



Nantasha Williams Coverage



28

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28.2B

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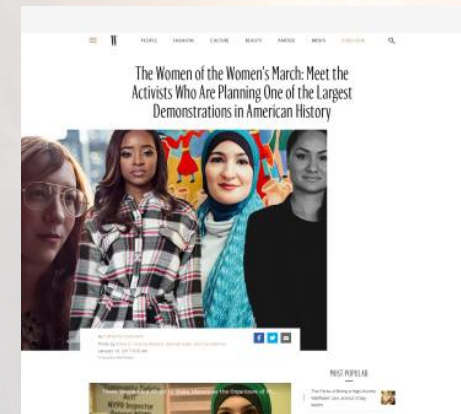
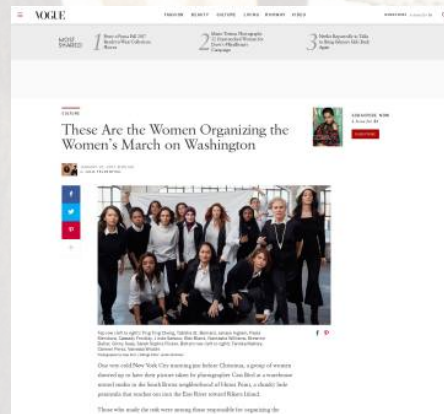
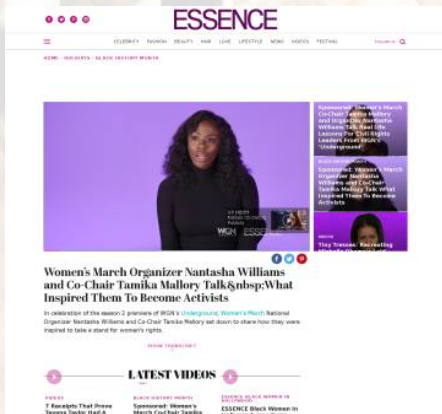
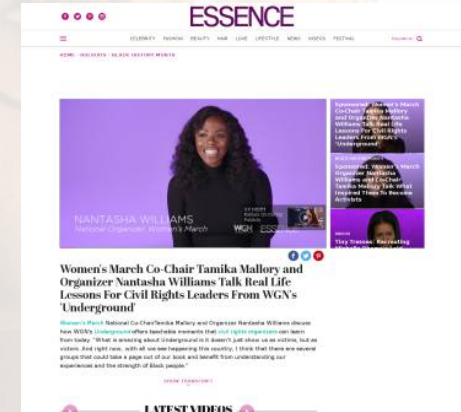
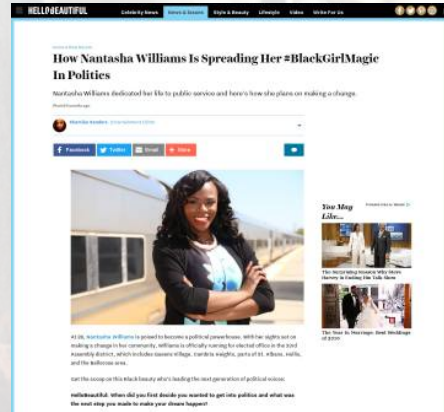
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YOUTUBE VIEWS:

66

AVERAGE DOMAIN AUTHORITY:







**National Activism and
Organization**



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CULTURE

These Are the Women Organizing the Women's March on Washington



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JANUARY 10, 2017 8:00 AM by JULIA FELSENTHAL



Top row (left to right): Ting Ting Cheng, Tabitha St. Bernard, Janaye Ingram, Paola Mendoza, Cassidy Fendlay, Linda Sarsour, Bob Bland, Nantasha Williams, Breanne Butler, Ginny Suss, Sarah Sophie Flicker. Bottom row (left to right): Tamika Mallory, Carmen Perez, Vanessa Wruble
Photographed by Cass Bird | Sittings Editor: Jordan Bickham



One very cold New York City morning just before Christmas, a group of women showed up to have their picture taken by photographer Cass Bird at a warehouse turned studio in the South Bronx neighborhood of Hunts Point, a chunky little peninsula that reaches out into the East River toward Rikers Island.

Those who made the trek were among those responsible for organizing the Women's March on Washington, a mass mobilization of activists and protestors that will descend on the capital on January 21, the day after we inaugurate into office a man who ran the most brazenly misogynistic presidential campaign in recent history, and whose victory has emboldened a Republican-led Congress to wage an epic war on women's rights.

Perhaps you're planning to be there? Perhaps you're bringing your mother, your grandmother, your daughter, your sister? You'll be in good company. Per the

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 10.8M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 18.5K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 88

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p 5



event's Facebook page at press time, 176,000 people are planning to attend, with another 250,000 still on the fence. It seems likely, said Linda Sarsour, one of four national cochairs acting as spokeswomen for the movement, that it will be "the largest mass mobilization that any new administration has seen on its first day."

Ahead of our shoot, emails flew back and forth about just how many organizers we could expect to show for the portrait. First it was 10. Then 15. Fourteen women materialized, but several of them informed me that it might have been more like 20.

That fluidity says something about the Women's March and how it functions; it's an organic, grassroots effort that prides itself on being inclusive, intersectional, and nonhierarchical, on taking what Bob Bland (one of the movement's cofounders, now serving as a national cochair) called "a horizontal approach to leadership."

It's also an all-hands-on-deck, eleventh-hour, race-to-the-finish-line kind of endeavor, which has required all 10, or 15, or 16, or 20 of its chief orchestrators to work around the clock since the week of the election. This is the type of national effort that the group's communications czar, Cassady Fendlay, told me could take "six months to a year to plan." These women had just over two months to pull it off.

"We don't sleep much, as you can probably tell from all our faces," Sarsour said drily, her own face framed by a fuchsia head scarf. She's Brooklyn born and bred (with the accent to prove it), the Muslim daughter of Palestinian immigrants, and a veteran activist who heads up the march's fundraising efforts. She juggles that with, among other things, her job as executive director of the Arab American Association of New York.

Sarsour was sitting with me during a bit of downtime before the shoot. "Hey, sweetie; hey, sweetie," she greeted a couple of her fellow organizers, wandering in late. Nearby, Bland's infant daughter, Chloe, born just after the election, began wailing.

"I couldn't get it together this morning to have her at home," announced Bland, her red hair tied up in Harajuku-style double topknots. "So I just brought her along." Later, Sarsour, in her mid-30s and the mother of three teenagers, would go over and use a baby blanket to swaddle the crying newborn tightly into what the activist called "a cigar" as a couple other women looked on admiringly. It takes a village, I thought to myself.

But that impression of cozy familiarity was not the whole picture. The day of our shoot, I later learned, was only the second time that this particular group of women had ever been in the same room. Some members of the team had worked together before: Sarsour and two of her fellow national cochairs, Tamika D. Mallory, an African-American civil rights activist and gun control advocate, and Carmen Perez, executive director of Harry Belafonte's Gathering for Justice, had collaborated on previous marches against police brutality, for example. But many of these women were newly acquainted strangers who communicated mostly by email and phone. "I'm not going to lie to you," Sarsour said. "When I started this process, more than half the women I'd never met in my life."

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(IMAGE 2 OF 7)

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"It's a bunch of people who have no idea who each other is, creating something massive," Vanessa Wruble, in charge of campaign operations, added later. "If you think about how hard it is to trust people normally, on a day-to-day basis," she said, "try to do that within the span of a month and a half." The activist smiled, in some mélange of frustration and awe, and gave her head a little shake.



Left to right: Nantasha Williams, Breanne Butler, Ting Ting Cheng, Ginny Suss, Bob Bland, Janaye Ingram, Paola Mendoza, Carmen Perez, Sarah Sophie Flicker, Tamika Mallory, Tabitha St. Bernard
Photographed by Cass Bird | Settings: Editor: Jorden Bickham



The story of how the Women's March on Washington came into being has already been codified into lore. As the returns rolled in on November 8, a Hawaiian grandmother and retired attorney named Teresa Shook created a Facebook page suggesting that women gather to protest in D.C. on inauguration weekend. Then she went to bed. By the time she woke up, 10,000 people had affirmed the plan.

Simultaneously, Bland, founder of the fashion incubator Manufacture New York and an advocate for domestic manufacturing, had a similar idea. She also posted about it on Facebook, where her followership had ballooned after she raised \$20,000 for Planned Parenthood by selling *Nasty Woman* and *Bad Hombre* T-shirts. "We need to form a resistance movement that's about what is positive," she remembered thinking. "Something that will help empower us to wake up in the morning and feel that women still matter."

It wasn't long before Shook and Bland caught wind of each other and consolidated their efforts. Soon Wruble became aware of their plan. In her real life she runs OkayAfrica, a media platform seeking to change Western perceptions of Africa that she cofounded with her business partner, Ginny Suss (also the march's production director) and The Roots drummer Questlove. Having worked for years as a white person in a black space, Wruble quickly recognized that Shook and Bland, both white, could not be the sole faces of the protest they were starting to organize. "I think I wrote, 'You need to make sure this is led or centered around women of color, or it will be a bunch of white women marching on Washington,'" she paraphrased. "That's not okay right now, especially after 53 percent of white women who voted, voted for Donald Trump."

Bland agreed, and Wruble reached out to a friend, activist Michael Skolnik, who recommended she and Bland talk to Mallory and Perez. The latter two activists

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brought Sarsour to the table shortly thereafter.

Somewhere in there, controversy bloomed over the name Shook had floated: the Million Women March, which threatened to overwrite the history of a same-name protest by thousands of African-American women in Philadelphia in 1997. It was Wruble who proposed that they call it the Women's March on Washington instead, locating their protest in direct lineage with the 1963 March on Washington, the occasion for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

The new coordinators even reached out to the civil rights leader's daughter, Bernice King, who offered her blessing and shared with them a quote from her mother, Coretta Scott King. Perez read it to me when we followed up by phone a couple weeks after the shoot: "Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul."

"It gave us all chills," she remembered. "It assured us that we were moving in the right direction."

What I think she meant is this: Where past waves of feminism, led principally by white women, have focused predominantly on a few familiar concerns—equal pay, reproductive rights—this movement, led by a majority of women of color, aspires to be truly intersectional. So though the Women's March has partnered with organizations like Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America—and though second-wave feminist icon Gloria Steinem is now an honorary cochair—the march's purview is far more sweeping. Women are not a monolith, solely defined by gender; we are diverse, we represent half of this country, and any social justice movement—for the rights of immigrants, Muslims, African-Americans, the LGBTQ community, for law enforcement accountability, for gun control, for environmental justice—should count as a "women's issue."

If you're a woman in America, you probably feel personally affected by at least a couple of those struggles. "Women are Muslims," Sarsour offered. "Women could be black Muslims. Women could be black Muslims and African and undocumented." Personally, she said, she might care about immigration, "but I also understand that if I don't have a planet to live on in 30 years, my civil liberties are quite moot."

"Yes, it's about feminism," Wruble elaborated. "But it's about more than that: It's about basic equality for all people." Women's rights, in other words, are human rights, a turn of phrase that march leaders, several of them self-identified Bernie Sanders supporters, have reclaimed from a 1995 speech by Hillary Clinton. And if you believe Coretta Scott King (and can look past the results of the presidential election), where women lead, men will eventually follow.

"I think it has been the downfall of the progressive movement in the United States," Sarsour told me, "that we have not figured out how to organize all the different progressive social justice movements into one intersectional movement." Pluralism is a sacred principle. Identity politics is important, but so is winning elections: What makes a pluralistic electorate, with its deep rifts, its tensions, its conflicting agendas, cohere into an actual voting block? If the women behind the march pull this off on the scale they're hoping for, their success at communicating a message that resonates with a wide array of

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success at communicating a message that resonates with a wide array of communities, that activates the formerly politically complacent across racial and cultural lines, could offer a blueprint to the flailing Democratic Party.

Those may be the unspoken stakes, but the organizers are insistent that the march be treated as a nonpartisan protest. It will surely send a message to Trump, but the coordinators explicitly want to leave his name out of it. "He's a narcissist," Sarsour pointed out. "He wants us to make this all about him."

It's bigger than him. "Racism, misogyny is in the fabric of this country," insisted Perez. "I think Trump was just an individual who was able to ignite a spark, awaken a sleeping giant."

She meant the racist, misogynistic minority of voters who tipped the balance in the president-elect's favor (along with those who looked the other way so that they could cling to his promises of simple fixes to complex problems). But I couldn't help but think that the sleeping giant might also refer to the masses of women who seem suddenly eager to get political in the face of a president who offends and frightens them to their core, the women who, after a long campaign cycle in which they saw their candidate forced into a perpetual defensive crouch, would like to mobilize *for* something and not just against something.

"This is absolutely not just about us having a symbolic march in Washington and that's it," said Bland. "It can't be that way. We've helped facilitate the self-activation of so many people. Because when you think about it, especially those first 48 hours when people were just saying, 'Yes, yes, yes'—that's them self-selecting into a movement. When we get together, who knows what we can do."

Mallory, who grew up in the projects of Harlem in the '90s, in a family directly affected by Bill Clinton's omnibus crime bill, who has spent the past two decades on the front lines fighting for her community's civil rights, shared a slightly more cynical, world-weary view. "Maybe it took your own pain to realize that we're all bound up in this thing together," she said. "For me, success for this march doesn't happen on January 21. It happens after."

You've probably already guessed: All has not been seamless or simple in the organization of the march. Many of its leaders were quick to speak to how difficult it has been to align so many different agendas into a single movement. "We never shy away from history, from the difficulty of where this started," I was told by Paola Mendoza, a Colombia-born filmmaker serving as artistic director for the rally portion of the program. (She and Suss are wrangling high-profile talent like actress America Ferrera, who is chairing a group called the Artist Table that includes, among others, Scarlett Johansson, Margo Jefferson, Frances McDormand, Amy Schumer, and Zendaya.)

"It goes to show how inclusive we're trying to make this movement," Mendoza said. Muddling through differences of opinion and experience has required what Perez referred to as "real, courageous conversations"; what Wruble called "really uncomfortable discussions." (For more on that dialog, check out this piece from the *New York Times* about the tensions that permeate the march at every level).

Mallory told me that the friction came as no surprise. "There's always conflict, even when all black folks are organizing," she said. "Because it's discussions that

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people shy away from. They don't want to talk about issues of race, of white privilege. It's, 'Woo! Why do we have to talk about that?' There are those, particularly in this movement, who want to have an 'all women matter' conversation. Our position"—and by this, I assumed she was speaking for her community, not for all her fellow organizers—"is that all women do matter. But black women are particularly suffering. And therefore the black women's voices will be heard. Not just heard, but leading the charge."

Any internecine struggles were well below the surface on the day of the shoot, where I watched this loose confederation of women, dressed in a uniform of black jeans and crisp white shirts, goofing off on set as they awaited further instructions.

The women were getting a little cabin-feverish after a long day of waiting around. Music played on the sound system, girl power anthems like Diana Ross's disco hit "I'm Coming Out." Wruble danced with Nantasha Williams, a 28-year-old from Queens who'd recently lost her run for New York State Assembly and was now volunteering as Mallory's right-hand woman. Several women took selfies. Perez emerged from a makeshift changing area in a sharply tailored black coat. "Okay, Neo!" crowed Janaye Ingram, the woman in charge of on-the-ground logistics.

Earlier, Sarsour had pointed Ingram out to me as "the poor lady who had to get asked about the permit," referring to a series of news stories speculating that the organizers had either failed to apply for the correct clearances or might yet be rejected by federal agencies. Those concerns have been allayed, and per Ingram, the permits were never actually in doubt—the hubbub surrounding them had been an annoying distraction. Perez later pointed out the underlying sexism at play in the media: "Was Dr. King being asked if he had a permit?" she asked. "Is it because we're women, and people think we're incapable of organizing and mobilizing such a major event?"

Bird was ready to shoot. She instructed her subjects to arrange themselves in two rows. "The back goes high," she said, "and the front goes low."

"When they go low, we go high," Ingram quipped, quoting the line from Michelle Obama's rousing DNC speech that became Hillary Clinton's rallying cry. But when Bird started snapping photos, the women of the Women's March channeled a different woman's words. Fists raised, they followed Perez in a call and response chant cribbed from Assata Shakur, the Black Liberation Army member controversially convicted of murder in the '70s, who escaped prison and has lived for decades in exile in Cuba. "It is our duty to fight for our freedom," Perez shouted, the rest of the group echoing her. "It is our duty to win. We must love and protect one another. We have nothing to lose but our chains!"

Later, the women put on coats—a mismatched assortment in shades of purple inspired by the suffragists—and assembled outside in the middle of Lafayette Avenue. It was bitterly cold, and pedestrians were few and far between, but those who scurried by did a double take. A couple cars crept up and honked at the road-blockers, and the activists, *Wayne's World*-style, cleared the way.

During a long pause in traffic, they returned to the middle of the street, arranged themselves in a semicircle, and began stalking toward Bird as she walked backward, camera raised. But each woman moved at her own pace and within

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seconds the “u” had become a squiggly line.

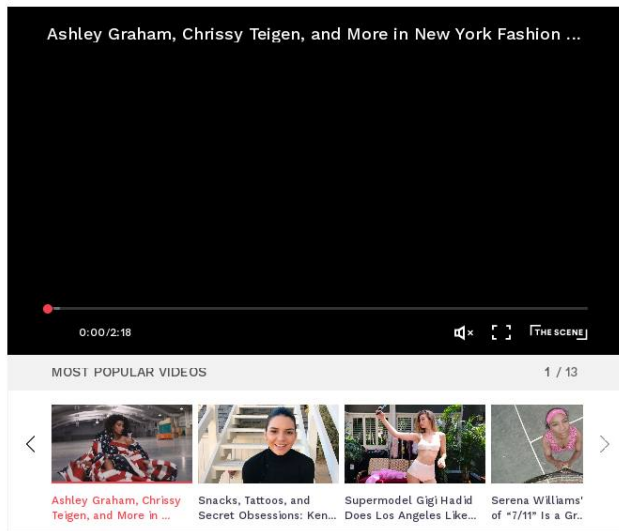
It suddenly occurred to me that the women in charge of the Women’s March were good at a lot of things, but marching wasn’t yet one of them. A photo assistant tried to help. “Right, left, right, left,” he called out. “Too slow!” some of the women retorted.

Then Sarah Sophie Flicker chimed in. An activist with a background in political theater and media production—she worked extensively with the Clinton campaign—she had described her role to me as “trying to fill vacuums and show up where I’m needed.”

Here was a need for her kind of stagecraft, and an illustration of the flexibility of horizontal leadership in action. “The ends go, the middle stays,” Flicker suggested, as the semicircle reconstituted itself for another try. And that, at least for a few crucial moments, seemed to do the trick: Fourteen individuals melted into a single organism. Bird glided backward, finger on the shutter. And the women of the Women’s March lurched forward, in tenuous formation, as one.

Set Design: Nick des Jardins

Hair by Ilker Akyol and Makeup by Mariko Arai



In This Story: POLITICS



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The Women of the Women's March: Meet the Activists Who Are Planning One of the Largest Demonstrations in American History



by Katherine Cusumano

Photo by Driely S., Victoria Stevens, Hannah Sider, and Tyra Mitchell.

January 19, 2017 8:00 am

Produced by Blai Parklee.



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On Saturday, January 21, 2017, activist Carmen Perez will turn 40; Donald Trump will wake up for the first time as president of the United States; and hundreds of thousands of women—led by Perez, Tamika Mallory, Linda Sarsour, and Bob Bland—will participate in the Women’s March on Washington, which is poised to be one of the largest and farthest-reaching demonstrations in support of a wide swath of social justice interests and organizations in the history of the nation’s capital.

Just two months after Donald Trump edged out Hillary Clinton to win the presidential election, the march’s inception now has the patina of myth. Teresa Shook, a retired grandmother living in Hawaii, created a Facebook event for a march in Washington, D.C. shortly after the election was called in favor of Trump. She invited around 40 friends, went to bed, and awoke the next morning to a viral success: More than 10,000 users had clicked “attending.” At the same time, on the opposite side of the country, fashion entrepreneur Bob Bland posted her own event, mobilizing the following she had cultivated after her own viral success: The “Nasty Woman” and “Bad Hombre” t-shirts she produced raised \$20,000 in support of Planned Parenthood in three days. Within a day, they had joined forces; on the advice of Vanessa Wruble, editor of OkayAfrica and head of campaign operations for the Women’s March, that it not be organized by white women alone, Bland connected with Perez and Mallory. Sarsour, who had previously worked with them, soon followed. (Shook, who declined to take a central role in leading the march, will meet Bland for the first time in person this weekend in Washington, D.C.) Trump’s victory also revealed deep fissures in the American social and political landscape that prompted many people who had no previous experience in activism to seek an outlet for their fear and anger. While three of the four national co-chairs of the Women’s March are professional activists and organizers—Sarsour is the executive director of the Arab-American Association of New York, Perez is the head of The Gathering for Justice, and Mallory is an experienced gun-control advocate and civil rights activist who previously helmed the Rev. Al Sharpton’s National Action Network—many of the women participating are not. Prior to that fateful Facebook post, Bland had participated in Get Out the Vote efforts across Brooklyn in the lead-up to the 2016 election, and growing up just outside Washington, D.C., she recalled occasionally protesting and canvassing alongside her mother, a volunteer for local Democratic candidates, but she didn’t consider herself an activist.

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MEET THE WOMEN WHO ARE MAKING THE WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON HAPPEN





1/21

Linda Sarsour

The executive director of the Arab American Association of New York, Linda Sarsour — a Brooklyn native, mother of three, and now one of the national co-chairs of the Women's March on Washington — has been working at the crossroads of civil rights, religious freedom, and racial justice for 15 years. Once an aspiring English teacher, she joined the Arab American Association in its infancy, succeeding founder Basemah Atweh, her mentor, as executive director with Atweh's death in 2005. "I grew out of the shadow of 9/11," Sarsour said. "What I've seen out of bad always comes good, is that solidarity and unity, particularly amongst communities of color who feel like they're all impacted by the same system."

Photo by Driely S, Produced by Bial Parklee.

"Heck, I didn't even consider myself a feminist," she told me. "And it wasn't because I'm not a feminist — I just didn't really know what it meant." (Now, she's very much a feminist, and very much an activist: "I think I've at least earned that title out of this," she said.)

While many of the organizers have been working 16, 18, 20-hour days, juggling the march with their full-time jobs and other responsibilities, they agreed on this: The fervor of organizing the march, its breakneck pace, has served as a welcome antidote to the fear, anger, and malaise that have permeated the weeks since the Trump victory. "There's nothing more healing than a group of powerful women coming together and planning some radical stuff," said Sarah Sophie Flicker, an activist and artist, creative director of Art Not War, and a member of the Women's March national organizing committee.

Sarsour echoed her sentiments. "I don't really have time to do it, but you know what? I'm so angry at the things that are around me that I'm going to take that anger and translate it into some productive work, which is what I'm doing now for this march," she said.

The Women's March on Washington is unprecedented in scale — in sheer volume of attendees, in the array of issues it encompasses, and in the diversity at all levels of leadership, from the national to the local level. The national committee comprises 50 women with overlapping responsibilities, from fundraising to logistics to communications and arranging partnerships. This diffuse, decentralized structure ensures marchers aren't just answering to one leader, Mallory explained — and as a result, the movement will outlast any particular demonstration. Community organizers across the country have helped coordinate transportation and logistics for their constituents aiming to get to Washington, D.C. Solidarity marches have also sprung up in cities including San Francisco, New York, Park City, Raleigh, Shreveport, Albuquerque, Paris, Accra, Warsaw — at the time this article was published, there were an estimated 616 sister marches around the world.

"It's given a lot of the people involved in it a new outlook on what female leadership is supposed to look like," said ShiShi Rose, a writer and activist who operates social media — especially Instagram — for the Women's March.



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(IMAGE 3 OF 7)

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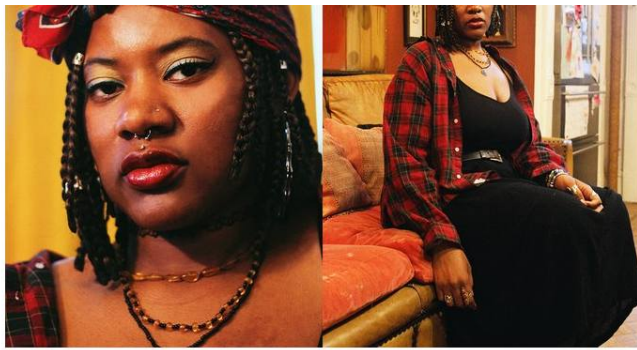


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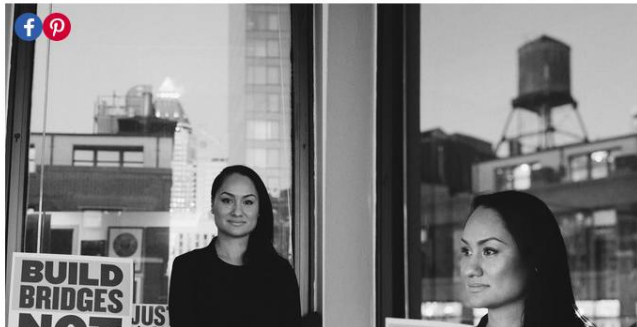




Shishi Rose. Photo by Tyra Mitchell.

And it's not just optics — diverse members of different races, ethnicities, gender identities, levels of experience, ages, regions, all serve to ensure that the needs and desires of those communities are represented in the march's principles. Not only that — intersectional feminism requires addressing this tangled web, acknowledging that each of these factors are contingent and codependent.

“What we have been doing is ensuring that the voices of women across this country, women of color, that their voices are heard and that we are the mouthpiece to be able to speak on their behalf, and to ensure that this movement looks like what it means to be a woman in this country,” Mallory said. The Women's March on Washington borrows its name from Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic March on Washington — and it comes with the blessing of his daughter, Bernice King — building on generations of social justice movements while correcting for some of their shortcomings. Historical movements have often failed to account for the intersection of race, gender, and class. Many early-20th-century suffragettes allied with white supremacists and anti-abolitionists, pitting their own voting rights against those of black men and women in the decades after the Civil War. If they couldn't have the vote, reasoned prominent suffragettes like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, then neither should black men. Black women, on the other hand, disenfranchised because of both race and gender, were instructed to march at the back of the Women's Suffrage Parade in Washington, D.C., in 1913. Today, equal voting rights for men and women alike are again at risk due to partisan voter identification laws in states like Texas, whose new legislation Ruth Bader Ginsberg argued in a 2014 dissent was “purposely discriminatory” due to its outsized impact on black and Latino voters. While much has changed, women of color still have to speak up the loudest in support of their own interests in order to be heard at all, and issues affecting all women frequently disproportionately affect women of color.



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Carmen Perez: Photo by Hannah Sider.

The Women's March on Washington is tough to describe without modifiers, lists, and lengthy explanations. There's no concise way to express its founding principles, aims, its organizers' extensive backgrounds in various arenas of social justice, the movements it encompasses. No list is exhaustive. But that's precisely the point: "We are not a monolith," Flicker said. "We all come to the table with different pressing issues, and what that means is beyond talking about reproductive justice and equal pay, immigration, xenophobia, Black Lives Matter, mass incarceration, health care, minimum wage, ensuring that families coming to America are able to stay together, LGBTQIA, these are all women's issues."

Add climate justice on top of all of that, and this multifaceted approach could dilute any individual message instead of demonstrating their symbiosis. But then, a week before the march, Sarsour, Perez, and a committee of contributors including writer Janet Mock and Kelley Robinson of Planned Parenthood released a four-page outline of marching orders — the Unity Principles, a document that delineates what, exactly, they march for. It brings diverse issues into alignment. These competing interests depend on each other; as Sarsour put it, "We have to work in this intersectional way or we're not going to win any of the fights that we have."

The Unity Principles is a kind of codification of #WhyIMarch, the hashtag that has united marchers across social media. Perez initially envisioned a single call to action describing the goals of the march, which soon evolved into a three-tiered set of issues — but even that proved insufficient. "Though we were centering women, centering women of color, we were centering the most marginalized communities that were impacted by our president-elect's racist rhetoric, it was really difficult to only identify three issues that we would then plug people into," she said. As the volume of issues at hand grew, so, too, did the panel of women convened to draw up the Unity Principles, from a handful of individuals to a diverse group representing both themselves and sponsoring organizations (Perez's Gathering for Justice is one of the primary partners of the Women's March).



W Magazine

JAN 19 2017

(IMAGE 5 OF 7)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.45M**

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4.9K



5



9



14





Tanika D. Mallory, Photo by Victoria Stevens.

That doesn't mean the march has been beyond reproach. It's navigating a complicated web of issues ranging from reproductive rights to gun control and police brutality to climate justice, and it's contended with weaving together disparate, sometimes competing interests into a cohesive whole. A pro-life group, the Texas-based New Wave Feminists, was added to, and then dropped from, the list of march sponsors following a story in *The Atlantic*. (Also listed among the march's sponsors are organizations like Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America, but it's not underwritten by any one interest group.) It confronted questions about required permits from the National Park Service; a contentious Facebook post about white allies on the Women's March page prompted a swift response from white women who no longer felt welcome at the event while stimulating important conversations about privilege — including a video response from Rose, who penned the original Facebook post.

"We are humans with identities, and our identities, for better or worse, they do create different opportunities and different struggles," Flicker said. "To me, one of the more saddening things about the election was this sort of rejection of intellectualism and nuance, as if we can't have courageous, complicated, nuanced conversations. We need to reinstate our vast ability to do that." These conversations have no end. They have no right answer. There are people who have been having these conversations, who are just joining them, who might not join until January 21 or later. They will be divisive at times; they're uncomfortable; they surface decades-old tensions in hopes of maybe, finally, exorcising them — or at least holding each other accountable. But on Saturday, the Women's March on Washington marches as one. Mallory and Perez and Sarsour; Flicker and her three children; Rose; Bland and her seven-week-old infant, her six-year-old daughter, and her 74-year-old mother will march. Then, the marchers, invigorated, galvanized by the sheer power of the movement, hundreds of thousands of bodies marching as one, return to their communities — and that's when it all really begins.

"The work doesn't stop just because we stop marching," Ro RELATED



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Women's March Organizer Nantasha Williams and Co-Chair Tamika Mallory Talk What Inspired Them To Become Activists

In celebration of the season 2 premiere of WGN's *Underground*, Women's March National Organizer Nantasha Williams and Co-Chair Tamika Mallory sat down to share how they were inspired to take a stand for women's rights.

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Women's March National Co-Chair Tamika Mallory and Organizer Nantasha Williams discuss how WGN's *Underground* offers teachable moments that **civil rights organizers** can learn from today. "What is amazing about Underground is it doesn't just show us as victims, but as victors. And right now, with all we see happening this country, I think that there are several groups that could take a page out of our book and benefit from understanding our experiences and the strength of Black people."

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gabriellewilson spent this international women's day with a lot of cool, intelligent, strong women like @nantastic and the other organizers of #daywithoutawoman

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Meet 14 of the Badass Babes You Have to Thank for Yesterday's Marches

Nicole Briese • Jan 22, 2017



Yesterday's marches were nothing short of amazing for so many, many reasons, and while it was undoubtedly made special by all the many, many civilians that participated, you have to stop to wonder, at some point, how it came to be: How did anyone ever manage to get all that passion, all that talent, all that female power together in such collective force?



Because while it seemed to run seamlessly (miraculously, not one arrest was made in DC), SOMEONE had to organize it. Indeed, the 14 ladies profiled below are just a few of the faces we all have to thank for yesterday's greatness. Together, these ladies managed to throw an event that boasted an attendance of roughly 3 million worldwide in two months. Two months! Take a moment to let that sink in. The biggest inaugural event in history was organized in less time than it takes most people to plan a wedding. Meet several of their key members below.

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(IMAGE 1 OF 9)

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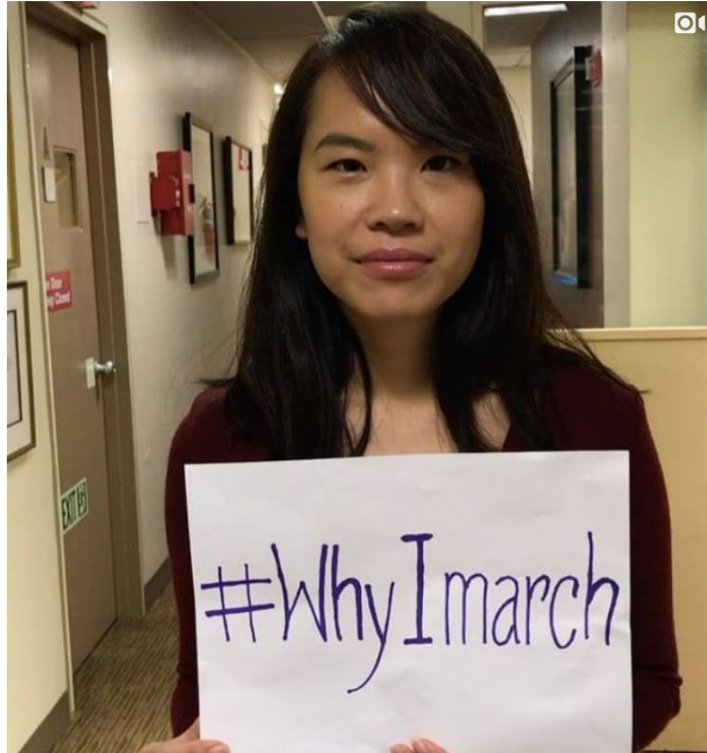
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1. **Ting Ting Cheng, Legal Director:** A New York public defender with a background in human rights, Ting Ting champions for women's equality on the daily, making the march a natural extension of her overall being.



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(IMAGE 2 OF 9)

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2. **Tabitha St. Bernard, Youth Initiative Coordinator:** A fashion designer for Tabii Just, "zero waste clothing made in USA," and a mother of one, Tabitha said she's "just a regular mom marching for her family." While we'd beg to differ about that whole "regular" bit, we got her drift when she said, "This march is not just for activists. This march is for everyday women like me who love America and want to see it succeed." Hear, hear! (Photo via Michael Stewart/Getty)



3. **Janaye Ingram, Head of Logistics:** Full of both beauty and brains, Janaye is perhaps best

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known as a former Miss USA pageant contestant, but she's far, far more than just a pretty face: After receiving a BA in psychology, she headed to DC to take on a role as the DC Bureau Chief of Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network, where she served through 2015. Dang, girl! (Photo via Marcus Ingram/Getty)



4. **Paola Mendoza, Artistic Director:** A Colombian-born filmmaker (you may have seen her documentary *Z for Zendaya* about Zendaya), author and activist, Paola has won awards for her film, *Entre Nos*, about her mom's struggle as a single, immigrant parent of two. Needless to say, she's kinnrnd of a diehard for immigrant rights and, clearly, women's too — she acted as the march's artistic director. She's now hard at work on her second feature film, *A Paso de Mangles*. (Photo via Vivien Killilea/Getty)



5. **Cassady Fendlay, Head of Communications:** As the communications lead, we can only assume that it was Cassady's job to get the word about the march out, and boy, did she ever!

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Having worked with Linda Sarsour (see below) on prior marches, like the March 2 Justice back in April, she certainly had the know-how: Though much smaller in size (100 marchers over 250 miles), the march was still considered to be wildly successful. (Photo via [@CassadyF](#))



6. **Linda Sarsour, National Co-Chair:** As the executive director of the [Arab American Association of New York](#) and the co-founder of [MPOWER Change](#), the first online-organizing Muslim platform, this isn't Linda's first rodeo: She has not only organized human rights events like the 250-mile "March 2 Justice" that occurred last April, but she's received numerous awards and honors for her efforts. Did we mention she's also the mom of three? *Bowing down* (Photo via Theo Wargo/Getty)



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7. **Bob Bland, National Co-Chair:** With a baby slug across her chest, Bob Bland was one of yesterday's more memorable speakers, as she admitted to the crowd that she'd never done anything like that before. Prior to acting as the organization's national co-chair, Bob was doing just fine operating as the founder/CEO of [Manufacture New York](#) and a fashion designer for her own brand, [Brooklyn Royalty](#). She became one of the march's key organizers and founders after a Facebook post about an idea for a positive resistance movement led to yesterday's events, making her living proof that you don't have to be a political vet to make a difference.



8. **Nantasha Williams, Logistics:** Nantasha has served as the Executive Director of the [New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus](#) (try saying THAT three times fast!), so she's well-versed in both diversity and inclusion: Key points made at yesterday's marches. Oh. And did we mention she has also run for office?



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9. **Breanne Butler, Global Co-Coordinator:** Breanne's day job differs wildly from that of many of the other women — she's a NYC chef, as well as the CEO of candy jewelry company by Breanne — but it seemed to translate to the world of activism just fine: As the campaign's [site](#) quips, "She has been able to use her experience in organizing kitchens to help organize almost 400 600 marches around the world." (Photo via Monica Schipper/Getty)



10. **Ginny Suss, Producer:** A video producer that has worked for The Roots and also serving as the VP and video content producer for [OkayPlayer](#) and [OkayAfrica](#), Ginny has the visual thing down. Given the stunning photo visuals that we saw from yesterday, we can only imagine the video footage she managed to nab! (Photo via Johnny Nunez/Getty)

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11. **Sarah Sophie Flicker, Strategic Advisor:** What ISN'T Sarah Sophie is perhaps a better question. Her credits include that of a performer (that's Sarah with her leg in the air), writer, aerialist, mom, activist, director, dancer...the list goes on and on. (Photo via Patrick McMullen/Getty)



12. **Tamika Mallory, National Co-Chair:** This social justice champ worked with the Obama

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(IMAGE 8 OF 9)

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Administration to create programs such as the [NYC Crisis Management System](#) for gun prevention. She now heads up her own #GirlBoss company in Mallory Consulting. (Photo via Noam Galai/Getty)



13. **Carmen Perez, National Co-Chair:** Carmen is another activism vet, serving as the executive director of [The Gathering for Justice](#). She's also responsible for co-founding The Justice League task-force branches of NYC and CA, all of which work to stop child incarceration and racial inequality in the judicial system. She was called to action after the death of her 19-year-old sister spurred her to help other youths when she was just 17 years old, making her one of the group's more senior activist members. (Photo via Theo Wargo/Getty)



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In Formation: What You Need To Know About The Women's March On Washington

Nantasha Williams, an organizer for the march, speaks out on what you should know before Saturday.

Posted 2 months ago.

Keyaira Kelly, Staff Writer @keyairakelly

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Source: Anadolu Agency / Getty

On January 21st, 2017, thousands of women will descend on the nation's capital and congregate in cities around the nation the day after Donald Trump takes office to fight for women's equality and defend marginalized populations. Motivated by the vicious language of Trump's campaign that threatened and insulted immigrants, POC, Muslims, the LGBTQIA community, native people, disabled people and sexual assault survivors, the organizers of the movement seek to send a message to those in power that we will stand united to defend human rights.

HB spoke to one of the organizers, Nantasha Williams, about what you need to know before you join the march in your city and around the country. Williams, who ran for office in the 33rd Assembly District in Queens, New York, calls Women's March organizer Tamika Mallory, a 'big sister' who asked her to join the mass movement. The request was timely for Williams, who was already planning her next big step after coming close to winning her local election. Living by the motto, 'If you don't have a seat at the table, you are on the menu,' Williams joined the movement, and dropped these major keys about empowerment, organization, and using your

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voice.

- 1. Intersectionality is paramount to the success of the movement.** *"If you have one monolithic voice, you aren't speaking for the women in this country and their families," Williams told HB. Noting the historical divide between White feminists and Black feminists, Williams reinforces the importance of unity and representation. "In this day and age, especially after this past presidential race and that rhetoric, we need to make sure Black women, Latino women, Muslim women are all apart of the conversation and have a definitive say in shaping the country's agenda for women and their families." This march is one of many steps towards inclusivity so every woman is represented in the reshaping of political and social policy.*
- 2. We're All In This Together.** Even though Williams helped organize the event, she said there are no 'experts.' Which means, novices welcomed. *"This is the first time I've been involved in something like this. I've worked in government, I've been somewhat involved in different activist activities in New York, but I've never participated in an event of this caliber of resistance,"* she explained. This march definitely welcomes every woman whether it's her first march or her 100th.
- 3. Come Prepared.** Since most of the activities will take place outside, it's important to make sure you are dressed appropriately and have what you need for the day. *"No wooden signs. Keep a small bag. Dress for the weather,"* Williams told HB.
- 4. Read Up On the Tentpoles Of The Movement.** Know what you're marching for. The organizers of the Women's March have outlined key principles that are the staple of the movement. The principles include ending violence, reproductive rights, LGBTQIA rights, worker's rights, civil rights, disability rights, immigrant rights, and environmental justice. You can read more details about each tentpole [here](#).

For more information, head over to the resources page for the [march](#).

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One Player's Opinion: Why Being At The Women's March on Washington, D.C. Is Important

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Photo of "Hope Not Fear" done by Cannell-Louisa (@WeezyVC).

As we reflect on the past year we've observed an unprecedented shift in attention on social change and political participation. Attention for crucial issues like racial justice, police brutality, civil rights, LGBTQ rights and women's rights have all gleamed a newly energized base of support. Over the last decade social activism has been on rise and has seen an even greater resurgence within the last two years. Whether it was the **#BlackLivesMatter** Movement, Standing Rock, Occupy Wall Street, the Chicano Movement, the LGBTQ Movement or the disability movement — people from all walks of life gathered, organized and protested against injustices. As we settle into 2017, we will continue to see civil disobedience, agitation against oppression and advocacy for justice — but we must also be deliberate in demanding results. Every form of social activism can be related to women's rights and the protection of their families. This week's **Women's March on Washington**, which started virally, is poised to address a myriad of issues that address the social climate here in America. Shaping up to be a historic event, this march will gather women from all walks of life and enable them to express their thoughts + concerns with what is going on in the nation.

After last year's elections, the climate of energized political participation helped to inform my own personal dedication to affect change. I began my career in the nonprofit world after undergrad and I advocated for more sound criminal justice

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policies. This exposure stirred my direction into public administration. While pursuing my Masters Degree, I got the opportunity to work for the **Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus** in New York, where I eventually became the youngest executive director in office. Working inside of an actual government facility was a huge eye-opener for me into how policies (and the lack thereof) greatly impacted communities in need. The experience of dealing with those obstacles led me to running for the New York Senate Assembly during the 2016 election cycle. And even though my run was unsuccessful (I came in close second) — I was fueled by my devotion to these causes to press forward, stay active and help to organize the community.

So, after the Nov. 8th election, I was in a state of disarray, coupled with flashbacks of my own campaign and primary election results. The most pressing question I had was, "What can be done?" and "How did we get here?". The following week after the election, I saw **Tamika Mallory**, who is one of the co-chairs I worked with and is a mentor of mine. She was posting about the Women's March and I immediately reached out to offer her my help. By getting involved with the Women's March, it allowed me to wrestle with one of my questions, "What can be done?". The Women's March is such a powerful platform and a much needed response to last year's insanity that I wanted to ensure that this gathering of like minds sends a bold message to the rest of the country. Yes, marching for one day won't yield immediate change like an impeachment of **Donald Trump** and his cabinet of cronies, but social change has never been done by one method alone. It is the combination of grassroots efforts, protesting, civil disobedience, mobilizing and resistance with the addition of lobbying, advocacy, politics and legislation.

Tamika was excited that I wanted to help out and wasted no time in bringing me on board. From the moment I offered my help to right this very moment, I and Tamika have been working closely together every day on troubleshooting all aspects of the Women's March. In addition to that, I have also been responsible for College Mobilization — making sure that the young, budding minds of the future are well prepared to handle and be aware of the situations of importance in America. As a millennial myself, I support this next generation, this "Gen Z," and it has been an amazing experience to work so closely and intently with with college students to ensure that they are engaged.

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(L-R back row) Bob Bland, Nantasha Williams, Jamiah Adams, Ginny Suss, Carmen Perez, Gloria Steinem, Linda Sarsour, Janaye Ingram and (front row) Mia Ives-Rublee
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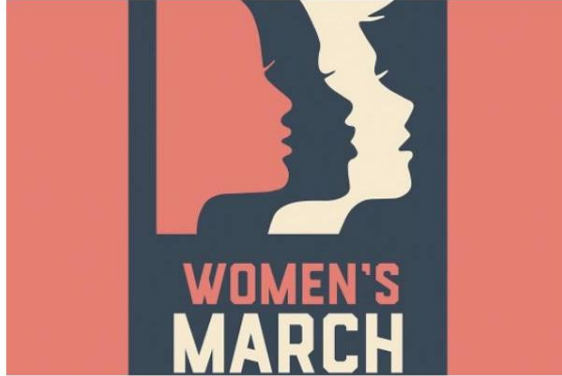


Women's March On Washington - Rally



Women are sharing empowered stories of “Why I March” on social media ahead of the women’s march on Washington

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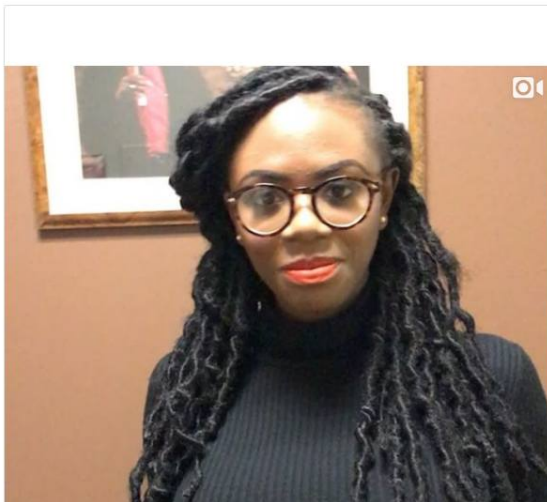
Women are sharing empowered stories of “Why I March” on social media ahead of the women’s march on Washington

It's only one week until the Women's March on Washington takes place and we're already feeling empowered. Women are sharing “Why I March” stories on social media ahead of the march and it's so inspiring.

About a month ago, the organizers of Women's March on Washington created their Instagram page and have been sharing women's stories on why they plan to walk ever since.

The march itself takes place on January 21st, 2017, and although the walk itself is important, it's the stories by women of America that we should pay attention to right now.

“I am marching because we really have to take a stand and ensure that the incoming administration speaks to the issues of everybody — especially women, and women of color,” social architect Nantasha Williams said on Women's March's Instagram page.



Popular in the Community



George Michael Died of Natural Causes, Coroner Rules
178 messages 4% 69% 27%



'The Bachelor' week 10 recap
3 messages 0% 100% 0%



Trump 'very confident' over his unsubstantiated wiretap claims, confidant says
975 messages 4% 62% 34%



The Krappy Kamera Competition
1 messages



Women are sharing empowered stories of Why I March on social media ahead of the womens march on Washington

JAN 14 2017

(IMAGE 1 OF 4)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **5.96B**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.91M**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **98**



9





"It's important that we elevate our voices and we don't wait, that we are out there early to make sure people know that we are not playing around, and that we will be monitoring what happens, consistently and constantly to ensure that a lot of the good things that we have received during the Obama administration remain," she continued. "And also to make sure that other things that we didn't get in the Obama administration, actually we see it come to pass."

Williams isn't the only woman speaking up and speaking out using the [#WhyImarch](#) hashtag and a short video for inspiration.

"I march for justice and equality," Ting Ting Cheng, a member of the Women's March organization said in her video.



Investors are no longer snapping up Snapchat

Trump Knows the Feds Are Closing In on Him
1073 messages

4% 69% 36%

Hunter McGrady's Supersexy Red Carpet Look Has an Important Message

4688 messages

6% 52% 42%

The woman behind the story behind the Trump Twitter storm

2100 messages

3% 66% 31%



Photos of the day - March 5, 2017

14 messages

6% 76% 18%



Prince Jackson opens up about father Michael Jackson's legacy

9 messages

8% 86% 14%

North Korea says missiles were drill for strike on US bases

1560 messages

4% 69% 27%

97-year-old twins leave world as they entered it: together

873 messages

11% 59% 30%

Women are sharing empowered stories of Why I March on social media ahead of the womens march on Washington

JAN 14 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 4)

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Women are sharing empowered stories of Why I March on social media ahead of the womens march on Washington

JAN 14 2017

(IMAGE 3 OF 4)

Edita explains why she'll be at the Women's March in NYC on January 21 marching with Having Kids. #WhyIMarch #WomensMarch #HavingKids #familyplanning #environmentalist www.HavingKids.org

A photo posted by Having Kids (@havingkidsorg) on Jan 13, 2017 at 10:07am PST



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Women are sharing empowered stories of Why I March on social media ahead of the womens march on Washington

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(IMAGE 4 OF 4)

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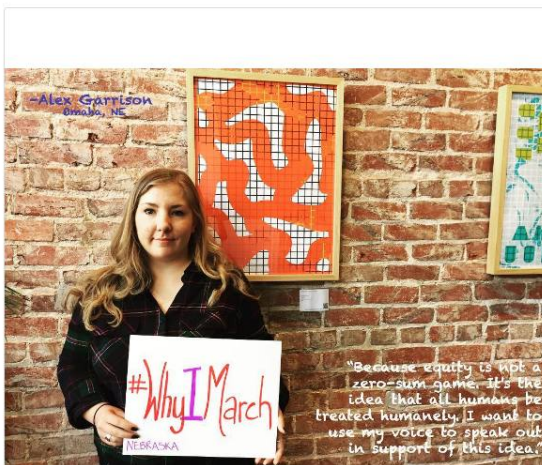
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9

Being a woman means standing up for OUR GIRLS! #womensmarchonwashington #womensmarch #womensmarch2017 #work #whylimarch 🙌🏻🙌🏻

A photo posted by @shamiza.ali on Jan 13, 2017 at 8:19am PST



Voices of the Women's March: Angela Davis, Gloria Steinem, Madonna, Alicia Keys, Janet Mock & More

70

DN!

JAN 23 2017

(IMAGE 1 OF 3)



Watch Listen

20m 33s

mark the historic Women's March on Washington, we air highlights from march organizers Linda Sarsour and Tamika Mallory, professor Angela Davis, feminist icon Gloria Steinem, Madonna, singer Alicia Keys, transgender activist and author Janet Mock, singer and actress Janelle Monáe, actress Ashley Judd, Planned Parenthood's Cecile Richards and six-year-old immigrant rights activist Sophie Cruz.

AMY GOODMAN: We return now to highlights from Saturday's massive Women's March on Washington. This is feminist icon Gloria Steinem.

GLORIA STEINEM: I'm not trying to deny the danger that this day initiates. Trump and his handlers have found a fox for every chicken coop in Washington, and a Twitter finger must not become a trigger finger. Some very experienced doctors of the American Psychiatric Association have publicly written to warn us that—and I quote—"his widely reported symptoms of mental instability—including grandiosity, impulsivity, hypersensitivity to slights or criticism, and an apparent inability to distinguish between fantasy and reality—lead us to question his fitness for the immense responsibilities of the office," unquote. This was on full display in his inaugural address yesterday. Everything that happened before him was a "disaster." And everything that he would do would be "fantastic," "the best ever," "miracles" and all the superlatives. He also said he was with the people—indeed, he was the people. To paraphrase a famous quote, I just want to say, I have met the people, and you are not them.

ASHLEY JUDD: My name is Ashley Judd.

MICHAEL MOORE: Ashley Judd is here!

ASHLEY JUDD: And I am a feminist. And I want to say hello to Independence Avenue in the back, all the way down to 17th Street.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **731K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.45K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **86**

8.5K **3** **18**



MICHAEL MOORE: Wow!

ASHLEY JUDD: And I bring you words from Nina Donovan, a 19-year-old in Middle Tennessee, and she has given me the privilege of telling you what she has to say: I am a nasty woman. I'm not as nasty as a man who looks like he bathes in Cheeto dust, a man whose words are a dis-tract to America, Electoral College-sanctioned hate speech contaminating this national anthem. I'm not as nasty as Confederate flags being tattooed across my city. Maybe the South actually is going to rise again; maybe, for some, it never really fell. Blacks are still in shackles and graves just for being black. Slavery has been reinterpreted as the prison system, in front of people who see melanin as animal skin. I am not as nasty as a swastika painted on a pride flag. And I didn't know devils could be resurrected, but I feel Hitler in these streets, a mustache traded for a toupée, Nazis renamed the Cabinet, electroconversion therapy the new gas chamber, shaming the gay out of America, turning rainbows into suicide notes. I am not as nasty as racism, fraud, conflict of interest, homophobia, sexual assault, transphobia, white supremacy, misogyny, ignorance, white privilege!

BREA BAKER: It is our honor and privilege to bring the next speaker to the stage, the one and only author and activist...

BREA BAKER AND NANTASHA WILLIAMS: Janet Mock!

JANET MOCK: I stand here today as the daughter of a native Hawaiian woman and a black veteran from Texas. I stand here as the first person in my family to go to college. I stand here as someone who has written herself onto this stage, to unapologetically proclaim that I am a trans woman writer, activist, revolutionary of color. And I stand here today because of the work of my forebears, from Sojourner to Sylvia, from Ella to Audre, from Harriet to Marsha. I stand here today, most of all, because I am my sisters' keeper. My sisters and siblings are being beaten and brutalized, neglected and invisibilized, extinguished and exiled. My sisters and siblings have been pushed out of hostile homes and intolerant schools. My sisters and siblings have been forced into detention facilities and prisons and deeper into poverty. And I hold these harsh truths close. They enrage me and fuel me. But I cannot survive on righteous anger alone. Today, by being here, it is my commitment to getting us free that keeps me marching. Our approach to freedom may not be identical, but it must be intersectional and inclusive.

ALYSSA KLEIN: And it is an absolute honor to introduce...

RESHMA SAUJANI: Our friend, Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood!

CECILE RICHARDS: We're here today to thank generations of organizers and troublemakers and hell raisers who formed secret sisterhoods, who opened Planned Parenthood health centers in their communities and demanded the right to control their own bodies. And today we're here to deliver a message: We're not going to take this lying down, and we will not go back. For the majority of people in this country, Planned Parenthood is not the problem, we're the solution. We've been part of the American—the fabric of America for a hundred years. And my pledge today is: Our doors stay open! Now is the time for us to link arms together for the right of working women to earn a living wage, for the right of immigrant families to live without fear, for the right of mothers everywhere to raise families with—to raise families in safe communities with clean air and clean drinking water, including in Flint, Michigan. And we're here for the right to live openly no matter who you are or who you love, no matter what. And you better believe, we are here to fight for reproductive rights, including access to safe and legal abortion!

AMY GOODMAN: This is Tamika Mallory, co-chair of the Women's March on Washington.

TAMIKA MALLORY: Today is not a concert. It is not a parade, and it is not a party. Today is an act of resistance. Now, some of you came here to protest one man. I didn't come here for that. I came here to address those of you who say you are of good conscience. To those of you who experience a feeling of being powerless, disparaged, victimized, antagonized, threatened and abused, to those of you who for the first time felt the pain that my people have felt since they were brought here with chains shackled on our legs, today I say to you, welcome to my world. Welcome to our world. I stand here as a black woman, the descendent of slaves. My ancestors literally nursed our slave masters. Through the blood and tears of my people, we built this country. America cannot be great without me, you and all of us who are here today. Today you may be feeling aggrieved, but know that this country has been hostile to its people for a long time. For some of you, it is new. For some of us, it is not so new at all. Today I am marching for black and brown lives, for Sandra Bland, for Philando Castile, for Tamir Rice, for Aiyana Stanley-Jones, for Eric Garner, for Michael Brown, for Trayvon Martin and for those nine people who were shot at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. We have a chance, brothers and sisters, to get this thing right. We can do it, if women rise up and take this nation back!

PAOLA MENDOZA: It is my honor and my great pleasure to introduce one of my personal heroes, the immigrant rights activist, incredible, inspiring Sophie Cruz and her family.

SOPHIE CRUZ: Hi, everybody.

AUDIENCE: Hi!

DN!

JAN 23 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

731K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

1.45K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

86



8.5K



3



18



SOPHIE CRUZ: My name is Sophie Cruz. We are here together making a chain of love to protect our families. Let us fight with love, faith and courage, so that our families will not be destroyed. I also want to tell the children not to be afraid, because we are not alone. There are still many people that have their hearts filled with love and tenderness to snuggle in this path of life. Let's keep together and fight for the rights. God is with us!

JANAYE INGRAM: I have the distinct honor and pleasure of welcoming to the stage the incomparable Angela Davis!

ANGELA DAVIS: Over the next months and years, we will be called upon to intensify our demands for social justice, to become more militant in our defense of vulnerable populations. Those who still defend the supremacy of white, male heteropatriarchy had better watch out. The next 1,459 days of the Trump administration will be 1,459 days of resistance—resistance on the ground, resistance in the classrooms, resistance on the job, resistance in our art and in our music. This is just the beginning. And in the words of the inimitable Ella Baker, we who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes. Thank you.

ANNOUNCER: We have another very, very special guest. It is our honor to introduce Janelle Monáe!

JANELLE MONÁE: Hello, future. I am so proud to stand here as a woman, an African-American woman. My grandmother was a sharecropper. She picked cotton in Aberdeen, Mississippi. My mother was a janitor. And I am a descendant of them, and I am here in their honor to help us move forward and fem the future. I just want to say—I want to remind you that it was woman that gave you Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was woman that gave you Malcolm X. And according to the Bible, it was a woman that gave you Jesus. Don't you ever forget it. And we must remind them, those who are abusing their power. That is what I am here today to march against: the abuse of power. I want to say to the LGBTQ community, my fellow brothers and sisters; to immigrants, my fellow brothers and sisters; to women: Continue to embrace the things that make you unique, even if it makes others uncomfortable. You are enough. And whenever you feel in doubt, whenever you want to give up, you must always remember to choose freedom over fear.

ANNOUNCER: Ladies and ladies, introducing Madonna.

MADONNA: Welcome to the revolution of love, to the rebellion, to our refusal as women to accept this new age of tyranny, where not just women are in danger, but all marginalized people, where being uniquely different right now might truly be considered a crime. It took this horrific moment of darkness to wake us the [bleep] up. It seems—it seems as though we had all slipped into a false sense of comfort, that justice would prevail and that good would win in the end. Well, good did not win this election. But good will win in the end. So what today means is that we are far from the end. Today marks the beginning, the beginning of our story. The revolution starts here, the fight for the right to be free, to be who we are, to be equal. Let's march together through this darkness and, with each step, know that we are not afraid, that we are not alone, that we will not back down, that there is power in our unity and that no opposing force stands a chance in the face of true solidarity.

TAMIKA MALLORY: We have a Grammy Award-winning sister in the house, my dear sister and friend, Alicia Keys!

ALICIA KEYS: Tamika! Ladies and gentlemen, are we here? Are you ready to march? Say yeah!

*Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that is rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that is wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise!*

AMY GOODMAN: That's Alicia Keys, speaking at the Women's March on Washington Saturday. While the protest was one of the largest in Washington's history, much of the conservative media focused on a single line said by Madonna during her speech: quote, "I have thought an awful lot of blowing up the White House, but I know that this won't change anything," she said. More than 500,000 people took part in the Women's March on Washington. According to crowd scientists at Manchester Metropolitan University in Britain, the crowd was roughly three times the size of the audience at President Trump's inauguration on Friday. This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org. Back in a minute.

[break]

AMY GOODMAN: Alicia Keys, singing "Girl on Fire" at the Women's March on Washington

DN!

JAN 23 2017

(IMAGE 3 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **731K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.45K**

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POLITICS

Nantasha's run for NY State Assembly

Politics 101: Here's Why Black Women Representation In State Legislature Elections Matter



Photo by Nantasha Williams, NY State Assembly Candidate captured by VinnyHBz

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By Christina Coleman
Sep. 13, 2016



In this exclusive interview with 28-year-old New York State Assembly candidate Nantasha Williams, we explore why it's important for residents to get involved and vote for those who understand their communities.

When New York state residents go to the polls Tuesday to vote for their local districts in the State Legislature, they'll have a chance to make history by voting in who would be youngest candidate for New York's 33rd Assembly Seat.

Democrat **Nantasha Williams**, who announced she would be running to fill the seat previously held by Assemblywoman Barbara Clark, is a 28-year-old Cambria Heights, Queens native who is looking to make effectual change in the 33rd Assembly district. While her age already makes her a standout among the other candidates looking for a win Tuesday - at only 28.

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Williams has already served as the executive director of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus and was honored as one of "Albany's Rising Stars Top 40 Under 40" in City and State Magazines - it's her experience in the community as a Black woman that makes her public advocacy authentic.

"You have to meet young people where they are," Williams, whose platform includes youth development and transforming the education system in Queens, told ESSENCE in an exclusive interview.

"A lot of people don't understand the culture, younger cultural, millennial culture, women culture. What it means to be a young Black woman. A lot of people don't speak our language," she said.

Civic engagement, also a pillar of Williams' advocacy work, is an important part of changing policy to benefit communities. But first, you have to let the communities know how they can and will be affected, Williams said.

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"If we're talking about policy and passing laws, it's important that people are speaking that language."

While the state legislature is no doubt an important election, voter turnout in what is New York's third primary of the election cycle is typically slim. That hasn't deterred Williams, who believes that it's the voter's responsibility to hold elected officials accountable.

"You vote. Then you hold your elected official responsible," she said "And if you don't get what you deserve, you have the opportunity to run yourself or elect someone in that position."

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"We should vote and be proactive, but the government should also engage the public and keep them involved."

Civic engagement aside, it is Williams' very existence as a young black woman in this race that is enough to move some voters.

Representation, she suggested, is key.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.83M**

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"It's so interesting because I'm not in the position yet, but just the sheer notion of me running for office and being a candidate - people that I wouldn't think care, care," she said.

"It's those people that I want to inspire and empower and hope to get them involved in the process. Black women are the highest voting bloc but our wants and needs are getting pushed to the back burner," she said.

"Being in this space is so important because I speak for the needs of our demographic."

You can learn more about Williams' platform, [here](#).

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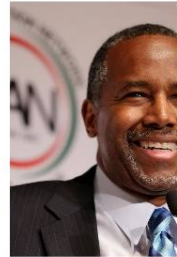
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How Nantasha Williams Is Spreading Her #BlackGirlMagic In Politics

Nantasha Williams dedicated her life to public service and here's how she plans on making a change.

Posted 6 months ago.



Shamika Sanders, Entertainment Editor

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At 28, **Nantasha Williams** is poised to become a political powerhouse. With her sights set on making a change in her community, Williams is officially running for elected office in the 33rd Assembly district, which includes Queens Village, Cambria Heights, parts of St. Albans, Hollis, and the Bellerose area.

Get the scoop on this Black beauty who's leading the next generation of political voices:

HelloBeautiful: When did you first decide you wanted to get into politics and what was the next step you made to make your dream happen?

Nantasha Williams: I didn't always want to go into politics. I had a passion for the nonprofit sector (and) as a means of creating effective positive change, I found myself in politics by happenstance. When I decided to go to grad school to get my Masters in Public Administration, I was vigorously looking for a job to supplement my grad school education and landed one with the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, commonly known as "The Caucus," which is comprised of a body of New York State assembly members and senators. My work during that time provided me with an opportunity to really dive head-first into government and politics. This opportunity also opened my eyes to the many challenges our

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systems face. That was the moment I wanted to go into politics, and the rest of my political story is being written right now as I campaign to be the next assemblywoman for the 33rd district.

HB: What did it mean to you to be honored on “Albany’s Rising Stars Top 40 Under 40” list?

Nantasha: I was ecstatic and also humbled when I was honored as “Albany’s Rising Stars Top 40 Under 40.” I was being recognized for my work in politics, particularly in fighting a progressive agenda and challenging status quo. Often times, I keep my head down and consumed with work. (So) To be recognized for something that I love doing was truly an honor.

HB: What has been your biggest obstacle as a Black women trying to get elected?

Nantasha: Interestingly enough, I don’t feel any particular obstacles being a Black woman, per say, in getting elected. My predecessor was a Black woman who held the seat for nearly three decades. Instead, my age has posed a challenge for a few because of their perception in trying to align age with “qualified experience.” My age does not define my political experience and background in the political realm. I have seen the inner-workings of our government system, and I know what needs to be done to see effective change. I always reference Martin Luther King and the fact that we trusted him to lead the Montgomery bus boycott and he was only 26.

HB: What is the biggest change you want to make? What’s your plan to get it done?

Nantasha: Increase public participation and civic engagement. It’s important that we take transformative action to better our community. To make things happen it is going to take all of the citizens of 33rd District to work together to see this community thrive and progress.

HB: What does #BlackGirlMagic mean to you?

Nantasha: #BlackGirlMagic means empowerment for all woman of color and that bit of spice and drive we have that fuels our passion. When I think of #BlackGirlMagic, I think of how we still manage to succeed and slay better than the rest despite the many obstacles we face and systematic oppression being both a woman and Black. Our ability to flourish in such (an) unjust society is unbelievable, and hard to fathom ... it’s magic. Hence, #BlackGirlMagic.

Residents of the 33rd Assembly District can vote for Nantasha Williams Tuesday, September 13 at their local voting center.

PHOTO CREDIT: VinnyHBz

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By NY1 News
Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 06:10 PM CDT



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Another candidate threw her hat in the ring for New York's 33rd Assembly Seat on Thursday.

Nantasha Williams announced she's running to fill the seat previously held by Assemblywoman Barbara Clark. Clark died in February of natural causes.

Williams previously served as executive director of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, and as chief of staff to Assemblywoman Diana Richardson.

The 28-year-old Cambria Heights native says there are a number of issues she wants to address in Albany.

"I think you need to consider a lot of these quality of life issues, a lot of these issues with education and criminal justice reform and housing," Williams said. "We really need to consider those issues when you go to the polls. And it's complicated."

Williams is expected to face a crowded field of candidates, including community advocate Roy Paul.

The primary is September 13th.

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And then there were five in the 33rd AD

■ Race for the late Barbara Clark's seat heats up before 9/13 primary

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COURTESY PHOTOS/ FILE PHOTO

Clockwise from top left, Bryan Block, Sabine French, Roy Paul, Clyde Vanel and Nantasha Williams are vying for the Democratic nod in the 33rd Assembly District, a seat held for years by the late Barbara Clark, above left.

Posted: Thursday, August 25, 2016 10:30 am

by [Michael Gannon](#), Editor | comments

Barbara Clark's death in February will lead to the first election of a new state representative in the 33rd Assembly District in 30 years.

Barring a miracle in favor of the Republican Party, that person will be one of the five Democrats who have qualified to be on the ballot in the Sept. 13 primary.

The race could be said to have two favorites, with Community Board 13 Chairman Bryan Block and Clyde Vanel, an attorney who is a veteran of numerous political campaigns.

Block said he wants to build on Clark's work, prioritizing senior housing and school funding.

"I'm running because Queens' families deserve safe streets, great schools, good jobs and affordable housing," Block said in a statement from his campaign.

Vanel said community members appear to be receptive to his message.

"We are at a point in time where the next generation cannot afford to buy a home or live in the neighborhood they grew up in," he said in a statement.

"I will work hard to make sure that our residents have good paying jobs and careers," he added.

Both candidates have secured coveted endorsements.

Block, who has been endorsed by the Queens County Democratic Party, also has landed 32BJ SEIU; U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Queens, Nassau); Queens Borough President Melinda Katz; Councilmen Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) and Barry Grodenchik (D-Oakland Gardens); Assembly members Vivian Cook (D-Jamaica), Michele Titus (D-Far Rockaway) and Alicia Hyndman (D-Springfield Gardens) and the Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC.

Vanel has been endorsed by the Rev. Floyd Flake, a pastor and former congressman; Former 33rd District Assemblyman Al Waldon Jr.; Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laureton); Assemblywoman Rodney Bichotte (D-Brooklyn); and a slew of labor unions, including District Council 37, the United Federation of Teachers, New York State United Teachers, Transit Workers Union Local 100, Unite Here Local 100 and Local 372 Board of Education Employees.

Their candidacies have split some normally strong allies.

Miller and Richards, for example, from adjoining districts, very frequently present a united front in the council on major issues.

Miller also is a former union leader representing MTA bus drivers, and is backing the candidate with fewer major unions.

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Meeks succeeded Flake in Congress.

Both have money in the bank for a final push, with Vanel reporting \$48,890.72 cash on hand in his last report to the state Board of Elections, while Block had \$40,599.21.

Roy Paul of Queens Village, along with both Sabine French and Nantasha Williams from Cambria Heights, all succeeded where others failed in getting and staying on the ballot for Sept. 13. All three said connecting with residents about the ability to do the job of an Assembly member trumps any endorsements or fundraising.

Paul, a board member of Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults, first served on a city school board when he was 19.

"I think what matters is the ability to bring resources back into the community, giving a recent example of a school in St. Albans needing computers for the students.

"I told parents 'don't go to beg to the Department of Education,'" he said. "One month later we had privately raised the funds and the school had a new computer lab named after Barbara Clark.

"I knock on doors and make the case to the person, make the case that we can win this election," he said.

Given his choice of committee assignments if elected, Paul would choose education first.

Williams is chief of staff to Assemblywoman Diana Richardson (D-Brooklyn.) She said her experience in the Capitol and the relationships she has built up would give her — and her constituents — a huge advantage over a typical Assembly freshman.

"I understand a lot of the challenges," she said. "I've worked with people in the Governor's Office, with the chairs of committees and people on the other side of the aisle," she said.

Her priorities include justice reform legislation, such as increasing the age necessary before a teenager can be charged as an adult for a felony.

She also believes it is necessary to continue holding the state's feet to the fire over money for schools ordered by the courts in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit.

Her first committee choice would be Codes, which, she said, gets to work on bills across a wide range of important issues.

Williams, in filings mandated 32 days before the primary, reported \$7,632.92 in the bank for a final push.

State Board of Election campaign Finance records did not have such a filing from Paul on its website. His regular July reporting showed more than \$26,000.

French, an active member of the community and a familiar face at numerous civic functions, has not raised enough money to require filing a report.

She does not call that a disadvantage.

"I have always been present in Southeast Queens on many issues, trying to make the point to be there to stand with the people in the community, to be a voice for the community," French said.

"Your actions aren't based on sticker value," she added. "I'm in a good position to be in tune with the needs of the community — and not just my immediate community."

French also would serve on the Education Committee given the chance, calling it the most important issue in the district.

But she said housing, particularly the ongoing foreclosure crisis, is a very close second. "I think Southeast Queens, on the whole, deserves better than we are getting," she said.

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The Latest Help sought for Liberty Avenue families

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Sanders holds off Adams in primary; Vanel, Hyndman and Cook win

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Posted: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 2:22 am

By Michael Gannon, Editor | **0** comments

State Sen. James Sanders Jr. (D-South Ozone Park) successfully held off a primary challenge on Tuesday, defeating Community Board 12 Chairwoman Adrienne Adams.

Unofficial figures from the New York State Board of Elections gave Sanders 56.8 percent of the vote, while Adams received nearly 41.4 percent.

The primary had been hard-fought and in the closing days turned acrimonious.

But Sanders said Adams was gracious in a phone call after the close of the polls, and that the two have agreed to work together.

Adams had secured the Queens County Democratic Party endorsement. She first entered the race when Sanders was working on a campaign to challenge Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-Queens, Nassau).

In Democratic primaries for the state Assembly, attorney Clyde Vanel emerged as the top vote-getter in a five-candidate race for the nomination in the 33rd District.

The seat was open because of the death earlier this year of long-time Assemblywoman Barbara Clark.

Vanel, in uncommitted returns, received 31.7 percent of the vote, outdistancing Nantasha Williams, who got 27.6 percent. Bryan Block, chairman of Community Board 13 and the party-endorsed candidate, came in third with 24 percent. Roy Paul finished with 10.9 percent, while Sabine French got 3.5 percent.

In the 32nd Assembly primary, incumbent Vivian Cook (D-Jamaica), with just under 75 percent of the vote, withstood a challenge from Rodney Reid, who won 21.5 percent.

The race in the 29th Assembly District saw incumbent Alicia Hyndman, running for her first full term, get 72.1 percent of the vote. Lorraine Bridges got 20.6 percent, while Linda Guillebeaux received just over 6 percent.

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Your guide to the state primary races

■ Jung, Barnwell face longtime pols; 5 seek Clark's seat; Adams vs. Sanders

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FILE PHOTOS

Tuesday's primary is fast approaching, and longtime state Sen. Toby Stavisky, whose district includes a sizable chunk of Forest Hills and a portion of Rego Park, is hoping to successfully fend off a challenge from S.J. Jung for the second straight election cycle. Other races are being held all over the borough, from Maspeth to Rosedale.



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he is against both because he is a Christian.

Jung tried to knock Stavisky off the ballot by claiming thousands of her petition signatures were invalid — either not registered Democrats or people living out of the district, but the state Board of Elections sided with the incumbent.

The winner will face Republican Carlos Giron in the Nov. 8 election.

The 16th Senate District includes parts of Elmhurst, Woodside, Jackson Heights, Flushing, Rego Park, Forest Hills and Oakland Gardens.

Barnwell vs. Markey

Posted: Thursday, September 8, 2016 10:30 am

by Anthony O'Reilly, Associate Editor | 0 comments

While everyone's attention continues to be set on the Nov. 8 presidential election, there's still one more time New York voters have to fulfill their civic duty before picking the next commander-in-chief.

This Tuesday marks the biennial state primaries across New York and Queens will have its fair share of action.

In districts centered on Flushing, Maspeth and Rochdale Village, three political newcomers are looking to take down legislators who have been on the job for decades. In Queens Village, five candidates are hoping to succeed the late Barbara Clark in the Assembly. Also in Jamaica, a longtime Democrat is facing opposition from an on-the-rise candidate who has the backing of the incumbent's own party. Here is everything you need to know before heading to the polls next week.

The end of the story contains information for anyone with questions on when and where to vote.

Stavisky vs. Jung: Round II

S.J. Jung is hoping to put his 2014 loss to state Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky (D-Flushing) behind him in a rematch against the 17-year legislator in the Democratic primary for the 16th Senate District.

The Flushing businessman and former executive director of the Minkwon Center for Community Action says he will be a "fearless reformer" and improve the quality of life in the district.

"Voters are so angry and so disappointed with inaction from politicians, voters are so fed up with politics as usual," he said during a July interview.

Stavisky — a former teacher and the first woman from Queens to be elected to the state Senate — has vowed to fight for the area's small businesses and schools. Recently, her allies have criticized Jung for opposing abortion, except when it puts a mother's health at risk, and gay marriage — the challenger says

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Even before the recent uproar over a proposed homeless shelter in Maspeth saw many residents slamming their elected officials as useless, challenger Brian Barnwell blasted longtime Assemblywoman Marge Markey (D-Maspeth) for being what he called a do-nothing politician.

"Marge Markey has been there almost 20 years — other people have been there longer — and nothing is getting done," Barnwell said.

With many Maspeth residents now frustrated at Markey, who has been in the Assembly since 1999, for not being as vocally against the plan as they would like, the Woodside resident is hoping to put some young blood in Albany.

Markey is one plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking to block the city's plan to put dozens of homeless families in a Holiday Inn, but during a hearing on the proposal she walked out of the building after being booed by hundreds.

The longtime assemblywoman earlier this year feuded with Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, head of the Diocese of Brooklyn, after she accused the clergyman of trying to bribe her in 2007 in an attempt to end her support for legislation that would extend the statute of limitations over child sex abuse allegations. DiMarzio denied the allegation, which earned Markey the ire of some of her Catholic constituents.

Markey's spokesman denied an interview request, but in an email to the Chronicle touted her seniority in the Assembly, which gives her influence on major legislation, the procurement of state dollars for the district and her advocacy for the middle class and organized labor.

The winner will face Republican Anthony Nunziato, of Maspeth, on Nov. 8.

The 30th Assembly District encompasses parts of Middle Village, Maspeth, Sunnyside and Woodside.

Adams vs. Sanders

State Sen. James Sanders Jr. (D-South Ozone Park) began the year seeking to unseat Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Queens, Nassau) in the congressional primary — but now finds himself defending his state Senate post against an on-the-rise candidate with the backing of the Queens Democratic Party.

Adrienne Adams, chairwoman of Community Board 12 and a retired business executive, could book her ticket to Albany if she defeats the incumbent, who won the 10th District seat in 2012.

Sanders defeated scandal-plagued Shirley Huntley for the position after serving in the City Council for 12 years.

Adams, a Jamaica resident, has said the Legislature has failed the district and that its residents "deserve better." She has the backing of Queens political leaders, while her opponent has been endorsed by unions.

Sanders of Rockaway, has defended his record, but added there's still work left to do. Sanders pulled back on his run for Congress shortly after Adams announced her plans to win his seat. During his brief bid for federal office and at least once during his re-election run, Sanders has been the target of unflattering articles accusing him of political corruption. His allies call the pieces political hit jobs placed in retribution for his challenging Meeks, who is publicly supporting Adams.

No Republican is running for the seat.

The 10th Senate District serves parts of South Jamaica, Rochdale Village, Rosedale, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park, Springfield Gardens and most of Rockaway.

Five-way primary for Clark's seat

The most jam-packed Queens race is the five-way primary for the Assembly seat of the late Barbara Clark.

Community Board 13 Chairman Bryan Block, attorney Clyde Vanel, Roy Paul, Sabine French and Nantasha Williams are all looking to secure the Democratic nomination in the 33rd Assembly District, which was held by Clark from 1987 until her death in February.

Block and Vanel, both of Cambria Heights, are considered the favorites in this race, as they have the most name recognition and have each been endorsed by several political leaders and unions.

Both have promised better jobs, infrastructure and schools for the district if elected.

Vanel challenged Clark in the 2010 and 2012 primaries but lost by a landslide both times.

Paul, a Queens Village resident and board member of the Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults, French, an active member of the Cambria Heights community, and Williams, a Cambria Heights resident working as chief-of-staff for Assemblywoman Diana Richardson (D-Brooklyn), have said they've been busy connecting with district residents and don't see their lack of endorsements as a problem.

The winner of the primary will go on to face Republican Goldy Francois-Wellington in November.

The 33rd Assembly District includes parts of Queens Village, Cambria Heights, St. Albans, Bellerose and Floral Park

Reid vs. Cook

Elsewhere in Southeast Queens, Rochdale Village activist Rodney Reid says it's time for a change.

Reid, a member of the neighborhood's board of directors, is looking to end what he calls "25 years of failed representation" from Assemblywoman Vivian Cook (D-Jamaica).

Cook, a 13-term incumbent and a native of South Carolina, boasts of having helped pass a state budget with billions of dollars for education, social services and transportation — but Reid says none of that applies to the 32nd Assembly District.

Nonprofits and charities tied to Cook have been the target of investigations by the state attorney general in recent weeks.

No Republican has filed to run for the seat.

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The 32nd Assembly District includes parts of South Jamaica, Rochdale Village and South Ozone Park.

Hyndman already has challengers

Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman (D-Springfield Gardens) is having to defend her seat less than a year after winning it.

The freshman legislator — who defeated Republican District Leader Scherie Murray last November to replace Assemblyman Bill Scarborough after his guilty plea on federal and state corruption charges — will face community activist Lorraine Gittens-Bridges and Linda Guillebeaux, both of Rosedale.

Both Hyndman and Gittens-Bridges have touted their advocacy in the community, but the former says her experience — albeit only six months — gives her the edge in the race.

Both want to focus heavily on schools.

The Chronicle was unable to reach Guillebeaux for comments on her candidacy and she does not have a website.

No Republican has filed to run for the seat.

The 29th Assembly District includes parts of Laurelton, Rosedale, St Albans, Addisleigh Park, Hollis, Springfield Gardens and Jamaica.

Titus vs. Loncke

Rockaway resident Nigel Loncke, a political activist who has worked for President Obama's 2012 campaign and for Meeks, is challenging Assemblywoman Michele Titus (D-Far Rockaway).

Loncke's campaign website says little of what he would do, should he defeat Titus, but touts his activism on issues such as climate change, affordable housing and minimum wage.

Titus was sworn into the Assembly in 2002, after winning a special election to replace Pauline Rhodd-Cummings, who died in office.

She is chairwoman of the Committee on Labor.

No Republican has filed to run in the November election.

The 31st District encompasses parts of Far Rockaway, Rosedale, Laurelton, Springfield Gardens, South Ozone Park and South Richmond Hill.

Unopposed

There are many Queens legislators who will have to wait until November to defend their seats, if even then.

Queens Assembly members who are unopposed in September are David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows), Nily Rozi (D-Fresh Meadows), Ed Braunstein (D-Bayside), Michael Simanowitz (D-Flushing), Andrew Hevesi (D-Forest Hills), Michael Den Dekker (D-Jackson Heights), Jeff Aubry (D-Corona), Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria), Catherine Nolan (D-Sunnyside), Mike Miller (D-Woodhaven), Francisco Moya (D-Jackson Heights) and Ron Kim (D-Flushing).

Democrat Stacey Pheffer-Amato and Republican Alan Zwirn face no primary opposition in their campaign to replace outgoing Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Rockaway Park).

Goldfeder, who won a special election in 2011 to replace Audrey Pheffer — who left the job to become the Queens county clerk and is the mother of Pheffer-Amato — announced his intention to go to the private sector earlier this year, saying he wanted to spend more time with his family.

Queens state senators with no opposition are Tony Avella (D-Bayside), Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria), Jose Peralta (D-East Elmhurst), Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans) and Joe Addabbo Jr. (D-Howard Beach).

How and when to vote

All of the races next week are for Democratic nominations, so only registered members of that party can vote.

To see if you're registered, call the state Board of Elections at (518) 474-6220.

You can also call the city BOE's Queens office at (718) 730-6730.

Polls across the city will open at 6 a.m. and close at 9 p.m.

To find where your polling place is, you can visit voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us or call 1 (866) VOTE-NYC (868-3692).

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Assembly races heat up with a week to go

■ NAACP hosts forum for Democrats in 29th, 32nd and 33rd districts

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL GANNON

Candidates from the 33rd AD, clockwise from top left, Sabine French, Roy Paul, Nantasha Williams and Clyde Vanel. Bryan Block was unable to attend the forum.



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But he said it is vital to encourage local ownership of homes and businesses.

All said both are necessary to avoid gentrification of neighborhoods in the 33rd District.

"Southeast Queens is under attack," French said.

Addressing the candidates' relative youth, Williams said her experience in the state Capitol gives her the connections and knowledge to do the job.

Posted: Thursday, September 8, 2016 10:30 am

by [Michael Gannon](#), Editor |

Democratic candidates in three state Assembly districts had an opportunity Tuesday night to make their case before nearly 200 voters packed into Majority Baptist Church in St. Albans.

Four of the six Democrats looking to replace the late Barbara Clark in the 33rd District were in attendance, as were all three in the 29th. Rodney Reid, who is challenging Assemblywoman Vivian Cook (D-Jamaica), also attended.

The forum was sponsored by the Jamaica Branch of the NAACP, and Queens-based chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Questions came from the audience.

Challengers in the 33rd included attorney Clyde Vanel; Roy Paul, a board member of the Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults; education advocate Sabine French and Nantasha Williams, who is chief of staff to Assemblywoman Diana Richardson (D-Brooklyn).

Bryan Block, chairman of Community Board 13 and the endorsed candidate of the Queens County Democratic Party, was unable to attend.

On the subject of jobs and entrepreneurship in Southeast Queens, Williams said she would do a better job of promoting government programs already in existence, while increasing the number of training programs available at the high school level.

Paul favors tax incentives for small businesses backed up by outreach aimed at getting people the job opportunities that exist.

French said focusing on strengthening education and schools will go further in creating jobs than any targeted job or entrepreneurial program.

Vanel — "I'm the only one in this race who is an entrepreneur," he said — said people need to know that starting their own businesses is difficult and that many fail.

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"Everyone here would be a freshman legislator," she said. "I'd be a seasoned freshman legislator."

Paul took a few shots at Vanel, the latter of whom is considered by many to be a co-favorite in the race with Block.

He made reference to Vanel, who has regularly campaigned for city and state offices, "running 115 times." He also accused him of flip-flopping on charter schools to secure the endorsement of the United Federation Teachers. Vanel dismissed both.

"Some people count the number of time's I've failed," he said. "Others count the number of times I got up."

In the 29th District, Alicia Hyndman (D-Springfield Gardens) is being challenged by Lorraine Gittens-Bridges and Linda Guillebeaux. Hyndman, who won a special election in 2015, is seeking her first full term and has the Queens Democratic Party endorsement.

All three candidates boast long records of education advocacy within the district and spoke eloquently on ideas ranging from more funding to increasing parental involvement.

The most animated discussion in the group was on improving police and community relations.

Guillebeaux called for the immediate stripping of guns and badges from officers accused of killing unarmed subjects.

She recounted stories of confronting police when they have been poised to arrest young men she believed were being improperly stopped.

She said outreach between the community and the 113th Precinct has been successful in the Rochdale Village community in the past.

Hyndman said such a program already is underway in the 105th Precinct and that planning in the 103rd and 113th precincts is underway.

As for bringing two sides together, "You are talking about one of my strong points," Gittens-Bridges said.

In the 32nd District, Reid was given a few minutes to state why he was challenging Cook, a 13-term incumbent.

"We are falling behind as a district," Reid said, accusing Cook of becoming detached and disengaged from the voters.

"We are not being served in Albany," he said.

He promised to actively and aggressively reach out to constituents if elected.

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 / NEWS / POLITICS

Vanel wins race to fill Assembly seat long held by Barbara Clark

By Patrick Donachie

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Lawyer Clyde Vanel defeated four other candidates in the race to fill the state Assembly seat vacated by Barbara Clark, who died earlier this year. The contest was close in the race to represent a district that includes parts of Cambria Heights, Glen Oaks, Queens Village, Rosedale and Springfield Gardens.

Vanel received 31.7 percent of the vote, while Nantasha Williams, the chief of staff for Assemblywoman Diana Richardson (D-Brooklyn), was close behind with 27.4 percent of the vote. In all, Vanel received 1,643 votes out of 5,182 cast, according to unofficial tallies from the state Board of Elections.

Other challengers included Roy Paul, a board member of the Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults; Sabine French, a community advocate and activist; and Bryan Block, the chairman of Community Board 13.

Clark died in February. She had held the seat since 1986, making this contest the first time in three decades the Assembly seat had not had an incumbent in the race. Several of the candidates said they had not thought about running for the seat before Clark's death and entered the fray on the basis of interest from supporters.

Vanel's political career began when he challenged then-Councilman Leroy Comrie in 2009, and he also challenged Clark in a Democratic primary in 2012. Vanel is an attorney specializing in business and intellectual property, and was previously a restaurant owner.

Turnout varied at polling sites throughout the district. At Public School 191 in Bellerose, poll coordinator Russell Carey said there had not been many voters at the polls. The area is in the northeastern end of the district. Carey said he had not seen much coverage of the primary date in the media and speculated that people might not even be aware there was a primary today.

However, he suspected results would be different in the November presidential general election.



WONDROUS WEDDINGS



votes and challenger Rodney Reid had 21.5 percent with nearly all of the precincts reporting, according to the state BOE.
 Reach reporter Patrick Donachie by e-mail at pdonachie@englocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4573.

Posted 12:00 am, September 15, 2016

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Courtesy of Vanel campaign
 Clyde Vanel defeated four other candidates in a race to fill the seat in the state Assembly formerly held by Barbara Clark.

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Joe Moretti from Jamaica says:

Another Queens Dem Machine backed puppet to keep Jamaica the continuous ghetto.

Sept. 14, 2016, 8:26 am

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Ralph Kenol from Queens Village says:

Make us proud Clyde!

Sept. 14, 2016, 9:06 am

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surprised from Queens says:

Surprised that the incumbent who died was not re-elected. People put so little thinking into their votes that they would consider voting for Clinton although she likely has Parkinson's Disease. I heard that someone who did die was elected yesterday, cannot remember where.

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Be happy for people, stop spreading hate from Cambria Heights says:

Congrats Clyde. You are nobody's puppet. Make us proud...

Sept. 14, 2016, 5:36 pm

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Joe Moretti from Jamaica says:

NOT spreading hate, just TRUTH & REALITY. The fact that one of the most crooked, immoral people Rev. Floyd Flake endorsed Vanel speaks volumes. Most Jamaica residents are such sheeple and not able to think for themselves and tolerate such nonsense that other civilized communities would not tolerate says much about communities of color. I mean, Jamaica has been a filthy ghetto for decades with crooked, do nothing black leaders. OPEN YOUR EYES to TRUTH. The more churches in a community, the dumber the community.

Sept. 15, 2016, 7:16 am

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Miche says:

I'm doing really well with Emini S&P trading. I am using this Emini S&P Trading Secret method, these guys are really good. They have this daily record of their trades in Youtube. Pretty legit for me! Google Emini S&P Trading Secret to know more.

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Figure it out from Jamaica says:

Thank God Roy Paul didnt win because he is a liar and he doesnt like to pay his workers. Oh forgive me and when he does there is no money in his account!

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Several Dem candidates vie for vacant Clark seat

By Patrick Donachie

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Multiple Democratic candidates are vying to fill the state Assembly seat in southeast Queens left vacant since Barbara Clark died in February.

The September primary will determine the Democratic nominee in the race to decide who represents District 33, which Cambria Heights, St. Albans, Queens Village, Hollis and Bellerose. Clark, who was a strong advocate for education and a fixture on the Queens political scene, held the seat from 1987 until she died.

Brian Block has held the position of Community Board 13 chairman since 2009 and was previously the board's executive secretary and a member of the Cambria Heights Civic Association.

Sabine French is a community advocate, the vice President of the Haitian American Political Action Committee of New York and a campaigner for the Democratic Party in New York state elections.

Leroy Gadsden is the president of the Jamaica branch of the NAACP and has worked to fight police misconduct and school closures. He announced his candidacy in May at a news conference where he answered questions from community members. During his tenure, he helped train legal observers to monitor polling sites with high minority voting populations and helped foster voter registration and turnout organizations.

Roy Paul, a board member for the Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults and a founder of the Southeast Queens Young Democrats, said that he did consider running for the seat until others suggested he try. He said he could hunt down necessary resources for struggling district schools.

"You can't expect people to do that with legislation alone. You need someone who can go out and be proactive and get the resources that Albany says do not exist," he said. "We'll have to do a needs assessment of all of our schools, and lack of technological resources is at the top of our list."

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Barbara Clark

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Clyde Vanel, who ran against Clark as an independent in the 2012 Democratic primary and general election, and said he entered the race into the ring to attract jobs to the district, envisioning a "Silicon Jamaica" that would bring tech companies to the downtown area.

"(Companies) want places that have an urban feel but not an urban center, and downtown Jamaica has that potential," he said, noting that the improved business opportunities could help spur homeownership. "One of the biggest problems in the city and country is the next generation can't afford to buy and live in the neighborhoods where they grew up."

Nantasha Williams, who is currently the chief of staff to Assemblywoman Diana C. Richardson (D-Brooklyn), said that lowering the high foreclosure rate in southeast Queens was an important issue for her campaign. She hoped to inspire public participation through her candidacy and advocacy.

"Public participation is so bad and government doesn't take anything else if you don't have people engaged."

The Democratic primary will be held on Sept. 13 and the winner of the primary may face a potential general election challenge in November.

Reach reporter Patrick Donachie by e-mail at pdonachie@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4573.

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Races to Watch in State Legislative Primaries

September 06, 2016 | by William Fowler

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State Senate candidate Marisol Alcantara & BX BP Diaz Jr. (photo: @NYAlcantara31)

With state legislative party primaries rapidly approaching, there are several races New Yorkers should keep a close eye on, both in the city and across the state, including some that could play key roles in deciding majority power in the state Senate, which is currently under Republican leadership.

The September 13 vote in some races, especially in Democrat-heavy New York City, will likely determine the winner in November. Still other races have little competition for the party primaries, but will be hotly contested for the general.

With Donald Trump's controversial candidacy at the top of the Republican ticket in November, Democrats are hoping to tip the scales in their favor, especially in the state Senate, while Republicans across the state decide whether to embrace their presidential nominee or not. The 63-seat New York State Senate is currently almost evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, though there are complicating factors like one Democrat who caucuses with Republicans (Brooklyn Sen. Simcha Felder) and the five-member Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), which has had a power-sharing agreement with Senate Republicans.

The 150-seat State Assembly is controlled by Democrats, who hold a vast majority, including many members from New York City, led by Speaker Carl Heastie of the Bronx.

September's in-party match-ups will decide whose names appear on the general election ballots in November. In several cases, there are open seats where the incumbent is not seeking re-election or has already left office - these head our "races

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to watch," followed closely by races in New York City where incumbents are facing competitive challenges.

Gotham Gazette identifies three key categories to pay attention to for September 13:

- Open seats within New York City ([Senate](#); [Assembly](#))
- Competitive incumbent challenges within the five boroughs ([Senate](#); [Assembly](#))
- Competitive primary races outside of the city for open seats ([jump](#))

OPEN SEAT ELECTIONS IN NEW YORK CITY

There are two vacancies in the state Senate and five in the state Assembly representing New York City residents. If there is more than one Democrat or Republican running, nominees will be decided through the September 13 party primaries. In most cases in the city, the Democratic nominee will win the seat through the November general election.

SENATE VACANCIES IN NEW YORK CITY

SD31

In Senate District 31, which includes the Upper Manhattan neighborhoods of Washington Heights and Inwood and runs down the West Side into Hell's Kitchen, Senator Adriano Espaillat is leaving his seat to run for Congress in New York's 13th Congressional district -- an election he is favored to win, which would make him the first politician born in the Dominican Republic to be elected to the House of Representatives. Espaillat won a competitive Democratic primary in June.

Vying to replace Espaillat in the state Senate are four Democratic candidates: Marisol Alcántara, Luis Tejada, former City Council Member Robert Jackson, and Micah Lasher, the former chief of staff to Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. Espaillat, a variety of Hispanic elected officials, several labor unions, and the five-member, GOP-aligned [Independent Democratic Conference](#) of the state Senate have thrown their [support](#) behind Alcántara, who has said she will caucus with the IDC if elected.

While the candidates largely agree on the issues, they have different resumes, relationships, and political allies.

Gotham Gazette recently reported on [the race to replace Espaillat](#) and [several other Senate races](#) around the state that "could have significant implication for billions of dollars in state budget money and major policies of all kinds." In SD31, the result could play a major role in control of the Senate while also having implications for political power in New York City.

SD36

In Senate District 36, which includes parts of northern Bronx neighborhoods like Allerton, Baychester, Eastchester, Wakefield and extends into Mount Vernon, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson left the Senate in July to become Governor Andrew Cuomo's Special Advisor for Policy and Community Affairs of New York State Homes and Community Renewal.

To replace Hassell-Thompson on the Democratic primary ballot will be Jamaal T. Bailey, Robert Diamond, Que English, Pamela A. Hamilton-Johnson, Edward A. Mulrairie, and Alvin Ponder. The winner on September 13 will not face a Republican in a general election. BronxTalk host Gary Axelbank [moderated a debate](#) among the six candidates on August 29.

ASSEMBLY VACANCIES IN NEW YORK CITY

On the Assembly side, Assemblymembers Phillip Goldfeder (AD23), James Brennan (AD44), Annette Robinson (AD56), and Keith Wright (AD70) will not be seeking re-election; and Assemblymember Barbara M. Clark (AD33) passed away in February. There are not competitive primaries in all these seats, though.

AD33

This is the [first time](#) in 30 years the seat has not had a sitting incumbent, on account of Clark's long Assembly tenure. Vying for the Democratic nomination in AD33, representing Queens Village, Bellerose Manor, Hollis, and Cambria Heights, will be candidates Bryan J. Block, Sabine French, Roy Paul, Clyde Vanel, and Nantasha Williams.



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SEP 6 2016

(IMAGE 2 OF 6)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **43.9K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **216**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **65**



AD44

With Brennan's retirement, Democratic primary candidates Robert Carroll, R. M. Curry-Smithson, and Troy Odendhal [compete in Assembly District 44](#), representing Park Slope, Kensington and Flatbush-Ditmas Park. The winner of the Democratic primary will face Republican Glenn Nocera.

Brennan, the Working Families Party, and a variety of Democratic officials and organizations have [endorsed](#) Carroll, an election lawyer and president of the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats, a political group his grandfather helped start in the late 1960s. Carroll [supported](#) Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, though he is not the only Sanders supporter in the race: Curry-Smithson, a public school history teacher, volunteered for the Sanders campaign. Carroll is well [ahead of the field in endorsements as well as fundraising](#).

AD56

Democrats Karen Cherry and Tremaine Wright face off in the Democratic primary for Assembly District 56, representing Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights. The winner will go into the general election without a Republican opponent.

It was [reported](#) back in February by Kings County Politics that Assemblymember Robinson was strategizing to run for re-election just so she could hand the election to Wright, her chosen successor and vice-president of the Vanguard Independent Democratic Organization. This plan was spoiled and thus Wright [faces](#) Cherry in the primary. The two candidates [answered](#) questions from Kings County Politics on education policy. Both candidates see challenges with co-locations where separate schools exist in the same building and want to see more equitable access for all students in public, private and charter schools.

AD70

To replace Assemblymember Keith Wright, who lost his congressional bid to Espaillat, are one Democrat and one Republican, who will face off in November. Republican Heather Tarrant and Democratic City Council Member Inez Dickens run to represent Harlem in the Assembly. Dickens is a heavy favorite due to the Democratic enrollment advantage in the area. It is rumored that Wright will run to replace Dickens if she wins and thus gives up her Council seat.

AD23

Democrat Stacey G. Pheffer Amato and Republican Alan N. Zwirn, both running uncontested in their respective primaries, will face-off in the general election for Assembly District 23, representing parts of Far Rockaway, Rockaway Park, Arverne, Broad Channel, Howard Beach and Ozone Park.

INCUMBENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT PRIMARY CHALLENGERS IN NEW YORK CITY

In addition to races for open seats throughout New York City, there are several incumbents attempting to fend off primary challenges.

SENATE

SD10

In Queens, state Democratic state Senator James Sanders Jr. faces an insurgent primary contest from Adrienne Adams in Senate District 10, encompassing neighborhoods including Jamaica, Rosedale, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, Springfield Gardens and the Rockaways. The incumbent, who outwardly [supported](#) Bernie Sanders in the 2016 Democratic presidential primary, and his primary opponent held a [debate](#) on NY1. In an unusual twist, Adams has the support of much of the Democratic establishment after Sanders had at one point expressed his intention to challenge sitting Congressional Rep. Gregory Meeks.

SD16

The race for Queens' 16th Senate District has also been heating up, with incumbent Democratic state Senator Toby Ann Stavisky taking on Democratic primary challenger S.J. Jung. This is a repeat contest from 2014.

Jung is being ridiculed for a [statement](#) he made about erasing same-sex couples from school textbooks, as reported by The Daily News. Though Stavisky is not free from her own [controversy](#), as the Observer found the incumbent and ranking member of the Committee on Higher Education to have taken tens of thousands of dollars in contributions from for-profit colleges, including one that's been involved

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donors in contributions from for-profit colleges, including one that's been involved in a bribery scandal that implicated an Assembly member from Queens in 2009. The candidates participated in a candidates' forum at Queens Library in Flushing on August 23, as [reported by](#) the Queens Tribune.

SD18

In Northern Brooklyn's 18th Senate District, incumbent state Senator Martin Dilan is being challenged by insurgent candidate Debbie Medina, another Bernie Sanders supporter who is receiving [attention](#) for her firebrand democratic socialism rooted in tenant organizing. Her core message addresses gentrification and the affordable housing crisis in New York, though Dilan has been critical of his challenger for accepting campaign [contributions](#) from the young professionals pushing people out of the neighborhoods she says she wants to keep intact.

Kings County Politics asked both candidates to [comment](#) on poverty and affordability in South Williamsburg and Bushwick. In response to this question, Medina echos a Sanders stump speech advocating "higher taxes on the wealthy to fund spending on our roads, rails, and bridges." Both candidates believing in better wages, while Dilan had a more holistic response encompassing education, job creation and transportation.

SD25

State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, who has served in the Senate for 32 years in Brooklyn's 25th Senate District representing Red Hook, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and parts of Brooklyn Heights, Sunset Park, Park Slope, and Crown Heights, is faced with a [re-election challenge](#) from experienced political operative Michael Cox, a Crown Height native who once served in the Obama Administration in an advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development and the Assistant Secretary of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

SD33

In the Bronx, incumbent Democratic state Senator Gustavo Rivera is facing a primary contest from City Council Member Fernando Cabrera, who lost in a 2014 bid to unseat Rivera. The [race](#) is causing tension within the Bronx Democratic County party, whose leaders were hoping Rivera would run uncontested in the primary to keep things civil between the two rivals and allow them to focus more on representing their shared constituents and less on critiquing each other. Causing tension to rise even higher, the Super PAC New Yorkers for Independent Action has funded [mailers](#) attacking Rivera and singing Cabrera's praises. The two candidates faced off in a [debate](#) on NY1's Inside City Hall.

ASSEMBLY

AD46

Assembly District 46 is represented by Assemblymember Pamela Harris, who won a special election last year and [is in a tight race](#) with challenger Kate Cucco to represent residents of southern Brooklyn including Bay Ridge, Fort Hamilton, and Coney Island.

The race has included news reports of Harris' personal [financial struggles](#), with Harris issuing a [public letter](#) in response. Harris is also being forced to discuss her [non-profit organization](#) that she ran before being elected to the Assembly. Cucco is one of several challengers to incumbents who are [receiving campaign contributions](#) from New Yorkers for Independent Action, a Super PAC supported by wealthy donors from the education reform movement. [[Read more about the race from Gotham Gazette here.](#)]

AD55

Assemblymember Latrice Walker, representing Brownsville, Ocean Hill and parts of Bedford-Stuyvesant in the 55th Assembly District, faces a Democratic primary challenge from City Council Member and District Leader Darlene Mealy. Any challenge from a sitting elected official can put pressure on an incumbent and this race puts Walker in a tough position given Mealy's experience in government, though Mealy is not known as a particularly productive legislator in the City Council.

AD65

In the 65th Assembly District, incumbent Assemblymember Alice Cancel -- who [won](#) a special election to replace convicted former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver in April -- will share the vote with five Democratic primary challengers: Yuh-Line Niou,

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Gigi K. Li, Jenifer Rajkumar, Don Lee, and Paul Newell. Cancel was Silver's choice to fill his seat, though she faced a tough challenge from Niou in the special. It is expected to be a close fight now. The New York Times writes that the candidates reflect the [ethnic diversity](#) of the 65th Assembly District, one of the city's most diverse. Newell challenged Silver in 2008 and has been active as a district leader, as has Rajkumar. Niou has the backing of the Working Families Party - she ran on the WFP line in April when she narrowly lost to Cancel.

AD72

In Manhattan's 72nd Assembly District, incumbent Assemblymember Guillermo Linares faces opponents George Fernandez and Carmen N. De La Rosa. De La Rosa, who [released](#) her campaign platform at the end of August, is being backed by a significant group of Democratic elected officials, including Sen. Espaillat and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. Linares is among those who lost to Espaillat in his Democratic congressional victory. The Manhattan Times has more [information](#) about Fernandez, Linares' other challenger, a tenant organizer who served three terms as Chair of Community Board 12.

AD78

Long-time incumbent [Jose Rivera](#) is facing a challenge in Assembly District 68, which includes Kingsbridge, Belmont, and other Bronx neighborhoods. Rivera is [being challenged](#) by Ischia Bravo, who [has been](#) a longtime political aide and operative in the borough. Bravo has worked for both Congressman Jose Serrano and State Senator Jose Serrano Jr. She is currently a community board member and from 2008 to 2016, she was the executive director for the Bronx Democratic County Committee.

AD86

Incumbent Bronx Democratic Assemblymember Victor Pichardo faces a repeat primary [challenge](#) from Hector Ramirez, a Bronx-based activist facing a 242-count indictment for voter fraud related to the last time he ran against Pichardo. Initially it [appeared](#) Pichardo would be running against former 86th District Assemblymember Nelson Castro, once an informant for the federal government implicating fellow elected officials to reduce charges over election-related perjury. Castro said he decided to drop out of the race over a lack of fundraising. Ramirez is expected to be a much tougher primary challenger for Pichardo than Castro would have been, assuming he's not found guilty of voter fraud.

OTHER INCUMBENTS FACING PRIMARY CHALLENGES:

ASSEMBLY

- Pamela Stewart-Martinez is challenging incumbent Democrat Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda for his seat in the 87th Assembly District.
- Central Queens Assemblymember Margaret Markey will face Democratic [primary challenger](#) Brian Barnwell in the 30th Assembly District, where Markey has served since 1999.
- Queens Assemblymembers Michele Titus and Vivian Cook will also face primary challenges from Nigel Loncke and Rodney Reid, respectively.
- Running in the Democratic primary against 59th Assembly District incumbent Assemblymember Jaime Williams -- who won a special election in April to replace state Senator Persaud in her former Assembly seat -- is Spencer Cineus.
- Veteran Greenwich Village Democratic Assemblymember Deborah Glick is facing her first [primary challenge](#) in over 26 years of service in New York's 66th Assembly District, according to The Villager. Her challenger is none other than Jim Fouratt, an activist who was present at the 1969 Stonewall Inn Uprising. Both Democratic primary candidates are openly gay, and Glick was the first openly gay person elected to public office in New York City. Fouratt believes Glick has been too silent on important issues like the corruption in Albany prompting his campaign challenge.
- Southern Brooklyn's 42nd Assembly District incumbent Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte also faces a challenger in the Democratic primary, hers from Victor Jordan, who received 6 percent of the vote to Bichotte's 49 percent

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in the 2014 primary.

- In the Bronx, incumbent Assemblymember Carmen Arroyo has two challengers in the Democratic primary election for the 84th Assembly District: Carmen Muniz and Jackson Strong. Incumbent Democrat Assemblymember Marcos Crespo is facing a rematch of his 2014 primary against William Moore, which Crespo won with 79 percent of the vote.
- On Staten Island, incumbent Republican Assemblymember Ronald Castorina Jr. - who won a special election in April 2016 to replace now City Council Member Joseph Borelli - faces a primary challenge from Janine Materna who ran for City Council as a Democrat in 2009, in AD62.

SENATE

- Incumbent Bronx state Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. faces a primary challenge from Elliot Quinones, who previously ran for Diaz's seat in 2014 but was removed from the ballot before the primary.
- Southeast Queens Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman, who won her seat in the 29th Assembly District in a 2015 special election to replace scandal-ridden former Assemblymember William Scarborough, will face two challengers in the Democratic primary: Lorraine Bridges and Linda Guillebeaux.
- In the 19th Senate District encompassing parts of Sheepshead Bay, Canarsie, Brownsville, and East New York, two **former political allies** are battling it out to become the Democratic nominee. Incumbent Democratic state Senator Roxanne Persaud faces a challenge from Mercedes Narcisse, who experienced a "long falling out," according to Kings County Politics, over her entrance into the race and abruptly-ended run for the overlapping 59th Assembly District female Democratic District Leader position.

PRIMARY RACES TO WATCH OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY

There are a number of other primary races to watch outside of New York City. Many deal with empty seats or seats being vacated by incumbents not seeking re-election.

Leaving their state Senate seats are Republicans Jack M. Martins (SD7), Hugh T. Farley (SD49) and Michael F. Nozzolio (SD54), and Democrat Marc Panepinto (SD60). Vacating their state Assembly seats are Republicans Stephen M. Katz (AD94), Claudia Tenney (AD101), James Tedisco (AD112), Janet L. Duprey (AD115), Angela M. Wozniak (AD143), and Jane L. Corwin (AD144), and Democrat Michelle Schimel (AD16). Sen. Todd Kaminsky (formerly of AD20) filled the 9th District state Senate seat following the expulsion of Dean Skelos. Kaminsky is running for re-election to the Senate while his Assembly seat will be filled this year.

by William Fowler for Gotham Gazette

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f Here's your Queens roundup of New York state primary results



Photo: Shutterstock

By [Liam Baker](#) / impbaker93@gmail.com / Wednesday, September 14, 2016 / 4:00 PM

Aside from one major upset, **incumbent Democratic lawmakers** in Queens held on to their seats in Tuesday's statewide primary.

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky defeated community organizer S. J. Jung in the Democratic primary for the second time in her bid for an eighth term in the 16th Senatorial District seat. After votes from all of the district's voting precincts were counted, Stavisky won 57 percent of the vote while Jung finished with just 42 percent.



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Stavisky's triumph was the culmination of what was a heated and divisive race, with Jung at odds with Stavisky on a number of key issues, including same-sex marriage and abortion rights.

Jung received a lot of grief from elected officials and women's groups alike when, earlier in the race, he promised residents that he would remove all images of gay people from school textbooks if elected. He also publicly stated at a debate in Flushing that he doesn't support a woman's right to an abortion, barring circumstances where the pregnancy threatens the life of the woman.

In the State Senate District 10 Democratic primary, state Senator James Sanders Jr. defeated challenger Adrienne Adams. With more than 97 percent of all voting precincts counted, Sanders came away with nearly 58 percent of the vote to Community Board 12 chairwoman Adams' 42 percent.

The Queens County Democratic Party had backed Adams after Sanders announced last year that he was planning to take on Queens Congressman Gregory Meeks of the 5th Congressional District in the upcoming fall elections. However, Sanders has since withdrawn from the race against Meeks and will now be unopposed in the November election.

Assemblywoman Hyndman has retained her seat representing District 29 on the State Assembly after a landslide victory over opponents Lorraine Bridges and Linda Guillebeaux. Hyndman won a dominant 73 percent of the vote, while challengers Bridges and Guillebeaux finished with 20 and 6 percent, respectively.

In District 32, incumbent Assemblywoman Vivian Cook toppled opponent Rodney Reid in the Democratic primary for State Assembly. Cook won the primary in decisive fashion, finishing with 77 percent to Reid's 22 percent. Cook has represented the 32nd Assembly District since 1991.

The race for the Democratic nomination for the seat on the State Assembly for District 33 that was left vacant following the death of Barbara Clark was a fiercely contested one, with five candidates on the ballot. Ultimately, it was businessman and community advocate Clyde Vanel who came out victorious, winning 32 percent of the vote.

Vanel's closest rival was Nantasha Williams, who ended up with 28 percent of the vote. After Williams, the ticket was rounded out by Bryan Block, Roy Paul and Sabine French, who finished with 24, 11 and 3 percent of the vote, respectively.



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11



A young Black woman with dark, wavy hair is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is wearing a light-colored cardigan with thin, horizontal stripes. Her arms are crossed. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a concrete wall and a wooden chair.

City and State 40 under 40



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CITIZEN ACTION OF NEW YORK ENDORSES NANTASHA WILLIAMS FOR ELECTION IN THE 33RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

by Stanley Fritz | Jul 29, 2016 | Archive, Press Releases | 0 Comments



Community Organization Cites Williams Passion for Fixing a "Broken System"

New York, NY - Today, Citizen Action of New York announced its endorsement of Nantasha Williams to represent the 33rd Assembly District in Cambria Heights, Queens.

"Nantasha is the best candidate for the job," said **Leila Nashashibi, a member of Citizen Action's New York City Chapter board.** "She is passionate about fixing the system so that it works for regular New Yorkers. Her strong progressive values will prove to help set our state government on a path toward serving all people. We're excited to work with Nantasha once she is elected to represent the 33rd Assembly District."

"Citizen Action fights for integrity and accountability in government and electoral politics," **Said Williams.** "I am deeply honored to receive their endorsement. I look forward to working in partnership with this highly respected organization on issues of equity and justice when I'm elected to the Assembly."

Williams has worked as Chief of Staff to Assemblymember Diana Richardson, for former Assemblymember Karim Camara, and in non-profit advocacy. As the representative of Assembly District 33, she will work for state funding for education and youth development programs, foreclosure prevention for working families, and comprehensive criminal justice reform.

Citizen Action of New York is a grassroots, community organization with over 30,000 members across New York State. The organization works on issues important to our communities, including limiting the influence of money in politics, guaranteeing livable wages and economy-boosting jobs, quality public education for all children, reforms to the criminal justice system, and more. Citizen Action endorses candidates for public office who support the same vision for a New York that works for everyone, not just the wealthy.

Citizen Action of New York

JUL 29 2016

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

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Citizen Action of New York

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40 UNDER 40 RISING STARS

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This year's honorees include a crop of fresh-faced Assembly members, some of the best communications people at the state Capitol, policy wonks who do unglamorous grunt work and some successful lobbyists. But all of them stood out to the colleagues who nominated them.

Profiles were written by Jeffrey Coltin, Wilder Fleming, Ashley Hupfl, Jon Lentz, Alice Popovici and Justin Sondel.

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Deputy Superintendent for Public Affairs, State Department of Financial Services



Justin Berhaupt

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Matt Cannon

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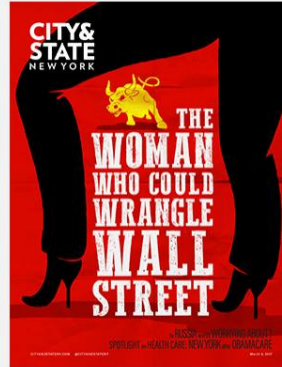


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Senior Policy Adviser to the State Medicaid Director, State Department of Health

Health Care Policy Director, Cordo & Co. LLC

Communications Director, Business Council of New York State



Jessica Morelli Joyce

Chief of Staff, State Sen. David Valesky's Office



Latoya Joyner

Assemblywoman



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40 Under 40 Rising Stars

(IMAGE 2 OF 4)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **42.7K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **641**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **49**



40 Under 40 Rising Stars

(IMAGE 3 OF 4)



Jennifer Mero

Assistant Secretary to the University, State University of New York



Deidrea Miller

Manager of Digital Communications and Strategy, New York Power Authority



Carl Mills III

Counsel and Legislative Director, State Sen. John Flanagan's Office



Jonaliza Misa

Communications Specialist, State Senate Democratic Conference



Mitch Pawluk

Attorney, Harris Beech PLLC



Burton Phillips

Chief Counsel and Policy Director, State Sen. Brad Hoylman's Office



Mike Pouloupoulos

Co-Director, New York StateWatch



Hattie Quarnstrom-Figueroa

Manager, State Office for New Americans



Diana Richardson

Assemblywoman



Raven Robinson

Political Strategist, Founder, PR2Politics



David Rozen

Assistant Counsel, State Department of Health's records access office



Caley Taratus

Legislative Analyst, The Roffe Group P.C.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

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Julie Tighe

Director of Legislative Affairs, State Department of Environmental Conservation



Paul Thomas

Vice President, The Parkside Group



Mike Vilensky

Reporter, The Wall Street Journal



Tunisha Walker

Vice President, MWBE Consultant, Capaline+Company



Alison Walsh

Assistant Vice President of Public Policy, Planning and Incentives, Empire State Development



Nantasha Williams

Interim Executive Director, State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus



Angela Wozniak

Assemblywoman

40 Under 40 Rising Stars

(IMAGE 4 OF 4)

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Nantasha Williams



Nantasha Williams was a 2016 Democratic candidate for District 33 of the New York State Assembly.

Elections

2016

See also: *New York State Assembly elections, 2016*

Elections for the office of New York State Assembly took place in 2016. The primary election took place on September 13, 2016, and the general election was held on November 8, 2016. The filing deadline for major party candidates was July 14, 2016. The filing deadline for independent candidates was August 23, 2016. This seat was vacant. It was previously represented by the late Barbara Clark (D).

Clyde Vanel defeated Goldy-Francois Wellington and Leroy Gadsden in the New York State Assembly District 33 general election.^{[1][2]}

Party	Candidate	Vote %	Votes
■ Democratic	✓ Clyde Vanel	88.23%	40,212
■ Republican	Goldy-Francois Wellington	9.76%	4,450
■ NIP-New Ideas	Leroy Gadsden	2.01%	914
Total Votes			45,576

Source: New York Board of Elections

Clyde Vanel defeated Nantasha Williams, Bryan J. Block, Roy Paul, and Sabine French in the New York State Assembly District 33 Democratic primary.^{[3][4]}

Party	Candidate	Vote %	Votes
■ Democratic	✓ Clyde Vanel	32.44%	1,822
■ Democratic	Nantasha Williams	28.31%	1,590
■ Democratic	Bryan J. Block	24.96%	1,402
■ Democratic	Roy Paul	10.66%	599
■ Democratic	Sabine French	3.63%	204
Total Votes			5,617

Goldy-Francois Wellington ran unopposed in the New York State Assembly District 33 Republican primary.^{[3][4]} Wellington also ran on the Conservative Party ticket.

Recent news

The link below is to the most recent stories in a Google news search for the terms **Nantasha Williams New York House**. These results are automatically generated from Google. Ballotpedia does not curate or endorse these articles; they are included to provide readers with the most recent news articles on the subject. [Click here](#) to learn more about this section.

Nantasha Williams - Google News Feed

See also

- New York State Assembly
- New York State Assembly District 33
- New York State Assembly elections, 2016
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Footnotes

1. ↑ *New York State Board of Elections*. "2016 General Election Candidate List." accessed October 11, 2016
2. ↑ *New York State Board of Elections*. "Election results, 2016." accessed December 23, 2016
3. ↑ ^{3.0} ^{3.1} *New York State Board of Elections*. "Filings received for the 2016 State/Local Primary." accessed August 29, 2016
4. ↑ ^{4.0} ^{4.1} *New York State Board of Elections*. "Election returns September 13, 2016." accessed November 6, 2016

BP The information about this individual is current as of when his or her last campaign ended. Please contact us with any updates.

Nantasha Williams



New York State Assembly, District 33

Former candidate

Party Democratic



Is this your profile? Verify your resume with CandidateVerification.

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JAN 1 2016

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.45M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **8.29K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **76**



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THE TAP

Ballotpedia wants to keep you in the know. In our weekly newsletter, The Tap, we let you know the important things that happened last week, and what you should look for this week. Click here to check out this week's edition.

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Nantasha Williams - Ballotpedia

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(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

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Nantasha Williams Talks Running for Office at 28 Years Old + Helping Queens



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Meet Nantasha Williams: Candidate for New York State Legislature at Only 28-Years-Old

ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

LATEST POSTS

By Victor Trammell

Black women in America between the ages of 18-44 are a very powerful demographic. In 2016, they are currently dominating the worlds of sports and entertainment. They are also the most formally educated demographic in the nation.

The so-called "black female millennials" of today have been a sizable portion of the electorate that has voted in national elections over the past decade. The core group of this amazing American demographic is around 26 to 36-years-old. Ambitious Black women in this age group are also starting to run for and get elected to hold public offices.

[Aja Brown](#), 34, is the mayor of Compton, California. [Marilyn Mosby](#), 36, is the elected State's Attorney for Baltimore, Maryland. Though there is still a lot of progress to be made, Black American women in the millennial age group are starting to take their rightful place in the political arena.

The latest trailblazer in the race to fill more elected local, state, and federal offices with younger, more vibrant Black women is named Nantasha Williams (pictured). Williams, 28 (Democrat), ran for the 33rd Assembly district of the New York State Legislature in a primary that was held Tuesday (September 13th).

Though Williams lost yesterday's political contest to Clyde Vanel, a New York business attorney, she thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being the youngest person on the campaign trail. Williams has accomplished a great amount of professional experience before the age of 30.

"Williams has already served as the executive director of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus and was honored as one of 'Albany's Rising Stars Top 40 Under 40' in City and State Magazines," wrote [Christina Coleman](#), a contributor to [Essence Magazine](#).

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Meet Nantasha Williams: Candidate for New York State Legislature at Only 28-Years-Old

SEP 14 2016

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

43.6K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

8.71K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

26



3



"It's her experience in the community as a Black woman that makes her public advocacy authentic," Coleman also wrote.

Williams ran for a seat on the New York State Legislature because she wanted to make a difference in her neighborhood of Cambria Heights, Queens. Her community work as a youth development advocate has given her the opportunity to make some great strides on her mission to positively reshape the education system.

"It's those people that I want to inspire and empower and hope to get them involved in the process. Black women are the highest voting bloc, but our wants and needs are getting pushed to the back burner," Williams told Essence Magazine in an exclusive interview.

"Being in this space is so important because I speak for the needs of our demographic," she continued. More young Black women like Williams are desperately needed in city halls, county commissions, and state capitols all over America.

You can learn more about Williams and her impressive path toward the political arena by [clicking here](#).

Source: <http://www.essence.com/2016/09/13/nantasha-williams-ny-state-legislature-elections>

Meet Nantasha Williams: Candidate for New York State Legislature at Only 28-Years-Old

SEP 14 2016

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

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