



The Fierce Urgency of Now  
by Dr. Gerald Curry

I titled this piece “The Fierce Urgency of Now,” which was borrowed from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., because our country is in a political and constitutional crisis at a proportion our country has not seen since the Civil War and Revolutionary War. **The January 6 insurrection was the downturn of a very dangerous path, which is still having consequences. Over 700 people were arrested**

recover or redeem those rights will not be seen for another fifty years.

Far too often we take our right to vote for granted, and many times believe it simply does not matter, but it does. Your ability to earn a livable wage, live in a decent community, that you can afford, and have your children attend school and receive an education that will elevate their status in life is also being threaten with the dismantling of the Department of Education, and leaving it to the States to determine the education of its students. We have seen this playbook before, and this is the reason for having historical Black colleges and universities (HBCU). White citizens and State governments refused to allow Black people to attend their schools, and up until the Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954, that integrated the public-school systems where White and Black students could finally legally study with one another. As you can imagine it would still take another decade before schools across the nation would be completely integrated.

Our ancestors worked too hard and sacrificed too much for us not to boldly take a stance and protect our interest. We owe it to ourselves to stand fast on the accomplishments and principles of our past. I encourage you to study the facts surrounding this election, and not to think with your emotions. President Biden is the only candidate that

having consequences. Over 700 people were arrested due to their participation and relations to the insurrection. Over 40 people in former President Trump's cabinet are being brought up on charges because of their criminal behavior. Again, never in history have we witnessed this level of complete disregard for good order, discipline, and the rule of law.

Lately there has been a lot of ambivalence about Black people supporting President Joe Biden's reelection, and the overall Democratic Party. Please allow me to enlighten those still on the fence or considering the alternative. Black folks have historically been moral and upstanding people who endured the worst of this country. While the Democratic has not always treated us fairly, or done right by us, the stakes on the table in this election are critical, and we must get out to vote.

I must be that person in this writing to not only encourage you to vote, but tell you who to vote for, and why. Former President Trump and his allies are determined to completely reverse all the progress Black and Brown people have made in this country, and the change to

emotions. President Biden is the only candidate that clearly has our best interest at heart and will push our agenda forward and not backwards.

I cannot list everything President Biden has done for Black Americans, but I will list a few. Please do your own





research and compare the accomplishments of Trump to Biden. I would love to hear what you think.

- Powered a historic economic recovery that created 2.6 million jobs for Black workers—and achieved both the lowest Black unemployment rate on record and the lowest gap between Black and White unemployment on record.
- Helped Black working families build wealth. Black wealth is up by 60% relative to pre-pandemic—the largest increase on record.
- Cut in half the number of Black children living in poverty in 2021 through ARP’s Child Tax Credit expansion. This expansion provided breathing room to the families of over 9 million Black children.
- Began reversing decades of infrastructure disinvestment, including with \$4 billion to reconnect communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by building needed transportation infrastructure in underserved communities, including Black communities.
- Connected an estimated 5.5 million Black households to affordable high-speed internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program, closing the digital divide for millions

underserved businesses with \$1 billion of these funds to be awarded to the jurisdictions that are most successful in reaching underserved businesses.

- Helped more than 37,000 farmers and ranchers who were in financial distress, including Black farmers and ranchers, stay on their farms and keep farming, thanks to resources provided through IRA. The IRA allocated \$3.1 billion for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide relief for distressed borrowers with at-risk agricultural operations with outstanding direct or guaranteed Farm Service Agency loans. USDA has provided over \$2 billion and counting in timely assistance.
- Supported small and disadvantaged businesses through CHIPS Act funding by requiring funding applicants to develop a workforce plan to create equitable pathways for economically disadvantaged individuals in their region, as well as a plan to support procurement from small, minority-owned, veteran-owned, and women-owned businesses.
- Created the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that will invest in clean energy projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

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that will invest in clean energy projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

These are just a small list of why we must vote for President Biden, and we must convince others to do the same. We are in the Fierce Urgency of Now, and we must recognize it for what it is. I am counting on you to spread the word by getting people excited about this upcoming Presidential Election.

- Connected an estimated 5.5 million Black households to affordable high-speed internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program, closing the digital divide for millions of Black families.
- Achieved the fastest creation rate of Black-owned businesses in more than 30 years—and more than doubled the share of Black business owners from 2019 to 2022.
- Improved the Small Business Administration's (SBA) flagship loan guarantee programs to expand the availability of capital to underserved communities. Since 2020, the number and dollar value of SBA-backed loans to Black-owned businesses have more than doubled.
- Launched a whole-of-government effort to expand access to federal contracts for small businesses, awarding a record \$69.9 billion to small, disadvantaged businesses in 2022.
- Through Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative, invested \$10 billion to expand access to capital and invest in early-stage businesses in all 50 states—including \$2.5 billion in funding and incentive allocations dedicated to support the provision of capital to

