

# California Black Women Coalition for #KeepTheSeat Demand Governor Gavin Newsom to Appoint a Black Woman for the #USSenate

By Marie Y. Lemelle, MBA  
CA Black Women Coalition for #KeepTheSeat  
#WinWithBlackWomen #LeadWithBlackWomen

Governor Gavin Newsom,

Like a modern-day Harriet Tubman, Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris kicked opened the door to claim a seat at the U.S. Senate table. Her legacy is to lead more Black women to the table who will represent a forgotten but strong California population. It is no surprise that women are already underrepresented in the U.S. Senate; and that is unacceptable. California should continue to buck the trend and send a Black woman to the U.S. Senate.

Historically, Black women are blatantly excluded from leadership roles. Kamala Harris, the only Black woman in the U.S. Senate, changed the game for us and proved that a Black woman is invaluable to the progression of California and our Nation. Let's not forget that Black women voted in record numbers to deliver a victory to Democrats and our country.

Far too often the work and sacrifices of Black women go unrecognized and undervalued. We urge you to honor and embrace the hard work and determination that Kamala Harris and Black women have forged through to keep California strong. We earned the right to #KeeptheSeat and will continue to fight to never give up our seat to represent all people but especially the largest population in the State of California.

December 1 marked the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat. Her right to keep her seat was a symbol of will power and the right to claim a prominent place in this world. We are ready to repeat the historic and courageous move that Ms. Parks made to demand respect and inclusion. She stood her ground without a coalition of Black women by her side.

Today, Black women from across the Nation are in full force to stand beside U.S. Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA-37) and U.S. Congresswomen Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) and fight for them to be the right choice to fill the seat. Don't mute the Black woman's voice.

We live the values of gender equality, fairness, community, diversity, and authenticity that are essential to strong leadership. We ask that you do not overlook our progressive leaders Bass and Lee to carry the torch lit by Kamala Harris.

There is no doubt that Bass and Lee are ready to take on the challenges and issues that face Californians. They have the experience and the relationships to step in Kamala Harris' shoes and step up to the table with confidence and determination. They know how to get the work done in Congress while advocating for the needs of Californians.

This is our time, and we are staking our claim to the seat that Kamala Harris earned with the support of Black women. We are the backbone of the democratic party, both as voters and organizers. Diversity in our leaders is the core to who we are in California. Together, we benefit from a variety in experiences and perspectives.

We know that both Bass and Lee are leaders that we can trust and depend on in crisis. That said, we deserve to maintain our representation in the U.S. Senate. Governor Newsom, we urge you to hear us and appoint Bass or Lee to the seat.

It's time to deliver for us.

## California Black Women Coalition for #KeepTheSeat

Hon. Donesia Gause-Aldana	Carson	Hon. Sydney Kamlager-Dove	Los Angeles	Hon. Deborah Robertson	Rialto
Hon. Aja Brown	Compton	Hon. Lula Davis-Holmes	Carson	Hon. Emma Sharif	Compton
Hon. Cheryl Brown	Sacramento	Hon. Yvonne Horton	Inglewood	Hon. Diane Watson	Los Angeles
Hon. Autumn Burke	Los Angeles	Hon. Holly J. Mitchell	Los Angeles	Hon. Shirley Weber	San Diego
Hon. Michelle Chambers	Compton	Hon. Treva Reid	Oakland	Hon. Lori Wilson	Suisun City

Melina Abdullah	Los Angeles	Danielle Hollis	Burbank	Andrea Slater	Vallejo
Aimee Allison	Oakland	Iona Hendrick	Los Angeles	Dolores Spears	Los Angeles
Bobbiejean Anderson	Moreno Valley	Patsy Howard	Los Angeles	Brianna Spratt	Irvine
Ebani Anderson	Los Angeles	Cine Ivery	Inglewood	Jasmine Stanley	Los Angeles
Niele Anderson	Los Angeles	Andrea Jackson	Los Angeles	Tiffani Stone	Elk Grove
Joy Atkinson	Los Angeles	Jannell Jackson	Sacramento	Novell Thompson	Fontana
Sheila Baker	Bellflower	Joan Jackson	Los Angeles	Gloria Gray	Inglewood
Kim Ballard	Lancaster	Adrienne Johnson	Pasadena	Anette Walker	Hayward
Sabrina Benson	Rialto	Rachel Johnson	Gardena	Jackie Washington	Hawthorne
Vicki Blakley	Sacramento	Deidre Jones	Long Beach	Molly Watson	Los Angeles
Charlotte Bland	Los Angeles	Rev. Dr. Joy Johnson	Antelope	Denise Watts	Canyon Country
Sheila Brown	Los Angeles	Laniece Jones	Oakland	Daphne Wayans	Tarzana
Taisha Brown	San Diego	Holland Jordan	Castro Valley	Yvonne Wheeler	Long Beach
Tonya Burke	Perris	Angela King	Los Angeles	Wanza Tolliver	Los Angeles
April Burton	Compton	Marie Y. Lemelle	Glendale	Kathy Williamson	Los Angeles
Velma Butler	Pasadena	Bennetra Lewis	Lancaster	Katrina Williams	Long Beach
Barbara Calhoun	Compton	Alicia Lewis	Los Angeles	K. Patrice Williams	Vallejo
Darla Carpool	Los Angeles	Arnetta Mack	Inglewood	Wanda F. Williams	Sacramento
Jasmyne Cannick	Los Angeles	Natasha Marshall	Inglewood	Gail Willis	Los Angeles
Sandi Cook	Los Angeles	Phyllis Marshall	Sacramento	Lolita Willis	Long Beach
Lori Cordinus	Orange	Ronnie Martin	Los Angeles	Ethell Woods	Los Angeles
Maureen Craft	Elk Grove	Tamry McCauley	Santa Clarita	Jimmy Woods Gray	Los Angeles
Karen Earl	Los Angeles	Tina McKinnor	Hawthorne	Rashina Young	Carson
Nolice Edwards	Sacramento	Tonia McMillian	Bellflower	Melanie Young	Long Beach
Kimberly Ellis	Richmond	Dewanda Mitchell	San Bernardino	Tiffani Stone Alvidez	Elk Grove
Dionne Faulk	Inglewood	Tracy Mitchell	Pasadena	Jacque Robinson-Baisley	Pasadena
Nourbese Flint	Los Angeles	Tamela Mitchell	Pasadena	Shay Franco-Clausen	San Jose
Norma Foree	Long Beach	Pamela Mitchell	Pasadena	Lola Smallwood Cuevas	Los Angeles
Carolyn Fowler	Inglewood	Sarah Morris	Adelanto	Julia Cooksey-Evans	Northridge
Dallas Fowler	Inglewood	Shenia Morris	Victorville	Cheryl Lanier Gates	San Francisco
Gail Francis	Lake Elsinore	Gloria Myles	Los Angeles	Kellie Todd-Griffin	Carson
Tresla Gilbreath	Sacramento	Ingrid Palmer	Los Angeles	Dezie Woods-Jones	Madera
Glenda Gill	Los Angeles	Ann Perkins	San Bernardino	Kendra Noel Lewis	Sacramento
Angela Gipson	Inglewood	Sharon Polk	Los Angeles	Patrice Marshall McKenzie	Pasadena
Le Cresha K. Gipson	Carson	Sandra Poole	Sacramento	Pamela Bright-Moon	Los Angeles
Wendy Gladney	Upland	Angela Reddock	Carson	Eva Hoffman-Murray	Bellflower
Alice Goff	Los Angeles	Lenee Richards	Los Angeles	Pastor Thembeklia Smart	Los Angeles
Gloria Gray	Inglewood	Audrena Redmond	Long Beach	Roslyn Austin Stewart	Los Angeles
Sharon Guest	Los Angeles	Diane Robertson	Los Angeles	L'Toya Wheeler Tate	Corona
Kellie Hawkins	Los Angeles	Rosa Russell	Los Angeles	Charisse Bremond Weaver	Pasadena
Jacqueline Hawthorne	Los Angeles	Patt Sanders	Inglewood	Charlotte Northern White	San Diego
Nichelle Henderson	Gardena	Jamie Scott	Inglewood		
Ingrid Hutt	Los Angeles				