



2022  
FLORIDA  
AKA DAY  
— AT THE CAPITOL —

FEBRUARY 16-17, 2022



- **Soror Carolyn G. Randolph**, *South Atlantic Regional Director*
- **Soror Glenda Baskin Glover**, *International President*
- **Soror Laurise A. Thomas**, *Florida AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman*
- **Soror Veronica E. Phillips**, *Florida Connection Coordinator*
- **Soror Sylvia Sloane Jones**, *South Atlantic Representative International Connection Committee*

# Best Wishes Sorors for an Impactful Florida AKA Day at the Capitol!

Continue to L.E.A.D. in your local  
elections and advocate for  
change in our communities  
during this legislative session.

*Soror Tiffany Moore Russell*

Orange County Clerk of Courts

South Atlantic Representative to the International

Leadership Development Committee

70th Boule Chairman







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# Protocol and Reminders

## ATTIRE

Attire for AKA Day at the Capitol is **PINK** and **GREEN**. Although this event is being held virtually, all Sorors are strongly encouraged to wear business attire.

## ZOOM TIPS

Plan to join the event at least 15 minutes prior to the start time.  
Mute your microphone to avoid creating background noise.  
Limit distractions so that you can participate at the appropriate time.  
Use the Chat feature to communicate to the facilitator and/or others.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Sorors are encouraged to share photographs of and commemorate about their experience via social media using the following hashtags:

**#FLAKADAC2022   #AKAsLEAD   #FLConnection**

## RELEASE

Attending and participating in any event within the virtual conference setting may result in the use of your name, image, and/or likeness in printed and/or electronic material, including but not limited to publication on the world wide web, social media sites, press materials and advertising or marketing materials. You hereby release Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and its agents from any and all claims arising from the uses slated above.





# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority INCORPORATED®

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## OFFICE OF:

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South Atlantic Regional Director  
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February 16, 2022



Greetings!

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you to the virtual 2022 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Days at the Florida State Capitol. We are excited once again to host two interactive days of meetings, workshops, and plenary sessions in a virtual environment, especially during these challenging times of a pandemic.

As members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, you know that we are moving **“Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence.”** Your attendance here today shows that you understand the impact of our L.E.A.D. (Learn, Empower, Advocate, and Decide) initiative and that you are committed to better understanding the many public policies that affect our lives daily.

The late U.S. Congressman John Lewis said, “When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something.” As you participate in this event, we charge you to become more knowledgeable about current legislation and learn how you too can create and influence legislation which impacts your local community – now and in the future. We also encourage you to recognize the state of Black Florida, to understand critical race theory, redistricting, and their implications; to know how you can remain politically engaged during and beyond election season.

I offer my heartfelt commendations to Mrs. Laurise Thomas, our Florida AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman; Commissioner Veronica E. Phillips, Florida AKA Connection Coordinator; Dr. Sylvia Sloane Jones, South Atlantic Region Representative to the International Connection Committee; and all who worked, prayed, and collaborated to make this second virtual Florida AKA Day at the Capitol a success.

Getting **“Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence”** is our call to action. Let us show Florida legislators and the world the true power of the Alpha Kappa Alpha woman’s voice. We can never slow down, and we can never push pause. AKAs L.E.A.D.!

Sincerely,

**Carolyn G. Randolph**  
*South Atlantic Regional Director*



# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, INCORPORATED®

Office of the 25th International President  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated  
Norma Solomon White, DHL  
3315 Edgewood Avenue West  
Jacksonville, FL 32209



February 16, 2022

Greetings Sorors of the Significant South Atlantic Region:

It is my pleasure to greet and welcome you to the South Atlantic' Region's 2022 Florida AKA Day at the Capitol. Some of you are here in person, some of you may be here for the first time while others are with us virtually. Wherever you are, we graciously welcome you.

Soror Juanita Orr, chair of the 1998-2002 Connection Committee stated in the Summer 1999 Ivy Leaf that "Sorors across the nation 'Blazed New Trails in Alpha Kappa Alpha Public Policy' when they answered the call to mobilize in their state capitols to advocate for issues that impact the lives of African Americans in their respective states. Advocacy days have been held in some states over the years; however, this was the first nationwide call for sorors in every state to mobilize at their capitols. The same Ivy Leaf highlighted the South Atlantic Region as 100% with "AKA Day at the Capitol". All three states in the region assembled at their state capitols in 1999 to meet with their legislators, applaud legislative achievements and honor sorors who serve in the state legislatures.

Over the past twenty-three years, The "AKA Day at the Capitol" has gained high visibility among the public policy makers, and increased understanding of the political process among sorors. Senator Betty Holzendorf and State Representatives Frederica S. Wilson, Cynthia Chestnut and Addie Greene were among the sorors recognized at the first meeting.

Thanks to the planning committee for your dedication and hard work and to each of you for making this an event to remember. We look to the future for the future is what is most promising.

Sincerely,

*Norma Solomon White*

Norma Solomon White





# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, INCORPORATED®

Best Wishes and Sincerest Greetings:

To my lovely Sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., I am honored and humbled to serve as the Florida AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman. Your attendance here today for the 2022 Florida Virtual AKA Day at the Capitol "Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence" clearly demonstrates that you understand the purpose of Alpha Kappa Alpha Days at the Capitol. The impact of COVID-19 has once again to move in a virtual platform this year. However, thanks to technology and the creativity of our AKADAC committee, we are able through this format to present you this year's event. Our virtual gathering is an appropriate response to our Connection mandate, "**To L.E.A.D., Learn, Empower, Advocate, and Decide**".

Although these are unprecedented times in our lives, you have responded with your presence here today and our highest registration ever, with over 450 attendees. We hope AKA Days at the Capitol provides our Florida delegation with an opportunity to continue our push for advocacy, social justice and voter awareness as mandated by our Supreme Basileus and the International Connection Committee. We have outstanding representation on the International Connections Committee by our very own Soror Sylvia Sloan Jones.

I'd like to thank Madam Regional Director Carolyn Gause-Randolph, for the opportunity to serve in this role. The opportunity to be a member of this outstanding Florida Connection team led by our Connection Coordinator Soror Veronica Phillips, has been phenomenal! A special Thank You to our local host chapters Delta Kappa Omega, Chi Upsilon Omega, and Tau Theta Omega. Also, a special Thank You to all my AKA Day at the Capitol Co-Chairmen for their outstanding support.

Thank you Sorors for the opportunity to serve and enjoy what promises to be an exciting two days!

Sisterly,

Soror Laurise A. Thomas,  
2022 Florida AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman





# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, INCORPORATED®



February 16, 2022

Greetings Florida Sorors of the Significant South Atlantic Region!

How excited I am that you are joining us for our virtual Florida AKA Day at the Capitol, “Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence.”

We are again meeting virtually. However, our days of education and advocacy with our undergraduate and graduate sorors and community promise to be educational, informative, virtually interactive, fun, and sisterly! We must continue to maintain a significant impact on a local, state, and a national level!

Sorors, I am amazed but not surprised at your incredible commitment to service even amid COVID-19 Omicron restrictions. Your virtual Connection and Social Action events and activities continue to inform and educate on the issues that impact us the most. Kudos to all our chapters as you continue to stay focused on the path of Connection and Social Action Excellence!

Congratulations on awards that you received on a local, regional, national and/or community level!

AKAs L.E.A.D, always! Your virtual Connection and Social Action events and activities continued to inform and educate. What an incredible virtual year of service 2021 was for us! We conducted virtual Candidates' Forums, continued our virtual Voter Education, Registration and Mobilization during our National Voter Registration Day to increase voter engagement, youth mentoring for social action awareness and participation, collaboration with community organizations such as the League of Women Voters, and the Divine Nine for Connection and Social Action activities. We virtually attended redistricting Meetings and provided our input and insight on maps that were fair and inclusive for minority communities. We made phone calls to encourage Legislators to vote for Bills that impacted voting rights, women's life choices and participated in many more political events.

And what about our premiere, one and only Newsletter, the “Ivy Connection”? Soror Andrea Knowles, Editor, and the Team produce an outstanding Newsletter on a quarterly basis. Ivy Connection is informative, highlights chapter service events, recognizes sorors in elected office, Chapter Connection and Social Action Chairmen, and provides health and wellness articles to keep us physically and mentally fit! Thank you!

There is still much work to do. Let us “not grow weary in well doing.”

Our voices are powerful! We are stronger together!

“Thank You” does not begin to convey my appreciation and gratitude to Soror Laurise Thomas for her stellar leadership as our AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman! Soror Laurise's knowledge, competency, networking, effectiveness, efficiency, and planning skills are parallel to none! She and the sorors of “Team AKA Day at the Capitol” always assured us that we would experience days of sharing, information, advocacy, and sisterhood! We would return to our respective communities motivated and with a toolbox full of resources to enhance service!

Thank you to the tireless service and dedication of our Florida Connectors. Soror Rochelle Bookhart, (central chapters), Soror Andrea Knowles, (south chapters), and Soror Roslyn Mixon Phillips, (north chapters) coalesced into a working team that highlighted and utilized individual skills to keep their respective geographical areas armed with resources and information to enhance their service events and activities. Thank you so much sorors!

Thank you sorors in our great State of Florida for serving with me as I served as your Coordinator. Thank you for four years of service of excellence, strategic planning, collaborating, and coordinating to make an impact on the communities that we serve! The sisterliness and love that you gave me and each other is the glue that keeps us connected in sisterhood and service.

Thank you to Soror Sylvia Sloane-Jones, South Atlantic Region Representative to the International Connection and Social Action Committee for her leadership and guidance. Soror Sylvia is a valuable resource, a good listener, and a servant leader!

Thank you, Madam Regional Director, Soror Carolyn G. Randolph for entrusting me to serve as the Region's Florida Connection and Social Action Coordinator! I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity that you provided me to serve the South Atlantic Region with the sorors of Florida!

God's blessings as you continue to move and lead in sisterly love towards your awaiting purpose!

Enjoy your day sorors! We will continue to pursue strategic methods of Social Action and Connection service projects to move “Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence.”

Let's Stay connected! We are stronger together!

Blessings and stay safe!

Soror Veronica Edwards Phillips

*Veronica Edwards Phillips*

SAR Florida Connection and Social Action Coordinator





# *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated* *South Atlantic Region*

February 17, 2022

Welcome Sorors to AKA Day at the Capitol for the great State of Florida!

Despite proposed and passed federal and State legislation that may inhibit voter access, the 2022 election cycle will demonstrate that voters nationwide want their voices to be heard! Across the country, voters stood in long lines for hours, endured inclement weather, and made countless sacrifices to cast their votes in 2020 and 2021. The current political climate suggests that this is an optimal time for communities of color and women of Alpha Kappa Alpha to collectively embrace our theme “Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence”.



As we move into the last months of the 2018-2022 administration, we must remain focused and committed to the charge of “Exemplifying Excellence Through Awareness \* Knowledge \* Action”. Over the course of these three and half years we have worked diligently to change the narrative around the challenges of voter engagement during a pandemic, advocating for voting rights legislation, and raising awareness and protesting in the name of social injustice issues. Our collective Connection and Social Action Excellence is meaningful and impactful to the communities we serve!

The International Connection Committee encourages you to continue implementing the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Legislative Agenda and AKAs L.E.A.D. (Learn, Empower, Advocate and Decide) voter engagement campaign to support and inspire local, state and federal constituents. I am humbly honored to join members of the Serving Significantly South Atlantic Region for the hybrid 2022 Florida AKA Day at the Capitol for engaging conversations and workshops that will reinforce our collective commitment to improving social and economic conditions in our state and communities.

Tea roses to our South Atlantic Regional Director, Carolyn G. Randolph for your leadership, advocacy efforts and never-ending support. Congratulations to the Florida AKA Day at the Capitol Planning Committee, led by our Chairman Soror Laurise Thomas, Co-Chairmen Soror Tammy Hamlet and Soror Andrea Knowles and Soror Veronica Phillips, Florida AKA State Connection Coordinator for hosting this informative virtual event. Kudos for a job well done!

Sorors, it has been a blessing and an honor to serve as your South Atlantic Region Representative to the International Connection Committee and to work side by side with chapters across the South Atlantic Region on this journey of Excellence and Supreme Service to all Mankind!

Connected through Service, Sisterhood and Excellence,

*Sylvia Sloane Jones*

Soror Sylvia Sloane Jones

SAR Representative, International Connection and Social Action Committee



# Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, INCORPORATED®

Greetings Sorors,

Welcome to your Florida AKA Day at the Capitol 2022, a virtual experience.

We are once again delighted to be a part of the efforts in planning to make this event educational, informative, fulfilling, and impactful for our Sorors and for all participants.

Our town hall meeting, panel discussions, and legislative talks have all been enthusiastically designed with YOU in mind. 2022 is a critical election year with mid-term elections, special elections and redistricting all taking place. AKA's will certainly, and once again L.E.A.D. We will Learn, Empower, Advocate, and Decide. As Co-Chairs, it is our hope that you leave this event encouraged, on fire, and stirred up to be of greater service to educate and empower your family, your chapter, and your community.

Thank you to Madam Regional Director, Soror Carolyn Randolph, Regional Representative to the International Connection Committee, Soror Sylvia Sloane Jones, and Florida Connection Coordinator, Soror Veronica Edwards Phillips for entrusting us with this most august opportunity to be of service to our Florida Sorors.

To our AKA Day at the Capitol Chair, Soror Laurise Thomas, we applaud and celebrate you for your perseverance and for the amazing work that you have repeatedly done to present a stellar, power-packed AKA Day at the Florida Capitol. It is our honor to serve with you.

Sorors, we pray that you enjoy this virtual and engaging experience of the 2022 Florida AKA Day at the Capitol. We are so glad you have joined us.

In Significant Excellence to all Mankind,

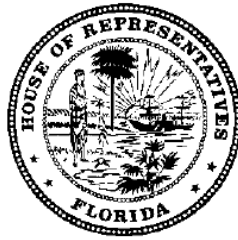


Soror Tammy Hamlet  
2022 AKA Day at the  
Capitol, Co-Chair  
Delta Kappa Omega



Soror Andrea Knowles  
2022 AKA Day at the  
Capitol, Co-Chair  
Kappa Kappa Omega





# Florida House of Representatives

*Representative Tracie Davis*



Tracie Davis  
District 13

## Welcome to AKA Day at the Capitol Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

February 10, 2022

Dear Sorors,

It is with great honor and pride that I welcome each of you to the Annual Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Day at the Capitol.

Given the most recent events in our country, I can think of no better theme than **“Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence”**. There are millions of Americans who misrepresented and uninformed which denies them equality of opportunity because of the economic pressures upon them. Today I ask you to understand, as women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated it is our responsibility to speak up for those marginalized groups.

Successively, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has addressed economic issues by partnering with neighboring organizations implement programs across the state to further assist children who attend local schools. Your efforts are truly recognized not only in the State of Florida but also to our great nation. I challenge you to look at the past and recognize the extraordinary contribution this Sorority has made, but also remember there is a great deal of work left undone.

I applaud not only your commitment to our sisterhood of Alpha Kappa Alpha, but also your dedication to our motto, “Service to All Mankind”. Those words compelled me to be an educator for several years with hopes of inspiring youth to service. My desire to serve propelled me from teaching elementary students to training staff as the first African American Deputy Supervisor at Duval County Supervisor of Elections to being an elected official of the people at the Florida House of Representatives.

Again, on the behalf of the 13th District of the Florida House of Representatives, thank you for continuing to improve the lives of others, I am proud to be your sister in service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracie Davis".

Tracie Davis  
State Representative  
District 13



# Florida House of Representatives

## *Representative Yvonne Hinson*

District 20

**District Office:**  
2815 N.W. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 202  
Gainesville, Fla. 32609  
(352) 264-4001

Email:  
[Yvonne.Hinson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Yvonne.Hinson@myfloridahouse.gov)

**Tallahassee Office:**  
Capital Building Suite 1302  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 717-5020

Greetings Sisters from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,

Welcome to the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee! I'm honored to welcome you to Florida AKA Day at the Capitol this year! I'm so glad each of you are here and send my warmest greetings to all of you on your visit here today.

We are in the midst of the 2022 Legislative Session where I am working hard to preserve our freedom and advocate for those without a voice in our great state as a public servant. Some of the legislative priorities I have for this session include focusing on issues related to the environment, criminal justice, education, and more.

During this time more now than ever, it is imperative we continue advocating for justice and our rights. In honor of this year's theme, "Beyond Voter Oppression, Continuing Advocacy with Excellence," I encourage you all to connect with your representatives to be civically engaged and connected to the local issues affecting your communities. Voter suppression is a threat to our democracy, and I am encouraged that through the servant-leadership of our incredible Sorority sisters, we can all work together to continue fighting for the freedom and right for all people to vote, regardless of their race, gender, income, or education. I have filed HB6105 along with Senator Jones to undo some of the harms done to our voting rights last session. Though this fight may be tough, we must continue to stay strong, determined, and purposeful in our advocacy. Keeping our heads high and focused on what we know is right is how we continue to strive for excellence in advocacy. Our democracy and our government are supposed to work for the people, and only work if done by the people. We must be fully involved and take part in the policy that is developing not just during session and elections, but all the time throughout the year.

I wish you all an educational, productive, but most of all a fun and enjoyable experience on your visit to the Capitol and as advocates. If my office may be of support to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvonne Hinson".

Yvonne Hinson, *State Representative, District 20*





## The Florida House of Representatives

Representative Geraldine Thompson

District 44

District Address:  
Suite 202  
511 West South Street  
Orlando, FL 32805  
407-245-0288

Tallahassee Address:  
216 HOB  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850-717-5044

Email: [Geraldine.Thompson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Geraldine.Thompson@myfloridahouse.gov)

February 16, 2022

Dear Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Welcome to AKA Day at the Capitol where we are Continuing Advocacy with Excellence as we address Voter Suppression efforts such as SB90. I have filed HB 1353 in order to make democracy work for all of us. HB 1353 would make elections accessible to all Floridians. It would show empathy for Floridians standing in line to vote and permit them to receive food and water while they waiting in the Florida sun preparing to vote. It would also allow vote-by-mail ballots of people with disabilities and others to be returned by designees other than immediate family members who live at the same address.



In response to record turnout in the 2020 election, anti-voter laws have been passed throughout the Country in a deliberate attempt create barriers to voting. Your presence in Tallahassee will amplify my message and urge fellow law makers to place this bill on the agenda for discussion and a vote. I know that you will not grow weary in well doing as you have demonstrated by your continued advocacy. Welcome to Tallahassee and AKA Day at the Capitol.

Sisterly,

*Geraldine F. Thompson*  
Soror Geraldine F. Thompson, Representative  
House District 44

### Committees:

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee • Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee • Public Integrity & Elections Committee • Commerce Committee • Criminal Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee  
• Redistricting Committee



# Schedule



## WEDNESDAY, February 16th

6PM-7:30PM

### THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING

A town hall discussion on the overall impact of social justice issues, COVID-19, and unemployment through the lens of Gen Z vs. our State Officials

🎤 **Moderator:**

**Senator Darryl Rouson**, *District 19*

🎤 **Co-Moderator:**

**Soror Ameion Hamlet**, *Basileus, Sigma Iota Chapter*

🎤 **Panelists:**

Undergraduate Members of the Divine Nine and The Florida Legislative Black Caucus

## THURSDAY, February 17th

### MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

**Soror Courtney Thomas**, *Director of External Affairs, Office of the Mayor, City of Tallahassee*

### MEDITATION

**Soror Michelle Wilson**, *Connection Chairman, Chi Upsilon Omega*

9AM-9:45AM

### GREETINGS:

- **Mayor John E. Dailey**, *City of Tallahassee*
- **Soror Laurise A. Thomas**, *FL AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman*
- **Soror Veronica E. Phillips**, *FL Connection Coordinator*
- **Soror Sylvia Sloane Jones**, *SA Representative International Connection Committee*
- **Soror Norma Soloman White**, *25th International President*
- **Soror Carolyn G. Randolph**, *South Atlantic Regional Director*

9:45AM-10:30AM

### PLENARY WORKSHOPS:

### Ensuring Mental Health During Political Uncertainties

🎤 **Presenter:**

**Dr. Kenneth Fowler**, *Counselor, PhD, LMHC*  
*Owner of Systemic Effects*



# Schedule



**THURSDAY, February 17th**

## **10:40AM-11:25AM** FLORIDA MID-TERM ELECTIONS

Strategies for Organizing your Communities for the 2022 Election Cycle.

### 🕒 **Moderator:**

**Soror Tiffany Moore Russell**, *Orange County Clerk of Courts*

### 🕒 **Panelists:**

- **Commissioner Regina Hill**, *City of Orlando, District 5*
- **Soror Jasmyne Henderson**, *Founder of "Voting Is Queen" & Director of Govt. Affairs, Pittman Law Group*
- **Soror Jasmine Burney-Clark**, *Founder Equal Ground*
- **Soror Brittney Geathers**, *Political Consultant*

## **11:30AM-NOON** REDISTRICTING: UNDERSTANDING THE MAPS

### 🕒 **Moderator:**

**Soror Cecile Scoon, Esq.**, *President of the League of Women Voters of Florida*

### 🕒 **Panelist:**

- **Marisol Zenteno**, *1st Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Florida*

## **NOON - 12:45PM** AKAS L.E.A.D. AWARDS PRESENTATION

### 🕒 **Keynote Speaker:**

**Congresswoman Val Demings**, *10th Congressional House District*

### 🕒 **Awards Presentations:**

- **Soror Nyla Davis**, *Connections Chairman, Tau Theta Omega*
- **Soror Tammy Hinson**, *Former Basileus, Tau Theta Omega*

### 🕒 **Awards Categories:**

- Family
- Community
- State
- National
- Chapter
- Soror



# Schedule



12:50PM-2:00PM

## VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WITH LEGISLATORS | LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

Virtual 10 minute blocked meetings with Legislative Offices to discuss upcoming legislative agenda priorities. Chat feature will be enabled for attendees to submit questions.

- 12:50 p.m. - Rep. **Geraldine F. Thompson**, District 44 (Orlando)
- 1:00 p.m. - Rep. **Tracie Davis**, District 13 (Jacksonville/Duval)  
- Rep. **Yvonne Hinson**, District 20 (Gainesville)
- 1:10 p.m. - Rep. **Kevin Chambliss**, District 117 (Miami-Dade)
- 1:20 p.m. - Rep. **Christine Hunschofsky**, District 96 (Parkland)
- 1:30 p.m. - Rep. **Travaris McCurdy**, District 46 (Orlando)
- 1:40 p.m. - Rep. **Felecia Robinson**, District 102 (Miami-Dade/Broward)
- 1:50 p.m. - Rep. **Michael Gottlieb**, District 98 (Davie/Broward)

THURSDAY, February 17th

2:00PM - 3:00PM

## OVERCOMING VOTER OPPRESSION & SUPPRESSION: THE WHO, THE WHAT, THE WHY

### Moderator:

- **Soror Sylvia Sloane Jones**, South Atlantic Representative International Connection Committee

### Panelists:

- **Soror Veronica E. Phillips**, Florida Connection Coordinator, Commissioner - City of Lauderdale Lakes
- **Soror Roslyn Mixon-Phillips**, North Connector
- **Soror Rochelle Lee-Bookhart**, Central Connector
- **Soror Andrea C. Knowles**, South Connector

3:00PM - 4:00PM

## CRITICAL RACE THEORY

### Moderator:

**Soror Gayle Andrews**, Owner of Andrews Plus, Media Coordinator of Joe Biden Campaign

### Panelists:

- **Soror Diane Williams-Cox**, City of Tallahassee Commissioner, Seat 5
- **Soror Rosalind Osgood**, Broward County Public School Member, District 5
- **Attorney Chuck Hobbs**

4:00PM

## CLOSING - Special Presentations

**Soror Laurise Thomas**,  
FL AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman





# AKAs



# L.E.A.D. Keynote Speaker

## Congresswoman Val Demings



Congresswoman Val Demings represents Florida's 10th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Val began her career in Jacksonville as a social worker, working with foster children. Despite seeing few women in the ranks of law enforcement in the early 1980's, Val was inspired to move to Orlando to join the police force. She graduated from the police academy as class president, receiving the Board of Trustees' Award for Overall Excellence, and quickly earned the reputation of a tenacious, no-nonsense cop.

In 2007, Val Demings made history when she was appointed to serve as Orlando's first female Chief of Police. Rep. Demings is eager to continue her record of public service as the congresswoman representing the people of the 10th District of Florida.

Rep. Demings is married to Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings, is a proud mother to three sons, and proud grandmother to five.

Rep. Demings holds an honorary doctorate of laws from Bethune-Cookman University.

Rep. Demings is an active member of St. Mark A.M.E., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Orlando Chapter of the Links, Inc., NAACP Silver Life Member, Florida Bar Citizens Advisory Committee, Florida Police Chiefs, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, National Congress of Black Women, and numerous other affiliations.

Rep. Demings sits on the Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security. Rep. Demings is a candidate for U.S. Senate in the State of Florida.



# Program Moderators



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

**THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING**



## **Moderator: Senator Darryl Rouson State Senator, District 19**

Darryl Ervin Rouson has earned a reputation as a trailblazer in business and in the community. In 1981, he became the first African American prosecutor in Pinellas County. In 2003 he was appointed the first chairman of the newly formed Substance Abuse and Addictions Task Force for The National Bar Association. Sen. Rouson also served as president of the St. Petersburg NAACP from 2000 to 2005 and served on the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission in 2007. In April 2008, Mr. Rouson's years of activism, bold leadership and community service culminated in his being elected to represent Tampa Bay in the Florida House of Representatives. He served as a Representative for eight years and was termed out of office.

In 2016 he was elected State Senator for District 19 which includes portions of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. He was reelected for a second term representing District 19 in 2020. Sen. Rouson has a passion for reforming the criminal justice system in Florida, increasing funding for substance use and mental health issues, and creating innovative solutions to transportation issues. Since Sen. Rouson began his tenure in the Florida Legislature, he has been regularly listed as one of Tampa Bay's most influential politicians. Sen. Rouson also served as a Commissioner on the Constitutional Revision Commission which meets every twenty years to propose changes to the Florida Constitution.

Mr. Rouson received a college degree in 1977 from Xavier University in New Orleans and graduated from law school at the University of Florida in 1980. He is married to Angela Rouson and is proudly raising five boys while practicing law in the Tampa Bay area with the Rubenstein Law Group



## **Co-Moderator: Ameion Hamlet, Basileus, Sigma Iota Chapter**

Ameion Hamlet is a third-year student athlete at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. She majors in Sociology with a double minor in political science and history. Athletically, Ameion's hard work and dedication to track and field has earned her two freshman records in both the long and triple jump. Off the track, Ameion serves as President of the Simply Irresistible Sigma Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is also a member of Florida Atlantic's chapter of the NAACP and Black Student Union while maintaining her spot on the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.

She has a passion for contributing to the growth and development of the black community and her hobbies include writing, museums, and traveling. Following her graduation from Florida Atlantic University, Ameion plans to pursue her Juris Doctorate Degree from Georgetown University. Ameion is the legacy of Soror Tammy Hamlet, Delta Kappa Omega Chapter.





# Program Participants



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

**THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING**



## **Panelist: Soror Geraldine F. Thompson, State Representative, District 44**

When state Representative Geraldine F. Thompson was elected on November 6, 2018, she became the first female, Democrat, and person of color to serve Florida House District 44. After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Miami in 1970 and a Master of Science Degree from the Florida State University in 1973, Geraldine F. Thompson served for six years as an Orange County Public Schools teacher. She later served for 24 years as an administrator at Valencia Community College where she established the College Reach Out Program, which enabled thousands of low income and disadvantaged students to fulfill their dream of going to college.

She previously served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 until 2012. She was elected to the Florida Senate in 2012 and served until 2016. Geraldine F. Thompson was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and grew up in the South Dade town of Perrine, Florida, where members of her family worked in agriculture and construction. She is married to the Honorable Emerson R. Thompson, Jr. She is the mother of three children (Laurise, Emerson III, and Elizabeth) and the proud grandmother of four. She enjoys reading and traveling.



## **Panelist: State Senator Bobby Powell, District 30 Senate Minority Democratic Leader Pro Tempore**

State Senator Bobby Powell Jr., was elected to the Florida Senate in 2016 following two terms in the Florida House of Representatives. Elected by his peers, Senator Powell serves as the Senate Minority (Democratic) Pro Tempore. He is the Chairman of the Florida Legislative Black Caucus, which consists of 27 Black State Legislators representing nearly every area of the state. He is also a member of the Public Service Commission Nominating Council, which regulates utility companies throughout the state.

Senator Powell is a Class of 2009 graduate of Palm Beach Gardens High School where he played sports including football and track & field. He went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude, from Florida A&M University obtaining a degree in Journalism with a concentration in Public Relations. He has also obtained a Master's of Science in Urban & Regional Planning degree from Florida State University. A native of Riviera Beach, Florida, Senator Powell works as a project manager for Urban Design Studio and is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners in Palm Beach County.

Senator Powell has been recognized by several organizations for his unwavering leadership and visibility within his district including accolades from Leadership Palm Beach County, the Florida Association of Counties, the Board of County Commissioners and the Florida League of Cities.

On January 2, 2021 he was honored by SHE Holdings with the 2020 Project 12 Humanitarian Award. Additionally, one of his proudest achievements is being the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award by the FAMU National Alumni Association in 2015. His motto, "A life of service is a life that counts," guides his moral compass and work as a dedicated public servant.







# Program Participants

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING



**Panelist: State Representative Fentrice Driskell, District 63  
House Minority Democratic Leader Designate**

Representative Fentrice D. Driskell was first elected to the Florida House in November 2018. Her approach of bringing common sense solutions to our state’s most pressing challenges related to public education, the environment, affordable housing, social and racial justice, public safety, and economic opportunity for all allows her to bring accessible, passionate representation to District 63 in Tampa.

Recently, Rep. Driskell’s peers unanimously elected her as Leader Designate for the Florida House Democratic Caucus, which will make her the first Black woman to lead the Democrats in the Florida House. Rep. Driskell also serves as Policy Chair for her caucus. As a lawmaker, Rep. Driskell serves on the Redistricting Committee, Insurance and Banking Subcommittee, Pandemics and Public Emergencies Committee, Appropriations Committee, and Judiciary Committee, where she serves as Democratic Ranking Member.

Rep. Driskell is an AV Preeminent-rated attorney who currently practices law with Carlton Fields in Tampa, Florida. Rep. Driskell graduated with an honors degree in Government from Harvard, where she was the first African-American elected President of Harvard’s student government. Rep. Driskell’s experience as Undergraduate Council President helped strengthen her belief in the importance of engaging women in leadership positions, and her studies in Government helped her better understand the importance of engaging diverse voices in the democratic process.

Rep. Driskell also is a graduate of Georgetown law school, where she served as a student lawyer for indigent survivors of domestic violence and volunteered extensively with the Innocence Project. Following law school, Rep. Driskell clerked for federal judge Anne C. Conway in the United States District Court in Orlando. She also is also active in The Florida Bar and has helped lead committees there.



**Panelist: State Representative Angie Nixon,  
Florida House - District 14**

Angie Nixon is a native of Jacksonville and a graduate of Stanton College Prep and the University of Florida. Angie turned her passion and love for the community into a 10-year career as a community organizer. Over the years, she has created place-making events like the Melanin Market that provide access to healthy food options in food deserts, bring in educational and training opportunities for small business owners, and create family friendly environments that focus on the overall health and well-being of residents. Angie is the current Political Director for the Florida Democratic Party, as well as being the State Representative for House District 14.



# Program Participants



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

**THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING**



## Panelist: Soror Tracie Davis, State Representative, District 13

Representative Tracie Davis has served District 13 in the Florida House of Representatives since 2016. Tracie is a life-long resident of Jacksonville. She graduated from William M. Raines High School, Edward Waters College and the University of North Florida.

For more than a decade, she was a special education teacher in Duval County. Her desire to inform and engage the community led to her appointment as Director of Education for the Duval County Supervisor of Elections. She spent 13 years there, eventually becoming the Deputy Supervisor. During her tenure with Duval County Supervisor of Elections, Tracie trained over 10,000 poll workers, registered more than 60,000 new voters and conducted 44 elections.

Since her election to the Florida House, Representative Davis has served on several committees including: Public Integrity & Ethics, Joint Legislative Auditing, and Health & Human Services. Her work and advocacy has brought home more than \$5 million dollars in appropriations for the Jacksonville community.

Representative Davis is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Junior League of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Women Network. She is also a youth mentor with Youth Leadership Jacksonville, AMI Kids and Year Up. She has received many awards for her work including: being selected Teacher of the Year at Timucuan Elementary, the Community Leadership Award from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Champion for the Elderly Award from the Florida Health Care Association and the Community Service Award from Edward Waters College. Representative Davis is devoted to her family, her faith and her community. She is married to Robert E. Davis and is the mother of three adult children.







# Program Participants

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

**THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING**



**Panelist: State Representative Travaris McCurdy, Florida House - District 46**

State Representative Travaris McCurdy was born and raised in District 46 where he diligently serves, having also been educated in the Orange County Public School System. He later attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, FL and holds a bachelor's in political science. Representative McCurdy is the former chief legislative aide to state Senators Geraldine Thompson and Randolph Bracy and formerly served as the deputy political director for the national Super PAC, For Our Future as well as Florida civic engagement coordinator for the NAACP.

His community involvement has included serving as a former OCPS-ACE school board member and former West Lakes Partnership board member in addition to his membership with the Orange County branch of the NAACP and Orange County Democratic Black Caucus. Travaris is also the founder of the Mobile Library service, which provides free books to children throughout Orange County. Representative McCurdy is a member of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church and the Orlando Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



**Panelist: Soror Yvonne H. Hinson, State Representative, District 20**

Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson is a former educator, small-business owner and City Commissioner. She became a double Gator when she graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's in Education and Master's in Special Education. For more than 35 years, Yvonne served as a teacher, counselor, staffing specialist, assistant principal and retired as principal of Robert Russa Moton Elementary School of the arts located in Miami, Florida.

In 2004, she moved back to Gainesville and opened the Childstart Learning Solutions, a supplemental service that bridged educational gaps for students in the education system. Representative Hinson was elected and served on Gainesville City Commission from 2012 - 2015. In 2018 she became the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Congress District 3. Though she was not elected, she was able to meet and see the needs of the people in District 20. This led her to continue the fight and ultimately returning to the political arena to become the Representative of the Florida House of Representatives for District 20, Gainesville, Fl. In addition to her political career, Representative Hinson is active in her community. She has worked closely with the ACLU, Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee, Democratic Women's Club, NAACP, member of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and former President of the University of Florida Black Alumni Association. She was initiated in 2014 by Mu Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She wears her 20 pearls with pride. Representative Hinson has two children, Kamelya and Ivan, and is a grandmother of five beautiful grandchildren.





# Program Participants



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

**THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING**



## **Panelist: State Senator Randolph Bracy, III, Florida Senate - District 11**

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Senator Randolph Bracy went on to pursue his bachelor's degree at the College of William and Mary and his MBA at the University of Central Florida. Senator Bracy served as a political consultant and school administrator prior to his election to the Florida Legislature in 2012 where he served for four years as the State Representative for House District 45. He was appointed to various committees, including Finance & Tax, Regulatory Affairs, Economic Affairs Committee and the Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

In 2016, he successfully ran for State Senate for the 11th District and became the first African American in the history of the State of Florida to be appointed Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, with his tenure as chair ending in 2018. Senator Bracy now serves as Vice Chair on the Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response and is a member of Appropriations; Rules; Transportation; Ethics and Elections; and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice. In addition to serving the community, Senator Bracy is a small business owner and currently resides in Ocoee, Florida.

## **Panelist: State Senator Shevrin Jones, Florida Senate - District 35**

Florida State Senator Shevrin "Shev" Jones is an educator, public servant, and consensus builder who gets results on the issues facing Florida families. Growing up in Carol City, Jones' parents instilled in him and his brothers the values of education, faith, and service to community.

While teaching A.P. Chemistry in Broward County at Florida Atlantic University High School, Jones' leadership positioned the school as first in the state for its 100-percent pass rate on the Science End of Course (EOC) Exam. Jones went on to found L.E.A.D. Nation, a top South Florida nonprofit organization committed to youth leadership development and social entrepreneurship training, and is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at Florida Atlantic University.

In 2012, he was elected to the Florida House, championing meaningful bipartisan legislation, including two consecutive bills to secure dignity for incarcerated women; statewide expansion of a clean syringe exchange program; safety and oversight for athletic coaches for youth athletic teams; and ensuring transparency and accountability via police body cameras.

Today, Jones proudly serves Florida's 35th Senate District, which includes portions of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. Senator Jones served on President Barack Obama's College Promise Task Force and is an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Young Elected Officials Network, Leadership Florida Connect - Class 32, Leadership Broward Class 27, the Council of State Governments TOLLS fellowship program, and Millennial Action Project's Florida Future Caucus.

Jones has received widespread recognition for his service, including acknowledgement as Florida Young Democrat of the Year, Broward Parent Teachers Association's Legislator of the Year, a Congressional Political Institute Honoree, ICABA's 100 Most Accomplished Caribbean Americans, Gold Coast Magazine's "Top 40 under 40," and Legacy Magazine's South Florida's "50 Most Powerful and Influential Black Leaders."





# Program Participants

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

**THE STATE OF BLACK FLORIDA IN 2022: TOWN HALL MEETING**

**Panelist: Mutaqee Akbar, Esq.  
Akbar Law Firm, PA**



Born and raised in Tallahassee, FL to Drs. Na'im and Renee Akbar Mutaqee began his education at FAMU DRS along with his older sister and twin brother. Following high school graduation, Mutaqee went on to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. On a full scholarship to attend Morehouse College, Mutaqee intended to earn a degree in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, but First Year Chemistry changed his mind. During his Junior year at Morehouse, he decided on a career that would allow him to work closer with people and that would more directly affect change in the world. He decided on a career in Law.

In 2001, Mutaqee graduated from Morehouse College Cum Laude (with honors) with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. Immediately following College graduation, he began on his journey into the field of law. Mutaqee received a full scholarship to the University of Miami School of Law. At the UM Law, Mutaqee served as President of the law school's Black Law Student Association, Vice President of the Southern Regional Black Law Student's Association, a member of several honor's societies, and a member of the school's Moot Court Board where he competed in several on campus and National competitions for appellate advocacy. Mutaqee graduated from the University of Miami School of Law Cum Laude with his Juris Doctor degree in 2004.

Passing up the opportunities to work at major corporate law firms, Mutaqee decided to take a job with the Public Defender's Office in West Palm Beach, FL in order to represent the indigent in criminal court proceedings. Wasting no time to start his career, two weeks after the Bar Exam, Mutaqee was handling his own case load at the Public Defender's Office. After passing the Bar Exam on the first try, Mutaqee was sworn into the Florida Bar in October of 2004. During his 3 ½ years at the Public Defender's Office, the newly titled Attorney Akbar had over 50 trials with over half of them being jury trials and handled hundreds of other cases that did not involve a trial. Although a young attorney, he has represented clients faced with a broad range of charges ranging from Driving Under Suspended License to Rape, Attempted Murder, Armed Robbery, and various other charges.

After almost 10 years of being away from home, Mutaqee returned home to Tallahassee to open the Akbar Law Firm, P.A. Attorney Akbar currently runs his own practice where he continues to represent criminal defendants and also represents people who have been injured. As a young attorney and business owner, he envisions having a major law practice in Tallahassee where he can make a major impact on the community he grew up in. The Akbar Law Firm is currently recognized as one of the preeminent law firms in the Leon County area..





# Mistress of Ceremony

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

## **SOROR COURTNEY THOMAS**

Director of External Affairs, Office of the Mayor  
City of Tallahassee



Courtney Thomas is a proud two-time graduate of Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and master's degree in Applied American Politics and Policy.

After working the winning congressional campaigns of Gwen Graham and Al Lawson, Courtney subsequently worked in their district offices in Tallahassee, Florida. Courtney currently serves as the Director of External Affairs for the Office of Mayor John E. Dailey in Tallahassee, Florida, in this role she oversees community and constituent relations. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Florida State University. She was initiated into the Delta Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated in 2013. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, volunteering, and instructing yoga.





# Program Participants



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

## ENSURING MENTAL HEALTH DURING POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES

**Presentator: Dr. Kenneth E. Fowler, Jr., PhD, LMHC  
Owner of Systemic Effects**



Dedicated to the practice of helping others achieve inner happiness and peace, Dr. Kenneth E. Fowler has commanded the minds of many and succeeded in guiding them to more harmonious and prosperous lives. Dr. Fowler came to Florida in 1988 to pursue his undergraduate degree at Florida State University. Upon receiving his Bachelors of Science degree in Economics with a business minor, Dr. Fowler went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Mental Health from Florida A&M University.

A drive to help others and ambition would not let Dr. Fowler stop there. He went on to receive a Doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Florida State University, and established his private therapy practice Systemic Effects. He is a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) and an Approved Supervisor for mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists and social workers.

Throughout his time in Florida, Dr. Fowler has been involved with programs ranging from Godby's Teen Life Options Program that assists 9th graders that are having a hard time adjusting to high school, to the DADS Project where he teaches a monthly parenting class to incarcerated fathers at Leon County Jail. This class teaches the fathers effective parenting tools and how to reconnect with their children while also providing substance abuse counseling. He is a strong advocate for children and has worked with children of all ages to help them work on a myriad of issues.

As a result of his expertise in psychological trauma, Dr. Fowler was called to respond in New York City following the 9/11 attacks. As a leader in his field, he was able to help with this national tragedy. His work with natural disasters led to him being called to assist with the Hurricane Katrina disaster by debriefing first responders who were exposed to the aftermath of the trauma. Currently, he consults with the Southcom Command of the United States Armed Forces to help returning soldiers and their families deal with the effects of war as well as post traumatic stress disorder. As a leader in his field, Dr. Fowler trains other therapists in this difficult work of trauma and crisis.

In 2005, Dr. Fowler decided to pursue his dream and started his own business, Systemic Effects. The work that drives him most is providing individual, couple, and family therapy; as well as assisting traumatized individuals ranging from rape victims to victims of terrorist attacks. His ability to listen and concern for healing are at the heart of his success as a therapist. Systemic Effects provides consulting and training to businesses that are experiencing low employee morale, workplace violence, or personal tragedy as well. Dr. Fowler's ability to apply the systemic approach to businesses has allowed him to help businesses function more effectively and productively. His seminars on conflict resolution, personality differences, and inspired management are just a few of the topics that have helped business owners and their employees apply to their work environment. He has become affectionately known as Florida's "Dr. Ken."





# Program Participants

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022**  
**FLORIDA MID-TERM ELECTIONS**



**Moderator: Soror Tiffany Moore Russell,  
Orange County Clerk of Courts**

Soror Tiffany Moore Russell is a native of Orlando, Florida. She was initiated in the Zeta Upsilon Chapter at the University of South Florida in 1994. Soror Russell is a charter member and former Basileus of the Psi Theta Omega, Orlando, Florida. Soror Tiffany currently serves as the South Atlantic Representative to the International Leadership Development Committee. During 2014-2018 she served as the South Atlantic Representative to the International Connection Committee. Soror Russell is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Clerk of Court. Soror Russell currently serves as the Orange County Clerk of the Circuit Courts. She was elected in 2014, making her the first African American female to serve as the Clerk of Court in the State of Florida and the first African American in Orange County, Florida. Prior to serving as Clerk of Court, Soror Russell served two 4-year terms as an Orange County Commissioner representing the largest African American community and the tourism industry. Soror Russell is married to husband, Anthony K. Russell, Jr. and they are the proud parents of Anthony K. Russell, III and Aiden K. Russell. Soror Tiffany and her family are active members of the St. Mark AME Church, Orlando, Florida.



**Panelist: Soror Jasmyne Henderson,  
Founder of "Voting Is Queen" & Dir. of Govt. Affairs, Pittman  
Law Group**

Attorney Jasmyne N. Henderson is a Government Law Attorney and Director of Government Affairs at Pittman Law Group, P.L. Jasmyne began her academic career in public administration at the University of Florida, earning a degree in Family, Youth, and Community Sciences. Jasmyne continued her education, earning a Master's Degree as a James H. Ammons' Fellow at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and a Juris Doctor from the Florida State University College of Law. Upon graduating law school, Jasmyne quickly became involved with local voluntary bar associations and committees within the Florida bar. In recognition of her excellent service to the organization, Jasmyne was elected as President-Elect of the Tallahassee Barristers Association in 2017 and was installed as President in 2018, where she led a record setting fundraising year for the Barristers Scholarship Fund. Jasmyne serves on the FSU College of Law Board of Directors where she recently leveraged her role to form the FSU College of Law Black Alumni Association (BAN).

Outside of her legal practice, Jasmyne has advised campaigns for State Representative Alan Williams, State Representative Ramon Alexander, State Senator Geraldine Thompson, and Leon County School Board Member Daryl Jones. Jasmyne's passion for community and politics inspired her to found Voting is Queen, Inc. Jasmyne has been recognized as a Rising Star in Florida Politics by INFLUENCE magazine and by the National Bar Association as an inductee into the 2016 class of "40 under 40: Nation's Best Advocates." Jasmyne is a recent graduate of the Florida Bar Association's William Reece Smith Leadership Academy Class 7 and Leadership Tallahassee Class 37. Jasmyne was initiated in 2007, into the Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., at the University of Florida. She is the legacy of Florida AKA Day at the Capitol Chairman and South Atlantic Representative to the International Conference Planning Committee Laurise Thomas and Representative Geraldine Thompson. Jasmyne serves as the AKA Day at the Capitol Host for the Pearls of Perfection Youth organization of the Delta Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.





# Program Participants



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

## FLORIDA MID-TERM ELECTIONS



### Panelist: Commissioner Regina Hill, City of Orlando, District 5

Commissioner Hill was born in Tavares, Florida. She grew up in the Parramore area of Orlando and matriculated through the Orange County Public School System. Commissioner Hill served her country by enlisting in the United States Navy. To fulfill her desire to help and serve others, Commissioner Hill has aided individuals for the past 25 years as a nurse. Since taking office in 2013, Commissioner Hill has advocated for more jobs, education opportunities, business development and affordable housing in District 5.

With a heart to serve, she has a compassion and takes action to serve Commissioner Hill's tenacity, dedication and hard work has been recognized with the following honors and recognitions: President Barack Obama Humanitarian Award, Orlando City Magazine "50 Most Powerful Women", Omega Psi Phi "Citizen of the Year" and Orlando Light Brigade "Global Peace Network" honoree, Butterfly Transformation Outreach Partnership, Parramore Kidz Zone Baby Institute, Orlando Minority Youth Golf Association and ONYX Magazine, to name a few. Commissioner Hill currently serves as Co-Chair - Caribbean Health Summit, Board Member - Salvation Army Advisory Board, Honorary Board Member - Courtney Project and the National League of Cities.



### Panelist: Soror Jasmine Burney-Clark, Founder Equal Ground

Jasmine Burney-Clark, is a civic engagement professional who has dedicated her personal and professional career to social and electoral justice across the state of Florida. She's the founder of Equal Ground Education and Action Fund, a Black-led community centered civic engagement organization prioritizing voter registration, education and turnout.

Her previous work includes being the Senior Advisor to the NAACP (National) and Executive Director of the Florida 501c3 Civic Engagement Table.

Notably, she has worked in Florida politics since 2010 for Alex Sink for Governor, Geraldine Thompson for Senate, Tom Steyer's NextGen America, Democracy at Stake - Florida's Supreme Court Judicial Retention initiative and Faith in Florida an affiliate of Faith in Action. She's a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Kappa Sigma Omega Chapter of Sanford, FL and resides in Orlando, FL with her husband Dominic Clark.



### Panelist: Soror Brittney Geathers Political Consultant

Brittney Geathers has extensive success in designing, building, and managing organizational and stakeholder engagement programs effectively utilizing communications and outreach strategies to influence elections and public policy.

She has over 10 years of electoral campaign, grassroots organizing, strategic planning, and political and legislative experience at the local, state, and federal levels in Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia since 2010. Currently, Brittney is the Political Director for Florida State Senator Loranne Ausley.

Brittney most recently worked on the Biden Campaign in Florida, as the African American Vote Director. She received her B.S. in Business from Virginia Commonwealth University and her MBA from Florida A&M University.





# Program Participants



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

## **REDISTRICTING: UNDERSTANDING THE MAPS**

### **Moderator: Soror Cecile Scoon, Esq. President of the League of Women Voters of Florida**

Cecile Scoon received a Visual and Environmental Studies undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1981. She is currently a civil rights lawyer in Panama City, Florida. After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1984, she spent five years as an active duty Air Force JAG prosecuting in military courts-martial. She retired from the A.F. reserves as a Major in 2005.

Cecile attempts to protect the rights of those wronged at work due to their race, religion, age, disability, place of birth, or unwanted sexual advances. When not burning the midnight oil drafting lengthy pleadings, Cecile enjoys parenting her three children, as well as running, gardening, painting, and watching soccer matches with her best friend, husband, law partner, and LWV member, Alvin Peters.

Cecile currently serves as the President of the LWV of Florida. Cecile is the first Black woman to serve in this capacity. She is a past president of the League of Women Voters of Bay County. Cecile previously served as chair of the Florida League's efforts on Restoration of Rights (including passing Florida's 2018 Amendment 4) as well as heading up the Health Care Action Team. Cecile is a proud member of the Xi Omicron Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

### **Panelist: Marisol Zenteno, 1st Vice President of the League of Women Voters Florida**

After serving on the board of the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County, Ms. Zenteno served two terms as president in June 2018. Her focus was to increase voter turnout in underserved communities by following the League's mission to educate, advocate and defend voting rights in our communities. In her professional life, Ms. Zenteno is a State General Appraiser with the State of Florida. She has experience in a variety of commercial properties, including, but not limited to office buildings, industrial buildings, retail stores, restaurants and apartment buildings.

A graduate of Miami Dade College, she continued with her passion for public service and obtained a Master of Public Administration from Florida International University in 2017. She was Chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Human Rights. Most recently she was a candidate for the Miami-Dade Office of the Property Appraiser. As a first-time candidate, in a countywide election, she obtained 47% of the votes - over 180,000 people voted for her.



# Program Participants



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

**VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WITH LEGISLATORS**

**Moderator: Soror Andrea Knowles,  
Executive Director, Broward County Legislative Delegation**

Soror Andrea C. Knowles is a lifelong Broward County, FL resident and serves as the Executive Director of the Broward Legislative Delegation, the first African-American to hold this position. Soror Andrea has an extensive background in the state Legislative matters and has served as a Legislative Assistant in the Florida House of Representatives. She also serves as the Executive Director for Broward Days. Her community involvement includes: Board Member for Victory Living Programs, member of the United Way of Broward County Public Policy Advisory Committee, a Member of the Broward-Palm Beach Parliamentarians through the National Association of Parliamentarians and is a Board Member for the National Forum of Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), South Florida Chapter.

Deeply rooted in the South Florida community, Soror Andrea is a Proud Owl having graduated Cum Laude from Florida Atlantic University with a degree in Social Work and is a graduate of Deerfield Beach High School. She holds a Master's degree from Grand Canyon University in Public Administration with an Emphasis in Government and Policy. She is an active member of her church, Emmanuel Christian Center Ministries and active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Kappa Kappa Omega Chapter in Pompano Beach, FL since her initiation in 2014. For her Chapter, she presently serves as Parliamentarian, Target 5 Global Impact Chair, and Connection Chair. She is the Florida Connection Team's South Connector and Editor in Chief for The Ivy Connection, the Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Connection Committee.

## LEGISLATORS

12:50 p.m. – Rep. Geraldine F. Thompson, District 44 (Orlando)

1:00 p.m. – Rep. Tracie Davis, District 13 (Jacksonville/Duval)

– Rep. Yvonne Hinson, District 20 (Gainesville)

1:10 p.m. – Rep. Kevin Chambliss, District 117 (Miami-Dade)

1:20 p.m. – Rep. Christine Hunschofsky, District 96 (Parkland)

1:30 p.m. – Rep. Travaris McCurdy, District 46 (Orlando)

1:40 p.m. – Rep. Felecia Robinson, District 102 (Miami-Dade/Broward)

1:50 p.m. – Rep. Michael Gottlieb, District 98 (Davie/Broward)



# Program Participants



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

OVERCOMING VOTER OPPRESSION & SUPPRESSION: THE WHO, THE WHAT, THE WHY

## Moderator: Soror Sylvia Sloane Jones, South Atlantic Representative International Connection Committee

Soror Sylvia Sloane Jones is a Silver Star/Life Member with 29 years of uninterrupted service. Initiated in the Zeta Rho Omega Chapter, where she has served as the chairman of committees and in leadership roles including Basileus for two terms.

She has served as a panelist, workshop presenter, and facilitator at conferences. Additionally, she served as Co-Chairman for the 58th SARC, Regional Medical Response Team Chairman from 2011-2014 and South Atlantic Region Boule Luncheon Co-Chairman.

She was appointed as Cluster 1 Coordinator by 18th South Atlantic Regional Director, Soror Sharon Brown Harriott. Currently she serves as South Atlantic Representative to the International Connection Committee.

Professionally she's a nurse practitioner with 30 years of healthcare experience and is currently the Director for Nurse Residency Programs at Broward Health. A proud FAMU graduate, AME church member, and member of The Links Incorporated. She is married to Vincent Jones and they have one son.

## Panelist: Soror Veronica E. Phillips, Florida Connection Coordinator, Commissioner - City of Lauderdale Lakes

Soror Veronica Edwards Phillips is currently a Commissioner for the City of Lauderdale Lakes. She was elected to the City Commission of Lauderdale Lakes in November 2016 and re-elected without opposition in November 2020 for another four-year term. Soror Veronica is a graduate of the University of Miami (Bachelor of Arts and Master of Business Administration) and Florida State University (Master of Social Work). Her professional career as a Social Work Educator and School Social Worker spanned 36 years. Her professional experiences include Clinical Social Worker, Social Work Coordinator, Social Work Special Administrator, a Faculty Field Instructor for Florida International University School of Social Work, North Miami campus, and a Migrant Advocate for migrant children and their families in the Broward County School system, Title I Program.

The culmination of Soror Veronica's commitment to improving the quality of life socially, emotionally, and physically for families and students was in 2010 when she retired from the School Board of Broward County. She is a Charter member and past Basileus of Chi Psi Omega Chapter, Coral Springs. She has served in numerous leadership positions and is in her 46th year of service to all mankind through the sorority's targets and initiatives. She is also a Florida Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a licensed Real Estate Associate. She has received numerous awards including but not limited to her chapter's "Soror of the Year", the Sickle Cell Disease Association, the Broward Section of the National Council of Negro Women Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Legacy Award, the Women's Auxiliary of the Florida Mortician Association, and the Friends of the African American Research Library and Cultural Center's Heritage and Distinguished Achievement Award. She is married to Deacon James Edward Phillips. They have four sons, Wendell, Erwin, Kelvin, and Stephen, eight grandchildren, Jan Marie, Kelvin, Ethan, Alycia, Christopher, Aziz, Marcel, and Ceylon, one great granddaughter, Araya.





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## ***SOROR ROSLYN MIXON-PHILLIPS***

### ***NORTH CONNECTOR***

Gamma Rho Omega, Chapter Member

Email: deac.Roslyn@gmail.com

#### **NORTH Chapters:**

**Chi Upsilon Omega, Delta Iota Omega, Delta Kappa Omega, Gamma Mu Omega, Gamma Tau, Mu Theta, Nu Iota, Nu Iota Omega, Nu Omega Omega, Omega Phi Omega, Omicron Delta, Sigma Omicron Omega, Tau Chi Omega, Tau Theta Omega, Zeta Omicron, Zeta Upsilon Omega**



## ***SOROR ROCHELLE LEE-BOOKHART***

### ***CENTRAL CONNECTOR***

Iota Pi Omega, Chapter Member

Email: cbookhart@cfl.rr.com

#### **CENTRAL Chapters:**

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## ***SOROR ANDREA C. KNOWLES***

### ***SOUTH CONNECTOR***

Kappa Kappa Omega, Chapter Member

Email: akno777@gmail.com

#### **SOUTH Chapters:**

**Alpha Alpha Beta Omega, Chi Psi Omega, Delta Eta, Eta Eta Omega, Gamma Zeta Omega, Kappa Kappa Omega, Mu Rho Omega, Pi Delta Omega, Psi Pi Omega, Sigma Chi, Sigma Iota, Sigma Upsilon, Theta Nu Omega, Upsilon Xi Omega, Xi Pi Omega, Zeta Rho Omega, Zeta Tau Omega**

# Program Participants

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022  
CRITICAL RACE THEORY



**Moderator: Soror Gayle Andrews,  
Owner of Andrews Plus, Media Coordinator of Joe Biden  
Campaign**



As an award-winning broadcast journalist, political analyst, university instructor, communications director, press secretary, lobbyist, political and corporate media consultant, Gayle Andrews brings a diverse array of experiences to the world of journalism, media consulting and mass persuasion. Ms. Andrews attended Bacone (Indian) College in Muskogee, Oklahoma and completed her studies at Florida A & M University. Gayle became the first FAMU news reporter with major market TV stations at the Capitol, launching her career as an anchor and political reporter in Tampa, Orlando, and Tallahassee for CBS Newsnet. While reporting, she would also teach FAMU's original Advanced Television News course focusing on broadcast writing, field production, videography, editing, and message delivery. She was a member of the prestigious Capitol Press Corps for 14 years, for 11 years she was the sole person of color covering state politics. She rejoined the Capitol Press Corps 7 years ago as an independent reporter and producer of state news. She became the first communications director for the Florida Democratic Party, press secretary to Senate President Gwen Margolis, and the President of Andrews Plus a corporate and political media consulting firm.

Andrews has designed and placed TV, direct mail, radio & print media in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana, for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. She has also designed and placed media for every campaign for Governor and President 1989 - 2020. Her other clients include U.S. Senators Bob Graham and Bill Nelson (also for Insurance Commissioner), Congressman Kendrick Meek, Congresswoman Kathy Castor, and Corrine Brown, Florida CFO Alex Sink, Alex Sink for Governor, Charlie Crist for Governor, Amendments 5&6, Supreme Court Merit Retention, and many successful statewide issue campaigns where voter performance commanded over 90% of the Black vote. Gayle has received numerous community service and business honors including outstanding and distinguished graduate status by Florida A & M University. She is the proud mother of Lauren V. Thornton-Fernando, M.D., and Douglas Thornton, a graduate of the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering.

**Panelist: Soror Dianne Williams-Cox,  
City of Tallahassee Commissioner, Seat 5**



Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox is a native of Quincy, Florida and is a graduate of Florida A & M University where she earned her B. S. Degree in Data Processing Technology and subsequently earned a Master's in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. Dianne began her work career as a software developer with General Motors in Detroit, Michigan and later joined the government defense contractor, Harris Government Systems in Melbourne, Florida. She worked for the State of Florida for 19 years at various agencies including the Florida Legislature. Dianne has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Florida A&M University. She has worked in the private sector and internationally and is a great supporter of small business. Dianne has been, for years, a leading advocate for enhanced women's rights, including equal pay and eradicating workplace harassment, among others. Her years of championing the causes of others made Williams-Cox the recipient of the 2018 Capital Outlook's "Community Advocate of the Year" award. Dianne's service to the community has also been evident through her service to the Florida and Leon Democratic Party. She has served as Public Relations Chair for the Leon County Democratic Executive Committee, President of the Capital City Democratic Women's Club (DWC) and Region 1 Chair for the Democratic Women of Florida. Dianne most recently served as Vice Chairman with the Leon County Democratic Executive Committee until her election to the City Commission.

A servant leader at heart, Dianne has been the Past President of the Tau Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Quincy and Past President of the Chi Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Tallahassee and a former South Atlantic Region Cluster IV Coordinator of the sorority. She is currently the South Atlantic Regional Representative to the International Nominating Committee. She was the past President of Capital Park Baseball for 13 to 14-year olds and serves on several ministries at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, in Tallahassee. Dianne married her high school sweetheart Thomas "Tommy" Cox; and she and her husband of 36 years and have three adult sons and six grandchildren. She is very honored to serve all citizens of Tallahassee as the Commissioner elected to Seat 5.





# Program Participants



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

## CRITICAL RACE THEORY



### Panelist: Soror Rosalind Osgood, Broward County Public School Member, District 5

Dr. Rosalind Osgood earned both a Master's and Doctoral Degree in Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University. In 2001, Dr. Osgood had the unique honor of being the first woman in the history of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church to be licensed, ordained, and positioned in the pulpit as a preacher, by the late preacher extraordinaire, Reverend Dr. Mack King Carter. In December of 2007, she earned a Master's of Divinity Degree from New Orleans Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Mount Olive Development Corporation, Chair of the Broward County School Board, and Associate Minister at New Mount Olive Baptist Church.

The Broward County native is a Former Adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University Huizenga School of Business. She is the author of two academic articles and a two books titled, "The Story Behind the Story" and "Influential Woman Leader". She is a member of numerous professional and community organizations: South Atlantic Regional Spiritual Oversight Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated; President of Zeta Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc; Member of the Links Incorporated Legislative Issues Public Affairs and Resolution Committee; Chair of the Links Incorporated's Southern Area Legislative Issue, Public Affairs and Disaster Relief Committee; Vice President of Programs for Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the Links, Inc; and Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the National Forum of Black Public Administrators. She has served on numerous Boards and Committees. She is the Chaplain for the Broward Black Elected Officials and a member of the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition Board to name a few. Her Motto is "Overcome Obstacles by Optimize Opportunities."



### Panelist: Attorney Chuck Hobbs

A Tallahassee native, Hobbs is a 1994 graduate of Morehouse College (BA-History), a 1995 graduate of the Florida A&M University School of Graduate Studies (MA-History), and a 1998 graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

From 1998 to 2020, Hobbs tried over 150 criminal law cases, including two jury trials that aired on Court TV. The first was the 2003 gambling trial of former Florida State University quarterback Adrian McPherson, while the second was the 2006 "Kappa Hazing Case"-- the nation's first ever felony hazing trial. In 2009, Hobbs served as lead counsel in the capital murder trial of Deneilo Bradshaw, a man convicted but spared the death penalty for the kidnapping and murder of Tallahassee Police Department informant Rachel Hoffman in 2009. In 2016, Hobbs secured an acquittal for Casey Cason, a young Black woman accused of murdering her best friend in a racially polarized week-long trial in Live Oak, Florida.

As a journalist, Hobbs's columns have been featured in The Hill, The Griot, Tallahassee Democrat, New York Times, Miami Herald, The Christian Recorder, the Florida Times-Union, and the Hobbobservation Point, a blog that he founded in 2017 that has been read by over a half million followers. He also hosts the Hobbobservation Point Podcast on the Apple platform, Front & Center with Chuck Hobbs on the Greater Works Network, and co-hosts both the Steel Sharpens Steel and TCR Dialogues on Facebook.

Hobbs has been nominated for the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Commentary twice, first by the Tallahassee Democrat in 2011, and again in 2017 by The Hill. He won first place in the Florida Bar Media Award competition in 2010 for a series of articles that analyzed the roles of race and gender in Florida judicial selections.

Hobbs is a member of Bethel AME Church, the Tallahassee Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and Valentine Lodge #147--Prince Hall Free & Accepted Masons.







# Committees

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2022 Florida AKA Day at the Capitol





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**2022 FLORIDA AKA DAY AT THE CAPITOL**



# Clerk 2022 Legislative Priorities

## Support SB 552 (Boyd) and HB 397 (Clemons)

Congratulations to the 2022 Florida AKA Day at the Capitol Committee for offering an impactful program that will ensure that our voices will be heard.

This year, Florida Clerks of Court are continuing to bring forward legislative solutions that provide funding options, realign revenue sources, and enhance payment options to help reduce driver license suspensions.



### PROVIDE FUNDING OPTIONS

By establishing a process for Clerks to submit quarterly **requests for reimbursement from the state for no-fee services** for mental health and substance abuse case types.



### REALIGN REVENUE SOURCES

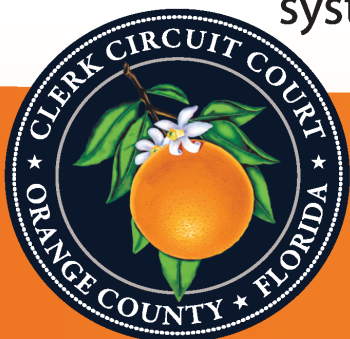
By allowing Clerks to **retain or redirect more stable fees and revenue** to better support the court-related services and reduce reliance on traffic citations.



### HELP REDUCE DRIVER LICENSE SUSPENSIONS

By further **standardizing monthly payment plans and initial down payment** amounts to make participation easier and more affordable.

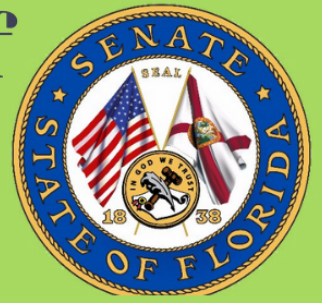
Reach out to your State Legislators in support of the Clerk 2022 Legislative Priorities to continue fixing the system and ensure Clerks are at **YOUR** service.



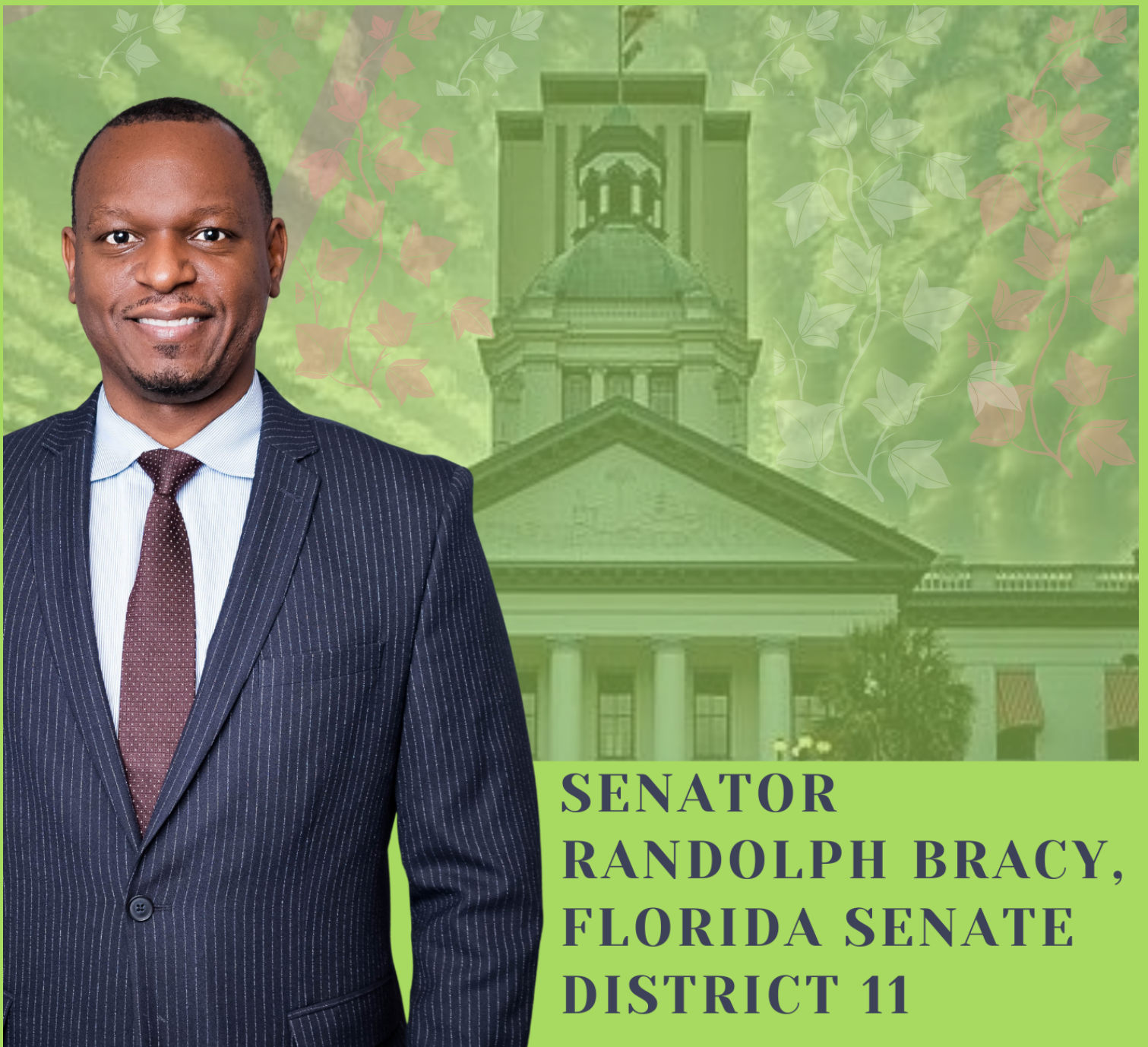
**Tiffany Moore Russell**  
Orange County Clerk of Courts



**Welcome to the ladies of  
Alpha Kappa Alpha  
Sorority, Inc.**



**Best wishes on a successful  
Florida AKA Day at the  
Capitol!**



**SENATOR  
RANDOLPH BRACY,  
FLORIDA SENATE  
DISTRICT 11**



# Welcome Sorors to the 2022 Florida AKA Day At The Capitol

This year, there are so many critical topics up for consideration during Legislative Session. Many of which will change the fabric of how we mandate health care, education, voting rights, and diversity & inclusion efforts.

Make sure your **VOICE** is heard by those elected to represent **YOUR** interest.



*State Representative  
Geraldine F. Thompson,  
District 44*

**Contact My Office:**

**District Phone: 407-245-0288**

**Capitol Phone: 850-717-0544**

**Email:**

**[Geraldine.Thompson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Geraldine.Thompson@myfloridahouse.gov)**



# Congratulations

To Mrs. Laurise Thomas, Chairman, The Florida  
Connection Committee and The Members of  
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On A Successful  
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2022 VIRTUAL  
FL AKA DAY AT THE CAPITOL.**



# Thank You!

Florida AKA Day At The Capitol Committee Members For Helping Make This Year's Virtual Event A Success. A Very Special Thank You To My Co-Chairman, And A Huge Thank You Of Gratitude To Our Technology Committee For Their Steadfast Work and Patience In Putting This Booklet And All Of Our Beautiful Graphics Together.



**SOROR TAMMY HAMLET**  
FL AKA DAY AT THE CAPITOL  
CO-CHAIRMAN



**SOROR ANDREA KNOWLES**  
FL AKA DAY AT THE CAPITOL  
CO-CHAIRMAN



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**SOROR KIANA POWELL**  
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# *Congratulations Sorors*

on a successful 2022  
Florida AKA Day at the Capitol.

**Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox**

South Atlantic Region Representative to the International Nominating Committee