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1135 Pierce St., Clearwater  
Viola T. Hill, Vice President  
626 W. Washington St., Orlando  
Rev. E. J. Jackson, Vice President  
620 - 11th St., W. Palm Beach  
Emma A. Pickett, Recording Secretary  
2411 - 18th Ave., Tampa  
Leona W. Booker, Assistant Secretary  
727 S. Parramore St., Orlando

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Tampa  
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Daytona Beach  
Joe H. James  
Jacksonville  
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Tallahassee  
Otis Mundy  
Miami  
T. L. Redding  
Jacksonville  
C. T. Williams  
Orlando  
L. L. Youngblood  
Delray Beach

Progressive Voters' League  
Of Florida

Mims, Florida  
April 25, 1946

10  
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary  
Box 4, Mims  
G. D. Rogers, Treasurer  
236 - 10th Ave., Bradenton  
M. C. Bodie, Director of Publicity  
326 N. Rosemary, W. Palm Beach  
Rev. H. McNeal Harris, Chaplain  
Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church, Orlando

Dear Co-workers :

On April 12 we mailed copies of the inclosed letter to candidates running for Congress and important state offices, subject to the Democratic Primaries in May. Favorable replies have been received from several candidates. We have gotten in touch with others through personal contact.

On April 20 the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters' League met in Orlando to consider the records of various candidates. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to recommend the following candidates :

1. For United States Senator
2. For Representative in Congress:  
First District  
Second District  
Third District  
Fourth District  
Fifth District  
Sixth District
3. For Justice Supreme Court  
Group Two
4. For Railroad Commissioner  
Group Two

Spessard L. Holland

Herbert Wentworth  
Mrs. Camille M. Geneau  
Carl R. Gray  
George A. Smathers  
Thomas S. Vess  
Dwight L. Rogers

Paul D. Barns

Carl M. Taylor

The most difficult decision for the Board to make was the choice of a candidate for U. S. Senator. Many members of the Board expressed the opinion that Mrs. Polly Resc Balfe was the most liberal of the four candidates in the field. However, it was the general opinion of the Board that the real race would probably be between Holland and Green. And since Lex Green has publicly announced his intention to "champion the cause of the White Democratic Primary and of the noble traditions of the white South", the Board voted to endorse the candidacy of Holland.

We suggest that you consider carefully the records of your local candidates and make recommendations to your voters on the basis of such records.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore  
Executive Secretary

# THE NEGRO PROGRESSIVE VOTERS LEAGUE OF FLORIDA

2912 26TH STREET — TAMPA, FLORIDA

October 11, 1944

The Negro vote means more today than ever before. In past years the Negro vote was brought into play primarily to defeat somebody, but today the Negro vote stands in a position to enable the Negro to integrate himself into every important phase of our government service.

The Negro possesses the balance of power if he will use it. In ten or twelve States the balance of power lies in the hands of the Negroes and they can determine the trend of the election.

For this reason the Executive Board of the State Progressive Voters League met at West Palm Beach, September 10, 1944 to devise plans by which our people might be informed of the importance of registering to become qualified to vote and to teach our people the necessity of using the ballot.

The following Vice-Presidents were elected from each Congressional District.

## Vice Presidents

1. Mr. G. D. Rogers, Tampa
2. Mr. Joe James, Jacksonville
3. Mr. W. M. Harris, Tallahassee
4. Mr. Otis Mumby, Miami
5. Mr. Joe Harris, Daytona Beach
6. Mr. S. Fluellyn, West Palm Beach

## Alternates

- Capt. Paul Diggs, Lakeland
- Mr. Chas. Chestnut, Sr., Gainesville
- Dr. H. D. Goode, Pensacola
- Capt. John Scott, Miami
- Mr. C. T. Williams, Orlando
- Mr. Youngblood, Delray Beach

It is our desire that you accept this position and see to it that every person is reached in your district. Get a captain in each County. Then let him or her get others to help pass the information on. In this way we can easily cover the State.

Let us wake up. This program calls for quick action. Election is in November. Act and act NOW!

The Board will do the bargaining with candidates for various political officers.

There will be pooling of funds in local set-ups to bear local expenses in carrying out the program.

## A Recommended Plan of Action:

We recommend that our various organizations cooperate in the following manner:

1. Churches- That the heads of the various denominations and auxiliaries be asked to send circular letters to their district and local heads, requesting that they encourage their members to register and vote. (Such letters might also be published in our papers)
2. That each presiding elder, moderator, and district superintendent will urge the pastors and local heads on his district to keep the matter of registering to vote before their members.
3. That each pastor will take a little time at each service to teach his

4. That representatives from voters leagues, NAACP branches and other civic organizations be given a little time during regular services to bring this matter before the people.

5. That each class leader, deacon, and club leader be asked to urge his members to register and vote.

## II. Fraternal Orders

1. That the head of each fraternal order or civic organization be asked to send circular letters to his local order in the same manner mentioned above.

2. That the local lodges or clubs will do everything possible to get their members qualified to vote.

### III. Insurance Companies

1. That the presidents of our Insurance Companies be asked to send circular letters to their district managers similar to the ones mentioned above.
2. That each district manager will impress upon his agents the importance of qualifying to vote. (This might be done at district meeting, or by letter)
3. That each agent will be asked to encourage the members, and general public in his debit to register and vote.
4. That agents will be asked to give out to the people in their debits helpful information, relative to the procedure used in registering and voting.

Please let us hear whether you are willing to serve with us.

Respectfully yours,

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E. E. Broughton, President

Mrs. E. A. Pickett, Secretary

Rev. H. J. Fordham, Asst. Secretary

Mrs. R. B. Watman, Corresponding Secretary

Harry T. Moore, Treasurer

M. C. Bodie, Director of Publicity

EEB-ww

Office of the  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
State of Florida  
Tallahassee

February 18, 1946

Mr. Harry T. Moore  
Mican, Florida

Dear Moore :

In reply to your letter of February 17, you are entitled to register now while the books are in the hands of the clerks in the precincts, and this includes the right of changing former registration from Republican to Democrat.

You should re-register anyhow, and not be content with any former registration that you might have made. You may present this letter to the present clerk or to the supervisor of registration of Brevard county.

Very truly yours,

J. Tom Watson

Attorney General

Copy

Open Letter  
To Florida Negro Voters

Mims, Florida  
February 4, 1946

Dear Co-workers:

As most of you know, the State Democratic Committee has adopted a resolution which provides for the participation of Negro voters in the Democratic primaries in May. This, of course, is in keeping with recent rulings by the U. S. Supreme Court and the Florida State Supreme Court. It also is in line with an opinion submitted last October by Attorney General Tom Watson.

It now appears that we stand on the threshold of golden political opportunities. For the first time Negro voters of Florida are recognized as members of the Democratic Party. Thus, if we are properly registered, we may now vote with the party that has held a virtual monopoly on the election of state and county officials during the past 50 years. In this way, we may help to select those local officials who have direct control of our everyday affairs.

In order to consider additional plans necessary to get our people prepared for the May primaries, the Progressive Voters' League of Florida will hold a state meeting at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, S. Parramore St., Orlando, on February 16th. Members of the Board of Directors are asked to meet at 10:30 A. M. A public mass meeting will be held at 1:00 P. M. Mr. Earl E. Broughton, chairman of our Board of Directors, attended the recent meeting of the State Democratic Committee, and he will make a report of his observations. Hon. Lawson E. Thomas, prominent Negro Attorney of Miami, has promised to be with us in both of these sessions. He will speak during the mass meeting.

Heads of organizations, professional and lay leaders from over the state are urged to attend this meeting. Let us get our heads together and take full advantage of this great opportunity that now presents itself.

Sincerely yours,

Milton P. Rooks, President

C. T. Williams, Local Chairman  
406S. Parramore St., Orlando

Harry T. Moore, Executive Sec.  
PROGRESSIVE VOTERS' LEAGUE

# THE NEGRO PROGRESSIVE VOTERS LEAGUE OF FLORIDA

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1954  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
MEMORIAL  
CONFERENCE  
AT  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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