

**News****Eboni K. Williams: The '2016 Presidential Election' Interview**

By *Kam Williams*  
For *The Skanner News*



Eboni K. Williams

**E**boni K. Williams is a popular political and legal commentator you can catch on numerous FOX News Channel programs like Hannity, The O'Reilly Factor and The Kelly File. She also frequently serves as a co-host on Outnumbered and The Five. Prior to joining FOX, she worked as a correspondent at CBS News, as a contributor at the HLN network, and as a talk show host in L.A. on radio station KFI (640 on the AM dial).

Raised by a single-mom, Eboni received a B.A. in Communications and African-American Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her J.D. from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans. She began her professional career in Louisiana, clerking for the Secretary of State and the Attorney General's Office as a law student. She worked for various politicians, too, including assisting City Council members in the New Orleans rebuilding effort in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Eboni subsequently specialized in Family Law and Civil Litigation, providing legal counsel on high-profile divorce, spousal support and child custody cases. In 2008, she transitioned to Public Defender before returning to private practice in 2010.

Here, she shares her thoughts about the election of Donald Trump.

**KW:** I have to start by asking what was your immediate reaction to the election results?

**EW:** [Chuckles] Well, like most Americans, including Trump supporters and probably Donald Trump himself, I was surprised. I was surprised because the data leading up to the election didn't show a lot of ways that this could happen. But a year ago, even six months ago, I did see the potential for this outcome. In fact, I bet a lawyer friend of mine a steak dinner that Trump would win, specifically, by changing the electoral map in Rust Belt

states with industrial populations like Indiana, Pennsylvania and Michigan. So, I saw the potential for a Trump victory, but as the campaign went on, I felt that he was his own worst enemy. Even back during the primary season, I said the only person who can beat Donald Trump is Donald Trump. Though he prevailed in the primaries, I thought he'd done enough damage to himself to take himself out of the game. But, on that point, I was wrong. He had a lot of different messages, but I would say the one that registered with most voters I spoke to was "Drain the swamp!" It was a forceful call for change and indictment of everything that's been going on in Washington for several decades now. America's just sick and tired of the gridlock in Congress and of the inaction at every level of government. People found Trump's message of change to be such a complete antidote to that and so compelling that they wrote this man a blank check. Think of all the things he could do and not lose their support. Whether it was the Access Hollywood tape or statements he made about communities of color or what not, people ultimately chose to overlook it, because they so believed in his ability to be a change agent.

**KW:** I heard you say the other day that your own mother voted for Trump.

**EW:** My mother has been on the Trump train since day one. And even though I, like many in the media, might

not have seen the likeliness of Trump's success as far back as the primaries, her being such an avid Trump supporter from the start did help me keep my finger on the pulse. What many people felt was most important to them was change in Washington.

**KW:** Tell me a little about your mom.

**EW:** She's a small business owner and the only parent that raised me. Everything I am I owe to her. She's a brilliant businesswoman, not formally educated. But she has incredible instincts when it comes to business and leadership. She gives me counsel all the time in my career and other dealings. And look, she called the election. She said, "You know what? He's imperfect... He brags... He's even rude... I'm totally appalled by some of the things he says about brown and black people and by the way he describes our community. However, I really like and appreciate his toughness, his authenticity, his authenticity and his leadership qualities." She likes his prosperity and that he was unapologetic about finding ways to escape paying personal and corporate income taxes. And clearly, a lot of other Americans felt the same way.

**KW:** How would you describe yourself politically? Most African American commentators on Fox are either way to the left or way to the right, but with you, it's hard to discern where you stand.

**EW:** I am a proud, registered independent. I have voted for candidates from both the Democratic and Republican Parties. I was a two-time Barack

Obama supporter. In this election, I wrote in a candidate. I rejected both of the major party candidates, and I wasn't impressed by any of the third party candidates. I've been very clear about the fact that my politics don't follow party lines. They follow policy. I'm a lawyer by trade, and I'm particularly concerned about policies that make life better for communities I feel are underrepresented... whether that's communities of color... women... or young people. But I'm really concerned about all people, because we're all Americans, and I want opportunity for all of us. "Opportunity" is the key word. I think the Democratic Party really got it wrong when they started describing their economic policy in terms of "income inequality." Well, in my playbook, income should reflect work effort, which is not always equal.

Read the rest of this interview at  
**TheSkanner.com**

**Black Nativity** cont'd from pg 7

cludes professional actors and musicians alongside members of the ministry and local gospel choirs, is every bit as enthusiastic. As they approach holiday favorites like "Come All Ye Faithful," gospel classics like "Hold on Just a Little While Longer" and folk spirituals like "Go Tell It on the Mountain," their joy and mutual respect is palpable.

Elliott Young, formerly of the famous singing group, the Coasters, has toured the world singing and performing. Guided by his older sister in a gospel duet, Elliott performed his first trumpet solo at age seven. Young says that "gospel singers are real singers with pure voices" and that "everyone who aspires to sing should go to church and listen." For this season, especially, Young says that coming to the play is an opportunity to take our minds off current events. "This is a perfect setting to interact, put a smile on your face and look into your heart. You'll carry that spirit away with you," he says.

At the recent rehearsal, Shelley B. Shelley, a professional actress, who shares the Narrator role with Pastor Black for this year's performance, described the musical miracle of this production. "There's no sheet music; it's all by ear," she said. "The musical director listens to the score, gives the singers the chords, the singers have words in front of them, and out comes perfection." Shelley also loves the cultural retelling of the Nativity Story while stressing the universality of the gospel classics. With a big smile on her face, the

actress noted: "Anyone can relate to 'Most Done Travelling. Who hasn't been on the road and weary and holding on to the fact that we're almost home? This is universal. We're all connected.'"

Tracy Jenkins, a gospel singer since three, who was new to theatre before last year's production of Black Nativity, stresses the importance of community: "We need to come together, all as one," Jenkins said. And Minister and musician Quante Cole sums it up perfectly. "We lift our voices in song and sing 'Hold on Just a Little While Longer,' and we apply it to our current situation," Cole says. "We find peace on the inside and portray what we want to see and be in the world. Families should come from all backgrounds. Let's bridge the gap!"

Black Nativity is sponsored by The Collins Foundation and Ronni LaCrute.

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**What:** "Black Nativity" by Langston Hughes - A Joyful Noise!

**Where:** Greater St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church, 3605 NE Mallory Ave., Portland

**When:** December 2 through December 18, 2016 (Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 pm; and Sundays-3:00 pm)

**Tickets available at** [www.passinart.net](http://www.passinart.net)

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