

BEING WELL WHILE BLACK

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Announcing Groundbreaking Black Voter Guide Project by Being Well While Black

"This is the election of our lifetimes," charges Being Well While Black Co-Founder and Montgomery County team leader, Valarie Davis, as the organization announces the launch of its three inaugural Black Voter Guides in Washington, DC and Prince George's and Montgomery County, Maryland.

The mission of Being Well While Black (BWWB) is to promote health and well-being across all dimensions of Black life. The guides were developed based on a series of community conversations and surveys including over 350 participants in local Black communities. BWWB's approach is designed to educate, empower, and encourage grassroots advocacy and "Blacktition". Inspired by Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams' book, *Lead from the Outside*, BWWB utilizes her effective strategies to energize Black voters and make significant gains in comprehensive health outcomes in Black communities.

The Black Voter Guide (BVG) itself is designed based on the League of Women Voters guide, and the LWV of Maryland chapter is a collaborator on the project. **"The League of Women Voters of Maryland is excited and honored to support ElevateHER and their campaign Being Well While Black. In order to have a robust functional democracy, all citizens must have equitable access to resources and information. BWWB will start a much needed conversation about how Maryland can show up for its Black residents. The League couldn't wait to lend itself to this cause,"** says Executive Director of the League of Women Voters Maryland, Nikki Tyree.

The Black Voter Guide is a non-partisan "vote smart" tool that includes candidates' answers to questions and concerns from Black residents, and includes compelling data points about the state of Black communities in targeted jurisdictions in the Washington, DC area. Election candidates in the 2022 primary elections were asked to share their perspectives and plans for addressing a range of issues - from affordable housing and policing, to mental and physical health and education, and more. The goals of the project are to elevate Black voices, allow for active informed Black participation in the electoral process, and create a basis for accountability for candidates who seek support from Black voters in both the primary and general elections..

“Political empowerment and civic engagement are key to improving conditions in our Black communities. Let's educate ourselves, use our precious votes, and hold elected officials accountable,” says Co-Founder and Washington, DC team leader, Dr. Diane Kern.

Being Well While Black is collaborating with a number of influential local organizations to convene community conversations, launch the Black Voter Guides, and build capacity for ongoing advocacy beyond the ballot box, including: League of Women Voters of Maryland, Greater DC National Action Network, National Panhellenic Council of Montgomery County, NAACP Armed Services and Veterans Committee, 100 Fathers Inc., National Black Church Initiative, Boy Scouts of America Troop 450, 301 Nutrition Spot; and Tucker Electric.

“We, as Black communities, need to use our voices to generate change for future generations and vote smartly. But, if not now, then when?” asks BVG Project Leader and Prince George’s County team leader, MyLinn Clément.

Residents can request their Black Voter Guide at: <https://forms.gle/6KoTzhcgpuxben4i8>

Washington, DC Black Voter Guide (PDF):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dET70LL6ESnPU2pQHgRpEJ8XUzw1tFHf/view?usp=sharing>

About ElevateHer and Being Well While Black:

ElevateHer, Inc. is a registered 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization that takes women of color off “front lines” and unemployment lines, and trains them to deliver culturally competent public and community health services to their communities. ElevateHer was founded during the pandemic of 2020 by nine Black women. Being Well While Black (BWwB) was founded in July 2020, and became an affiliate program of ElevateHer in 2022. BWwB formed as an outgrowth of a series of virtual “Good Grief” webinars curated by and for Black people nationwide to address COVID-19-related grief and its wide-ranging impacts. The BWwB program has reached thousands of Black people across the United States and across the diaspora, including the United Kingdom, Mexico, and the continent of Africa.