

Volume 79 No. 3

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

July 19, 2023

VOTE NO on ISSUE 1

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ISSUE 1

ISSUE 1 WILL APPEAR ON THE AUGUST 8TH, 2023 BALLOT

- On August 8, the only thing on your ballot will be Issue 1 to permanently end majority rule in Ohio.
- A yes vote is a vote to end majority rule
- A no vote defends majority rule and the sacred principle of 'one person, one vote'
- Early in-person and absentee voting begins on July 11
- Election Day is Tuesday, August 8. Polls will be open from 6:30am until 7:30pm.

ISSUE 1 IS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PERMANENTLY END MAJORITY RULE IN OHIO

Politicians and special interests deliberately wrote Issue 1 to be confusing. If an issue needs 60% to pass, what that really means is that 40% of voters can veto the will of the majority on any issue. That means a small number of people can overrule the majority of citizens on any issue.

MAJORITY RULE HAS BEEN THE LAW IN OHIO FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Issue 1 restricts your freedom and takes away our rights. It permanently shreds our Constitution, ends majority rule in Ohio and takes away your right to decide what happens here by undermining the sacred principle of 'one person, one vote.' Keeping a simple majority as it's been for more than 100 years is just common sense.

ISSUE 1 WAS WRITTEN TO TRICK YOU

The politicians and special interests pushing Issue 1 have admitted that their proposal has errors and mistakes — but they say that doesn't matter. They know that you do not want to give away your rights, so they are trying to trick voters into supporting their radical proposal. And you don't have to take our word for it:

- The Plain Dealer: The Statehouse con on selling Issue 1 in the Aug. 8 election, exposed
- The Columbus Dispatch: What is the danger of Ohio Issue 1 on the August 8 ballot?
- Fox News: Ohio Supreme Court orders rewrite of constitutional amendment ballot language

SPECIAL INTERESTS BOUGHT THE AUGUST 8 SPECIAL ELECTION

Nearly \$2 million in special interest lobbying and \$20 million in taxpayer money: That's what it cost special interests to buy their own special election on August 8. They wanted a low turnout special election to control the result. And **on August 8, the only thing on your ballot will be Issue 1 to permanently end majority rule in Ohio. They've spent millions to buy the election — and are still spending — to take away your rights.**

AA Prayer Breakfast



AA Festival Parade



AA Festival Concert



Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 Vote NO Issue 1 ...Vote NO Issue 1 ...

Mobilizing Change

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

To secure the blessings of liberty, we must secure the blessings of learning.

– Mary Futrell



Pierrette “Petee” Talley’s unlikely journey from office secretary to a pivotal player in local and national politics was filled with notable experiences of helping to raise awareness and encouraging voters to participate in civic activities. Talley became the first woman to hold one of the two top offices in the history of the Ohio AFL-CIO, being elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer as her grassroots political activism drew attention from national unions.

Talley has consistently highlighted the significance of voter education and registration, emphasizing Black communities and advocating for increased investments in these crucial areas.

The stakes have never been higher as Ohio heads into the largely unnoticed special election on August 8 for Issue 1. This initiative seeks to raise the bar for constitutional amendments, demanding a supermajority of 60 percent for approval, compared to the existing requirement of a simple majority of 50 percent plus one vote.

Constitutional amendments in Ohio have traditionally been the preferred method of implementing significant changes, as they are less susceptible to reversal by the state’s gerrymandered legislature compared to citizen-initiated statutes.

In our following conversation, Petee Talley discusses the importance of voting “NO” on Issue 1 and encourages readers to participate in the upcoming critical but low-key special election.

Perryman: We will talk about Issue 1, but first, describe your political journey, providing some history.

Talley: I was born and raised in Toledo and returned to The University of Toledo as a nontraditional student at age 30. Before that, I had been busy raising children. The turning point came when I enrolled in a “Blacks in Politics” class taught by the late political icon Jack Ford, and something inside of me flipped. So, I ended up dual majoring in communications and political science, not sure where either of those disciplines would take me.

Perryman: As a nontraditional student, were you also working?

Talley: At the time, I was working for the union AFSCME, American Federal of State, County, and Municipal Employees as an office secretary, but as you know, unions have all kinds of stuff they’re involved in. They’re endorsing candidates and trying to get their members to vote for the candidates they endorse. As an office secretary, that was not my goal, but I was intrigued by what they were doing. I would sign up every time they had a phone bank, or I would sign up after work every time they would say that they would go out and do a lit drop at a workplace. Long story short, I ended up graduating from the University of Toledo, but not before I had an opportunity to work with some Black leaders in the central city, some old ward chairs, and some other folks to work on campaigns in the central city and get people registered to vote and talk to voters about why it was essential to send candidates like Marcy Kaptur to Congress to represent us and she ultimately won that campaign.

Perryman: What specifically made you stand out?

Talley: In 1992, my collaboration with the NAACP, Nelson Grace, Mr. George Davis, and some of the old ward chairs resulted in 7,000 people registered in Lucas County from July to the close of voter registration. I didn’t know that any of this would head in the direction it did, but it was impactful work, and people noticed it. My national union asked ‘Who is that person that we’ve got in Toledo, Ohio, that registered that many people? Who is she?’ And they were surprised when people told them she was a secretary. She’s not a staff rep; she doesn’t negotiate contracts; she doesn’t hold griev-

ance hearings or anything. She just comes into the office every day and types all the work that we need her to do. That work was instrumental, and then nationally, my union asked me to go to Michigan in 1994 and lead their political work, where I spent the next five years.

Upon my return to Ohio in 1999, not only did my union recognize my abilities, but the National AFL-CIO did, too. They hired me as the state director for field mobilization. For the next three years, I aimed to increase diversity in unions at both city and state levels, encouraging the inclusion of more Black, Brown, and female members. These efforts resulted in me being elected as the first woman principal officer at the state AFL-CIO in 2002.

Perryman: One of your strengths is in GOTV or getting out the vote. As far back as 2016, Black turnout has been trending downward. Have we looked under the hood to see what’s wrong?

Talley: My perspective on a state level was that there needed to be increased empowerment and engagement of community organizations focusing on engaging Black voters across Ohio. Research indicated that Black voters typically support the same candidates as the union. So, it made sense that as union strength was declining during the 1980s and 90s, we needed to make strong alliances with Black organizations concerned about making sure that Black voters were coming out and voting because policy was impacting them and also workers as a whole.

However, we observed a deficiency in resources allocated to organizations working to increase Black voter registration and turnout. The diminishing resources suggested a lack of investment in the necessary infrastructure for effective Black voter registration, education, and mobilization. This issue persists today, as reflected in the low numbers of voters participating in elections.

Perryman: The church also is bleeding members, and congregations are aging. Is the Black church still viable as a political tool?

Talley: Historically, our communities had established infrastructures where Blacks could easily access political information – figures like Arnold Pinkney in Cleveland or Nelson Grace in Toledo were guiding lights. However, these essential sources of political information no longer exist, creating a void.

Church leaders, often at the forefront of community engagement, now struggle to find reliable sources of information about policy implications that affect their congregants’ lives. Given the increasingly polarized nature of party politics, Black faith leaders may not agree with the Democratic Party on social issues and vice versa. In the past, we may have looked to the Party to help get the message out, but the Party’s message may not always align with the views of Black faith leaders.

Perryman: I think I hear you also saying that many of today’s pastors may not include the policy implications in their pronouncements coming from their pulpits. However, the evangelical church is doing that for its members.

Talley: Yes, that’s for sure because the result of the gospel they teach shows up in our politics.

Perryman: Let’s transition to Issue 1. You’re now with Ohio Coalition on Black Civic Participation Ohio Unity Coalition. What is your position there?

Talley: This is work that I was doing when I was still with the AFL-CIO. We were a state partner of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. In 2019, as I retired from the AFL-CIO, the national kept saying that Ohio needed to incorporate and become recognized as a 501(c)(3), and so we did.

I’m the CEO and the chief cook and bottle washer. I do a lot of the work, but we’re organized across the State of Ohio and Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Youngstown, Toledo, we do some work in Akron, we’ve done work in Lorain and Lima and several other places. This is the work that I’m doing now postretirement.



Petee Talley

Community Calendar

August 5

Warren A.M.E. Church Care Enough FREE Community Event; 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; Come and enjoy a variety of activities including: FREE Clothes, Commodities, Food Baskets, Music, Games, Fun, and More.

... continued on page 7

Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 Vote NO Issue 1 ...Vote NO Issue 1 ...

Issue 1 is Dangerous for Our Constitution, Our Democracy, and the Power of the People

By State Senator Paula Hicks Hudson
Guest Column

On Tuesday, August 8, 2023, Ohioans will vote on the boldest challenge to our democracy yet. Issue 1, the only item on the ballot, seeks to fundamentally remove the right of Ohioans to shape and alter our constitution. Issue 1 would drastically raise the thresholds citizen-led initiatives must meet before they can be placed on the ballot and to pass once they are on the ballot.

From the founding of our country, there have been limitations placed on the voice of everyday people. Like Jim Crow laws and poll taxes in the South, Issue 1 is the latest attempt to stifle our voices and take power away from the people. It places the power in the hands of small minorities, first by changing the number of counties citizens must gather petition signatures in from 44 (half of the counties) to 88 (every county). It would only take failing to collect enough signatures in one county to prevent all Ohio voters from making their voices heard on issues that matters to them. With such high standards, only big-money special interest groups will be able to get initiatives before voters.

Currently, under our Ohio Constitution, initiatives that make it onto the ballot to be voted on by the People need 50% + 1 of the votes cast to pass. Issue 1 would raise that threshold to 60% of the votes cast, again stripping away the will of the simple majority that decides all other Ohio elections. Under Issue 1, it only takes 40%+1 of Ohioans to decide the laws all Ohioans will live under.

With such an important choice on the line, why did the Republican supermajority decide to hold this crucial vote during a special August election, rather than put it on the ballot for the general election in November?

After all, just last December, the legislature eliminated most August special elections due to low turnout and high administration costs. In support of the legislation, Ohio's chief elections officer, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, claimed they produce "chronically low turnout elections when voters aren't expecting an election to occur – and that is bad news for the civic health of our

state." He added, "Voters just don't turn out. That means just a handful of voters end up making big decisions. The side that wins is often the one that has a vested interest in the passage of the issue up for consideration."

Why then, did the Republican majority insist on holding a special election on August 8th for Issue 1, even when it was in direct opposition to the law they just passed a few months prior? The reason is simple. The gerrymandered GOP supermajority has a vested interest in maintaining their power by undermining ballot issues that a majority of Ohioans support. They have seen the power the People wield when we mobilize, like in 2011 when the people of Ohio overwhelmingly repealed Senate Bill 5 to protect Ohio's public employee unions. They are afraid to let Ohioans weigh in on issues such as reproductive justice, an increased minimum wage, fully legalized marijuana, and, especially, creating an independent citizens' redistricting commission to stop partisan gerrymandering.

Yes, Issue 1 is about protecting Ohio's constitution but not from out-of-state interests seeking to undermine the will of the People as the GOP has claimed. By voting NO on Issue 1, Ohioans are protecting their constitution from a Republican power grab meant to undermine the voice of the People. Republicans are relying on low voter turnout, confusion caused by the blatant reversal of their own election laws, and fear to strip away yet another right from the People. Our democracy is on the line this August 8, 2023.

Every Ohio voter must stand up to protect majority rule and the right of citizens to effectively use their voice by making a plan to vote NO on Issue 1 on or before August 8.

Paula Hicks-Hudson, State Senator representing Senate District 11.



Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson

Recent Supreme Court Decisions Set the Nation Back to Path of Inequality

By National Fair Housing Alliance
Special to The Truth

The Supreme Court's recent decisions against affirmative action, LGBTQ+ rights, and student loan forgiveness were some of the most troubling and harmful rulings that the Court has issued in decades, said National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) President and CEO Lisa Rice. Read her full statement below.

"With this regressive set of rulings against affirmative action, LGBTQ+ rights, and student loan forgiveness, this Supreme Court issues decisions that will entrench bias, discrimination, and disturbing disparities and lead our society toward inequity and injustice.

"In its 6-3 ruling against affirmative action plans at Harvard and University of North Carolina, the Court ignored nearly 50 years of precedent and the lower court's factual analysis. It also ignored stark truths about systems of bias, created by centuries of race-based laws and policies, that still harm millions of people every day. For example, high levels of school segregation still exist in this nation with predominately Black and Latino school districts receiving, annually, about \$23 billion less than predominately White school districts even though they educate roughly the same number of students. School segregation is deeply driven by residential segregation. Our neighborhoods are more segregated today than they were 100 years ago, and communities of color have far fewer resources and amenities than do predominately White communities. Those amenities include clean land, air, and water; healthcare facilities; internet services; full-service grocery stores; banks and credit unions; and the like.

"It is important to note that the Court's ruling is limited, only applying to those universities, and is not an outright ban on affirmative action in college admissions. In another disappointing and alarming turn of events, the Court's decision in *_303 Creative v. Elenis_* essentially gives some businesses carte blanche to discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals under the guise of protecting free speech, and the case presents ethical standing questions. Finally, the Court's decision to block President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan will prevent millions of Americans from gaining the financial freedom from the burden of

student loan debt that they need to buy a home, start a business, or just thrive. The decision presents a particular hardship for women and students of color — especially Black students — and will hamper equitable growth in the economy.

"This trilogy of disturbing rulings from the Court's 6-3 ultra-conservative majority provides further motivation to redouble our advocacy efforts to ensure that the promises of the nation's principles of justice and liberty reach everyone. Now is not the time to retreat; rather, we must boldly advance equitable opportunities so that we may all thrive, our nation can be productive, and our economy can flourish."

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³Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).

Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 ... Vote NO Issue 1 Vote NO Issue 1 ...Vote NO Issue 1 ...

A Few Random Thoughts ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq
Guest Column

Don't be bamboozled! The Ohio GOP is planning and hoping that you are unaware of the significance of the upcoming August 8 special election in which they are offering a devious plan by which they want to raise the numbers of voters needed to pass citizen-initiated legislation.

Citizen-initiated legislation, as currently now stands, can be passed into law by the voters with simply a majority plus one approval rate. The GOP plan would increase those numbers to sixty percent of voters needed to gain access to the ballot box.

The rationale of the GOP? Simple. They want to make it harder for voters to be in control of legislative initiatives that come from citizens promulgating constitutional changes. They believe that if they can demand higher voter turnout for such proposals, it is a good chance that many lazy and or ill-informed voters will stay away from the polls and by default, the GOP wins.

Don't be a sap! Read and find out what is being falsely propagated by the GOP as some noble initiative that seeks the common good of all. Rather, it only seeks to satisfy their desire to remain in power at all costs; and if that cost means your vote being lessened in its strength, so be it.

Regrettably, the Ohio GOP does not spend its waking hours thinking of ways to improve the lives of the poor or middle-class people. They are welded at the wallet to fat cats and rich people who can pour money into their political coffers.

In America, class and race are still the ruling factors as to who gets what "goodies" that state legislatures pass out, but with a lower percentage of voters needed to initiate needed reform and each vote counting, you can have influence but only if you VOTE NO ON

ISSUE ONE. The GOP is not a user-friendly party when it comes to legislation that allows a widening of voting opportunities. ISSUE ONE is not user

friendly! VOTE NO!

Recent media reports indicate that crime, especially violent crime, is down in Toledo. That is especially good news since the mere thought of being a victim of crime impedes people's desire to freely move around, especially at night. How many times have you heard people say that when it is dusk, they hunker down indoors due to the fear of the night and who is in the night.

As I have repeatedly said before, when people of color are the target of crime by other people of color, something is terribly amiss with societal relationships and with unresolved issues of anger, bitterness, greed, and a lack of civility for each person's humanity.

There is nothing worse than criminal parasites using the "race card" to try to blend into the Black community when they are the malefactors of exploiting their fellow citizens.

Such warped people should find no solace in the thought that you will not "snitch" on them for their heinous acts. They deserve no hiding place nor your creature comforts as they wreak havoc on their "community" neighbors.

To me, snitches are heroes! They are guardians of the community, and you should become a regular snitch when you see wrong being done. Report it anonymously and do not give aid and comfort to the enemy, for such rascals are not your friends.

Well, it is that time again in which I bemoan and commiserate about the Black churches in Toledo not being able to coalesce around economic issues that will benefit everyone.

When you realize the enormous wealth that collectively the Black churches control with their weekly tithes and offerings, special events and fundraisers, it is enough to make you say,

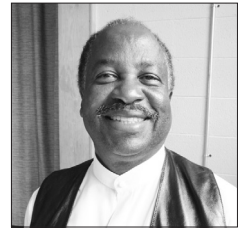
"Where are you pastors and churches in being a bridge over troubled economic waters?"

In my humble opinion, I believe that many Black pastors in Toledo are terrified at the mere thought that they would come together and share the church wealth; and engage in projects that will enrich the very people from which they gain their sustenance.

I mean. Really. Imagine if the majority of Black churches were to call a conference and outline paths to real economic growth for the "inner city" and the engine to do so would be for each church, regardless of its size, to donate a firm percentage of its weekly monies to a common fund.

A fund that is professionally managed, bonded and has a set agenda and goals to achieve. I know...I know. As soon as I say, each church "tithing" a tenth of their weekly monetary offerings to such a common fund, most pastors start to hyperventilate and hide behind their pulpits, shaking like a rag

...continued on page 6



Lafe Tolliver

Modeling is a career, it is not an activity.

If you are seriously thinking about getting into acting or modeling you are going to

need an agency that will be willing to work with you to find you paid assignments.

Alright let's get down to business, Do you have to pay to be a client of a modeling agency? NO

Do I need to pay for photos? Yes, However not out-of-pocket....

What does that mean? Agencies work on commission and some will work with you, now that digital photos are what they work with.

The agency will have that in your agreement.

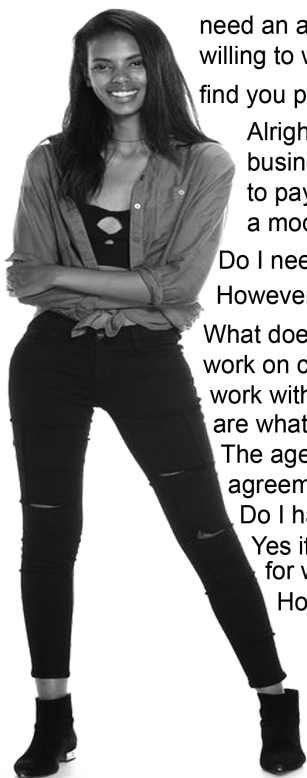
Do I have to sign with the agency? Yes if you want to be considered for work through the agency.

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you will get more information from your agency.....

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40 Percent of Voters Would Control the Outcome of Future Ballot Issues

By DemocracyIssues.com, an Ohio-based Voter Rights initiative

Special to The Truth

Legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly authorizing a constitutional amendment (Issue 1) that would make it almost impossible to pass most future citizen-led ballot issues in Ohio has been placed on the ballot in a Special Election on August 8, 2023; a timing that historically has drawn low voter turnout.

A separate bill, Senate Bill 92 (SB92) to authorize the extra \$20 million in tax payer money needed to pay for the costs of the Issue 1 election did not pass the legislature.

One key provision of Issue 1 is to raise the threshold for voter passage of a citizen-led Constitutional Amendment from the current 50%, to instead, 60%.

If it passes, Issue 1 will allow a minority of 40 percent of the voters to control the outcome of future citizen-led ballot issues over the wishes of 60 percent of the voters.

Deceiving Ohio Citizens

Supporters of this new legislation claim that it is needed in order to "protect the Ohio Constitution from continued abuse by special interests and out-of-state activists," as stated by Frank LaRose, Ohio Secretary of State.

In an article in the Columbus Dispatch, Mike Curtain stated,

"To be charitable, LaRose is flat wrong . . . The anti-monopoly amendment (note: a separate existing Ohio law), now firmly embedded in our Ohio Constitution (Article II, Section 1e), forbids the initiative (Ballot Issue) process from being used to confer any exclusive economic benefit to any special interest."

Further undermining LaRose's claims about Issue 1 providing protections against "special interests and out-of-state activists" is information released by the Columbus Dispatch. The newspaper disclosed that an out-of-state (Illinois) billionaire activist, Richard Uihlein, gave \$1 million to a PAC to fund the campaign for Issue 1 to supposedly protect Ohio citizens from "out-of-state activists (like himself)."

Why are supporters of this proposed law not being transparent with Ohio Citizens?

The Primary Sponsor of the legislation behind Issue 1 is Representative Brian Stewart (R-Ashville). An article in the Statehouse News Bureau by Jo-Ingles and Karen Kasler on May 10, 2023 explained the truthful motivation behind this legislation.

Representative Stewart explained in his letter that this legislation was designed to protect Ohio's current law against abortions and Ohio's current practice of gerrymandering that has created rigged election districts in the state that guarantee the re-election of a majority of GOP candidates-

" . . . in a (private) letter to his Republican lawmakers that surfaced in December, Stewart made it clear that the main drivers (behind Issue 1) were defeating abortion(ballot issue in November that would permit abortions in Ohio) and (protecting) gerrymandering (rigged election districts in Ohio) . . ."

Issue 1 Designed to Prevent any Constitutional Amendments by Citizens

Other provisions of Issue 1 add even more barriers to citizen-led ballot issues. Issue 1 will still require 414,000 valid voter signatures through a petition drive (10 percent of the votes in the last governor's race). Currently, a petition drive also needs signatures from five percent of the votes cast in the last governor's race in 44 of Ohio's 88 counties; a very difficult requirement to meet.

However, Issue 1 raises this requirement to five percent of the votes cast in the last governor's race in each of Ohio's 88 counties which is an incredibly difficult and costly requirement.

Issue 1's requirements that create new and extremely high barriers for petition signatures together with the increased threshold to 60 percent will make it virtually impossible for the success of a citizen-led ballot issue.

Only very wealthy and well-funded special interests will be able to even attempt the Issue 1 requirements.

Opponents of this legislation charge that it is an attack on voter rights and democracy in Ohio in order for a small group of politicians to retain almost total Power and Control.

Protections of 111 year old Ohio Law needed more than ever

The current law permitting citizen-led ballot issues has been in place in Ohio since 1912, or over 111 years.

"Ohioans voted to give themselves the right to initiate amendments (to the Ohio Constitution) in September of 1912. They did so because the state legislature was among the most corrupt in the nation. Corporate cash lined lawmakers' pockets. The legislature was deaf to citizen demands for change," stated the Columbus Dispatch's Mike Curtain.

In an article in 2021, Time Magazine stated-

"USA Today was probably right when it said Ohio was the most corrupt state in the country."

On March 9, 2023, senior Ohio GOP leaders were convicted of criminal racketeering involving a \$61 million bribery scheme funded by Ohio-based First Energy. These GOP leaders were successful in using the bribery money to get other GOP members elected to the Ohio Legislature. They then passed a new law requiring citizens to pay \$1.4 billion of subsidies to First Energy through their utility bills in order to bail out the utility company and its two struggling nuclear power plants.

The 111-year old voter rights law that Issue 1 would significantly damage is needed even more today than it was during the corruption in 1912.



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Democratic Women in Action

The Truth Staff

During an executive committee meeting of the Democratic Women in Action last week at the Mott Branch Library, members expressed their dismay with the Ohio Republicans effort to stymie the democratic process by placing Issue 1 on the special election ballot for August 8.

Attendees addressed the ways they can assist in getting out the vote, how they can urge voters to vote early by knocking on doors, mailing postcards, said club president, Essie Wiggins.

The members of the club are joining Democrats around the state in attempting to enhance turnout that can typically be as low as six percent of registered voters for special elections.

Members who were not present at last week's meeting are: Cecilia Adams, PhD; Barbara Campbell; Sharon Echols-Anderson; State Senator Michele Grim; Brenda Hill; Diana Johnson; Erica Krause; Michelle Quilter; Carlis Stevens; Judy Stone; Jamele Walker; Erika White; Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon-Wozniak and Brenda Watkins.



Left to Right: Gloria Mayne, Bessie Maddox, Kimberly Brown, Kristen Geaman, Patricia London, Essie Wiggins, Krista Schneider, Sheryl Doggett

The Democratic Women in Action will host their annual Four-Person Golf Scramble on August 11 at the Whiteford Golf Course in Ottawa Lake, Michigan. For more information on the group's action plans for the special election or the golf scramble, call 419-536-3555.



Left to Right – Councilwoman Katie Moline, Gloria Sasue, Priscilla Brown, Janet Kruse, LC Treasurer Lindsay Webb, Essie Wiggins, Ulo Ogbonna

VOTERS INFORMATION MEETING GLASS CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Do you have questions or you are just down right confused about the August 8 “Special Election”? Then please join us on Thursday, July 27 from 4-6PM at Glass City church of Christ, 901 Hoag Street (corner of Hoag & Avondale). Ms. LaVera Scott, Lucas County Board of Elections Director will be our guest speaker and available to address your questions.

Tolliver...continued from page 4

doll.

Why? Simple. Their love of money and the apparent distrust that they have in their fellow clergy members. Question. Can pastors trust other pastors with a portion of their church funds? Answer: So far, in Toledo, the answer is a resounding and embarrassing No!

Two dollars to a donut that the gross weekly take of all the Black churches in Toledoruns nigh up to thirty-five thousand dollars PER WEEK!

And yet, where do you see visible results of those funds being invested in financial instruments or in business ventures in the Black community? You don't. If such a simple plan was started back in the, “Say It Loud...I am Black and Proud” sixties,

The Black community would have had tens of millions of dollars available to leverage for the common good.

Could such a vision still take place? Sure, but only if you have visionary pastors and willing church members that want to be their own boss and take ownership of their space and time.

But, if you are an ill-informed or a tightwad pastor that does not believe in collective economics for the good of the whole, it will never happen in Toledo.

Oh, what could have been (and still can!).

Contact Lafe Tolliver @ tolliver@Juno.com

THE SOCIAL BUTTERFLY PRESENTS

THE 9TH ANNUAL

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023

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Toledo's African American Newspaper

SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

DETROIT PRINCESS

Perryman... continued from page 2

Perryman: Talk about Issue 1 and how your work impacts that.

Talley: Our mission is to bolster the civic participation of black voters who continue to face obstacles due to extreme politicians who aim to restrict certain voters in Ohio. Their proposal to shift the approval threshold for constitutional amendments from a simple majority to a 60% supermajority undermines the core principle of our democracy: one person, one vote.

This change, as seen by the Unity Coalition, disrupts the egalitarian nature of the ballot box and is perceived as an attempt to limit voter impact. Voters must recognize this and refuse to surrender their power under the guise of 'protecting the Constitution.' This initiative seems more focused on reducing people's ability to vote on critical issues, further insulating politicians.

These politicians, already benefitting from hyper-partisan, gerrymandered districts in Ohio, are given an added advantage with the proposal, allowing them to further their agendas rather than representing the people's will.

Perryman: So, Issue 1, if it is successful, would make it more difficult to change the Ohio Constitution by raising the bar to 60 percent from 50 percent plus one vote to pass?

Talley: That is absolutely what it does, and it's not right or fair. The new rule would allow a minority of 40 percent to obstruct issues vital to the majority. Constitutional changes aren't made frivolously. They're invoked when legislatures fail to implement sound public policies for Ohioans. We, as voters, should retain the ability to introduce an issue on the ballot and pass it by a simple majority, a precedent that's stood for over 111 years.

Perryman: So, you're proposing a no-vote?

Talley: Correct.

Perryman: What would a NO vote do for us?

Talley: A NO vote would maintain the status quo, and the status quo is merely that we would require a simple majority, 50 percent plus one, to pass a Constitutional amendment.

It will also maintain the current signature gathering portion of when you change a Constitution. We currently have to get signatures from five percent of voters who live in 44 of the 88 counties. However, if Issue 1 passes, effective January 2024, you would also need to get five percent of voters who



Petee Talley

live in all 88 counties instead of 44. That's again another unchecked feature of this Constitutional amendment proposal.

Lastly, if there is a question about a signature or a dispute over a signature, the petitioners have the ability for ten days to go back and make any corrections to errors or disputes. However, if Issue 1 passes, it would eliminate that 10-day period.

Perryman: So, what power do we have as a community?

Talley: First, know that this August 8 special election is one of the most important elections we can vote in. Most special elections go under the radar. So, readers of The Truth, make yourself aware and make a plan to vote in this August 8 election. You can vote early, you can vote by mail, you can vote by Election Day, and then vote NO on Issue 1 for the reasons that this article outlines.

Thirdly, please tell three family members and three friends the importance of going out and ensuring that we use our collective power and are not fooled into giving away our power on this issue.

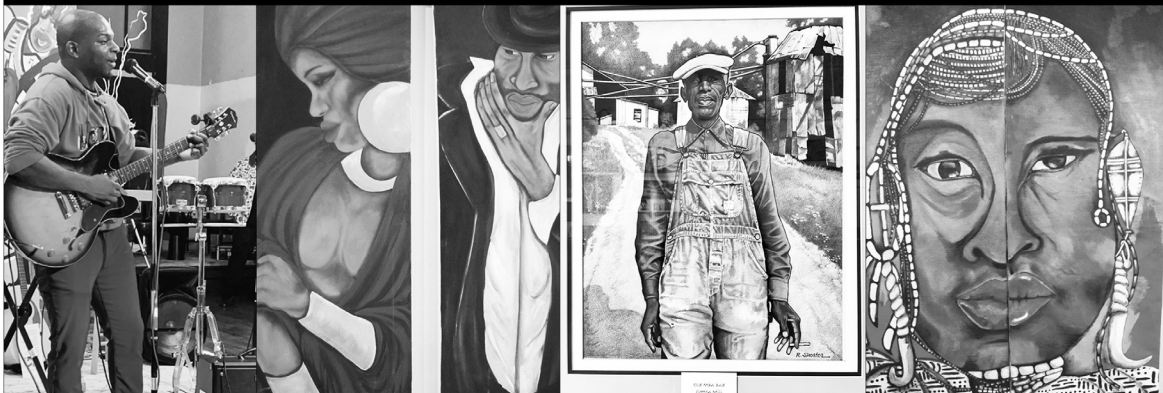
Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, Ph.D. at drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

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The African American Festival Parade

The sun did not shine on the annual African American Festival Parade this year ... but the Parade proceeded as usual, and the spectators turned out to enjoy the spectacle.

But while the sun did not shine, the rain did stop just at 10 a.m. just as the Parade was getting underway – led by Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union CEP Suzette Cowell, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Muddy. Since it was a rainy day, Muddy must have decided that his services were not needed at the ballpark.

Elected officials, school children, businesses and organizations were not discouraged by the unfavorable forecasts, however, and all went off as planned – starting at the TUFUCU location at Door and Detroit and moving slowly down



Suzette Cowell and Muddy
... continued on page 9 getting ready to start the parade



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and the
current Youth Mayor



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Festival Parade...continued from page 8

the Dorr Street route to the enjoyment of the spectators.

The afternoon activities – community day and concert – were forced inside and all went exceptionally well in spite of the rain.

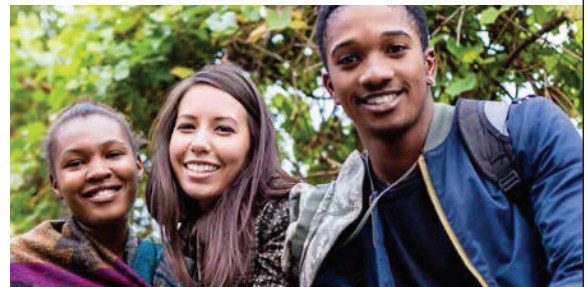
Fortunately the Parade was able to stick to its planned route.



The Juice's Rick Hogan



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This program was made possible by Grant Number 1H79TI085763-01 from SAMHSA. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author and to not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA. Funding provided through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in partnership with the Ohio Commission on Minority Health.



Mayor, Police Chief Hail Improved Crime Statistics

The Truth Staff

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Toledo Police Department Chief Mike Troendle held a press conference last week to announce a dramatic improvement in the city's year-to-date crime statistics.

"This is the biggest news story of the year," said the mayor opening the press conference. "It's pure newsworthiness, the fact that crime is so dramatically down."

Crime, for the first half of the year, is indeed dramatically down. With the exception of auto thefts, other categories show huge improvement over the last two years – a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Burglaries in the first half are down 9.6 percent; robberies down 33 percent, theft from motor vehicles down 35 percent, people shot down 28 percent. The key statistic is homicides. In 2022 for the first six months of the year, there were 24 homicides in the city. This year, there have been 16, a drop of 33 percent.

"Homicides are down across the country," noted Kapszukiewicz. "The decline is part of a more encouraging national trend but we are well above the national pace."

The mayor attributed the drop to a plan put together by the administration and TPD at the time Chief Troendle was appointed to his position in 2022. "Our approach has been to develop a plan" to deal with the violence issue and stick to it, he said.

Some of the elements of that plan included: beautifying neighborhoods, investing in youth (as much as \$4 million, he noted), eliminating blight, attracting business development and improving housing stability.

"Our plan seems to be working, we are returning to a pre-pandemic norm," said Kapszukiewicz.

Troendle also touted the newly released statistics but also added that "controlling crime is bigger and the police department." He said that the "state of the city" as such conditions as blight improve helps to lower incidents of crime. The chief also said that TPD is trying to emphasize ways to get



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz announces mid-year crime stats as TPD Chief Michael Troendle looks on

officers closer to the community through such methods as increased bicycle patrols and re-introducing foot patrols.

Additionally, "we want to be more proactive in addressing nuisance crimes which is directly related to the reduction of homicides."

The "rest of the system is catching up," added Troendle, explaining for example that the courts held "more homicide trials this month than before."

The mid-year stats are not required reporting for the city to any other government entity but Kapszukiewicz said that internally the numbers were helpful in possibly seeing how the year-end statistics might look.

"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary."

- Reinhold Niebuhr

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Frederick D. Haynes, III, DMin, Named by Rev. Jesse Jackson as the Now President and CEO of Rainbow Push Coalition

Special to The Truth

On Saturday, July 15, 2023, Rev. Jesse Jackson named Frederick Douglass Haynes, III, DMin, as the new President and CEO of Rainbow PUSH Coalition. Rev. Jackson officially announced his retirement on Friday, June 15. The official announcement of the leadership shift will take place on Sunday, July 16, 2023 at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's national convention at the Apostolic Church of God in Woodlawn. Vice President Kamala Harris was scheduled to speak.

In addition to this new role at the helm of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Frederick D. Haynes, III, is the senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church, a megachurch in Dallas, Texas, with more than 13,000 members. While Dr. Haynes recently announced Pastor David McGruder as the executive pastor of Friendship-West, Haynes will remain the senior pastor.

"Rev. Jesse Jackson has made the world a better place, breaking down barriers, opening previously locked doors of opportunity, fighting for justice and refusing to take 'no' for an answer on behalf of those who have no voice," said Haynes. "Rainbow PUSH has been the organizational vehicle that he has driven in the movement for justice. I am honored and humbled that he has 'tapped' me to serve as his successor as the President and CEO of this great organization. Rev. Jackson has been a mentor and I have been greatly influenced and inspired by this game-changing social justice general, international ambassador for human rights, and prophetic genius. Sadly, justice and human rights are under attack in the nation and around the world. The work of Rainbow PUSH is as necessary as ever and I am committed to standing on the shoulders of Rev. Jackson and continuing the fight for freedom, peace, equity, justice and human rights."

Haynes is best known as a social justice pastor and advocate for marginalized communities. Known nationally as "the drum major for justice," he has modeled his ministry like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., focused on the intersections of faith and justice. Dr. Haynes works diligently to stand up for justice and to create positive change nationally. From leading protests and demonstrations, to registering thousands of voters, to providing food and other needed resources, to decreasing crime, to serving as a voting super center, Dr. Haynes and Friendship-West Baptist Church have always been in the forefront of creating positive and lasting social change.

As a civil rights leader and activist, Haynes has had a longstanding relationship with Rev. Jackson.



Rev. Jesse Jackson



Frederick Douglass Haynes, III, DMin

Haynes holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and English, a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as well as a Doctorate in Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation where he was afforded the opportunity to study at Christ Church, Oxford University in England. Currently, Haynes is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana where he is studying African American preaching and sacred rhetoric.

Haynes is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Paul Quinn College as well as various other boards dedicated to the advancement of Dallas for all residents, particularly those in underserved and minority communities. He also serves in the academic arena, teaching college courses and workshops at Paul Quinn College, Texas Christian University, McCormick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and other institutions of higher learning.

Haynes has received numerous awards and honors for his ministry and activism. In 2011, Haynes had the prestigious honor of being the featured speaker at The Congressional Black Caucus' Annual Prayer Breakfast. In 2012, Ebony Magazine named him to its Power 100 list of most influential African Americans. He was also inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2013, Dr. Haynes was honored to give remarks at the memorial service of one of the most respected world leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries, President Nelson Mandela. In 2016, Haynes was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. In 2020, Haynes was a featured speaker during the Democratic National Convention's faith event, "Our Values, Our Voices, Our Votes." The prestigious April 4th Foundation awarded Haynes the I am a Man Award in 2020 and he joined the ranks of past honorees that include

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Diane Nash, Congressman John Lewis, and Harry Belafonte. In 2022, Haynes was awarded by President Joseph R. Biden Jr., the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Presidential Lifetime Achievement Leadership Award in Community Service.

A life-long learner, Haynes is committed to education and has led Friendship-West to donate over \$1 million dollars to historically Black colleges and universities. In addition, Friendship-West has donated over \$2 million in scholarship aid to students who are members of the church and the greater Dallas community. Haynes is the namesake of the Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III Global Preparatory School, located on the campus of Paul Quinn College, which serves students grades 6-12 who seek to enter the International Baccalaureate program.

As a reflection of his commitment to community transformation and social consciousness, Haynes serves in various leadership capacities in organizations that champion social change and education. In 2003, he founded the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference along with Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. and Iva E. Carruthers and currently serves as co-chairman of the board. Haynes is on the board of the Conference of National Black Churches, the National Action Network, and the IC3 Church Growth and Development Conference. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of Paul Quinn College, an HBCU in Dallas, Texas where he has also served as an adjunct professor.



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Prayer Breakfast... continued from page 16

Festival started with the amount of people in that very room and has now, due to the power of prayer and teamwork, has grown to thousands of participants enjoying festivities from all around the globe.

"Every year we pray for good weather, but this year I admittedly almost threw in the towel," shared Cowell. "After 18 years of fervent prayer, tireless efforts, and nervous anticipation, I found myself at a crossroads.

"Then I heard a sermon about the woman in the Bible who stood bent over for 18 years. I had never heard this scripture before. In her 18th year the woman met Jesus, believed and stood up. I knew God was speaking to me and that I could not quit."

The forecast for rain, like a relentless adversary, threatened to ruin festivities. Cowell, determined to persevere, made a last minute call to Lucas County Commissioner, Pete Gerken. "He came through for us right away," explained a relieved Cowell. "We don't have to worry about the rain, family day and the concert have been moved to the Glass City Center!"

As the room settled into an atmosphere of reverence, Amanda Heron and Arthur Bishop, two gifted musicians, graced the stage. Amanda's sweet voice, ushered in the Holy Spirit, as Bishop's saxophone filled the room with smooth sounds, inviting everyone to immerse themselves in the serenity and beauty of the moment.

Bishop-Elect Jerry Boose, from the Second Baptist Church, stepped forward, his presence exuding strength and humility. With heartfelt sincerity, he led the gathering in opening prayers, calling upon the divine to bless the proceedings and infuse the hearts of all those in attendance with wisdom, grace, and unity.

The atmosphere was thick with a sense of sacredness as Sister Mary Gregory, from the Sisters of Notre Dame, offered a welcome prayer. Her words, a gentle embrace of gratitude and inclusion, touched the depths of each soul present, reminding them of the interconnectedness that binds them all as brothers and sisters.

Elder Alisa Key, from the People's Baptist Church, then led a powerful prayer for the city and its leaders. Her voice resonated with passion and conviction as she called upon the heavens to shower blessings upon the community, its endeavors, and the individuals who carried the weight of leadership upon their shoulders.

The baton of prayer was passed to Pastor Michael Prince from the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, who offered a heartfelt prayer for the churches. His words resonated deeply, invoking unity, growth, and spiritual nourishment for the diverse houses of worship that served as pillars of strength within the community.

Dr. Suzette R. Cowell, the esteemed CEO of TUFCU, took a moment to

honor nine outstanding movers and shakers in Toledo, recognizing their tireless efforts and contributions.

The 2023 honorees are: CEO of the Social Butterfly, Donnetta Carter; Community Organizer and Non-profit Consultant Diane Gordon; Assistant to the President for Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships at the University of Toledo, Valerie Simmons-Walston; Metroparks Toledo's Developmental Specialist, Felicia Clark, and Chief Outreach Officer, Matthew Killam; Director of Technical Operations and Construction at Buckeye Broadband, Marquisa Horton; Executive Director of the Frederick Douglass Community Association, Reggie Williams; Lucas County Administrator, Jessica Ford, and Friendship Baptist Church's Financial Assistant, Velma Pryor.

Her prayer for both honorees and staff celebrated their achievements, while acknowledging the transformative power they bring to the city and our African American community.

Sister Maxine Young, from the Sisters of Notre Dame, continued the prayerful journey, offering a heartfelt supplication for TUFCU. Her words carried a sense of gratitude for the financial institution's support and dedication to uplifting the community, acknowledging the divine presence in every aspect of their work.

Reverend Troy Brown, from the United Missionary Baptist Church, brought a touch of joy and festivity to the gathering as he led a prayer for the youth. With an infectious energy, he invoked blessings upon the young hearts and minds, praying for their dreams to be nurtured, their spirits to be guided, and their futures to be bright. Referring to his single "Cool It Now" by R&B group New Edition in his prayer, Reverend Brown reminded us all that God knows all of us by name, 'Even Ronnie, Bobby, Ricky, and Mike', as the room erupted in laughter.

First Lady Angela Savage, from Lo-Salem Baptist Church, stepped forward, her voice filled with tenderness and strength. Her prayer resonated with the collective experiences of the women present, honoring their resilience, grace, and unwavering faith. It was a moment of connection, where the power of prayer became a thread weaving together the journeys of all the remarkable women in the room.


Sister Virginity Welsh, the Pastoral Leader of St. Martin DePorres, embraced the stage, her words carrying the weight of ancestral wisdom and devotion. Her prayer for the African American Festival encapsulated the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of the community. It was a plea for the festival to be a catalyst of unity, celebration, and empowerment.

As the event drew to a close, Pastor Timothy Pettaway Sr. from Walk the Word Church, took the stage for the closing prayer. His words were a melodic benediction, a final call for the blessings of the divine to shower upon each individual, carrying them forward with renewed strength, purpose, and a deep connection to the power of prayer.

The room was filled with melodic tones soaring high and dipping low. It was both delicate and enchanting, as breakfast participants enjoyed a deca-

...continued on page 13

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Life on Other Planets: A Memoir of Finding My Place in the Universe by Aomawa Shields, PhD

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight...

And the second and third and you'll just keep wishing until you run out of desires. You'll never run out of stars, though, so you can spend all night wishing and do it again tomorrow. Wish hard enough, work even harder and, as in the new book *Life on Other Planets* by Aomawa Shields, PhD, you may see your hopes come true.

Growing up in a "self-sufficient and independent" all-female household that prized education and encouraged her love of the planets, Aomawa Shields was raised securely on a foundation of science and "the sky was my first love." She didn't know then that the night sky could become a career; she remembers wanting, instead, to be a cheerleader like the pretty white girls she saw on TV.

Her PhD-educated mother "wincen" over that but delighted in Shields' fascination with stars and her embrace of STEM subjects. By the time she was 12 years old, Shields had mapped out her entire future career.

To get there, she read as much about astronomy as she could find. She "devoured" TV shows about space before applying to attend an elite prep school that took her from her California home to New Hampshire. At Exeter, she says, "As soon as I could, I took astronomy courses...." She dreamed of applying at NASA.

She also auditioned for a play and landed a good part. Acting, Shields learned, was fun and she was quite good at it; storytelling, making an audience feel a certain way, it was addictive. And so, when she began struggling academically in college and a professor told her that maybe it was time to put astronomy aside, another "love" was waiting for her in the wings. She continued to attend astronomy classes, but he also secretly auditioned for parts before moving back to California for her new career.

Still, she says, she wasn't satisfied. Astronomy and acting – how was this going to work? She had two loves, and was about to meet a third...

Pick up *Life on Other Planets*, and you may be tempted to put it right back down. The subject matter is pretty heavy. It's very science-y and what if it's over your head?

You might get lost, right?

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Life on Other Planets author,
photo courtesy Steven Meckler

have to be a STEM expert to enjoy it. Find *Life on Other Planets* and see if it doesn't brighten your summertime reading.

Prayer Breakfast... continued from page 12

dent spread from culinary artist Audrey Ramsey infused with the authentic sounds of Raymond Flowers IV on violin.

It was the perfect start to kick off this year's festival.

As they say within the Body of Christ, "The prayers of the saints availeth much." And so it was. Toledo's 18th Annual African American Festival was a success!

Beginning at the corner of Dorr Street and North Detroit Avenue, TUFCU's annual parade came alive last Saturday, led by community leaders, local dignitaries, and spirited performers. People lined the streets, their faces filled with anticipation and pride, as the sun peeked through the clouds. Spectators of all ages waved flags, clapped their hands, and joined in the festivities, becoming an integral part of this year's jubilant display of African American culture.

Adorned with colorful decorations and radiant lights, the Glass City Center breathed life into the previous outdoor vision that had been cultivated over the years. Vibrant booths lined the hallways, showcasing the talents and crafts of African American artisans. The aroma of soulful cuisine intertwined with the sounds of music, filling the space with a symphony of flavors and rhythms.

The newly remodeled Glass City Center had become a sanctuary of unity, a sanctuary that defied the rain's attempt to dampen the collective spirit.

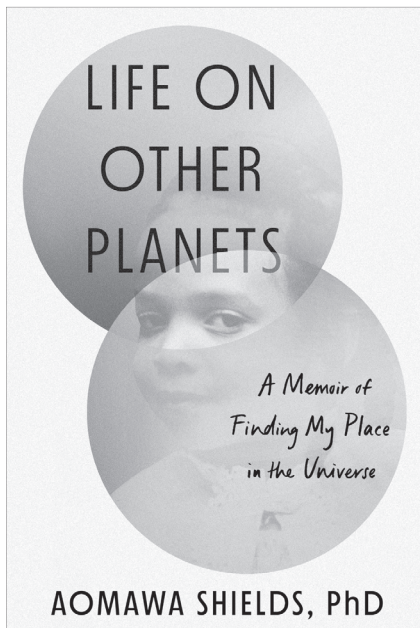
Within the walls of the Glass City Center, the rain became a mere backdrop, a gentle reminder that sometimes life presents obstacles to test our resolve. The festival-goers embraced the change with open hearts, recognizing that the true essence of the celebration transcended any physical boundaries.

As the raindrops danced upon the windows, an irresistible blend of R&B and funk filled the venue with the soulful essence of the African American experience. Ginuwine, Freddie Jackson, the Zapp Band, and Stokely's performances kept the crowd moving, while local comedian Kelly Williams kept the crowd bursting in laughter.

Everything unfolded exactly the way it was supposed to within the newly remodeled Glass City Center, a testament to the indomitable spirit of a community united in celebration. It was a reminder that even in the face of challenges, when hearts are filled with determination and resilience, no rain can extinguish the flame of unity and the power of prayer.

**TUFCU thanks everyone who participated and sold 4,000 tickets this year. Proceeds go toward the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, a community development credit union started by Suzette Cowell in July, 1996.*

The credit union serves moderate to low-income individuals within specific zip codes and helps to educate the public on financial literacy and homeownership.



Not really. Author Aomawa Shields does bring a lot of science into her tale, but it comes with a lot of gentle wide-eyed wonder and explanations that are easy for an average reader to grasp. There's beauty in what Shields sees, and she shares her excitement in a way that will make you see the sky with fresh eyes.

That's the first leg of this book. The other part is about Shields' journey to fit into two worlds, one foot in each of them, while still being true to herself and her interests.

Readers who love science will love this book, but you don't

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VOTE NO ON ISSUE 1

What's up this summer?

There is a Special Election, August 8 2023, in Ohio and its intent is to make any citizen-led amendment to the state constitution require a **SUPERMAJORITY (60%)** to pass. If passed, it will replace the **SIMPLE MAJORITY (50% plus 1)** that **CURRENTLY EXISTS**.

If this passes, it threatens all future elections where voters can decide on changes to issues like minimum wages, police accountability, education about black history, reproductive health, and other problems that help our community, including the election in 2024. This supermajority rule will further silence and disenfranchise voters all over our state.

This was a deliberate move by **EXTREMIST POLITICIANS** who hope that Black and other impacted Ohio Voters will sleep on this issue and not go to the polls to vote.

VOTE NO 8
AUGUST

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DOWN

For more information visit www.votenoinaugust.org

IMPORTANT DATES LET'S GO VOTE!

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July 24-28	Mon-Fri	8am-5pm
July 31	Mon	7:30am-7:30pm
August 1	Tue	7:30am- 8:30 pm
August 2-4	Wed-Fri	7:30am- 7:30pm
August 5	Sat	8am-4pm
August 6	Sun	1pm-5pm (Souls to the Polls)
August 8	Tue	ELECTION DAY 6:30am - 7:30 pm (at your polling place)

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CLASSIFIEDS

July 19, 2023

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Lucas County

Bids Due: 2:00pm, Tuesday, August 08, 2023; through the State's electronic bidding system at: <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal/Supplier Diversity Goal: 5% of contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es) AND additional 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE.

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated
General Contract	\$650,000.00
Alternates Total	\$21,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: July 25, 2023, at 10:00am – Facilities Support Building – Room 1300, The University of Toledo, 1135 East Medial Loop, Toledo, OH 43614

Walk-through: A walkthrough of the project site is scheduled for July 25, 2023, immediately following Pre-bid.

Bid Documents: Available electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>
More Info: Submit questions electronically at: <https://bidexpress.com>

Project contact: HED, Blake Elderkin, 248-233-0113, belderkin@hed-design.com

LIBBEY 50TH REUNION

Libbey High School Class of 1973 are celebrating our 50th Class Reunion on Labor Day Weekend. The event will be held Friday, September 1st and Saturday, September 2nd.

Please contact Cassandra Day-Moore for tickets at 419.450.7227. Tickets are \$50 single and \$75 couple.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL **HVAC SERVICES FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES**

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals to provide HVAC MAINTENANCE and SERVICE to properties it owns and manages; a total of 69 sites including multi-family housing and single-family homes.

Deadline for Submittal is July 28, 2023 @ 11am EST. The full RFP and timeline can be found at our website, www.preferred-properties.org, or contact Rachel Grup at 419.244.9609 x307, or rgrup@preferred-properties.org.

PUBLIC BID ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed proposals for furnishing all labor, materials, and equipment necessary for the 2023 Kent Branch, Reynolds Corners Branch and Sanger Brach Parking Lot Reconstructions will be received by the Fiscal Officer, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library until 12:00 noon (Toledo Time) on July 18, 2023 at the Security Office of the Main Library Building, 325 N. Michigan Street, Toledo, Ohio, attention: David Scanlan. The bids will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Proposals received after this time will be returned to the bidder unopened.

General scope of work consists of asphalt pavement removal and reconstruction, catch basin reconstruction, dumpster pad and enclosure construction and concrete curb and walk reconstruction.

Electronic copies of the bid and contract documents can be obtained at Lewandowski Engineers, 234 North Erie Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604, phone 419-255-4111, at a non-refundable cost of \$20 per set, plus shipping, if requested. All requests for information must be received no later than 12:00 noon on July 12, 2023.

INVITATION FOR BIDS **LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – BIRMINGHAM TERRACE** **IFB23-B009**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Lead Hazard Elimination – Birmingham Terrace in accordance with IFB23-B009**. Received in accordance with law until **July 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative



INVITATION FOR BIDS **LEAD HAZARD ELIMINATION – PULLEY HOMES** **IFB23-B010**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Lead Hazard Elimination – Pulley Homes in accordance with IFB23-B010**. Received in accordance with law until **July 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



INVITATION FOR BIDS **FIRE PUMP REPLACEMENT AT DORRELL MANOR** **IFB23-B011**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Fire Pump Replacement at Dorrell Manor in accordance with IFB23-B011**. Received in accordance with law until **August 11, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS **BIOHAZARD CLEANING SERVICES (ON CALL)** **RFP23-R007**

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Biohazard Cleaning Services in accordance with RFP23-R007**. Received in accordance with law until **July 27, 2023 at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

The 18th Annual African American Festival

The Power of Prayer Starts the African American Festival

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

Excitement filled the air this past weekend as the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union hosted its 18th Annual Prayer Breakfast and African American Festival.

"This festival started with the power of prayer," recalled Suzette Cowell, Founder, CEO, and Treasurer of TUFCU, as she introduced the prayer breakfast Master of Ceremonies, Bishop Larry Mack of Greater Dreams Church.

Bishop reminded all in attendance that the power of prayer is a force that transcends boundaries, unites hearts, and ignites transformation. Prayer holds the capacity to bring people together. Such was the case when the leaders of Toledo City, along with pastors from various backgrounds, gathered to pray this past Friday.

This year's prayer breakfast was hosted in the beautiful Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion. The stage was set, anticipation buzzing in the air as the vibrant lineup of speakers prepared to take the podium.

Adam M. Levine, the Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey President, Director, and CEO, along with Fletcher Word, our very own esteemed publisher, welcomed the attendees with open arms and warm smiles.

As the much-anticipated weekend of the African American Festival dawned, a veil of clouds draped the sky. Nature seemed to conspire against the festivities, threatening to dampen the spirits of those eagerly awaiting the celebration of culture and unity. But the organizers, armed with unwavering determination and resilience, refused to let the rain be the end of their vision.

Cowell went on to explain that most know the story of how Pastor Patricia Sullivan (who regrettably passed away in early June) confirmed her thoughts to start our city's African American Festival in the middle of a sermon almost two decades ago, sharing, "She walked right up to me and whispered 'Whatever God told you to do, you gotta do it.' And that is how the festival was born."

Cowell reminded the 200 Prayer Breakfast guests that 18 years ago Toledo's

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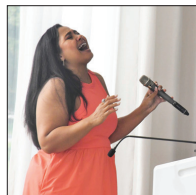
AA Prayer Breakfast Honorees with Suzette Cowell (left to right): Reggie Williams, Velma Pryor, Valerie Simmons-Walston, Jessica Ford, Cowell, Donnetta Carter, Felica Clark, Marquisa Horton and Matthew Killam



Host Adam Levine, Director TMA



Master of Ceremonies Bishop Larry Mack



Singer Amanda Heron



Breakfast attendees



Violinist Raymond Flowers IV



Suzette Cowell with Bishop-elect Jerry Boose of Second Baptist Church and Pastor Tim Pettaway of Walk the Word Church

Rain Didn't Stop the 18th Annual African American Festival

By Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The 18th annual African American Festival welcomed hundreds of attendees during the two day celebration, but especially for the star-studded concert.

Saturday's concert was moved from the original Promenade Park location due to weather into Glass City Convention Center in downtown Toledo. Vendors were lined up alongside the Jefferson Street entrance and guests, once inside, enjoyed the musical talents and entertainment provided by: Stokely, Freddie Jackson, Ginuwine, and The Zapp Band, event music delivered by DJ Lyte N Rod, performance by Darius Coleman and comedy performance by Kelly Williams.

Notable performer Freddie Jackson set the mood by serenading the crowd with a full set of songs including, 'Rock Me Tonight' and 'You Are My Lady.' The Zapp Band presented an electrified performance that include a full set of songs including, 'Be Alright,' 'I Heard It Through The Grapevine,' and 'Computer Love.'

At the conclusion of The Zapp Band set, Suzette Cowell, CEO of Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union, and Toledo City Councilman John Hobbs III presented The Zapp Band with a proclamation.

"On behalf of the City of Toledo and Toledo City Council. I want to present you with this proclamation," said Hobbs.

"Thank you, Thank you. Toledo and my friend, Suzette, this honor lets me know that God is real," explained The Zapp Band representative.

The festival weekend kicked off with a Friday prayer breakfast at The Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion and Saturday's parade in the morning, community day at the Glass City Center in the afternoon and Festival Concert starting at 3:00 p.m.

Festival sponsor: Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union. Festival supporters: Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, Toledo Museum of Art, University of Toledo, the Blade, TARTA, ECDI, 13abc news station, City of Toledo, Fifth Third Bank and Buckeye Broadband.



Suzette Cowell and Councilman John Hobbs give proclamation to Zapp Band rep



Freddie Jackson



The ZAPP Band



Event MCs



Comedian Kelly Williams



Vendor Divine Designz by Angela



Sweet Mama's Mambo Sauce booth



Toledo Opera's Ebony Waweru leads children in opera exercises during the AA Festival Community Day