SISTERS LEAD
SISTERS VOTE

SHE LEAD
SHE VOTED
SHE WON

2025

2025 Post Election Briefing on
Black Women's Civic Power










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Hamdi Mohamed
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Port of Seattle
Washington

Sharetta Smith
Mayor of Lima
Ohio

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FROM SLSV PRESIDENT

The story of 2025 began long before Election Day. **It began with the unrelenting leadership of Black women in 2024 — women who ran, won, and led boldly in the face of political hostility and cultural fatigue.** Their victories became the blueprint for what we witnessed this November: a continuation of progressive leadership, rooted in justice, fairness, and the everyday realities of working people.

From city halls to statehouses, Black women have demonstrated that our leadership is not about personality — **it's about issues that impact our communities.** And this year, we voted for affordable living (healthcare, food, housing, jobs, etc), diverse representation and better, fairer system that works for all. We ain't going back, we are moving forward.

Some pundits have misinterpreted Black women pivot to rest as doing nothing. Yesterday proved otherwise. It wasn't about sleeping — it was about restoration, reconnection and renewal.

Black women have been quietly continuing to build power — investing in our communities, nurturing our leadership, and now, affirming our narrative. And we are just getting started.

In a time when Trump's rhetoric grows darker and Project 2025 outlines a dangerous playbook to dismantle equity, Black women have issued our counter-mandate: **A fair, affordable, and free America that works for everyone.**

Black women are rejecting "fear based politics" to advocate and lead from the values that serve community, care about people and make supremacy obsolete.



"In 2025, Black women led on affordable living issues, voted for diverse representation and won by rejecting "fear politics" to imagine a new democracy.

Holli L. Holliday, Esq.
President
Sisters Lead Sisters Vote

Black women are amplifying a new vision for a new America. We're not going back. We're not standing still. We are poised and positioned to imagine — and build — a better world. Every ballot cast for progress, every woman elected to serve, and every sister who organizes, testifies to our collective power and persistence. Together, we are writing a new chapter of American democracy — one where Black women's leadership is the cornerstone of progress.

SHE LED. SHE VOTED. SHE WON.

At **Sisters Lead Sisters Vote**, everything begins with a simple, unwavering truth: **when Black women lead, our communities move forward—and our political future becomes more affordable, more just, and more representative.** We support the political power of Black women by amplifying their voices on the issues that shape everyday life: jobs, wages, the cost of living, taxes, and housing. **Our strength** is not only our vote and our deep relationships with the Black community, but in our collective development and support of Black women's leadership. **Our strategy** is to amplify Black women's voices; advance Black women's political leadership; and expand Black women's opportunities to govern on the kitchen-table issues that define whether our communities can truly thrive.

The 2024 cycle gave us a panoramic view of Black women's leadership—its resilience, its reach, and its undeniable impact. But 2025 offers something different: a chance to convert momentum into governing power, to deepen local influence, and to set the stage for future statewide and federal gains. If 2024 taught us that Black women can break every barrier on the map, 2025 reveals how we build political infrastructure that keeps **Black women in office and centers issues of affordability—jobs, costs, taxes, and housing—as core measures of progress.**

The truth is, there's no national, historic database keeping track of Black women running for office at every level—because far too many institutions still refuse to collect data through the lens of both race and gender. So **Sisters Lead Sisters Vote** steps in each year with this report, not just to fill the gap, but to shine a floodlight on the reach and impact of Black women's civic power. And let's be honest: all we're really doing is putting numbers behind what Black women already live every day—our leadership is essential to the functioning of American democracy, and our political agenda is grounded in making life more affordable and more fair for our communities.

Our truth is Black women:

- deliver votes with unmatched consistency (92% support for the Democratic ticket in 2024 and 90+% in 2025 for Democratic candidates and causes across the country),
- hold communities together during crisis,
- navigate campaigns with fewer resources but more responsibility,
- and repeatedly step into the breach when democracy—and basic economic security—is under threat.

And still, Black women do this while facing:

- underfunding;
- heightened scrutiny;
- Threats to our safety;
- gendered and racialized disinformation;

and the exhaustion of being the backbone, the shield, and the moral compass on issues like housing, wages, healthcare, and community safety.

This report honors that truth and makes clear: **identity politics is not a distraction—it is the mechanism by which diverse representation delivers real policy wins on affordability, access, and opportunity.** Representation has been proven to matter. Now, real, sustained investment is required to keep that progress from stalling.

This year was not a pause between national contests. **It has been a proving ground.**

2024 Was the Benchmark—2025 Is the Blueprint

Last cycle, **1,203 Black women ran for office,** an historic figure that mapped the breadth of Black women's civic ambition. Over **545 were elected**, and more than **80% of Black women who made it to the general election won**—a success rate unmatched by any other demographic group.

The 2024 election performance for Black women set the baseline for understanding 2025:

- Black women are running in **more states earlier** in the cycle.
- Black women are increasingly concentrated in **local and municipal races**, where policy meets people.
- Black women are entering **open seats,** often created by retirements, redistricting, or shifting local dynamics.
- Fundraising capacity has dipped **dramatically compared to past off-cycle years,** but small-dollar giving is trended upward in early reporting.
- Incumbent Black women in 2025 are defending seats in **environments more polarized**, more targeted and competitive, yet more primed for community-based turnout.

If 2024 documented the surge, 2025 is documenting the strategy—and that strategy is rooted in governing on affordability while expanding identity-conscious representation.

Trend 1: Black Women Are Dominating Local Power—and the Country Is Shifting Because of It

With fewer statewide and federal contests on the ballot, **2025 is a local cycle**, and that is where Black women shine.

Early analysis shows:

- A rise in Black women running for **city council, school board, and county leadership,** the very seats that set policy on housing, policing, curriculum, zoning, health equity, and economic development.
- An expansion of Black women seeking **executive and leadership offices** after powerful wins in 2024—noted by **the expanding number of Black women mayors by more than 20 in 2025** who are negotiating budgets, setting tax priorities, and driving housing and jobs agendas. Tracking more than
- Growing presence of **Black women candidates in more than 23 special elections,** a format where community trust and grassroots mobilization matter more than national visibility —and where decisions about local fees, levies, and land use are often made.

This shift signals something profound: **Black women are anchoring themselves in offices that directly drive quality-of-life and affordability outcomes**—and building a bench for statewide and federal leadership that understands both identity and economic reality.

Trend 2: The 2024 Electability Myth Is Dead—2025 Candidates Are Running With New Confidence

The victories of **Lisa Blunt Rochester** and **Angela Alsobrooks**, **plus the more than 520 other Black women elected** (and re-elected) in 2024 did more than make history. They continued to shift the narrative around Black women's viability—within voters, within parties, and within Black women candidates themselves.

In 2025, we see:

- Black women were elected everywhere; urban, suburban, exurban, and rural.
- More Black women declaring candidacy earlier, with clearer infrastructure and sharper issue agendas centered on jobs, wages, taxes, and housing.
- More candidates embracing multi-racial, multi-generational voter coalitions, mirroring the statewide strategies used in Maryland and Delaware, and organizing around shared economic concerns.
- Parties more willing—though still not consistent nor with equitable financial commitment—to support Black women challengers who are running on platforms that connect identity, representation, and affordability.

The old whispers that Black women "can't raise statewide money" or "can't win in rural counties" have lost their power. **2024 removed the ceiling. 2025 is widening the doorway** —and making clear that Black women candidates are not just symbols; they are policy architects for a more affordable future.

Trend 3: Digital Visibility Is Still a Crisis— But 2025 Shows Improvement

One of the most sobering findings of 2024 was that **286 Black women had no campaign website or social media presence.** In 2025:

- Early tracking shows a **decline in digital-invisible candidates**, especially among younger contenders.
- Peer networks and organizations—including SLSV—are pushing early training on content strategy, online fundraising, and disinformation defense.
- Candidates are adopting more **collaborative digital ecosystems,** including shared designers, group content pods, and cross-promotional networks, but still lag behind in utilization of updated management and ai tools dominating in modern campaigns.

Digital presence is no longer a "nice to have"—it's a pipeline to donors, volunteers, and legitimacy, and a critical tool for explaining how policies on rent, taxes, jobs, and healthcare connect to voters' lived experiences. **2025 is the cycle where Black women begin to close that gap, but there is a LOT more work**—and investment—to do.

Trend 4: Challengers Are Growing— A Sign of Strength, Not Instability

In 2024, **771 Black women ran as challengers,** often against entrenched power. In 2025:

- That challenger trend is accelerating, but Black women continue to dominate as incumbents, which has an important impact on flipping the balance of power and expanding influence.
- Black women are targeting seats long held by incumbents who are out of step with their community.
- More Black women are entering open seats, a key indicator of expanding recruitment pipelines.
- Challengers are not just running—they are **competitive**, especially in jurisdictions where Black turnout historically drives outcomes.

This is more than a political trend—it is a cultural shift. **Black women are done waiting for permission. They are claiming seats that shape their neighborhoods and futures,** and they are doing so with platforms that connect identity, representation, and the everyday economics of survival and stability.

Trend 5: Black Women Voters Are Still the Engine—and 2025 Will Prove It Again

In 2024, **92% of Black women voters** supported the Harris presidential ticket. That turnout power is the foundation of 2025:

- Off-cycle elections historically depress participation, but early voting data in several states shows **Black women are casting ballots at higher-than-usual rates for a local year.**
- Black women civic networks—civil rights organizations, sororities, faith communities, professional associations, and grassroots coalitions—are mobilizing earlier and more deeply.
- Black women voters continue to be the most consistent bloc supporting democracy, affordability, reproductive rights, and community investment.

When Black women vote, **entire communities stabilize**. 2024 proved that again.2025 showed how deeply that influence extends down-ballot- into school boards that decide funding formulas, councils that set housing policy, and county bodies that oversee taxes and services.

What 2025 Foreshadows for 2026 and Beyond

Every off-cycle year writes the preface for the next federal election. And based on 2025 patterns, here's what we can forecast:

1. Expect an increase in down-ballot statewide and higher-profile Black women candidates in 2026, with better infrastructure than in 2024 and clearer economic justice agendas.
2. The Black women bench is expanding, especially in judicial, executive, and leadership roles that will shape policy on housing, taxation, labor, and public investment.
3. Local governing wins in 2025 will reshape future issue campaigns—from housing justice to fairness in education to reproductive healthcare. Black women are demanding that the future is affordable, not just aspirational.
4. Black women are building new cross-state coalitions, designed to share resources, volunteers, and narrative strategy, and to align identity-based representation with concrete affordability wins.
5. Parties will be forced to reckon with the undeniable truth: resourcing Black women is not charity, it is strategy—and it is the only path to a durable, representative democracy that works for working people.

If 2024 revealed the power of Black women's presence, **2025 is revealing the power of their persistence—and their policy vision.**

Final Thoughts

Sisters Lead Sisters Vote's 2025 election analysis tells a story of expansion, evolution, and strategic positioning. Black women are running smarter campaigns, stepping into more varied roles, and solidifying influence across municipalities, counties, and courts, with an agenda that centers affordable living and inclusive representation.

This is a year of planting—planting influence, planting leadership, planting roots in the very institutions that decide what our communities can afford and who gets to be heard. **What grows from 2025 will shape the next decade of Black women's political power.**

Black women are not just preparing for the future—we are constructing it, issue by issue, budget by budget, race by race. **And as long as Black women lead, vote, and win, democracy has a fighting chance to rise with us—and to deliver a future where our people can live, work, and thrive with dignity.**

SHE VOTED:
BLACK WOMEN SHOWED UP, AGAIN

Continuity, Clarity, and Civic Power Across States and Issues

Across two consecutive election cycles, from the national contests of 2024 to the state and ballot races of 2025, one fact has remained constant: **Black women continue to vote with unmatched clarity and consistency compared with every other major demographic group.**

National Baseline — 2024 Presidential Exit Polls

National exit polls in 2024 revealed sharp demographic contrasts in voter alignment.

- **92 percent of Black women voters** supported the Harris presidential ticket — the highest rate of support from any group.
- Among **Black men**, 77 percent did the same.
- In contrast, only **46 percent of white women** and **38 percent of white men** aligned with that ticket.
- **Latina women** registered 58 percent support, and **Latino men 44 percent.**

These data set a national baseline that carried forward into 2025 statewide and issue-based elections, underscoring that Black women remain the electorate's most cohesive and civically active group.

Gender by race
22,966 total respondents

CNN Exit Poll: 2024 Presidential Race

	White men 34%	White women 37%	Black men 5%	Black women 7%	Latino men 6%	Latina women 6%	All other races 6%
Harris	38%	46%	77%	92%	44%	58%	49%
Trump	60%	53%	21%	7%	54%	39%	47%

Updated 5:07 p.m. ET, Dec. 13

State-Level Trends — 2025 Elections

When the ballots closed on November 4, 2025, a clear message emerged: Black women did more than show up—they helped reshape the outcome of major races. In both New Jersey, Virginia and California, exit-poll data reveal that Black women voted overwhelmingly for progressive candidates, underscoring their role as the backbone of the vote for fairness, equity and democracy. CNN 2025 Election Exit Polls show Black women led major statewide elections, reaffirming their unwavering commitment to fairness, affordable living, and democracy.

Virginia & New Jersey

Exit polls in both states show Black women again leading voter alignment around issues of affordability, healthcare, and fairness.

- In **Virginia, 96 percent** of Black women supported the winning candidates in the state's marquee contests, compared with 89 percent of Black men.
- In **New Jersey, 95 percent** of Black women voters backed the victorious candidate — a decisive share that helped secure statewide victory.



CNN Exit Poll: 2025 New Jersey Governor's Race

Gender by race
4,412 total respondents

	White men 34%	White women 36%	Black men 4%	Black women 6%	Latino men 5%	Latina women 6%	All other voters 10%
Sherrill	41%	54%	92%	95%	61%	73%	69%
Ciattarelli	59%	46%	7%	4%	38%	26%	29%

Updated 1:01 p.m. ET, Nov. 5



CNN Exit Poll: 2025 Virginia Governor's Race

Gender by race
4,604 total respondents

	White men 34%	White women 36%	Black men 7%	Black women 9%	Latino men 2%	Latina women 2%	All other voters 9%
Spanberger	38%	54%	89%	96%	53%	78%	73%
Earle-Sears	61%	46%	11%	3%	47%	22%	27%

Updated 2:34 p.m. ET, Nov. 5

California Proposition 50

California's Proposition 50 — a ballot measure focused on funding local services and infrastructure — offered a look at how Black voters engage with policy questions beyond candidates.

- According to CNN's exit poll, 89 percent of Black women and 93 percent of Black men voted Yes on the proposition.
- The data signal that Black voters, and particularly Black women, maintain high policy engagement even in non-partisan, issue-specific elections.

Taken together, these results illustrate a clear throughline: Black women are participating not just in candidate elections but in shaping state policy outcomes with the same consistency they bring to national races.



Gender by race
4,326 total respondents

CNN Exit Poll: 2025 California Proposition 50

	White men 28%	White women 28%	Black men 2%	Black women 3%	Latino men 11%	Latina women 11%	All other voters 17%
No	44%	40%	7%	11%	35%	23%	35%
Yes	56%	60%	93%	89%	65%	77%	65%

Updated 1:01 p.m. ET, Nov. 5

Key Insights

1. **Unmatched Electoral Unity** – Across all regions and race-gender subgroups, Black women demonstrate the highest internal consistency in voting preferences.
2. **Policy-Centered Participation** – Whether choosing a candidate or deciding a ballot proposition, issue alignment drives decisions more than partisanship.
3. **Cross-Cycle Continuity** – The 2024–2025 data confirm that the voting behavior of Black women remains stable across contexts — national, state, and local.
4. **Broad Influence** – Black women's cohesive voting behavior amplifies their impact in close races and ballot measures, shaping outcomes well beyond their population share.

The cumulative evidence from 2024 and 2025 shows that **Black women are not episodic participants; they are the steady center of American democracy.** Their votes anchor coalitions, direct policy priorities, and continue to define the moral and civic heartbeat of the nation's elections — from the White House to local referenda.

BLACK WOMEN MAYORS 2025: GOVERNING LOCALLY, INFLUENCING NATIONALLY

The 2025 election cycle marked a sweeping continuation of Black women's executive leadership across the country. Building on the powerful momentum of 2024 — when Black women secured mayoralties from Alexandria to Pine Bluff and made history in cities like Montclair and Mullins — this year's victories demonstrate an unmistakable trend: **Black women are strengthening their presence in the executive branch at every level, in every region, and among every type of constituency.**

This year's group of Black women mayors governs communities that look vastly different from one another — rural and urban, conservative and progressive, majority-Black and majority-white. But together, their leadership forms a visible, growing bench that sits directly inside key congressional districts across the country.

A Coast-to-Coast Map of Leadership 2025 continues to build the Bench

The 2025 mayoral wins tell a national story: **Black women are serving in districts represented by both major parties** and representing communities that are politically, economically, and culturally diverse. This is executive leadership that travels well — leadership trusted across ideological lines.

Below is a snapshot of the mayors by state, paired with the congressional districts in which they govern:

Alabama

- **Anniston – Mayor Ciara Smith** | AL-3 – Rep. Mike Rogers (R)
- **Prichard – Mayor Carletta Davis** | AL-2 – Rep. Shomari Figures (D)

Two different geographies, two different electorates — yet Black women lead both



Ciara Smith
Mayor of Anniston
Alabama



Carletta Davis
Mayor of Prichard
Alabama

California

- **Oakland – Mayor Barbara Lee** | CA-12 – Rep. Barbara Lee (D)

A nationally recognized political center led by a Black woman in a district represented by a trailblazing Black congresswoman.



Barbara Lee
Mayor of Oakland
California

Georgia

- **Conyers – Mayor Connie Alsobrooks** | GA-10 – Rep. Mike Collins (R)
- **Metter – Mayor Rashida Daniel Taylor** | GA-12 – Rep. Rick Allen (R)
- **Swainsboro – Mayor Lillie Ann Brown** | GA-12 – Rep. Rick Allen (R)
- **Cairo – Mayor Arlisha Williams** | GA-2 – Rep. Sanford Bishop (D)
- **McDonough - Mayor Kamilla "Kam" Porter** | GA-10 – Rep. Mike Collins (R)
- **Warner Robbins - Mayor LaRhonda Patrick** | GA-8 – Austin Scott (R)
- **Bainbridge - Mayor Sylvia Washington** | GA-2 – Rep. Sanford Bishop (D)

Georgia demonstrates how Black women lead not only in metro hubs but also in rural communities, including deep-red districts.



Connie Alsobrooks
Mayor of Conyers
Georgia



Rashida Daniel Taylor
Mayor of Metter
Georgia



Lillie Ann Brown
Mayor of Swainsboro
Georgia



Arlisha Williams
Mayor of Cairo
Georgia



Kamilla "Kam" Porter
Mayor of McDonough
Georgia



LaRhonda Patrick
Mayor of Warner Robbins
Georgia



Sylvia Washington
Mayor of Bainbridge
Georgia

Kansas

- **Kansas City – Mayor Christal Watson** | KS-3 – Rep. Sharice Davids (D)

A dynamic, fast-growing district now home to one of the Midwest's most visible Black women executives.



Christal Watson
Mayor of Kansas City
Kansas

Michigan

- **Detroit – Mayor Mary Sheffield** | MI-13 – Rep. Shri Thanedar (D)

Detroit's first Black woman mayor now leads one of the most historically significant cities in the Black political landscape.



Mary Sheffield
Mayor of Detroit
Michigan

New York

- **Albany – Mayor Dorcey Applyrs** | NY-20 – Rep. Paul Tonko (D)
- **Syracuse – Mayor Sharon Owens** | NY-22 – Rep. Brandon Williams (R)

Black women are now leading **both** a deep-blue capital city and a purple swing-district anchor city.



Dorcey Applyrs
Mayor of Albany
New York



Sharon Owens
Mayor of Syracuse
New York

North Carolina

- **Charlotte – Mayor Vi Lyles** | NC-12 – Rep. Alma Adams (D)
- **Carrboro – Mayor Barbara Middleton-Foushee** | NC-4 – Rep. Valerie Foushee (D)
- **Wagram – Mayor Barbara Pierce** | NC-9 – Rep. Richard Hudson (R)

North Carolina continues to be a testing ground for cross-racial, cross-regional executive leadership.



Vi Lyles
Mayor of Charlotte
North Carolina



Barbara Middleton-Foushee
Mayor of Carroboro
North Carolina



Barbara Pierce
Mayor of Wagram
North Carolina

Ohio

- **Dayton – Mayor Shenise Turner-Sloss** | OH-10 – Rep. Mike Turner (R)
- **Lima – Mayor Sharetta T. Smith** | OH-4 – Rep. Jim Jordan (R)
- **Richmond Heights – Mayor Kim Thomas** | OH-11 – Rep. Shontel Brown (D)
- **Woodmere Village – Mayor Nakeshia Nickerson** | OH-11 – Rep. Shontel Brown (D)

Ohio shows the full sweep: Black women mayors leading in districts represented by both conservative and progressive members of Congress.



Shenise Turner-Sloss
Mayor of Dayton
Ohio



Sharetta T. Smith
Mayor of Lima
Ohio



Kim Thomas
Mayor of Richmond Heights
Ohio



Nakeshia Nickerson
Mayor of Woodmere Village
Ohio

Pennsylvania

- **Harrisburg – Mayor Wanda Fores** | PA-10 – Rep. Scott Perry (R)
- **Media Borough – Mayor Joi Washington** | PA-5 – Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D)

The state capital and a suburban municipality — both led by Black women with influence in two very different districts.



Wanda Fores
Mayor of Harrisburg
Pennsylvania



Joi Washington
Mayor of Media Borough
Pennsylvania

A Strategic Bench for the Future

Seen on a map, the pattern is unmistakable:
these mayors sit inside some of the most strategically significant congressional districts in the nation.

- Districts held by high-profile Republicans *(OH-4 – Rep. Jim Jordan, PA-10 – Rep. Scott Perry, AL-3 – Rep. Mike Rogers)*
- Purple, competitive districts *(NY-22, GA-12, GA-10, OH-10)*
- Solidly Democratic districts with influence centers *(MI-13, NC-12, CA-12, OH-11)*

Black women mayors are now governing in places that touch congressional battlegrounds, suburban persuasion districts, state capital hubs, majority-white rural districts, and Black urban cores.

This landscape creates **one of the strongest future congressional benches of any demographic group in the nation.**

Why It Matters

- **Executive experience travels well.** Running cities and towns builds the skill set necessary for federal office.
- **Cross-constituency strength is rare — and powerful.** These mayors govern communities represented in Congress by both parties, proving trust that transcends partisanship.
- **Pipeline leadership is deepening**. The back-to-back cycles of 2024 and 2025 mark the most sustained growth of Black women executives in U.S. history.

Black women are leading cities that are influencing state legislatures, statewide strategies, and in many cases, sitting squarely inside districts that national parties will be watching closely through 2028.

A New Leadership Era

Black women mayors are not just shaping their cities — they are shaping the national political landscape. Their leadership is visible, impactful, and growing. From Anniston to Albany, from Detroit to Dayton, these women are governing with vision, conviction, and the kind of executive experience that becomes the foundation for the next generation of congressional leadership.

The bench is not just growing — it is glowing.
And 2025 proves that Black women are leading America into its next chapter.

SHE WON: VIRGINIA EDITION

In 2025, Virginia once again proved that **Black women are not only the backbone of democracy — they are its architects.** From the House of Delegates to local offices, Black women demonstrated the depth and durability of their leadership pipeline, flipping key seats, defending incumbents, and winning across every level of government.

Virginia's election outcomes serve as a blueprint for how sustained investment, coalition-building, and progressive organizing translate into real political power.

Key Findings

17 Black women were elected to the Virginia House of Delegates — the largest number of Black women ever to serve simultaneously in the chamber.

- **4 flipped seats from Republican to Democrat,** expanding the margin of progressive leadership in the state.
  - *Stacey Carroll (HD-64)*
  - *Nicole Cole (HD-66)*
  - *Leslie Mehta (HD-73)*
  - *Kimberly Pope-Adams (HD-82)*
- **13 incumbents** defended their seats, including several who ran unopposed — a sign of strong constituent approval and established political presence.
  - *Notables include: Majority Leader Charniele Herring (HD-04), Briana Sewell (HD-25), and Destiny LeVere Bolling (HD-80).*

Local Power Expanded:

Black women won *executive, judicial,* and financial offices across multiple regions — *from Richmond to Norfolk, Fredericksburg to Stafford.*

- **Commonwealth's Attorneys:** *Stephanie Morales (Portsmouth), Narendra Pleas (Suffolk), Tiffany Buckner (Petersburg), Colette McEachin (Richmond)*
- **Treasurers & Commissioners of Revenue:** *Nichole Armstead (Richmond), Brittany Flowers (Petersburg), Daun Hester (Norfolk), Tiffany Boyle (Newport News)*
- **Sheriffs:** *Antionette Irving (Richmond), Vanessa Crawford (Petersburg)*
- **School Boards:** *Moe Bryant (Arlington), Zyahna Bryant (Charlottesville), Malvina Rollins Kay (Fredericksburg)*
- **Boards of Supervisors:** *Kecia Evans (Fredericksburg), Dr. Pamela Yeung (Stafford), Maya Guy (Stafford)*

Across these categories, Black women secured wins in **over a dozen jurisdictions**, reinforcing their growing influence not just as legislators, but as executive decision-makers and fiscal stewards.

Analysis: Why Virginia Matters

Virginia stands as a living example of **what happens when infrastructure meets intention.**
Sisters Lead Sisters Vote tracked **34 Black women candidates** on the general election ballot — and nearly all of them won.

These victories reflect:

- **Continuity of leadership:** Many incumbents first elected in the 2021–2023 cycles successfully built longevity and policy depth.
- **Pipeline growth:** Emerging leaders like Zyahna Bryant and Maya Guy signal a generational bridge between movement activism and electoral leadership.
- **Policy-driven campaigning:** Candidates centered their messages on affordability — housing, healthcare, childcare, and fair pay — aligning directly with the values of their communities.

The Counter-Mandate

As Trump's Project 2025 agenda threatens to unravel decades of equity gains, Black women in Virginia have offered a clear alternative — **a counter-mandate** rooted in fairness, affordability, and freedom.

This election was not about nostalgia. It was about **restoration and renewal** — a reaffirmation that Black women's political power is not seasonal but structural.

"We're not going back. We're not standing still. We are poised and positioned to imagine — and build — a better world."

— Holli L. Holliday,
President, Sisters Lead Sisters Vote

Conclusion: The Virginia Model

The 2025 Virginia elections mark a turning point: the institutionalization of Black women's leadership across the state.
These leaders are:

- Shaping budgets
- Running courts
- Managing cities
- Writing laws

Their collective wins send a powerful message: **Black women are not just participating in democracy — they are governing it.**

Virginia's model shows the nation what happens when Black women lead with clarity, collaboration, and conviction.

VIRGINIA ELECTED SISTERS

Summary of over 34 women in Virginia were elected In 2025



Alyia Gaskins
Mayor of Alexandria
Virginia



Adele McClure
State Representative
District 2



Charniele Herring
State Representative
District 4



Karen Keys-Gamarra
State Representative
District 7



Michelle Maldonado
State Representative
District 20



Candi King
State Representative
District 23



Briana Sewell
State Representative
District 25



Katrina Callsen
State Representative
District 54



Stacey Carroll
State Representative
District 64



Nicole Cole
State Representative
District 66



Leslie Mehta
State Representative
District 73



Debra Gardner
State Representative
District 76



Rae Cousins
State Representative
District 79



Destiny LeVere Bolling
State Representative
District 80



Kimberly Adams
State Representative
District 82



Marcia "Cia" Price
State Representative
District 85



Bonita Anthony
State Representative
District 92



Jackie Glass
State Representative
District 93



Blythe Scott
Norfolk Commissioner
of the Revenue



Daun Sessoms Hester
Norfolk City Treasurer

VIRGINIA ELECTED SISTERS

Summary of over 34 women in Virginia were elected In 2025



Colette McEachin
Richmond City
Commonwealth's Attorney



Nichole Armstead
Richmond City Treasurer



Monique Bryant
Arlington County
School Board



Antionette Irving
Richmond City Sheriff



Narendra Pleas
Suffolk Commonwealth's
Attorney



Vanessa R. Crawford
City of Petersburg Sheriff



Tiffany Buckner
City of Petersburg
Commonwealth Attorney



Brittany C. Flowers
City of Petersburg
Commissioner of Revenue



Maya Guy
Aquia District- Stafford Board
of Supervisors

SHE WON: NEW JERSEY EDITION

The 2025 New Jersey governor's race revealed a striking pattern: Black women once again served as one of the most consistent and unified voting blocs in the state. **According to CNN's exit polling, an overwhelming 95% of Black women voted for Sherrill, making them the strongest-supporting demographic group measured in the race.** Black men also showed high levels of support at 92%, but Black women were the only group to deliver support at this near-unanimous level.

These numbers are particularly notable in a state where the elected political landscape remains overwhelmingly male, especially in statewide and countywide executive roles. As New Jersey continues to grapple with questions of representation and leadership diversity, the consistency of Black women voters stands out as a defining force shaping statewide outcomes even when Black women themselves are underrepresented in the highest elected offices.

While New Jersey's political institutions remain male-dominated, the 2025 returns show that Black women are unmistakably central to the state's civic engine—driving turnout, shaping margins, and anchoring the electorate in closely watched contests. When over nine out of ten Black women coalesce behind a candidate, that level of cohesion becomes a decisive factor in a competitive state race.

The Role of the Black Women's Vote in New Jersey

The consistent reelection of incumbents and the emergence of new local leaders directly reflect the impact of **Black women voters**, who have shown:

- High turnout in competitive districts
- Consistency in down-ballot loyalty
- Strong community networks supporting candidates
- Significant influence in coalition voting blocs in Essex, Mercer, Union, Camden, and Atlantic counties

Black women voters continue to be **the civic backbone** of several of the state's most critical legislative districts.

In Newark, Trenton, and Plainfield, turnout trends suggest that **Black women remain among the most reliable and engaged groups in local elections,** often deciding nonpartisan municipal and school board races where margins are tight.

Legislative Power: Stability, Expertise, and Voter Confidence

The New Jersey General Assembly saw a full slate of incumbent Black women return to office, signaling sustained trust among their constituencies:

- **Verlina Reynolds-Jackson,** Assemblymember, District 15
- **Linda Carter,** Assemblymember, District 22
- **Cleopatra Tucker,** Assemblymember, District 28
- **Shanique Speight,** Assemblymember, District 29

These districts include some of the state's densest, most diverse populations — Trenton, Plainfield, Newark — where **Black women voters form a decisive and highly engaged electorate.** The reelection of these incumbents illustrates:

- Strong alignment with community priorities
- Persistent support from Black women voters
- A legislative bench with deep experience heading into statewide policymaking in 2026 and 2027

This cohort remains a core block of stability in the Assembly, representing communities that rely heavily on leadership grounded in equity, affordability, and local engagement.

Municipal & County-Level Leadership: Expanding the Map

Beyond the State House, New Jersey's Black women won in areas that reveal an expanding geographic imprint of Black political leadership. This includes suburban, coastal, and mixed-ideology municipalities:

Urban & High-Density Hubs: **Example: Amina Bey**, Newark City Council, Central Ward

- *Newark remains one of the state's largest Black voting centers; Bey's victory reinforces a long tradition of Black women shaping the city's leadership landscape, yet she now represents the 2nd women on the city council of 9 members.*

Inner-Ring Suburbs & Growing Townships: **Examples: Trina Folkes**, Bound Brook Borough Council; **Natasha Latimore**, Palmyra Borough Council; **Tracy Thompson**, Hamilton Township Committee and **Thelma Witherspoon**, Hamilton Township Committee (incumbent)

- *These wins show Black women thriving in towns undergoing demographic shifts — younger populations, more renters, and increasingly diverse communities.*

Shore & South Jersey Strength: **Examples: Ingrid E. Nieves-Clark**, Egg Harbor City Common Council (Republican) and **Joyce Pratt**, Galloway Council

- *Notably, Nieves-Clark's win as a Republican demonstrates that **Black women are competitive across party lines**, reflecting cross-partisan voter confidence in their leadership.*

Education Leadership: Black Women at the Center of Community Governance

School board races often reflect hyper-local priorities like school safety, curriculum, mental health, and community trust. The success of Black women across these districts is a clear indication of deep community confidence. Their victories demonstrate that families trust Black women leaders with the direction of their schools, and that these women are key figures in stabilizing educational environments. In essence, local governance is being shaped by leaders who are profoundly grounded in community experience.

New Jersey's school boards — often the most community-sensitive level of government — continue to be a stronghold for Black women candidates like:

- **Marilyn I. Dunham,** Burlington Township Board of Education
- **Nicole Zuber,** Fanwood School Board
- **Shawneque Johnson,** Orange Board of Education (incumbent)
- **Sueann Gravesande,** Orange Board of Education (incumbent)
- **Sharrnell S. Morgan**, Pleasantville Board of Education

Analysis: Trends in the New Jersey's Political Landscape

The 2025 results suggest three key trends:

1. A Sustained Leadership Pipeline

With returning Assembly members and rising municipal leaders, Black women remain central to New Jersey's bench of experienced public servants.

2. Broad Geographic Reach

From Newark to Egg Harbor City, from Hamilton Township to Palmyra, Black women candidates are winning in districts with **vastly different demographics, median incomes, and partisan leans.**

3. Positioning for Future Statewide Influence

Black women now lead in regions relevant to future congressional, legislative, and countywide opportunities. Their victories lay groundwork for:

- Expanded representation in the State Senate
- Potential leadership in future county executive and statewide roles
- Continued presence in high-impact local positions shaping public policy

New Jersey's 2025 elections show a clear and compelling pattern: **Black women remain essential to the state's political future — as voters, as candidates, and as governing leaders.**

Their success across all levels of government demonstrates extraordinary civic credibility, deep community engagement, and a growing leadership presence in every corner of the state.

This is not a moment — **it is a formation of power, stability, and service that continues to shape New Jersey's governance in 2025 and beyond.**

SISTERHOOD AT THE HELM[1]

An SLSV Feature on the 2025 Class of Black Women Elected Leaders

For more than a century, Black Greek sororities have been the backbone of Black women's leadership — educating, organizing, investing, and governing ourselves through institutions built by Black women and sustained for Black women. These are multimillion-dollar organizations, stewards of property, philanthropy, community service, and self-determination. And their influence does not stop at the chapter house door.

Across America, a quiet revolution of excellence continues to rise — stitched together in pink and green, crimson and cream, royal blue and white, and royal blue and gold. This year's elections once again proved that Black women shaped by the sisterhood, discipline, and service of our sororities are redefining power, policy, and progress in every corner of this nation.

From city halls to courtrooms, school boards to Congress, these women embody what happens when community commitment meets collective power — leading with courage, grace, and brilliance, and carrying forward a legacy that has transformed generations.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (Founded 1908)

The trailblazers of sisterhood and service, Alpha Kappa Alpha women continue to illuminate pathways of civic engagement, equity, and leadership excellence.

- **Sonja Smith** — Birmingham City Council District 8, Alabama
- **Margo Bellany** — Anchorage School Board, Alaska
- **Angela Calloway** — Detroit City Council District 2, Michigan
- **Linda Griffin** — Garland Independent School District, Texas
- **Sheila Taylor** — Lewisville Independent School District, Texas
- **Destiny LeVere Bolling** — Virginia House of Delegates District 80
- **Lena Taylor** — Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Wisconsin
- **Amanda Edwards** — U.S. Representative, Texas 18th Congressional District (runoff)

These leaders show how grace and grit go hand-in-hand — proving that **Alpha Kappa Alpha women continue to lead where others only aspire.**

Did You Know?

✨ **Sorority Roots Run Deep: Nearly one in three Black women elected officials nationwide are proud members of a Divine Nine sorority.**

🏛️ **From Campus to Capitol: Many of these women began as student leaders — chapter presidents, step captains, or community service chairs — proving leadership starts early and grows stronger with sisterhood.**

[1]These lists are curated and may be incomplete Please email us at **info@sistersleadsistersvote.org** to share updated information.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (Founded 1913)

Born from a legacy of social action and public service, Delta women continue to shape policy, protect democracy, and build stronger communities through fearless leadership.

- **Ciara Smith —** Mayor of Anniston, Alabama
- **Erica Ray-White -** Madison City Council District 6, Huntsville, Alabama
- **Yolanda Lawson -** Mayor of Pleasant Grove, Alabama
- **Carletta Davis -** Mayor of Prichard, Alabama
- **Nuchette Black-Burke -** Mayor of Windsor, Connecticut
- **Carlita Cotton -** Mansfield Town Council, Connecticut
- **Francoise Deristel-Leger -** Hartford Board of Education, Connecticut
- **Pamela Floyd-Cranford -** Manchester Board of Directors, Connecticut
- **Shelby Maybin -** Bloomfield Zoning Board of Appeals, Connecticut
- **Shirley Williams -** Bloomfield Zoning Board of Appeals, Connecticut
- **Sherri Washington -** Conyers City Council District 2 Post 2 , Georgia
- **Velicia Lowe -** Centerville City Council Post 3 , Georgia
- **Andrea Caldwell -**East Point City Council Ward D At-Large, Georgia
- **Eshe Collins -** Atlanta City Council Post 3 At-Large, Georgia
- **Allisa Foster —** St. Louis Public Schools Board of Education, Missouri
- **Kayla Lott** - 5th Ward Councilwoman - Union County, New Jersey
- **Stephanie Marshall** - Atlantic City Council at Large, New Jersey
- **Melanie Balaputra**- Hackensack Board of Education Bergen County, New Jersey
- **Amina Bey** - City Council Central Ward Essex County, New Jersey
- **Courtney Washington** - Roselle Board of Education Union County , New Jersey
- **Dorcey Applyrs**- Mayor of Albany, New York
- **Sharon Owens** - Mayor of Syracuse, New York
- **Jackie Salvatore** - Columbia County Sheriff Columbia County, New York
- **Cynthia Turnquest-Jones** - Mt. Vernon - Westchester County City Council, New York
- **Selvena Brooks-Powers** — New York City Council District 31, New York
- **Jocelyn Rawis —** Harrisburg City Council, Pennsylvania
- **Kia Ghee —** Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania
- **Deborah Watson-Stoke —** Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania
- **Dr. Sonja Ogletree - Santani** - House of Rep District 98 Dorchester, South Carolina
- **Brenda Smith —** Killeen Independent School District, Texas
- **Stephanie Morales** - Portsmouth Commonwealth's Attorney, Virginia
- **Candi King —** Virginia House of Delegates District 23, Virginia
- **Stacey Carroll —** Virginia House of Delegates District 64, Virginia
- **Colette McEachin —** Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney, Virginia
- **Sabrina Madison —** Madison Common Council, Wisconsin

True to their creed, these Deltas continue to prove that **intelligence, courage, and commitment remain the torchlights of leadership.**

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated (Founded 1920)

With a foundation built on scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood, Zetas continue to uplift communities through integrity and inclusion.

- **Jennifer A. Santiago** — Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania
- **Tracey Tucker** — Trainer Borough Council, Delaware County, Pennsylvania
- **Chanell Elston** — Ward 1 Councilwoman, Ohio
- **Hope Page** — Commissioner, Hope Mills, North Carolina
- **Barbara Middleton-Foushee** — Mayor of Carrboro, North Carolina
- **Ruthina Malone** — Iowa City School Board
- **Chrissy Thomas** — Lenoir City Council, North Carolina
- **Sheridan Jack-Browne** — Judge, NYC Civil Court (Kings County), New York
- **Fania Jean** — Judge, NYC Civil Court (Queens County), New York
- **Mickey Smith** — City Council, Jacksonville, North Carolina
- **Alicia Davis** — City of Barnwell, South Carolina
- **Tasha Hunt** — Councilwoman at Large, Hamden, Connecticut
- **Barbara Pierce** — Mayor of Wagram, North Carolina

With their steady presence in local government, education, and justice, **Zeta women continue to show that finer leadership means serving the people — and serving them well.**

Did You Know?

💜 **Sisterhood = Strategy: Behind every campaign, there's a chorus of sorors volunteering, fundraising, and showing up at the polls in coordinated colors and unwavering pride.**

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated (Founded 1922)

Educators and advocates by design, the women of Sigma Gamma Rho continue to translate scholarship and service into sustainable policy and progress.

- **Barbara Lee** — Mayor of Oakland, California
- **Aisha N. Braveboy** — County Executive, Prince George's County, Maryland
- **Ebony Wills-Wells** — Warsaw Town Commissioner, North Carolina
- **Dawn Porter-Golden** — Penn Hills School District, Pennsylvania
- **Wanda Brownlee Paige** — Kansas City, Kansas School Board, Kansas
- **Amy Diggs**- Codorus Township Auditor, York County, Pennsylvania
- **Rita Joseph** - New York City Council, New York
- **Angela Rice** -Inspector of Election, Lansdowne Borough 9th Precinct, Pennsylvania

Their victories symbolize the union of intellect and impact — the golden blueprint for leadership rooted in service to humanity.

Did You Know?

🌍 **Cross-State Power: In 2025 alone, Black sorority women secured victories in over a dozen states — from Alaska to Alabama, from New York to Texas.**

A Shared Legacy of Service

From Alpha Kappa Alpha's pioneering grace to Delta Sigma Theta's fiery activism, Zeta Phi Beta's finer leadership to Sigma Gamma Rho's golden commitment to education — Black sorority women are the architects of civic change.

They register voters, shape policy, and govern with both head and heart. They represent the quiet power of organized sisterhood — collective purpose turned into tangible progress.
As Sisters Lead Sisters Vote continues to track and support Black women's political leadership, this year's elected officials stand as proof of what happens when legacy meets leadership, and when community invests in its daughters.

Did You Know?

💬 **Multi-Generational Legacy: Several current officeholders followed in the footsteps of other sorors who once held the same seats — making mentorship a political inheritance.**

✊🏾 We See You. We Celebrate You.

To every Black woman who ran, served, or supported — thank you for carrying the banner forward.

To our Divine Nine Sisters who turned service into strategy and action into office — your leadership is the pulse of democracy.

We're not just making history — we're building the future. Together.

SISTERS LEAD SISTERS VOTE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donate:

This report is not only an important documentation of the political contributions and history for Black women, it is truly a labor of love and commitment. As local and state elections are harder to track and find data, we leaned heavily on the **Black Women's Leadership Collective, its leaders and member organizations, t**o help source and verify Black women leaders.

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We are especially grateful and thankful for each and every Black woman who has made the decision to travel the tough campaign road and the tremendous sacrifice they make to evalate their leadership in this way.



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