

# THE Skanner®

Challenging People to Shape  
a Better Future Now

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# Opinion

## Don't Believe the Hype – Vote, Because It Matters

In the 2016 U.S. presidential election, we were wrong. Political forecasters, pollsters, elected officials, and even media told us that the 45th President of our nation would be a woman named Hillary Clinton, but they were wrong.

In many cases, the margin between who became president and who lost the race was a slim few thousand votes. For example, in the 2016 Presidential election, the winning margin was less than 2 percent in Michigan, Florida, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and two other states. Though the popular vote was won by Hillary Clinton (in excess of 3 million votes) and the margin between victory and loss was small in many states, the “near victory” serves as cold comfort to those communities whose civil rights are slowly being rolled back under the ominous weight and rise of racism and White nationalism.

Today, like in 2016, we hear the predictions of a powerful political shift in the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate. While these predictions are promising, they alone will not ensure that the interests of the Black community will be affirmed by the



Derrick Johnson

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winner of the midterm elections. The only way we will get the respect we deserve is to show up and show out at the polls in November.

When we take our well-deserved seat at the table, we know our impact is always powerful.

We've seen the collective power of Black women impact key races for office in special elections and primaries. Black women, according to our recent poll which analyzed the 61 most competitive midterm races, are tired of feeling disrespected by the Trump Administration and have made it a much higher priority to voice their displeasure at the polls. Black men are not far behind them. They too, along with other communities of color, are tired of the relentless racism permeating our nation and fueled by politicians.

As we approach November, we hear the faint yet consis-

tent refrain – elections have consequences – ringing in our ears.

Today, as we fight against the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh, we are reminded of the harsh reality that his presence would remake the Supreme Court of the United States into a bastion of conservatism reminiscent of yes-

“ Civil rights are slowly being rolled back under the ominous weight and rise of racism and White nationalism

teryears when access to our democracy was parceled off according to skin color.

For the Black community, November is a watershed moment. If we fail to vote in numbers respective to our actual political power, future generations will suffer for our apathy. We don't have to tell our people how to vote, only that we must vote as if our lives and our children's lives

depend on it. Because it does.

The NAACP has decided to fight back and we ask you to join us by using your ballot as the weapon of choice.

We ask you to visit NAACP.org to download and share resources to help those you know get registered and mobilized to vote. We are asking you to reach out to five people in your personal or social networks and bring them with you to the polls. If you understand the importance of this year's elections, we know that you will sound the alarm, connect with others, and express your power by casting your vote.

Voting is not just about politics, it's about fighting police brutality, preserving civil rights, providing public education, protecting the right of workers to organize, and giving those who need health-care access to it. But most importantly, voting is about our ability to live as equals in a society that doesn't always view us as such.

For resources on getting out the vote in your community visit: [www.naacp.org/campaigns/fighting-for-democracy](http://www.naacp.org/campaigns/fighting-for-democracy).

Stand strong and vote – our lives depend on it! See you at the polls.

## Time Stopped for Me on September 27

I did not intend to watch Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding her allegations of sexual assault on the part of Judge Brent Kavanaugh. I was busy preparing to head out of town. I figured that I would get the relevant parts of her testimony later in the day online. And, at the end of the day, I knew what she was going to allege.

For reasons that I cannot explain, something led me to turn on the television to watch the testimony. I found myself glued to the screen. Everything else seemed to get blocked out as she spoke, very convincingly and very passionately, about her experience.



Bill Fletcher Jr.

The Global African

I fumed when she was asked questions by Republican hired gun and prosecutor Rachel Mitchell. Despite her pretend appearance as a sympathetic inquisitor, at the end of the day, as demonstrated this past Sunday in her memo on the case, she turned out to be anything but sympathetic.

Due to my schedule I was unable to listen to Kavanaugh's response. Yet what struck me was the immediate response to Dr. Ford's testimony by so

many people across the political spectrum. Several commentators immediately noted that her testimony was devastating for the Republicans. Despite that, and true to form, the Republican propaganda machine went to work at once attempting to reverse the current, suggesting that Dr. Ford's testimony and other allegations against Kavanaugh, were aimed at destroying the reputation of a good man.

But what about the good woman? What about someone who is facing death threats for coming forward? What about the person who has been ridiculed by the political Right?

As I wrote last week, the continuous suggestion that there must have been something wrong with Dr. Ford

and others who have brought forward allegations against Judge Kavanaugh because they failed to raise their concerns earlier is specious. It is an allegation that can only be made by someone(s) who has not faced ridicule, harassment and self-doubt in response to their experiences with sexual harassment or assault.

And, to top this all off, Trump worries that the #MeToo movement and those who aligned with it, constitute a threat to powerful men.

Maybe Trump is correct. Indeed, maybe rich and powerful men who believe that they are the masters of the universe and masters over the bodies of women should be worried.



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