BLACK VOTERS MATTER

*I Matter. You Matter. We Matter.*

2019 has been such a busy year for the BVM team! We expanded from seven to 11 states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. We experienced some major wins and continued our work with spreading love and building power in communities.

BVM has more than 120 partners across our 11 state region. Our partners are varied and include faith-based groups, community-based organizations or more traditional nonprofits that are all social justice community-organizers.
Black Voters Matter attended the Parchman Prison Rally in Jackson, Mississippi to urge Governor Tate Reeves to take action and demand accountability for the deplorable conditions incarcerated folks are subjected to. We supported the efforts of organizers in Mississippi through community organizing, raising awareness, and donating to their organizing efforts.

We are proud of one of our 501c3 Board Members, Rukia Lumumba, Executive Director of the People's Advocacy Institute, who represented the coalition on Free Speech TV:

“What’s Happening Inside Mississippi Prisons?”
Click Here To Watch!
January started our #BVMBusTour2020 in Georgia visiting the cities of Albany and Valdosta. Also in South Carolina visiting Columbia, North Charleston, and Orangeburg.

In Albany, we had the opportunity to partner with East Towne Civic League, Feeding the Valley Food Bank, SOWEGA, and Turner Job Corps Center to distribute food to people in the community. BVM then held a community meeting to learn about important issues impacting Albany residents such as utility bills.

In Valdosta, we held a voter registration drive outside a local church. Following this event, we supported student leaders and campus organizations at Valdosta State University for their MLK celebration with a parade, community cookout, and voter registration drive.
We kicked off our second stop of our Bus Tour in South Carolina, stopping in North Charleston and Pineville to discuss issues affecting the community and how to increase voter engagement.

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We ended our tour in Orangeburg with a visit to the first Civil Rights Museum accompanied by famous photographer and author and inventor, Cecil Williams, who documented the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina.
Tamika Gadsden
*South Carolina State Coordinator*

Tamika “Mika” Gadsden is a content creator, writer, social media manager and host of the unapologetic radio show and podcast, “Mic’d Up.” Mika uses her activist voice to interrogate power in the Charleston Low country and advocate for our region’s most vulnerable populations. As the lead builder of the Charleston Activist Network digital platform, she creates content that amplifies the efforts of those fighting systemic oppression and leverages the historical archive as a way to craft solutions for contemporary problems plaguing our communities.

Venkayla Haynes
*Digital Communications Specialist*

Venkayla is a community organizer, national speaker and advocate for survivors of sexual violence. She has been doing anti-violence work for five years and has been honored and recognized by the NBA, Joe Biden, Michelle and Barack Obama, NBC, Atlanta Hawks, MademNoire and more. She previously worked with Know Your IX’s communications team and sat on the Violence Against Women Advisory Council for the Biden Foundation to bring awareness to Title IX, consent, and sexual violence. Venkayla has also worked with several national and local anti-violence organizations and politicians around issues of police brutality, gentrification, homelessness and sexual violence.
Danielle M. Brown
State Organizer-North Carolina
Danielle became interested in organized labor after obtaining a degree in Construction Management and noticing distinct issues within the industry pertaining to women and minority rights. She began working with community constituencies to build interest around issues within the community. She has been the President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) Piedmont Chapter in Charlotte, NC for over three years, ran a successful Voter Registration and Get Out to Vote programs-- overseeing an entire team while working in four different counties at one time-- and has organized campaigns and events in multiple cities around labor issues that have resulted in overall WINS.

Brittany Smalls
Pennsylvania State Coordinator
Brittany Smalls, is an advocate for change from the city of Philadelphia, PA. She has over 10 years of nonprofit and political experience. She has utilized her knowledge to assist with the transformation of neighborhoods across the southwestern region of Pennsylvania. Her past endeavors include organizing community events, hosting town hall meetings for local residents, assisting with employment retention for constituents that received public assistance and helping with the fight against homelessness. Brittany has served as the President of Millennial In Action leading the cause to increase the voter turnout amongst Black millennials. That role has expanded her opportunities for field organizing, strategic planning and political consulting for the past five years.
Brianna Burks
Outreach/ Travel Assistant
Brianna has worked in the political field and non-partisan advocacy work around civil rights, voting rights, voting registration and restoration of rights bringing 4 years of experience to our organization. She has also served as the Relations- Partnership Director statewide with high schools for New Virginia Majority and was part of the largest and most effective voter registration operation in Virginia.
IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

**Florida**
- Feb. 18 registration deadline for March 17 presidential primary
- July 20 registration deadline for Aug. 18 primary election
- Oct. 5 registration deadline for Nov. 3 general election

**Virginia**
- Feb. 10 registration deadline for March 3. presidential primary.
- May 18 registration deadline for June 9 primary election.
- Oct. 12 registration deadline for Nov. 3 general election.

**South Carolina**
- Jan. 30 registration deadline for Feb. 29 democratic presidential preference primary.
- May 11 registration deadline for June 9 primary election.
- Oct. 5 registration deadline for Nov. 3 general election

**Mississippi**
- Feb. 10 registration deadline for March 10 presidential primary.
- Feb. 10 registration deadline for March 10 primary election.
- Oct. 1 registration deadline for Nov, 3 general election.
IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Georgia
- Feb. 24 registration deadline for March 24 presidential primary
- April 20 registration deadline for the May 19 general primary election and nonpartisan general election.
- Oct. 5 registration deadline for the general election on Nov. 3.
  Early voting: Oct. 12-30

Pennsylvania
- March 30 Registration deadline for April 28 primary election.
- Oct. 5 Registration deadline for the Nov. 3 general election.

Tennessee
- Feb. 3 registration deadline for March 3 presidential primary.
- July 7 registration deadline for Aug. 6 state and federal primary.
- Oct. 5 registration deadline for Nov. 3 general election.

North Carolina
- Fed. 7 registration deadline for March 3 primary election.
- Oct. 9 registration deadline for Nov. 3 general election.

Alabama
- Feb. 17 registration deadline for March 3 primary election.
- March 16 registration deadline for March 31 runoff election.
THANK YOU

Black Voters Matter would like to thank you for your constant support of our organization and the work that we've done throughout the year, which includes but is not limited to: The fight to increase voter engagement in Black communities, focusing on education and organizing in marginalized communities continues.

We hope we continue to have your support. This month we will be traveling back to South Carolina and then North Carolina. We hope to see you, remember, It's About Us.

For more information and to get involved with the work we do or to help us continue our work donate and visit us at: blackvotersmatter.fund.org

DONATE

IT'S ABOUT US