

# Hues of Blue

**From the Desk  
of the Democratic  
National Committee  
Chair**

**Chair Jaime Harrison**

**Democratic  
Wins!**

**Black History Made!**

**Major 2024  
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# Publisher's Note

by June Owens

## Greetings!

### Welcome to the 2024 Black History Month Edition of Hues of Blue!

Hues of Blue is a communication that provides a bridge of communication between Democratic individuals, elected officials, campaigns and organizations to diverse individuals throughout the United States.

Hues of Blue is a great way for various communities to be more informed about the work of various individuals, elected officials, campaigns and organizations. Hues of Blue provides individuals, elected officials, campaigns and organizations the opportunity to connect directly with diverse constituency groups year round. Hues of Blue helps to raise the visibility of important issues as well as help share information to activate communities and mobilize voters. Hues of Blue provides opportunities for Democratic individuals & groups to discuss not only politically related content, but also human interest-related stories to help diverse audiences/communities get to know them on a more personal level. Various communication opportunities will take various forms including, but not limited to: E-Magazines, Social Media opportunities (e.g. Facebook Live events, etc.), Town Halls and Podcasts to name a few.

In this month's edition, we will honor and celebrate Black Democratic leaders and trailblazers who are making their mark throughout the nation.




First, you will hear from our distinguished Chair of the Democratic National Committee, DNC Chair Jaime Harrison. As one of a few historical firsts to serve as DNC Chair, Chair Harrison will share his journey with us, catch us up on DNC investments and electoral efforts and will impart much valued and appreciated pearls of wisdom.

Second, nationally 2023 was a big year for Democrats throughout the country and last year, Black Democrats broke glass ceilings and made history along the way. Join us as we recognize and congratulate several elected officials who are leading their Districts and Cities as historical firsts in their respective offices.

Last and not least, as Chair Harrison reminds us, this election is the most important election of our lifetime. So, it is up to all of us to not only be informed and engaged voters, but to encourage others to do the same. Included in this edition are the Major 2024 Political Dates for the Presidential Nomination Calendar, President Biden's State of the Union Address and the 2024 Democratic National Convention (to be held in Chicago); just to name a few. Mark your calendars, save the dates, show up and tune in!

Sincere thanks and love to my family and friends for helping to make this edition possible. Also, a huge **THANK YOU** to all of you for reading Hues of Blue!





We  our Hues of Blue readership.

Please be sure to share this edition with others as well as give us a Like on Facebook and follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter). Please stay tuned for future communications and do not hesitate to reach out with content ideas, event information or just to send a friendly hello.

Let's continue to march forward as we canvass our communities beautiful hues of blue. Happy reading!

*June Owens*

## contact

-  [HuesOfBlue.org](https://HuesOfBlue.org)
-  [Facebook.com/HuesOfBlue1](https://Facebook.com/HuesOfBlue1)
-  [@HuesOfBlue2019](https://twitter.com/HuesOfBlue2019)
-  [HuesOfBlue.Info@gmail.com](mailto:HuesOfBlue.Info@gmail.com)



Chair  
Jaime  
Harrison

# From the Desk of the Democratic National Committee Chair

You are the third Black person and the second Black man to serve as Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). What does this mean to you and what is the historical meaning to the community?

It is not lost on me that Black voters have long been the backbone of the party that I now have the honor of helping to lead. I'm always mindful of our history, and I'm proud of the progress that we've made both as a country and a party.

I was born to a teen mom, and raised by my grandparents. My grandmother had an 8th grade education, she picked cotton and cleaned houses. My grandfather had a 4th grade education, and he paved roads to help us get by.

Society often labeled them as simple, but they were rich in terms of their values: hard work, loyalty, respect – those are the values that underpin who we are as a Black community, and those are the values that I bring to work with me every day as Chair of the DNC.

This organization is 176 years old and during that

time, Black people have gone from being denied access to the ballot to facing unjust laws, state-sanctioned violence, and intimidation tactics that prevented us from exercising our most fundamental rights... all the way to the current moment where I have the privilege of serving as DNC Chair as we head into an election cycle where voters will be casting their ballots in South Carolina's historic first-in-the-nation Democratic presidential primary later this week. That's a testament to the progress that Democrats are leading, and that we need to continue to build on.

What are some goals, projects, initiatives and/or objectives you would like to accomplish during your term?

When I first took on the role of Chair of the DNC, my first priority was to level up on critical, early investments to Democratic state parties across the country, delivering the tools and resources they need to be successful up and down the ballot. Today, I'm proud that the Democratic Party is stronger than ever before, and with each passing year, we've only strengthened the work that we are doing to reach voters.

In 2021, President Biden and I announced a \$23 million investment to support all 57 state parties and territories to help elect Democrats up and down the ballot and build long-term party infrastructure in every corner of the country. This included a first-of-its-kind Red State Fund to specifically invest in historically red states.

As we head into election year, the DNC’s investments are all about electing Democrats who will serve the American people, from local offices to the Oval Office.

We’re also continuing to put the work in early to engage and mobilize Black voters well ahead of November’s election. Throughout last year, I’ve been on the ground, hearing about what matters most to voters and engaging in continuous conversations with Black women and Black men through our Seat At the Table and Chop It Up programs, respectively, to listen, learn, and highlight some of our most important accomplishments, including:

- Under President Biden, we’ve appointed more Black women to the appellate courts than all other presidents – combined. And we confirmed Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.
- When Republicans stalled the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, President Biden used his executive power to ban federal chokeholds, limit no-knock entries, and pardon those convicted of simple federal marijuana possession.
- Democrats have also delivered a historic \$7.3 billion to HBCUs.
- Even more: We’ve protected our pensions, and fought to ensure folks have the right to retire with dignity. We’ve put Black maternal health equity at the forefront of our agenda. And President Biden and Vice President Harris are just getting started when it comes to delivering wins for our community.

My team and I will continue to put in the work to make sure that Black voters know what is at stake in 2024. It is a race between hope and fear. And we know hope must always prevail.

Character counts, so you must work as if someone is always watching. Nearly everyone in politics started at the bottom. You could be working alongside your future boss, and your actions as an intern or an entry-level staffer will be remembered by others for years to come. It’s simple: treat others with kindness and respect, and be fair and kind to others.

Keep developing your skill set! Politics can be fast-paced and competitive. New methods in the field are constantly being developed. You should always be searching for ways to learn new skills and advance existing skills to support the work you are doing.

Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

The 2024 election will be the most important election of our lifetimes. I know that a lot of people say that for every election, but who you vote for in the 2024 presidential election will determine the future of American democracy and the fundamental freedoms that we hold most dear.

I know that I don’t have to remind our community of the stakes of this election — because we are feeling the stakes in our everyday lives. We’re seeing judges and politicians telling women what they can and can’t do with their own bodies. We’re watching Black History being removed from school textbooks and curriculums. And we’re fighting back against people who are once again actively trying to prevent us from exercising our sacred right to vote.

This year is our moment to stand up and fight back against this tide of injustice and pave a new road forward for our country — a new road where all of us are included and where we all have a fair shot at the American Dream.

Being one of a historical few in anything is never easy. What do you do to find inspiration, motivation and encouragement?

As the husband of a Black woman, and the father of two Black boys, I am inspired day in and day out by my family. I also find motivation and encouragement to work in politics and to do this job in the memory of my grandparents. My grandparents, who didn’t have a whole lot of formal education, but who believed in the greatness of this country. They were hard-working people — and sometimes life was not always easy for them. I’ve always seen politics and working for the Democratic Party as a way to advocate for folks like them. That is my ‘why’ and a major reason behind my work.

And I would be remiss if I did not also mention the profound impact of my dear friend and mentor, the late congressman and civil rights giant John Lewis — a national treasure who taught me the power of getting into good trouble, necessary trouble, in the fight for justice.

What advice would you have for those who may wish to get more involved with politics or run for office?

There is no one way to get involved, but it can start with something as simple as having a desire or passion for making people’s lives better.

Start Local. Whether you are interested in national politics or state politics, I offer the same advice: start local. Begin your journey in communities in which you have a connection. Starting local can help expand the opportunities available to you at the beginning of your career.

Incredible opportunities can be had in a district office or mayor’s office. The important thing is to get experience and build relationships. Relationships are key to a successful career in politics.

# Democratic Wins!

## Black History Made!



Join us with celebrating and congratulating Democratic history makers and trailblazers from several key elections in 2023!



**Gabe Amo**

*Congressman*  
First Black Person elected to Congress, Connecticut



**Brandon Johnson**

*Mayor*  
Fourth Black Person elected to serve as Mayor, Chicago



**Jennifer McClellan**

*Congresswoman*  
First Black Woman elected to Congress, Virginia



**Wes Moore**

*Governor*  
First Black Person elected Governor, Maryland  
Third Black Person elected Governor in the United States



**Cherelle Parker**

*Mayor*  
First Woman and First Black Woman elected to serve as Mayor, Philadelphia

# Major 2024 Political Dates

South Carolina Democratic Primary	Saturday, Feb. 3
Nevada Democratic Primary	Tuesday, Feb. 6
Michigan Primary	Tuesday, Feb. 27
Super Tuesday	Tuesday, March 5
State of the Union	Thursday, March 7
Georgia, Mississippi, Washington Primaries and Democratic primaries for the Northern Mariana Islands and Democrats Abroad	Tuesday, March 12
Louisiana Primary, and Missouri Democratic Primary	Saturday, March 23
North Dakota Democratic Primary	Saturday, March 30
Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island, Wisconsin Primaries	Tuesday, April 2
Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota Democratic Primaries	Saturday, April 6
Wyoming Democratic Caucus	Saturday, April 13
Pennsylvania Primary	Tuesday, April 23
Puerto Rico Democratic Primary	Sunday, April 28
Indiana Primary	Tuesday, May 7
Maryland, Nebraska, West Virginia Primaries	Tuesday, May 14
Kentucky, Oregon Primaries	Tuesday, May 21
Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota Primaries, Washington, D.C., Democratic Primary	Tuesday, June 4
Democratic National Convention	Monday, Aug. 19 through Thursday, Aug. 22
Election Day	Tuesday, Nov. 5

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