

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT OVETA GLOVER

In the spirit of unity and resilience, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every voter in Richland County, Columbia, SC, who took a stand in this crucial 2024 election. Your vote is not just a voice; it is a testament to the strength and determination of our community. To those who voted, you have played a powerful role in shaping our future. And to those who did not, don't miss the next opportunity to make your voice heard!

Young people, hold your heads high. Don't be swayed by the fear tactics circulating in our nation. Stand firm and remember: "We Shall Not Be Moved; We Will Overcome—Together" this is more than a slogan; it's a rallying cry that reflects our commitment to progress, solidarity, and lasting change. In a time when division seeks to distract us, your presence at the polls has and will reaffirm our collective power. By casting your vote, you have contributed to building a future that promises dignity, rights, and opportunity for all.

Mobilizing the vote means organizing. Meaningful change requires active involvement from each of us, and it starts with a commitment to the *5 Es of Voting*: Engage, Educate, Encourage, Empower, and Early Voting. These principles guide us to show up ourselves and inspire others to exercise their right and responsibility to vote.

Let's remember that local elections are as essential as presidential ones—if not more so. Our next local elections are in June 2025, and these votes will directly impact our community's needs, from schools and healthcare to housing and policing. Local leaders shape the policies that affect our everyday lives, so let's stay informed and prepared to make our voices heard.

Additionally, we must focus on *Project 2025*. This initiative has far-reaching implications, and staying informed is essential to safeguard our rights and advocate for policies that reflect our values.

As the song "Wake Up Everybody" by Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes reminds us, we must open our eyes, engage, and make a difference. Now more than ever, let's wake up, organize, and move forward together—because united, we are unstoppable. Join the COLUMBIA SC BRANCH NAACP 803.256.8771 for more information.

#OURVOTEISOURVOICE #FEARNOTCHILDRENOFGOD #WEAREALLIN #WHENWEFIGHTWEWIN