| From the Village of Brooklyn |

Our Time Press

The Local Paper with the Global View

Vol. 30 No.20 Since 1996 Nov 5 - Dec 3, 2026

Democrats Sweep 2026 Mid-Terms

President Barack Obama's Assessment Goes Global
"We Did It!": AG James, House Speaker Jeffries, Assemblywoman Walker, Others Cheer Voter Turnout



NOVEMBER 3:House Minority Leader, and Brooklynite, Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y. is joined by: From left, House Minority Whip Katherine Clark, D-Mass., , Reps. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash., Ted Lieu, D-Calif., and Gregory Meeks, D-N.Y., as they address an election night watch party in Washington, D.C., after Democrats won the House, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. (Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images)

The Blue Wave: Post midterm elections, Tuesday evening, President Obama hailed the victory and praised the people -- voters, candidates, election workers -- for their contributions to America's democratic process.

He said:

"Tonight, the American people sent a clear message — they want a politics that brings people together rather than divides them, and leaders who offer concrete solutions to the challenges they face.



These results were only possible because outstanding candidates stepped forward in every region of the country — including in areas once considered long shots. They came from different backgrounds and represented a range of political perspectives, but were united by shared values, a belief in public service, and a commitment to putting the people of their districts and states first.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the thousands of election officials and volunteers from both parties who helped ensure a smooth election and carried out one of the most essential functions of our democracy. While this administration has another two years in office, our job now is to roll up our sleeves, make changes wherever we have the power to do so, prevent further damage, and lay the groundwork for the future."

View From Here
• David Mark Greaves

Looking Forward

The question of how much the nation will endure has been answered: No more. The unanticipated war, the cruelty, the economic disaster, and the debasement of political language have proven to be too much for the voters. They have spoken clearly of their desire to return to the journey toward the American Dream of optimism for the future in a society that President Abraham Lincoln had envisioned in his1863 Gettysburg Address, where he spoke of a "Government of the people, by the people, for the people," and when Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "I Have a Dream," in 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Rep. Yvette Clarke Stands on the Frontlines of AI Legislation

• By Mary Alice Miller

Recent White House media reports have brought the possibility of tepid, voluntary industry regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) to public attention.

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY) has been consistent in her call for passage of federal legislation to bring transparency and accountability to the use of AI technologies. She has introduced and co-sponsored several key pieces of artificial intelligence legislation in Congress to target algorithmic bias, deepfakes, and intellectual property protection.

Clarke recently reintroduced The REAL Political Ads Act, legislation to strengthen transparency and accountability in political advertising by requiring disclosure when generative artificial intelligence (AI) is used to create images or videos in political advertisements.

First introduced in May 2023, The REAL Political Ads Act would expand current disclosure requirements for campaign ads to include if generative AI was used to generate any videos or images in the ad.

"As generative AI technologies continue to evolve, clear disclosure standards to preserve transparency are essential to civic engagement. Unfortunately, Congress has failed to keep up the pace with this rapidly advancing technology, leaving voters vulnerable to AI-generated misinformation and disinformation," said Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke at the reintroduction of this bill.

Rep. Clarke has introduced other AI-related legislation in collaboration with other members of the House and Senate.

In December 2025, Clarke introduced the AI Civil Rights Act in collaboration with Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Ma.).

This bill would prohibit companies from using biased and discriminatory AI-powered algorithms in high-stakes decisions that impact civil rights, civil liberties, and livelihoods (such as housing, employment, education, credit, healthcare, and parole).

Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke introduced the Algorithmic Accountability Act with Senator Ron Wyden in September 2025 to provide greater levels of transparency and accountability for the ways in which companies use AI systems in the decision-making processes of high-impact areas, including in housing, employment, credit, education and others.

AI Law Tracker called the Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2025 "the first major federal attempt to regulate commercial AI use across industries."

Rep. Yvette Clarke introduced The CREATOR (Creative Rights Ensuring Artists' Technique and Originality Are Reserved) Act in June 2026 alongside



Congressmember Yvette Clarke

Representatives Beth Van Duyne and Valerie Foushee.

"Creators and artists have been sounding the alarm about the misuse of their work and identities by AI systems," said Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke.

In a blog post, Adobe (one of the premiere digital software platforms used by creatives) expressed support for the CREATOR Act, stating it would "address a gap in our intellectual property laws by protecting creators against AI-enabled style impersonation."

An Axios post said the bill matters because "there currently isn't a legal framework that protects a creator's style. Copyright laws protect registered works, but not someone's likeness."

In September 2023 Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY) and Congressman Glenn Ivey (D-MD) introduced the DEEPFAKES Accountability Act of 2023 to require creators to digitally watermark deepfake content. This legislation would also make it a crime to fail to identify malicious deepfakes, including deepfakes depicting sexual content, related to criminal conduct, used to incite violence, and related to foreign interference in an election.

In December 2025 Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09) led 43 of her colleagues in a letter to House and Senate Armed Services Committee leadership urging the exclusion of any moratorium or preemption on state Artificial Intelligence laws in the FY26 NDAA.

"Artificial intelligence offers exciting opportunity and innovations, but without proper protections in place, the potential for harm is too great to ignore," stated the 44 members in the letter. "Unless and until Congress acts in a comprehensive manner – including to address algorithmic harms and bias – state laws are the only recourse American consumers have for protecting themselves and their data from Big Tech and the multitude of potential harms caused by AI."

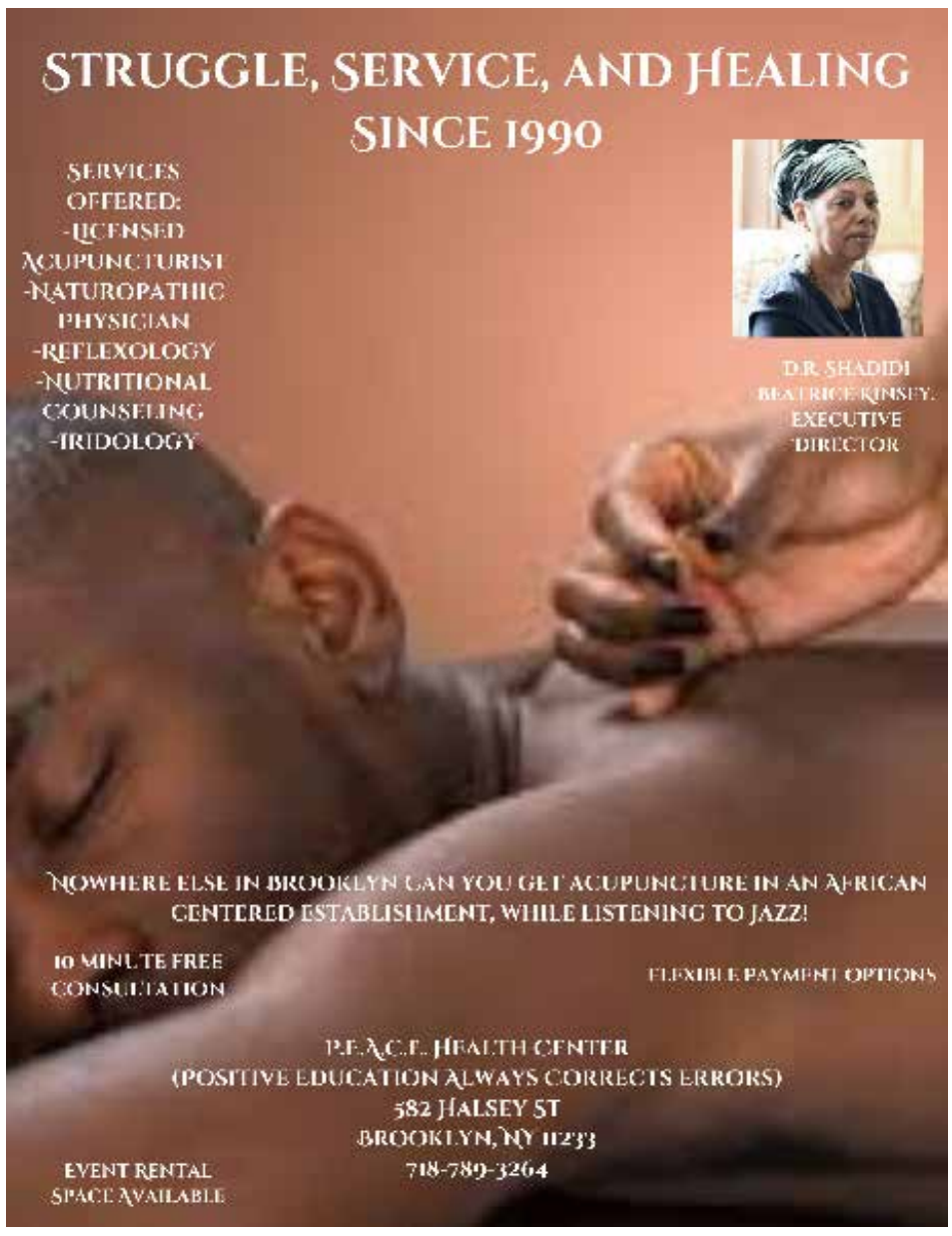
In 2025 alone, all 50 states introduced legislation on AI, and 38 states adopted or enacted 100 measures on the topic. New York State and the New York City Council continue to craft AI legislation.

One of the most impactful Bill's that Rep. Clarke has sponsored is the No Biometric Barriers to Housing Act of 2025.

Clarke introduced the bill in April 2025. It would ban facial recognition, fingerprint scanners, and other biometric technologies in most federally funded housing (public housing, Section 8 properties, and HUD-assisted developments). It also requires HUD to study how biomet-

see **CLARKE** on page 5

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Tel. 718-599-6828
www.ourtimepress.com
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Brooklyn Artist Francks F. Deceus Dedicates MoCADA Mural to Haiti

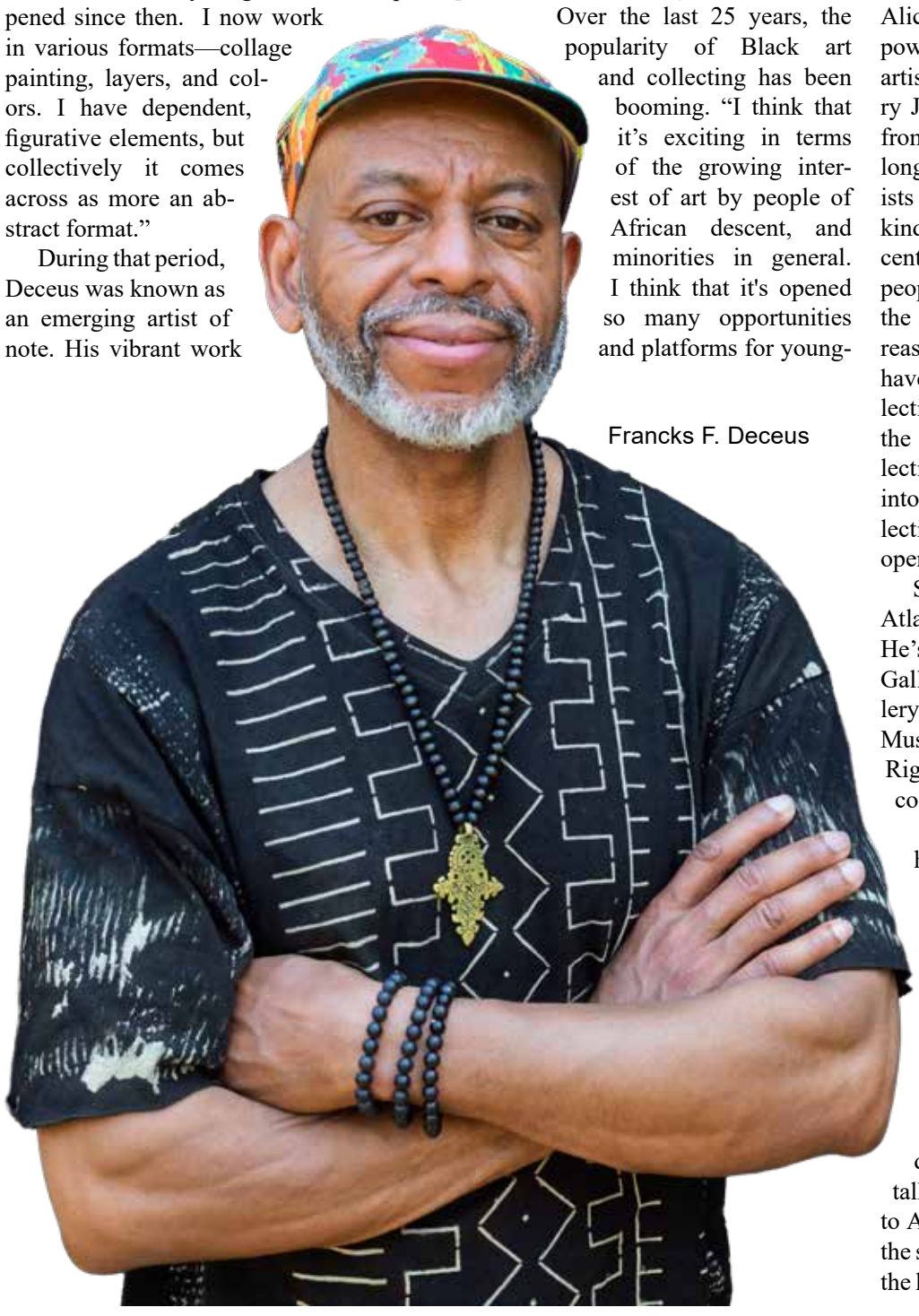
• Fern Gillespie

An art class at Long Island University changed Francks F. Deceus' life. At the time, the Brooklyn based artist was a sociology major. After earning his sociology degree and briefly working with nonprofits, he began to explore a career as an artist.

By the 1990s, the Haitian-American artist received an invitation to the legendary Robert Blackburn Printing Workshop. "That's kind of how I got started in the whole art making," he told Our Time Press. "That initial spot was pivotable in terms of everything that has happened since then. I now work in various formats—collage painting, layers, and colors. I have dependent, figurative elements, but collectively it comes across as more an abstract format."

During that period, Deceus was known as an emerging artist of note. His vibrant work was exhibited at the Schomburg, Cinque Gallery, Jamaica Arts Center, and others. His artwork went into the permanent collection of the Schomburg and he had major commissions for Medgar Evers College and Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Unfortunately, during the 1990s, there were few major exhibition opportunities for Black artists. "There weren't a lot of other institutions that one could look to for that kind of support and opportunity," he said. "A lot of the galleries were very limited in their scope and how much they could offer to an artist in terms of development and establishing themselves."



Francks F. Deceus

Over the last 25 years, the popularity of Black art and collecting has been booming. "I think that it's exciting in terms of the growing interest of art by people of African descent, and minorities in general. I think that it's opened so many opportunities and platforms for younger emerging artists and even established seasoned artists," he said. "Having a platform and having support changes everything. It makes it so much more viable and so much more vibrant. There's so much more creativity and so much more support. It speaks to the changing times that we went through."

Now, there are high profile collectors like Jay-Z, who supports emerging Black artists and purchased a Jean-Michel Basquiat painting for $4.5 million. In 2024, Brooklyn Museum hosted a milestone exhibition Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swiss Beatz and Alicia Keys spotlighting the couple's powerful collection of works by Black artists. Paintings by famed artist Kerry James Marshall have sold at auction from $5 million to $21 million. "For a long time, art by African American artists and artists of African Descent were kind of dismissed. I think, until as recent as the Obama portraits, a lot of people really did not give it the value or the spotlight it deserved for a number of reasons," said Deceus. "Things like that have changed the whole spectrum of collecting. From those who collect just for the love of it and from those whose collecting is an investment. The inclusion into the commerce side of Black art collecting has opened the possibilities and opened doors.

Since 2000, Deceus has studied at the Atlantis Printmaker Center in France. He's exhibited at Nnamdi Gallery, UFA Gallery,RUSH Arts, Kenkeleba Art Gallery, Hampton University, Brooklyn Museum of Art, and the National Civil Rights Museum. He is in the permanent collection of HBCU Xavier University.

When Deceus was nine years-old, his family immigrated to the US from Haiti. Currently, he has a major Haiti inspired public work on view at Brooklyn's MoCADA Museum through April 2027. It's a 30 foot mural entitled Carib Import #1 on the Greg Tate Art Wall in the Ubuntu Botanical Garden. "This work is a travel suit made up of a number of shapes and patterns and inflatable devices. It kind of metaphorically talks about the effort it takes to migrate to America, and also the challenges and the sacrifices, and ultimately highlighting the kind of energy and vibrancy and spirit and courage that it takes to leave everything behind. To just take the chance on this journey, hoping that it'll work out," he said. "Myself being from Haiti. it's important that I channel these experiences and these stories, and draw attention to the conditions and the circumstances that are happening. I hopefully generate the kind of response as needed to kind of help solve some of these issues that's facing immigrants, especially Haitian immigrants. Now that things like TPS has been revoked or canceled, and how Haitians are being sent back to Haiti in a time when Haiti has never been more unstable than it is now with the vacuum that's created after the president was assassinated. I think that it's important to have markers available so that people can stop, think, and hopefully take action. It's going to take collective effort to affect any kind of change."

The exhibition is under the direction of Amy Andrieux, Executive Director and Chief Curator at MoCADA. "As an American born Haitian, I felt a personal duty to have a point of view on the plight of Haitian Americans especially — from anti-immigrant sentiments, fear-mongering, massive spikes in detention and deportation, to the dismantling of critical policies that once supported and protected Haitian lives," she said. "Franck Deceus' art has helped me and many others to begin the journey of reconciling what it means to be Haitian and American simultaneously. Erecting Deceus' "Carib Import #1" in our Brooklyn garden has become a cross-cultural ice-breaker in a moment marred by chaos and disinformation. For Haitians, it is a pathway to our collective memories, a place where we convene, nurture ourselves, and reroot our sources of pride."

Deceus's degree in sociology remains instrumental in his art. "I do use my background in sociology in my work. I'm interested in people in a collective kind of a way and sociology definitely deals with," he said. "As a storyteller, I think it's important that I tell the story that I'm most familiar with. But more importantly, how does that story translate, and how can people relate to it. I'm looking for ways and platforms to reach as many people as possible."

For more information on. Francks F. Deceus, visit www.deceusart.com

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Clarke
continued from page 5

ric and algorithmic tenant screening tools discriminate against renters, particularly people of color, women, and the elderly.

All of Clarke's AI-related bills are still in committee, specifically the House Energy and Commerce and House Oversight and Government Reform.

The advancement of AI-related legislation faces tension in the House and Senate.

Roughly one in five members of Congress holds personal or household investments in artificial intelligence (AI) developers, chipmakers, data centers, and cloud infrastructure companies, with combined assets valued between $92.7 million and $351.6 million, according to a report in realsludge.com.

Forbes reports that at least 117 members of Congress (including over 25 senators and more than 100 House members) have disclosed AI- or data-center-linked stock holdings.

The Nation found that around 44 lawmakers who report AI investments sit on key committees with direct jurisdiction over AI safety, consumer protection, trade, copyright, and semiconductor policy (such as the House Energy and Commerce, Judiciary, Science, and Armed Services committees).

And lobbying has spiked. Major AI firms—including OpenAI, Anthropic, and Nvidia—spent roughly $7.5 million on federal lobbying in a single recent quarter, pushing their cumulative spending past $37 million since 2024 as legislative scrutiny intensifies, according to an investigation from the Project on Government Oversight.



Herbert Von King Park, a sanctuary for the Arts, Culture and Nature on Lafayette is alive with people of all ages from around the globe.
Matthew Walker, the new deputy center manager, eft, is seen here with Natalie De Gante, Director of Arts & Cultural programming for NYC Parks. The event attracted 190 park lovers of all ages last month.

Dr. Adelaide Sanford Comments on Institute Named in Her Honor

Reprint: An Interview by Maitefa Angaza for Our Time Press, January 2020

Dr. Sanford spoke about the educational institute established in her name, the John Henrik Clarke House, the Board of Education for People of African Ancestry, imperatives for children and parents, and the establishment of agency in our communities.

DR. ADELAIDE SANFORD:

First, I would like to say that I'm just so proud of Dr. Lester Young and Dr. Renee Young for the Adelaide Sanford Institute. [Founded 2006] When I first met them, they were young people with great, great potential and great dedication. And when politicians in New York held a conference and asked that – as a result of that conference – should there be an emphasis on health or should there be an emphasis on education, on housing…? It was those young people who were the only ones who took up that mantle and said, 'Yes, there should be an ongoing facility that deals with education of people of African ancestry, because no intelligent people abdicate the education of their children to the historical oppressor.' But we really didn't have institutions outside of that, and outside of those established by people of African ancestry, who had very little in the way of resources to get their policies into the mainstream of African American educational life.

So it was only the Youngs that took up that mantle. They gave it my name. I didn't have anything to do with its development; they just felt that some of the principles we thought should be part of education for African American children were not on the agenda for public education. So their effort was to keep it on the agenda and, in addition, to provide resources so that parents would know what their children should be like, what their children should hope for, what their children were capable of, what their history was, and what their future was. And that's what the Adelaide Sanford Institute has done.

And as far as I know, it is the only place in the United States where legislators of color asked for an emphasis on those essential elements of our people, and it was picked up and moved forward, as the Institute has done. And they have done extremely important work, some of it not well known. Publicity is not always there, and they don't necessarily have wealthy people contributing on an ongoing basis. I look at some of the things that John Legend said, I look at some of the things that other people who are in the entertainment field talk about, but I don't know that they are connected, to understand what the Institute does.

Maitefa Angaza/Our Time Press:

That's really a wonderful achievement on the part of the Institute, though.

AS: Yes, it is! It was a wonderful decision, and they have been able to work with educators, with children, and with parents. They hold workshops with parents because the model of education for parents is so inadequate within the public education system. They think of telling parents what to do. But the Institute understands that we really need, as a people, pre-parenting. So that there's some understanding of what the responsibilities are in America and in New York when it comes to being a parent. Because young people don't necessarily know. Even if they have parents, those parents don't necessarily talk about what it means to be a parent, and I think the Institute's work with parents is extremely important because there is no other model.

OTP: Right, I see. Can you tell me what you had in mind … what was your impetus for founding the Board of Education for People of African Ancestry?

AS: When I became a regent in 1986, it gave me a view of what was going on in education across the state and across the United States. And one of the things that struck me was that other groups had boards of education involved in advocacy for their children. Certainly, the Catholics did; certainly, the Jewish people did; and the Asian people did. They had their own boards and organizations that attended regents' meetings and knew what decisions were being made that affected their children. They had volunteers reviewing curriculum material. We had no media, no advocacy, Nothing – while our children were the ones who were the least identifiable as being successful. We had no one reviewing the curriculum, no one attending meetings, and no one at the Regents' meetings. So I started to talk about the importance of having an organization that looked at what the state was doing for children of African ancestry.

And it was very, very difficult. Most people agreed that we should do something, but they didn't know the effect of not having any reporters there, not having any representatives or cultural organizations, or sororities or fraternities, or any group. I tried to form an organization of volunteers who would look at these issues. Everybody agreed, but nobody could do anything about it. My husband, Dr. Jay Sanford, said, "Why don't you try and see if you can pull some people together?" And that's what I did.

That first founding board, the criteria were – and this was a criterion that I developed out of my own thinking – that irrespective of what you did for a living, what has been your commitment to people of African ancestry on a voluntary basis, knowing the love of our people, knowing the value? What kinds of groups have you organized? There were five people who became founding members because they had some history of working for our people, not on a salaried basis but on a voluntary basis. And I didn't look for people who had money; I looked for people who understood the importance of contributing to our people by learning their past and building on today, so that there could be a future.

And as we began to meet, I brought materials about the Board of Regents, what they did, how curriculum was developed, how the textbook industry contributed to it, how the pejorative labels of "disadvantaged,," "culturally-deprived," "at-risk," – all of those things were weapons. If you look at what Carter G. Woodson had told us: that if you wanted to determine a person's behavior, you have to determine what they think about themselves. Think of the importance of that statement.

So that was the beginning of that board, and we would meet in churches, and there was always a time we could meet and a time we had to leave. We didn't really have cultural organizations that said, 'Oh yes, you can meet here.' It was my husband who said, "You need a place of your own, where you can come early, stay late, draw up your own agenda and stand on your own terms." That began the search for a site and that, of course, bloomed into the John Henrik Clarke House. That board began to gather together people in 1988 and in 1990 the board was established as a 501c3. And in 1992 we went into the building that is Clarke House. And of course, it's still there and functioning.

Maitefa Angaza/Our Time Press: How did the organization come to move into that historic, well-appointed brownstone?

Dr. Adelaide L. Sanford: We went out on faith, as we did with the organization of the board (in 1990 as a 501C3). We knew we wanted to be in Harlem because we wanted to be near Dr. Clarke; we wanted to be near the African Studies department at City College; we wanted to be near the Schomburg, where there were always the most conscious people. So it was through a real estate agent my husband contacted that we began to look at buildings in Harlem. They were extremely expensive, and all the banks wanted collateral and to know who would sign the deed and be responsible for the payments.



Dr. Sanford will celebrate her 101st birthday on Nov 27

But we just kept looking regardless of the obstacles, and one day the broker called. She said, 'You know there's a house on Convent Avenue that's been empty for a couple of years.' The two nephews who were survivors were very old and could not live there any longer. The realtor knew the executor of the estate and asked if I would like to talk to him. She said, 'He's very difficult.' But I said, 'Yes, we'll meet with him." And we had the attorney Joe Fleming, who had done great work defending children who were called into a lineup. That was his history of being involved with his people outside of his regular work.

We went to meet with the executor, and it turns out we had been together in Kemet at some time in the past. I told him what we wanted to do, and he liked the idea. He said, 'We will take back the mortgage. You won't have to go through a bank and worry about who's gonna sign the mortgage and all that.' And that's how we got the house. They only asked $280,000, and today that building's been appraised at more than a million.

Every month, we did our best to pay, but if we didn't, he never called; he was never mad. In fact, at one time, he even contributed to our house! A group of women I had friendly relationships with, including Susan Taylor and some others, we'd meet and talk about our lives. We didn't have an agenda; we just called ourselves "The Sisterhood." They said, "How're you doing with paying off the mortgage?" I said, "Oh, we're struggling, but we're keeping our head above water." They said, 'Well, we don't want you to have that worry, Regent Sanford. We think you're doing enough trying to get changes at the Board of Regents level.' And so they said, "We're going to raise the money to pay off the mortgage." And those eight women, in two months, had an event at Canaan Baptist Church. Patti Labelle volunteered her service, thanks to the influence of Susan Taylor. And they raised the balance and paid off that mortgage.

OTP: I remember that. That was so wonderful and inspiring!

AS: Yes! And I would love for the Institute to have a building – organized by people in Brooklyn, and by politicians in Brooklyn. They [Institute members] do meet at various sites, but wouldn't it be wonderful if the athletes or the entertainers decided to have a permanent home?

But I'm grateful for what the Youngs have done – far beyond my imagination or my expectations – and when Dr. Young became a member of the Board of Regents after I retired, he has been able to negotiate some of our ideas into state educational policy – and that's remarkable! If you look at the totality of the influence of these people who are in the Institute, you'll see how it has broadened itself. You will be surprised at what he has done for African American children.

Then, though I've never had money (there's no salary as a regent), I sacrificed $10,000 as my commitment to the future of African American children. And then the National Baptist Convention, after 911, had some money they wanted to set aside for education. They had given college scholarships to some children of Black firefighters. But there was no recognition. If you look at memorabilia from 9/11, you won't see a Black fireman. But the money that was left over, about $75,000, they gave me to give to the Board of Regents because they wanted it to be for all the children. And so that money, combined with the $10,000 that I had given, was the nucleus of some attention that was backed by financial strength. And the first effort was to have educators, college professors, or community-based organizations look at the issue of our children's education and have a voice.

Maitefa Angaza (1950-2024) was a celebrated journalist, editor, filmmaker, and spiritual leader who served as Managing Editor at Carol Butts' African Voices magazine, the publication that amplifies African Diasporic voices through literature, art, and activism. She also was senior writer and copy editor for David Greaves' Our Time Press newspaper for more than 10 years. This image designed and created by artist Jimmy James Greene appears on the cover of African Voices Spring-Summer 2025 legacy tribute issue. For more information, visit maitefaangaza.com, africanvoicesmag.com, ourtimepress.com.



A Tribute to Dr. Adelaide L. Sanford

• By Dr. Brenda M. Greene

I am the only Black student in my class; the memories flood my senses, and tears come to my eyes as I reflect on sitting in kindergarten, one of three Black children in the entire school. I do not want to be subjected to the marginalization that I felt as a young girl and I determine that I will impact the educational system by becoming a teacher and role model for Black and Brown students. Upon graduation from college, I begin teaching in JHS 117 and later at PS 305, both located in Brooklyn, New York. Disillusioned by what I see, I think about beginning my own school. For various reasons, this does not happen, but I become aware of Dr. Adelaide L. Sanford, a powerful and dynamic woman who embodies all that I am inspired to do as an educator.

Dr. Sanford's grace, demeanor, and commitment to creating student-centered learning environments that inspire students to read, to write, and to become knowledgeable about their history and culture affirm my lifelong goals as an educator, scholar, and cultural worker in what Dr. Sanford refers to as the Beloved Community. I have watched Dr. Sanford from afar in her roles as principal of the Crispus Attucks School (PS 21), Vice-Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents, and as an African-centered professor and scholar. I have been in her presence as she recounts stories of the prominent scholar and Pan-Africanist Dr. John Henry Clarke, speaks about the significance of raising funds for the John Henry Clarke House, and recalls visiting the Edmond Pettus Bridge at its annual gathering to commemorate "Bloody Sunday." She continually teaches and regales students, educators, and the community about the importance of acquiring wisdom and becoming servant leaders in their communities.

Guiding and educating our youth are central to Dr. Sanford's core values. Her "Dedication to her Grandsons" in her memoir, From Enslavement to Belovedness: For the Dignity of My People, can be viewed as a message to all young people.

My grandsons, you are today "Freedom Scholars. . . .

At times you are alone in your pursuit to be a Freedom Scholar. . .

Connect with organizations of African ancestry who are in academia. . .

Embrace a system of values that validate and enhance your worth and potential.

In her memoir, Dr. Sanford also speaks lovingly of the regality and elegance of her mother, a consummate breadwinner whose ancestry descended from an Ibo woman and who believed that she had the power to overturn what might seem to be impossible. Her mother instilled this belief in her children and Dr. Sanford has lived by this creed.



Dr. Adelaide Sanford & Dr. Joyce King at Ibo Landing, St. Simon's Island, 2000

All praises to you Dr. Adelaide Sanford, a guiding light and foremother for youth, educators. and the community. Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, tells us that "the sea is so wide, and my boat is so small." You have shown us how to navigate the wide-open sea with fortitude and agency.

Dr. Brenda M. Greene is an Author, Professor Emerita, and Founder and Executive Director Emerita of the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College, CUNY. For more information, visit https://www.drbrendamgreene.com

Our Warrior-Queen-Mother Dr. Adelaide L. Sanford

• By Dr. Joyce King

When Dr. Sanford calls us "Beloved," she attends to our woundedness, embraces us as family, and affirms that she is our Warrior-Queen-Mother. Dr. Sanford has fought for us in the long tradition of warrior queens in the African world—from Queen Amanirenas's defense of ancient Kush, Queen Amina's military campaign in West Africa, Queen Nzinga's fight against the colonization of Angola, Queen Mother Yaa Asantewaa's protection of the Ashanti Golden Stool, Queen Nanny of Jamaica's Maroons, to Queen Mother Audley Moore, Pan-Africanist, human rights activist, and Mother of the Reparations Movement.

I am deeply grateful for Dr. Adelaide Sanford's help when I was in a major Black education struggle. I met the renowned Vice Chancellor Adelaide Sanford when I moved to New York in 1988 to work at Medgar Evers College. I told her that my very good friend, Dr. Mary Bacon, who was from New York, and whom I knew at Stanford University, said that I should get to know Dr. Sanford. It has been a blessing to have Dr. Sanford's trust, her guidance, wise leadership, and her friendship. In 1999 Dr. Sanford stepped in to help me lead an urgent American Educational Research Association (AERA) initiative: How could this 25,000- member organization—arguably the most influential worldwide professional association of university faculty, school leaders, and researchers—how could AERA researchers more effectively address the global crisis in Black education?

I was asked to take charge of the Commission on Research in Black Education that AERA had established to investigate this crisis. I knew I needed help. I went to see Dr. Sanford at her home in Queens. She listened to my plea and agreed to become the chairperson of the Elders Council that I organized to guide and center the Commission's work in our culture. First, we convened a libation at John Henrik Clark House in Harlem and prayed for guidance and protection for our work. Then Dr. Asa Hilliard and Dr. Edmond Gordon, two giants in Black education, and Baba Kwame Ishangi, African folklorist, dancer, and spiritual teacher, joined the Elders Council with Dr. Sanford. With Congressman Major Owens, Susan Taylor, and leading educators who also served on the Commission, we mobilized scholars to examine the state of global Black education and proposed practical solutions to promote academic and cultural excellence. The Commission published a transformative research and action agenda for AERA in a landmark book that centered Black education in strength-based analyses. The work we did to support Black scholarship was ground-breaking and remains influential.

Recently, Dr. Susan Goodwin and I were able to help Dr. Sanford get her powerful memoire, From Enslavement to Belovedness: For the Dignity of My People, published at Third World Press. What a joy it was to give back to her after all that she has given to us.

Do you know what it feels like when an elder, a Warrior-Queen-Mother answers your call for help? I do. It feels like you are her "Beloved".

Dr. Joyce King is the Benjamin E. Mays Endowed Chair for Urban Teaching, Learning & Leadership, Professor of Educational Policy Studies, and Affiliated Faculty, Department of Africana Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta

Meeting Adelaide Sanford

I first met Dr. Adelaide Sanford in 1972 at Public School 21 on Chauncey Street in the Bed-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. That encounter set a tone and a direction that would guide me over the next 50 years. I became a professional actor at the age of 5. Not the most studious fellow, my high school guidance counselor recommended that I join Outward Bound, an outdoor education program, instead of attending a traditional college. It was 1968, the Vietnam War was raging, and at eighteen, I was a prime candidate for the draft. I chose college instead.

It was 1972. Still acting, but needing additional income, a family friend, Theresa Merritt, recommended that I apply to the school where her dear friend was the principal. The school was the Crispus Attucks School (P.S. 21), and the principal was Adelaide Sanford.

During the course of our lives, every now and then, we meet someone whose visage exudes grace and wisdom. Dr Sanford is just such a person. She is calm, yet quietly energetic. She is warm and gentle, yet a powerful woman of action and decisiveness. Upon meeting her, you are greeted with a broad welcoming smile, eyes beaming, and a two-handed handshake that is sincere and trusting. Given the scarcity of Black male teachers, particularly at the elementary school level, she saw in me something that I had yet to see in myself. She believed I could make a difference for the students of P.S. 21.

Public School 21 was a reflection of the woman who led it. Under Dr. Sanford's leadership, the school became a model for what public schools in predominantly Black communities could achieve, communities that the public and politicians had turned their back on poverty to prison pipelines. The school was well-run with committed leadership. Dr. Sanford demanded excellence from teachers, staff, and students. Parents were welcomed and treated with respect. Most importantly, the students were learning. P.S. 21 had one of the highest reading scores in New York State. Her approach to pedagogy was hands-on and student-centered.

One day, I took a sick day from teaching my special education students to act on a soap opera called The Guiding Light. A parent of one of my students was watching that day and shared this revelation with Principal Sanford. When I returned from my one-day malady, I was called to Dr. Sanford's office. I had been busted! I was a grown man, but I still felt like the kid with his hand in the cookie jar. "Mr. Greene", she said quietly but firmly, "You are a good teacher, but you must decide if you are going to teach or act." I chose to teach. Thank you, Dr. Sanford.

Dr. Perry Greene is the retired founding Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Adelphi University and the President of the Stanley Greene Foundation (www.stanleygreenefoundation.org)

Black Dollar Power and Solidarity

• By Nayaba Arinde

As advertised, the spending season is here, from Thanksgiving through Christmas to Kwanzaa; there is another call by Black business advocates to harness Black consumer power as a habit, not a seasonal trend.

It's the economy, Beloved. The average household bill has increased by hundreds this year.

"We underestimate our collective Black dollar spending power, and we do not use our purchasing equity to achieve progress," Colette Pean, December 12th Member, told Our Time Press. The community should re-evaluate how to empower spending solidarity.

"We have to be intentional about where we are going to spend our money. We can make our social, economic and political points when we financially hurt these big companies when we withhold our money from them. Kwanzaa is a great opportunity to spend with ourselves. We must support our businesses, our institutions, and our people in these stressful times. Surrounded by growing gentrification, we must prioritize building and maintaining our community. Buying above our means is a debt fueled exercise. Holding on to our money is a strategy too."

The Selig Center for Economic Growth said that annual Black consumer spending is in the trillions. BlackWallStreet.org noted that as reported in the Black Wall Street Chronicle, US Black consumer buying power will reach $2.1 trillion by the end of 2026, equal to "the gross domestic product of entire nations." Yet, the question they pose is "whether this unprecedented spending power will translate into lasting ownership, institutional control, and generational wealth, or continue to circulate outward with limited long-term retention?"

This surge has occurred despite the fact that the advancement of this whole demographic "has long been constrained by systemic barriers—enslavement, segregation, redlining, and unequal access to capital markets… Today's $2.1 trillion milestone reflects…the resilience of a community that has continuously generated economic value despite structural disadvantages."

However, data shows "Spending reflects income flow, but wealth is built through ownership of assets—businesses, real estate, intellectual property, and financial instruments."

Last year saw boycott demonstrations against President Donald Trump's move to cut Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) from various government agencies, with certain conglomerates and national shopping chains following suit.

One action was the 24-hour Economic Blackout on Friday, February 28th, 2025.

Then, Omowale Clay, Chair of the December 12th Movement, told Our Time Press, "Under the centennial force of Malcolm X, Patrice Lumumba and Franz Fanon - we're Going Black on Feb 28th. Like your life depended on it."

Forbes said that Target lost 11% in in-store walk-ins, 9% in online visits, and suffered an estimated $12.4 billion drop in stock price.

The first Monday of November–sometimes the day before the general election- Clay and his organization hold their annual community observation of Professor Carlos Cook's Black Solidarity Day. It is based on Douglas Turner Ward's 1965 Day of Absence play, demonstrating the impact of Black people removing themselves from day-to-day activity in society: "No work. No school. No shopping."

On Monday, 2nd November, 2026, at Bed Stuy's New Canaan Baptist Church, the Black Solidarity Day Coalition hosted the "In the Fight for Our Human Rights," program of community and culture, where conversations were held about the status quo, grassroots agendas, and the plans to move forward.

There was reflection too on lessons learned. Last year there was the national "Mass Black Out, people's money week off," from Tuesday, November 25th to Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025. The ask was to boycott the big chain stores, and instead patronize Black-owned stores, service providers, and small businesses.

Community activist Brownsville-born-and-raised Robert 'Larry' Marshall told Our Time Press, "I wholeheartedly feel that modern-day boycotting or remnants thereof is fruitless and a waste of precious time and resources. When our people are halted – voluntarily or involuntarily- from engaging in commerce for a day, a week, or even a month, once the opportunity presents itself, will always spend double or triple what they might have, had the interruption not taken place.



We absolutely positively need a completely different approach and/or strategy which will actually produce change or a desired result."

'Bud Brownsville LLC' businessman Marshall continued, "Dr. Claud Anderson wrote the blueprint on what needs to be done, and how we need to do it."

The author of the book PowerNomics, his "strategic economic and political blueprint," economist Dr. Anderson was speaking in Detroit when he stated that the city is bankrupt because, despite being 90% Black, other ethnicities own common amenities like laundromats, hotels, gas stations, wig shops, and nail salons, while "Blacks own nothing in a 90% city, and that's why Detroit went into poverty," Black folk instead go out to the suburbs to spend up to $12 billion.

He offered that folks must 'Strive for Black Group Economics in 2026!!! Stop funding your oppression. Spend with each other and other Black-owned businesses. Support Black-owned banks."

Black dollar power advocates are encouraging consumers to shop with purpose on Black owned platforms such as shop.buyblack.org, GoShopBlack, Kesaruva, Miiriya, and Blaamazon. Coming up are the citywide Black community and Kwanzaa events, including the Marcy Plaza Bed-Stuy Gateway BID's Winter Wonderland, the year-long cultural hub Flatbush Central Caribbean Marketplace, Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market in Harlem, and the Queens Supermarket Initiative organized by Michael Duncan, President General of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Founded by the Federation of African, Caribbean, and American Restaurant Owners Corporation, this initiative established a "major Black-owned community supermarket.

"We need to center ourselves around our families and community, and ground ourselves, and cooperative economics," concluded Colette Pean.





Elections Do Indeed Have Consequences

Democrats Take Control of House and Senate in Historic Midterm Elections

• By Mary Alice Miller

When Trump implored Republican voters to vote as if he were on the ballot, registered Democrats and independent voters also heeded his call. But not in the way Trump wanted.

Democrats won big in Tuesday's midterm election. Pollsters tepidly predicted that democrats could take control of the House and increase their margins in the Senate, but voters dwarfed those predictions and gave the House a strong majority.

So far, Democrats flipped 29 seats in the house. Senate Democrats flipped 7 seats. Those gains may grow with dozens of races yet to be called.

With a Democratic majority, Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries is poised to become House Speaker in the next Congress. Brooklyn is well aware of Jeffries' political acumen. But for the past several years, the rest of the country has seen Jeffries' support for House Democrats as he traveled far and wide in support of Democratic candidates for the House of Representatives.

Reacting to Tuesday's election results, Jeffries called Democrats' historic gains in the midterm elections "an American tsunami."

"We're going to fight to make sure that we make this country affordable for every single American," Jeffries said. "This is a change election. And we understand as House Democrats we need to deliver dramatic change. Things are broken. We need a Congress that puts the American people first."

Jeffries continued, "We're going to bring accountability to those who have visited unprecedented corruption on this country. Because if you have people in high office who are so focused on enriching themselves, their family members, their friends or their donors, then they are not focusing on making life better for the American people."

Democrats saw many history-making firsts occur in Tuesday's election.

Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms was elected the first Black female governor of Georgia. Abdul El-Sayed won Michigan's Senate race, becoming the first Muslim to do so. Xavier Becerra made history as California's first elected Latino governor. Texas elected its first Latina governor, Gina Hinojosa. Deb Haaland, the former U.S. Interior secretary, won her election, becoming the first Native American to be elected New Mexico's governor.

Chris Pappas became the first openly gay man to be elected to the U.S. Senate in New Hampshire. Minnesota elected Peggy Flanagan to become the first Native American woman in the Senate. Wisconsin and Nevada elected their first Black governors, David Crowley and Aaron Ford.

Amy Acton was elected to become Ohio's first female governor. Amy Klobuchar became the first woman elected governor in Minnesota.

Republican candidates also made history. Republican Byron Donalds was elected Florida's first Black governor. And Marsha Blackburn is the first woman elected governor of Tennessee.

The 2026 midterm election saw the second-highest midterm turnout in 100 years.

New York was a good example. Early voting turnout hit record numbers, beating last year's record numbers.

Candidates who practice a lazy politics of exclusion with disparagement, racism, disrespect for other people's religions, and outright lies lost big.

Overall, the election is seen as a repudiation of Trump's unchecked presidential power. Voters reacted strongly to corruption within the Trump administration.

But the economy made the difference. Tariffs, interest rates, grocery prices, and rising gas prices due to the Iran War led voters to turn out in droves.

The Black vote, young men, Latino swing voters, and even rural voters in the heartland issued a decisive mandate. Farmers in states like Iowa voted based on high diesel prices and absent farm workers due to Trump's immigration policies.

Trump, who has spent the last ten years decrying imaginary election fraud, was subdued by the midterm election results.

Trump told the New York Times that he is "absolutely willing to accept" the results of the election. He added that he would "look forward to working with" the Democrats.

Trump told Fox News that "The Democrats did a good job. They fought hard."

But Trump added that if Democrats send "insane" legislation to his desk, he would veto it.

Trump, being Trump, continued to make the election about him. "We would have won if I was on the ballot," Trump said, adding, "But I wasn't."

A special shout-out must go to state election officials who took their constitutional mandate to run elections seriously and preemptively fortified their election systems against any potential Trump administration interference.

Trump has threatened federal prosecution in order to intimidate poll workers to invalidate ballots from voters on California's voter list.

Days before the midterm election, Trump's Justice Department sent letters to state election officials warning them that they could face criminal prosecution for violating federal election laws. The letters stated that ballots, voter registration records, and other election materials must be preserved for 22 months after a federal election.

Despite years of efforts by Trump and his allies to intimidate, coerce, or threaten frontline poll workers, they played their role in serving voters and facilitating the voting process.



Inspired by Dr. Eric Edwards, Executive Director of the Cultural Museum of African Art, the Eric Edwards Collection, on September 21, 2026, during the Visit of Equatorial Guinea's UN mission, headed by its Vice President. Audience participants Joseph and Audrey Anastasi surprised Dr. Edwards with this historic "story board". Joseph created this based on the work the Museum does for the community and its mission to educate – Africa/Diaspora Contribution and bringing all people together through knowledge.

Championship Hangover?

New York, RELAX! Knicks Look to Silence the Critics

• By Eddie Castro

The NBA season is finally here, and with the regular season in full swing, there are so many storylines to get into. From top college rookies making their highly anticipated debuts for their respective franchises to the crazy blockbuster trades and free agent signings we all witnessed during the off-season. With all that happened, there is no doubt that the summer of 2026 belonged not only to the New York Knicks, who captured their first NBA championship in 53 years, but to all New Yorkers. The first night at Madison Square Garden was electric as players, coaches, and front-office members received their championship rings. On top of that, New York's opening game featured a division rival matchup against the Philadelphia 76ers, who had LeBron James and Jaylen Brown make their team debuts.

As we go to press, the Knicks have a 2-3 record after starting out with three straight losses, including two on home court. Although it's a small sample so far in the season, New York fans are left scratching their heads as to what could be the reason for the team's slow start. As we dive into the numbers through four games, the Knicks have not taken care of the basketball on offense, averaging a total of 16.3 turnovers a game, which is up from last season's total of 13.6. Opposing teams have taken advantage of those turnovers, averaging 20.7 points per game off those crucial mistakes. Another benefit that contributed to the team's success last year was the ability to shoot the ball, especially from beyond the arc. The Knicks are shooting 32 percent from the three-point line, which included a 9-for-38 performance last Monday (October 26th) against the Orlando Magic. On defense, the team's transition defense has been abysmal to start the year. In a recent press conference, Coach Mike Brown pointed out that the team has failed to display physical effort and a lack of boxing out for rebounds as a few of the miscues the team is having on defense.

It's important to remind New York fans that the basketball season is only five games in and we're still in October. If this effort on both offense and defense continues, come January you can look for the team to perhaps add two players by February's trade deadline. As the reigning and defending champion, the team finds itself in uncharted waters, now the "hunted," especially in what is expected to be a much-improved Eastern Conference. Everyone will be giving their best effort. Players are perhaps still getting into a rhythm. The Knicks are a good team, and once they unlock another layer within the team, it will only lead to more victories in the win column. NFL Quarterback Aaron Rodgers once said that when his team came off to a slow start, and the media was all over the team, he simply used one word that eventually silenced the critics that year… RELAX. This Knicks team is very much a championship-caliber team. We shall see how it all unfolds and if they can shake off last year's champagne and get back on track.

Sports Notes: (NFL Football) The New York Giants head into their bye week, currently sitting in first place in the NFC East division. The Team will return to action on November 8th against the Philadelphia Eagles. The New York Jets will try to bounce back after an embarrassing loss to the Miami Dolphins. The team will face the Las Vegas Raiders this Sunday. Tune in on Thursday, October 29th for an All-New episode of Sports Talk With Eddie live at 4:30. Call in live at 917-319-5481.



PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA - OCTOBER 30: Jalen Brunson #11 of the New York Knicks shoots against LeBron James #23 of the Philadelphia 76ers during the second half of an Emirates NBA Cup game at Xfinity Mobile Arena on October 30, 2026 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Ethiopia: Three African Nations Surviving the Trump Administration

• By Jeffery Kazembe Batts
• IG:@kazbatts

Russia just concluded it's third Russia / Africa summit in the last 7 years with 17 African heads of state gathering in Moscow recently. China has long been Africa's largest trading partner. Neither Russia or China has an African (I mean Black skinned and proudly affirming) population the six of the 50 million people in the USA who affirm an African identity, Africa, a continent with 54 different nations and a billion plus people. A very complex place. As humans living in the USA let us briefly analyze how the Trump administration is relating to three African nations and how our mandatorily paid taxes are impacting facts on the ground and the quality of life. Can a successful U.S.-Africa relationship be built on mutual benefit, respect for African priorities, and shared prosperity rather than dependency or exploitation. In this regard how is the 47th American president's administration relating to the three most populous African nations?



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (L) welcomes Nigerian President Abdourahamane Tchiani (C) during an official ceremony at the Presidential Complex in Ankara, Turkiye, on June 04, 2026. The ceremony was also attended by Head of the National Intelligence Organization Ibrahim Kalin (3rd R), Head of the Presidential Communications Directorate Burhanettin Duran (R), and Head of the Presidential Defense Industries Directorate Haluk Gorgun (2nd R). (Photo by TUR Presidency/ Murat Cetinmuhurdar / Handout /Anadolu via Getty Images)

Nigeria: The African Giant

For Washington, Nigeria is both an economic and strategic ally. For Nigerians, stronger ties can support development through investment, technology transfer, and expanded trade. Nigeria's oil and gas resources continue to attract American interest, while the country's growing demand for electricity creates opportunities in power generation, transmission, renewable energy, and infrastructure development. Nigeria's technology sector is another area of promise. The country has built one of Africa's leading fintech and startup ecosystems. Increased American engagement could help local businesses gain access to capital, expertise, and international markets.

Yet Nigeria's challenges remain significant. Many citizens continue to face unemployment, inflation, unreliable electricity, inadequate infrastructure, and rising living costs. Economic growth has not always translated into wider prosperity. Dependence on petroleum revenues, governance concerns, and corruption continue to slow diversification. To gain the full benefits of foreign partnerships, Nigeria, a nation of 220 million people, must strengthen institutions, improve transparency, expand manufacturing, and create jobs for its growing youth population.

Security is also a major concern. Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) remain active in the northeast, while banditry and communal conflicts affect other regions. On Christmas last year the USA delivered a gift in the form of bombing the northwest part of the country. U.S. security cooperation can help, but long-term stability depends on Nigerian-led solutions that combine security with economic opportunity and community development.

Democratic Republic of Congo: The Bleeding Heart

Few countries reflect Africa's opportunities and challenges as does the 100 million plus people spread across the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rich in cobalt, copper, coltan, lithium, and other critical minerals, the DRC sits at the center of the global demand for resources needed for electric vehicles, renewable energy, and modern technology. As the green energy transition accelerates, the DRC's strategic importance continues to grow. This gives the country a unique opportunity to strengthen partnerships with the United States and other global powers. American investment in mining, infrastructure, energy, and mineral processing could create jobs and support economic growth.

More importantly, the DRC can move beyond exporting raw materials and instead develop local industries that add value before export. Congolese leaders increasingly seek agreements that support processing, manufacturing, workforce development, and technology transfer to retain more wealth domestically and reduce dependence on raw commodity exports. Two developments warrant scrutiny to ensure broad public benefit: the Lobito Accord, where a resource extraction corridor through Angola is under construction, and the Washington Accords, signed by Congo President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwanda President Paul Kagame with Trump present. The central challenge is translating mineral wealth into better lives for ordinary citizens. For decades, abundant resources have coexisted with poverty, inadequate infrastructure, poor public services, and limited economic opportunities. Real progress requires transparent governance, fair labor standards, environmental protection, and accountable institutions

Security remains another major challenge. Eastern Congo continues to experience violence, displacement, and instability involving armed groups, including M23. Regional tensions and resource competition have complicated peace efforts. Lasting development will depend on both economic investment and sustainable peace.

Ethiopia: Biblical and Never Conquered

With more than 120 million people and a strategic location in the Horn of Africa, it is a major center of regional diplomacy and economic activity. Its position near the Red Sea and major shipping routes give it considerable geopolitical importance. As host of the African Union headquarters, Addis Ababa also serves as a key center for continental diplomacy.

As U.S. policy places greater emphasis on trade and investment, questions remain about how aid and commercial engagement will be balanced. The reality is that Ethiopia still faces serious humanitarian challenges. Conflict, drought, displacement, and food insecurity continue to affect many communities. Areas impacted by violence, including parts of Tigray and Amhara, still require humanitarian support and recovery assistance. At the same time, Ethiopia offers major opportunities for investment in energy, telecommunications, aviation, tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) symbolizes the country's ambition to increase electricity production and building a stronger, more industrialized economy. Disputes with Egypt and Sudan over Nile River water management continue. Pouring oil on fire, Trump once outrageously uttered that Egypt should "just bomb the GERD". However, we know economic progress depends on political stability not war.

Ethiopia's organization consisting of ethnically identified decentralized states as opposed to a centralized national identity, is at the core of the varied, ongoing secession movements that are problematic for national unity. For Ethiopia, the goal is clear: attract productive investment, have an agreed upon port on the Red Sea, maintain essential humanitarian support and build the economy.

A Pan-African Vision for the Future

Africa's three most populous countries, not including Egypt, are Nigeria, the DRC, and Ethiopia. The United States government, pushed by assertive and progressive residents and citizens can be an important partner. through trade, investment, technology, education, and diplomacy. However, African leaders must ensure that these partnerships support long-term development, strengthen institutions, create jobs, and expand opportunities for future generations. U.S.-Africa relations will succeed only when they help create, more stable societies, and greater opportunities across the continent. Will Africans in the USA be aware and help to create scenarios where the USA government allow African nations to thrive and the people to have a better quality of life.

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