.

But the most poignant and dramatic utterance by President Obama during his remarks happened when he energetically stated, "There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter. It all matters. And after we have achieved historic turnout in 2008 and 2012, especially in the African-American community, I will consider it a personal insult, an insult to my legacy, if this community lets down its guard and fails to activate itself in this election."

President Obama emphasized, "You want to give me a good sendoff? Go vote. And I'm going to be working as



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

NNPA
President
and CEO

hard as I can these next seven weeks to make sure folks do."

The countdown to the most important election in our lifetime has begun.

We concur with President Obama. The national elec-

“My name may not be on the ballot, but our progress is on the ballot. Democracy is on the ballot. Justice is on the ballot”

—President Barack Obama

tions across the nation on Nov. 8, 2016 are tremendously important and crucial to Black America and to all Americans, who want freedom, justice and equality.

Beware of the false prophets that are predicting and even hoping for a low African American voter turnout. We defied the odds in 2008 and in 2012 with large Black voter turnouts. Now we must do it again.

The best way to celebrate Black history is to make more history. The turnout of voters

to the polls in Black America will once again be the single most determinative factor in the outcome of the national elections and for the future of America.

We in the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) are helping to lead the combined nationally coordinated Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) campaign to ensure that more than 20 million Black American voters will surge to the voting polls in every precinct throughout the

work to coordinate national GOTV efforts with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Urban League, National Action Network (NAN), Rainbow PUSH, National Medical Association, National Association of Black Social Workers, National Association of Black Journalists, National Association For Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), Thurgood Marshall Center for Social Justice, National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NARWB), and with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Project Black Voter Turnout 2016: 20 Million Black Voters to the Polls will also work with the following national Black church organizations and religious leaders: National Baptist Convention, Progressive National Baptist Convention, African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of God in Christ, United Church of Christ, and the Impact Network.

President Obama concluded, "If you care about our legacy, realize everything we stand for is at stake."

Read the rest of this commentary at
TheSkanner.com

Oregon Needs Measure 98

I graduated from Jefferson High School in 1967. Although I didn't know it at the time, an electronics course I took there helped in my choice that led me to what ended up being a lucrative, 44-year career as an electrician.

Because I loved math, I thought I would be an accountant. But a college path didn't hold my interest, and I dropped out. It was by a stroke of luck that I heard about an electrician apprenticeship program. I signed up and, as they say, the rest is history.

But there's a disconnect. I didn't set out to join the trades, I only fell into it by chance.

What I'd love to see is a pipeline where young people get engaged with hands-on skills in high school that can enlighten them to a whole universe of possibilities, including the trades.

Oregonians will have an opportunity this fall that starts such a pipeline by voting "yes" in November on Measure 98.

Measure 98 prioritizes our high schools by allocating a portion of new revenue for districts to spend in ways that we know improve outcomes for high school students.

Measure 98 dollars are available for districts to spend on



Keith Edwards

Retired Int'l
Rep, IBEW
9th District

expanding and creating new vocational and career technical education (CTE) so that all high school students can take advantage of it. Right now, a lot depends on whether you

“Measure 98 dollars are available for districts to spend on expanding and creating new vocational and career technical education (CTE) so that all high school students can take advantage of it

live in the right zip code or win a lottery to a CTE-focused school. Measure 98 dollars also can be used for college prep and dropout prevention.

Although Portland high schools offer CTE, we have far too little classes available for all of our students who would like vocational education opportunities. Benson High School, the district's CTE-focused high school, consistently has long waiting lists and

other Portland high schools are just now beefing up CTE. These aspects contribute to our embarrassing graduation rate.

Furthermore, our graduates aren't well prepared because they lack basic skills — three out of four who go directly to community college must take basic education and many can't even use a tape measure.

CTE opens up new worlds to high school students. First,

they learn that these vocations exist — and that they are starting points on paths to successful futures. Students explore and discover their potential. Many young people find out that they enjoy and are good at working in an applied learning environment and/or with their hands. The relevance of school is easy to see. This will also make high school a springboard to the real world of work toward career goals.

Consider these additional important facts:

Expecting 100 percent of high schoolers to find their way into the workforce via traditional college just isn't realistic. It's a major financial commitment. Fact is only 28% of students that enter high school in Oregon graduate from college over the next 10 years. Measure 98 is a good investment in our human capital.

In contrast, an apprentice can begin working at a middle-income wage job as soon as 10 months after entering a program. With so many baby boomer retirements and the amount of construction going on in our city, electricians other skilled tradespeople are some of Portland's most in-demand workers. These jobs pay \$35 an hour and more for workers who are fully trained.

Second, Portland's graduation rate is 71 percent — lower than the statewide average of about 72 percent and much lower than nationwide average of about 84 percent. That's one of the worst graduation rates in the nation, and the figures are worse for those who are disadvantaged.

Read the rest of this commentary at
TheSkanner.com