

# News

## Black Women's Roundtable Launches National Vote Effort

Plan will focus attention on key battleground states

By **Lauren Victoria Burke**  
 NNPA Newswire Contributor

The Black Women's Roundtable (BWR) and the Unity'16 Campaign of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCB-CP) recently announced a nationwide "Get Out the Vote" campaign. BWR is the women and girls empowerment arm of The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

A plan called "State of Emergency #PoweroftheSisterVote" will focus attention on key battleground states in the race for the White House. Those states include Georgia, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida. The goal of the campaign is to maximize the African American voter turnout for Nov. 8.

The three-week push will include several "get out the vote" activities in the above states. The volatility of the election cycle that has given rise to a reality TV star and real estate mogul, Donald Trump, has made the turnout strategies for

both parties of vital importance. No one expects the turnout percentage to be what it was in 2008 and 2012 when a historic candidate like Barack Obama, was on the top of the ticket.

To complicate the effort further, there has been a noteworthy "enthusiasm gap" between the Clinton campaign and the Trump campaign, with Trump speaking to consistently larger crowds than his competitors and Clinton sticking with relatively safe talking points on her stops. Even though (BWR) and the Unity'16 Campaign effort is non-partisan, the constituencies targeted in their campaign are African Americans likely to vote for Democratic candidates — particularly with Donald Trump on the scene.

President Obama's back-to-back victories showed the power of minority voters. Soon after President Obama was elected, new voter ID laws popped up in states with Republican Governors and legislatures.

Political analysts wonder if the same constitu-



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

## Next Level of Praise Musical

Life Change Church held a musical Oct. 22 to promote its upcoming Father Shift conference Nov. 3-5. Pictured here are Monivoi Vataiki (left), Theresa Young, Michaela Dean, Sharde Dennis, Brandie Turner and Dan Wiedeback (back). For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/LifeChangeChurchPdx](http://www.facebook.com/LifeChangeChurchPdx).

encies will turnout at the same levels as they did four and eight years ago. African American women have maintained the highest voting percentage of any group in the American electorate for the last two presidential cycles.

"Black women are a powerful force when it comes to getting our families and friends out to vote and we are the 'secret sauce' to who gets elected to the White House, Congress, state and local elections," said Melanie Campbell, the convener of the Black Women's Roundtable.

"We are working to encourage our millennial Black women to take the lead in ensuring that they use peer-to-peer interaction to encourage young people to vote and to get their communities to vote."

"It is vital for Black millennials to seize our

voting power in order to hold elected officials accountable to win on the issues we care including criminal justice and policing reform," said Tamika Mallory of Justice League NYC.

The "get out the vote" efforts will include four town halls:

- Ohio, North Carolina, Alabama - Oct. 23-29
- Florida, North Carolina - Oct. 30-Nov. 5
- Virginia & Pennsylvania - Blitz Weekends - Oct. 30 and Nov. 5.

A detailed calendar can be found at [www.unitycampaign.org](http://www.unitycampaign.org).

## OBITUARY: William F. Johnson

October 17, 1952 - October 15, 2016

Vietnam veteran William F. Johnson also known as Heavy, passed away October 15, 2016 in his home in Portland, Oregon. William was born October 17, 1952 in Kansas City Mo. Services will be held at 11 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 5325 N. Williams Ave. Portland, Or. on Friday October 28, 2016.



William F. Johnson

Viewing will be held at the Rose City Mortuary, 5625 NE Fremont St. Portland, Or. on Thursday Oc-

tober 27, 2016 from noon until 5 p.m. children, one great grandson, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

tober 27, 2016 from noon until 5 p.m.

William and Ruby were married in Portland, Oregon in 2005. However they had been together for 32 years. William leaves behind Ruby (wife Portland), William Jr. (son Kansas), Moeshie (daughter California) Jeanne (daughter Portland) Donta (son Portland) LaNae (daughter Portland), many grand-

# MFHM

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