

## Local Politics Matter

# Open Letter To Black Men

## It's Decision Time



It is the day after Doug Jones and his team pulled off a historic win in the very red state of Alabama and all I can think of is the plight of the "Black Male". While this certainly was a referendum on predatory behavior it also was a referendum on being Black in America in 2017. Judge Roy Moore was a candidate who openly stated that America was last great during the height of slavery. A candidate who believes that we should undo the abolition of slavery, a woman's right to vote and the right to vote of all black people in America. Black Americans in Alabama helped to pave the way for the Doug Jones victory. Despite the fact that Alabama recently passed very onerous voter ID laws the proud Black Americans in Alabama persisted. Once again this move was led by valiant and vigilant black women.

Yes "Black Girls" rock and "Black Girls" also vote. It was our Beautiful Black Sisters who overwhelmingly led the effort to put the first female in the White House as the Commander-Chief. Although Hillary was not successful the message was loud and clear. black women are here to stay and must be valued and appreciated. So where does that leave our black men?

It is my humble opinion that black men are at a critical point in this country. We are at a point where we must decide whether we will step up and join our black women to lead the Black renaissance in the country. Step up and save this country from its self or step aside and let black women continue to lead and take full control of the direction of Black Culture and leadership roles. Without

into the details surrounding the complexities of slavery, the breakup of black families and the intentional dehumanization and neutering of the black male let me say that I do understand all of these issues and the impact that they have had and continue to have on black males. Having said that I also understand that it is time to stop waiting for that point of perfection where someone comes along to recognize and make amends for these horrors. That will not happen so where does it leave black men? I think that it leaves black men in a place where each and every one of us must examine where we are and what we can do to regain our pride and position in an increasingly hostile United States of America. We must put down this macho concept of manhood that has done nothing but leave black bodies in our streets in record numbers while creating so much confusion in our young men that they don't know what it means to be a black man. We must stop fighting over territory that we have never owned. We must stop ravaging and pillaging inner city neighborhoods. Neighborhoods where our precious elders are now afraid to leave their homes after dark. Neigh-

borhoods where our beautiful black girls are left unprotected while being subjected to the most obscene types of predatory behavior. It is time to stand and refuse to take a step back into our blood stained past. It is time to stand and protect the things that are rightfully ours. It is time to embrace education and insist that our children deserve the best of the best. It is time to make the same sacrifices that our forefathers so willingly made for us. These are things that are within our grasp. These are things that have to happen now because we really are on the verge of extinction. Yes, the time is now. Let's thank our "Sisters" for leading the charge then follow their lead and take our rightful place in society.

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