



URNS 5!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022 AT 6PM



MEET OUR SPEAKERS



LAUREN UNDERWOOD, ILLINOIS CONGRESSWOMEN, DISTRICT 14
TWITTER: @LAURENUNDERWOOD | IG: @LAURENAUNDERWOOD

Congresswoman Lauren Underwood serves Illinois' 14th Congressional District and was sworn into the 116th U.S. Congress on January 3, 2019. Congresswoman Underwood is the first woman, the first person of color, and the first millennial to represent her community in Congress. She is also the youngest African American woman to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

Congresswoman Underwood serves on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the House Committee on Appropriations. Congresswoman Underwood co-founded and co-chairs the Black Maternal Health Caucus, which elevates the Black maternal health crisis within Congress and advances policy solutions to improve maternal health outcomes and end disparities. She also serves on the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. Rep. Underwood is a member of the Future Forum, a group of young Democratic Members of Congress committed to listening to and standing up for the next generation of Americans, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the LGBT Equality Caucus. As a strong supporter of addressing the gun violence epidemic, Congresswoman Underwood is a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Prior to her election to Congress, Congresswoman Underwood worked with a Medicaid plan in Chicago to ensure that it provided high-quality, cost-efficient care. She served as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), helping communities across the country prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters, bioterror threats, and public health emergencies. As a career public servant at HHS, she helped implement the Affordable Care Act — broadening access for those on Medicare, improving health care quality, and reforming private insurance. Congresswoman Underwood also taught future nurse practitioners through Georgetown University's online master's program. Congresswoman Underwood is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins University. She graduated from Neuqua Valley High School and is a lifelong Girl Scout. She resides in Naperville, Illinois.

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MALCOLM KENYATTA - PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 181ST DISTRICT, AND CANDIDATE FOR PENNSYLVANIA U.S. SENATE
TWITTER: @MALCOLMKENYATTA | IG: @MALCOLMKENYATTA

As a lifelong resident of North Philadelphia, it was Malcolm Kenyatta's vision and passion for his neighborhood that inspired his run, and historic victory, for State Representative of the 181st District in 2018.

He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Philadelphia Delegation and as a member of the Governor's Taskforce on Suicide Prevention and a host of committee leadership positions.

As the first openly LGBT person of color and one of the youngest members elected to the PA General Assembly, he is deeply committed to creating an equitable and inclusive society.

As a legislator, he has championed proposals to address generational poverty, raise the minimum wage, protect workers' rights, increase access to mental healthcare, common-sense measures to address gun violence, and protect our digital infrastructure.

In 2016, he was elected as Delegate to the Democratic Convention (PA 2nd), garnering the second-highest vote total of any delegate in the Commonwealth. He has also appeared on local and national media outlets to discuss systemic poverty, affordable education and childcare, and making government more accountable to citizens. His election was turned in an award-winning short documentary, 'Going Forward' produced by Seven Knot Productions, which premiered on 'The Atlantic Magazine Selects' in 2018.

He has served the diversity and inclusion engagement coordinator for The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. He is also a certified anti-bias trainer with the Anti-Defamation League. In the summer of 2019 he completed public policy training at Harvard's Kennedy School. Malcolm is currently running to represent Pennsylvania in the U.S. Senate.

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**CYNTHIA MENDES - RHODE ISLAND STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 18,
AND CANDIDATE FOR RHODE ISLAND LT. GOVERNOR**

TWITTER: @CYNTHIA_MENDES_ | IG: @CYNTHIAMENDESRI

Cynthia Mendes is a Democrat representing District 18 (East Providence, Pawtucket) in the Rhode Island Senate. First elected to the Senate in November 2020, she has been active on a number of issues in the legislature.

She has sponsored a proposal to study implementation of a Medicare-for-all, single-payer health care program in Rhode Island, and cosponsored a resolution calling on Congress to adopt a similar program nationally.

She has also sponsored bills to require the Department of Environmental Management to identify environmental justice focus areas throughout the state; set new communications requirements for health insurers; exempt artists, writers and composers in East Providence's arts zone from personal income tax; require public schools to provide feminine hygiene products; set standardized procedures for asset forfeitures across all crimes; expand dental coverage and require pre existing condition coverage; require state contractors to provide affirmative action and equal employment opportunity plans; and address the pay gaps for women and people of color.

Sen. Mendes is a single mother of one daughter, Francesca, who is an artist and actively volunteers with her mom to serve our unhoused fellow Rhode Islanders. She is of Puerto Rican and Cape Verdean descent and proudly serves as a member of the Rhode Island Legislative Black and Latino Caucus. She also was elected to serve on the executive committee of the Rhode Island Democratic Women's Caucus.

She spent much of her career in health care as a Clinical Supervisor and Treatment Coordinator in the dental field. She has also worked as Manager of Employee Benefits and Culture at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island. She is currently a Project Manager at Renew New England. Sen. Mendes is currently running for Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island.

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BRIANA SEWELL - VIRGINIA STATE HOUSE DELEGATE, DISTRICT 51

TWITTER: @BRIANASEWELLVA | IG: @BRIANASEWELLVA

Born and raised in Prince William County, Briana is the daughter of high school sweethearts from Selma, Alabama, brought to this community by their service to our country. Both of her parents honorably served our nation as members of the United States Air Force for over 20 years. From a young age, her parents instilled in her the importance of integrity and service to others. After being stationed in the Republic of Panama for three years, Briana and her family returned to Lake Ridge, Virginia—the place she has always called home.

Briana is a proud product of Prince William County Public Schools, where she excelled in the classroom and on the soccer field. She went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Public Policy from the College of William and Mary and a Master's degree in Public Administration from American University.

Briana has always known the government could be a force for good, even when local and state representatives did not embody those values. Not one to sit on the sidelines, Briana made the conscious decision to call Prince William County her forever home and dedicate her life to strengthening the community through public service.

Briana served as Prince William County District Director for Congressman Connolly. In her role, she led the office in local community engagement and provided strong constituent services to include tax abatements to thousands of area residents. Through this experience, Briana saw the endless possibilities for good when moral and compassionate leaders are in office.

In 2018, Briana helped establish the Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy. In this position, Briana worked to bring all factions together to support bipartisan policies like paid family and medical leave, lower-cost child-care, affordable college and job training programs, and more affordable eldercare options. Briana knows that when working families have the support they need, our whole economy benefits, especially during this public health crisis.

As a delegate of the 51st District of Virginia, Briana continues to fight for her constituents and their rights including women's rights, care for veterans and more.

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AMANDA FARIÁS - NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 18

TWITTER: @AMANDAFARIASNYC | IG: @AMANDAFARIAS.NYC

Amanda Farías is the Council Member for the 18th District, representing parts of Castle Hill, Clason Point, Harding Park, Parkchester, Shorehaven, and Soundview. Amanda is a lifelong Bronxite, born and raised in Soundview as a second-generation Afro-Latina of Puerto Rican and Dominican descent. She is a proud product of local schools and community institutions. Growing up she attended P.S. 69X and Holy Cross School, and spent after-school hours learning to dance and summers at camp in Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club. A graduate of Preston High

School and St. John's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics and Master of Arts in Public Administration, where her passion for community service, activism, and empowerment began. Soon after graduate school, she started her career by fighting voter suppression and mobilizing Black and Latino communities for President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign.

Council Member Farías' extensive experience includes working for the New York City Council from 2013 to 2017 in several different capacities, including Director of Special Projects, managing the Women's Caucus and a districtwide Participatory Budgeting process. After her time in the Council, Amanda joined The Consortium for Worker Education as an Assistant Director in 2017, to manage workforce development programming in the Bronx.

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MARCHE' JOHNSON - MONTGOMERY, AL CITY COUNCILOR

TWITTER: @MARCHE4D3 | IG: @MARCHE4D3

Councilor Marche' Johnson was born and raised in Montgomery, AL. She received a Bachelor Degree of Science in Psychology and a Master's of Science in Human Services from Troy University. Johnson joined the U.S. Reserves in April 2004 and became Active Army in May 2008.

Marche' is also a published author of a children's book "Dear Bully." While serving in the U.S. Army, Johnson was awarded

Army Commendation Medal (3), Army Achievement Medal (6), Army Good Conduct Medal (2), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, and Army Service Ribbon.

She is the mother of two boys, Kaleb and Karter. She was featured in the City of Montgomery's documentary "382: Organizing for the future" ; she has also been featured in numerous magazine articles. She also organized the first-ever TedX for women in the City of Montgomery. You can always find Marche' actively engaged in schools and community projects across the City of Montgomery.

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JB SMILEY JR. - MEMPHIS, TN CITY COUNCILMAN, AND CANDIDATE FOR TENNESSEE GOVERNOR

TWITTER: @JBSMILEYJR | IG: @JBSMILEYJR

A native Memphian, with five siblings, born to a social worker and a Bronze Star army soldier, JB Smiley, Jr. knows the value of hard work and a healthy, supportive community.

After JB's collegiate and semi-professional basketball career, he pursued a legal education, and later, a political career. But his life in serving the most vulnerable started from a young age.

JB's first experience with teamwork and leadership was as a Cub Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. Never afraid of getting his hands dirty, JB has done everything from working as a landfill cleaner to washing dishes. As his father taught him to "never forget the bridge that brought you over," JB decided to stay in the region to attend college and then law school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. While in law school, JB served as a member of the Law Review, Moot Court Board, and as Vice President of the Black Law Students Association. JB successfully passed Arkansas and the Tennessee Bar exams, while writing his first book, *Born With It: Unleashing Your Greatness*.

In 2017, in Memphis, JB started his law practice, Smiley & Associates, PLLC. The following year, JB was named to Memphis Flyer's Top 20, Under 30 class. During that same year, JB was appointed policy advisor to the Shelby County Clerk and served in such capacity until his election to the Memphis City Council in October 2019. As a council member, JB is Chair of the Public Works, Transportation, and General Services Committee and the council liaison for the Urban Art Commission.

In his spare time, JB likes to play basketball, work out, binge watch Netflix shows, and keep his dog, Mighty Mouse, and his nephew, Bryson Maxwell Smiley, smiling! JB is currently running for Governor of Tennessee.

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