

Sunday February 25, 2018

For Ms. Janice Bush, El Dorado Union County NAACP:

Because you mentioned to me the forthcoming meeting of the El Dorado Union County NAACP a few days ago, I decided to send you a statement regarding my campaign and candidacy. I, Lee McQueen filed with the FEC, September 28, 2017, and declared myself a candidate for Arkansas's District 4 House seat publicly on October 2, 2017. Since last Fall, I have campaigned every day to alert the voters of District 4 of the opportunity to put progressive policies back on the federal ballot.

I intend to run this independent, progressive campaign free from corporate money and influence all the way to Tuesday November 6, 2018. If elected, I will perform congressional duties in the spirit of Congresswomen Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan, two guiding lights for my political outlook.

(1) Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the first woman to compete for the Democratic nomination. She founded the Women, Infants & Children program, for which I served as a community organizer during the college years. She also was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and won a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

(2) Barbara Jordan was the second Black woman to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the first Black woman elected to U.S. House of Representatives from a Southern state. She was the first Black woman to keynote the Democratic National Convention. She was a staunch constitutionalist, well-respected for her defense of the law of the land, and she also won the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Chisholm and Jordan both left Congress about the same time both major parties turned their focus away from people-centered, progressive politics towards neo-liberal competition for Wall Street campaign donations.

It is time for all District 4 challengers to remember and recall the task for which representatives, regardless of party, are actually elected to perform. REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT. Not Wall Street and Big Money campaign donors.

For this reason, I accept campaign contributions only from individuals, not corporations or PACs. Rather than run as either a Democrat or Republican and be funded by corporate campaign donors, I run as an Independent, free from interference of donors, party bosses, or House leaders.

Recently, I spoke with Miller County NAACP about best practices for political representation of Arkansas's District 4. I told them that healthcare for all, free college tuition, a \$15 minimum wage, and a just economy are the top of the list of priorities. But infrastructure modernization, renewable energy development, policing with integrity, and national defense with a pivot towards diplomacy as the first resort remain high priorities as well.

Civil rights leaders such as Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King Jr, among many other realized that social injustices often had roots in economic injustice--for instance, the capitalistic slave system that evolved into slavery by another name, for-profit mass incarceration.

Representatives of Arkansas's District 4 need to meet higher expectations than previously and also need to deliver to the people a higher level of service. Public SERVANT means providing service to the men and women who deliver votes and taxes. This means SERVING the public, not just serving corporations and business leaders. This means presenting solutions, not creating problems.

This certainly does not mean "moving to the center" or continuing to settle for political talking points from two, three, four years ago. Saying anything, doing nothing does not win the confidence of the people. Status quo neo-liberalism and triangulation are the problems, not the solutions.

While I have not received specific details regarding the forthcoming NAACP meeting, I want to be sure to mention that during this campaign, I look forward to meeting with more community organizations, news outlets, and individual citizens to speak of real solutions rather than games and gaslight. My family and I certainly enjoyed African American Friends & Family Day in El Dorado.

The following is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's commentary on moderates dedicated to status quo, incrementalism, and say anything do nothingism:

"I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action": who paternistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a 'more convenient season.' Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

The time for single payer healthcare is NOW.

The time for free college tuition is NOW.

The time for a \$15 minimum wage tied to inflation is NOW.

The time to end the Drug War is NOW.
The time to end unnecessary military interventions is NOW.
The time for health for all is NOW.
The time for jobs for all is NOW.
The time for wealth for all is NOW.
The time for education for all is NOW.
The time for peace for all is NOW.
The time for justice for all is NOW.

"Let's Run for Congress!"

Best wishes and highest regards to Ms. Janice Bush, El Dorado Union County NAACP, and the voters of the El Dorado community. Please visit the official website at http://McQueen2018.com/Future_Arkansas for specific legislation and issues that I intend to support for the 116th Congress.

Lee McQueen
Independent progressive candidate
U.S. House of Representatives, Arkansas, District 4
<http://McQueen2018.com>