

Ongoing Covenant with Black Iowa
Political Empowerment
Essay Report provided by
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In an effort to obtain the full scope of the political strength, awareness and involvement of the African Americans in davenport (Scott County) Iowa on a local level several areas were covered. These were from a national, state, county and city perspective.

First and foremost, there was a higher than usual level of excitement and interest within the Black community. Many blacks were self-motivated showing up at rallies and forums. I personally witnesses a crowd of several hundred jammed packed in a school just to hear on candidate speak.

However, that number decreased at caucus time and yet proved “to be much higher than the past twelve (12) years” as one person put it.

This event (campaign year) has generated great interest to the point that eight (8) African Americans are on various Committees County, & District wide. Three individuals are on the State Democratic Central Committee.

It appears as though many African Americans were inspired to make and be a part of History.

Democratic State Level.

Central Committee – Four (4) African Americans
Youth Committee – One (1) African American
Rule & Credential – One (1) African American

The Republican information was not assembled. Neither has there been a concerted effort to reach out to the African American population.

State Level

The increase of registered African Americans voters and an increase in registering eligible voters offer strong support. The candidates have a great chance to win. The position and most views support that of the African American base.

County Government

There is no African American representation. There also appears to be great apathy and the lack of interest from many African Americans to this level of government. Those who shared their concerns felt that county officials and county issues did not relate to their common cause.

Most were misinformed believing that county government was mainly for fairness and rural areas around Scott County. It is also true that many county officials have done little to educate the African Americans population and what their functions are as it relates to the city. I have met with several county officials sharing with them this concern.

City Government

Currently, there is no African American on the city council. There appears to be a chance next term to elect an alderman from both the Fifth and Fourth Wards. City government in davenport appears open for more African American involvement.

Whereas, this may be true, it is also clear that African Americans interest & involvement must be able to maintain motivation and consistency to make things happen.

Voter Registration/Education

It was discovered that there are many African Americans that are registered but do not vote regardless. It has also been pointed out that “More” needs to be done to both, – The registered voters and to educate the “*new*” voters.

Many do not participate in the primaries because of the lack of knowledge in regards to the caucus procedures. It could serve many black organizations well to join in with the various local party officials, league of women voters, NAACP, SCLC, and other grass root groups to teach the process.

Recommendations

- *A follow-up forum needs to be done in regards to National Health Care.
- *How to Caucus.
- *How to be a part of the Platform
- *Voter Registering Procedure
- *Get Out the Vote