

when they SEE US VOICE



EPISODE 1 TOOLKIT & RESOURCE PACKAGE

**“Independent Black
Political Power”**





About #WTSUV

At a critical time in American history with a tumultuous census, a national election and an atmosphere of both heightened activism and racist backlash, *When They See Us Vote* is a limited series talk that seeks to engage and educate the many people who are becoming politically conscious and active in this moment with an analysis of how we build resilience and Black political power at the voting booth and beyond. The show is co-hosted by Bree Newsome Bass and Ajamu Dillahunt. The accompanying toolkit can be used to deepen individual understanding around the issues discussed and serve as a guide for hosting conversations and study groups.

EPIISODE SYNOPSIS

- Ajamu and Bree speak with Irv Joyner, civil rights attorney, and organizer LaTosha Brown of Black Voters Matter
- The group discusses the historic struggle for Black freedom in America and the racist backlash Black people have faced over the issue of voting rights
- They also examine current strategies for building independent Black political power in a time of heightened racial animus

QUESTIONS:

- Why is political education necessary?
- What is independent Black political power and why is it important to build?
- Besides voting, what other actions should we take to build power and resilience?

DID YOU KNOW?

Out of the 6.9M registered voters in North Carolina, 1.5M are Black. That is 22%!

That means
YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

• NOTES

KEY QUOTE

“Participation in itself does not lead to power . . . We have to also be doing this nation building work, this work where we really are envisioning these new systems that are fairer and more inclusive and more just.”

-LaTosha Brown

KEY TERMS

- **Coalition** - a joining together of different groups for a particular purpose
- **Self-governance** - having control and rule over oneself; a government that is under the control and direction of its citizenry
- **Strategy** - a plan of action designed to achieve a goal
- **Voter Suppression** - a coordinated and systemic effort to prevent people from exercising their right to vote
- **Activism** - taking action to bring about political or social change

NEXT STEPS

- Read **How Reconstruction Still Shapes American Racism** by Henry Louis Gates
- Read **The Lost History of an American Coup D'État** by Adrienne LaFrance and Vann R. Newkirk II
- Read **Racial Capitalism and the Structural Roots of White Nationalism** by Matt Birkhold
- Read **Black Lives Matter Is Part of a Global Struggle Against Oppression** by Antonia Darder and Bill Fletcher, Jr.
- Listen to and discuss **The Ballot or the Bullet** by Malcolm X (1964)
- Identify at least one thing you commit to do beyond voting to help build political power and strengthen the organization of your local community

LaTosha Brown

EPISODE 1 - GUEST

LaTosha Brown is an award-winning organizer, philanthropic consultant, political strategist and jazz singer with over twenty years of experience working in the non-profit and philanthropy sectors on a wide variety of issues related to political empowerment, social justice, economic development, leadership development, wealth creation and civil rights.

She is the co-founder of Black Voters Matter Fund, a power building southern based civic engagement organization that played an instrumental role in the 2017 Alabama U.S. Senate race. Ms. Brown is principal owner of TruthSpeaks Consulting, Inc., a philanthropy advisory consulting firm in Atlanta, GA. For more than 25 years, she has served as a consultant and advisor for individual donors, government, public foundations and private donors.





Irving L. Joyner

EPISODE 1 - GUEST

Irving L. Joyner is a Professor at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) School of Law. Since 1982, he has taught courses on Criminal Law, Civil Rights, Race and Criminal Procedure. From 1984 to 1992, Joyner served as Associate Dean of NCCU's School of Law.

Joyner earned a B.S. degree from Long Island University and continued his education at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, earning his J.D. In addition to teaching, Joyner is heavily involved in various programs that focus on the areas of political activism, legal education, civil rights and empowerment.

THE #WTSUV TEAM



BREE NEWSOME BASS

is an award-winning activist and artist best known for her historic act of civil disobedience in 2015 when she scaled a 30-ft flagpole at the statehouse grounds in South Carolina to lower its confederate flag in protest following the racially-motivated shootings at Emanuel AME church in Charleston. Bree currently resides in North Carolina where she works as an artist while organizing for housing justice. She is a nationally-recognized public speaker on topics of racial and economic justice as well as the intersection of art and activism.



AJAMU DILLAHUNT

is the Outreach Coordinator at the North Carolina Justice Center in Raleigh, N.C. Before joining the Justice Center in 2004, Ajamu served as President of the Raleigh Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) for 18 years, where he was also Director of Research and Education for the North Carolina Council of the APWU.



NATALIE BULLOCK BROWN

is an award-winning and Emmy-nominated producer, a Teaching Assistant Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies at North Carolina State University, and a producer on award-winning filmmaker Byron Hurt's upcoming PBS documentary, *Hazing*.

NOTES & REFLECTIONS
