

Barnes campaign: The Collective PAC endorses Mandela Barnes for Lt. gov

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Barnes is one of just 9 statewide candidates across the country to receive their endorsement, and the only candidate from Wisconsin

Milwaukee: The Collective Political Action Committee, a national group working to address the challenge of African American underrepresentation in elected seats of power throughout the United States, has endorsed Mandela Barnes for Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin. Barnes becomes just the 9th statewide candidate to receive their endorsement, and the only candidate running in Wisconsin in 2018.

Quentin James, Collective PAC Founder and Executive Director, released the following statement:

“It’s great to have candidates who understand the most pressing issues of our community, and how they relate to overall progress. As we saw in the 2016 election, communities of color cannot be taken for granted, which is why we’re proud to endorse Mandela Barnes in his bid for Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor. Mandela has demonstrated the leadership and experience necessary to build a winning ticket for November.”

Mr. Barnes stated:

“Wisconsin has only ever had one statewide elected official of color, that being the

recently departed former Secretary of State Vel Phillips, who in her later years became a mentor to me. For our state to move forward, this must change. I recognize the challenge of working to become Wisconsin's first African-American Lieutenant Governor, and I am humbled by the opportunity. I am thankful to Collective PAC for recognizing my ideas, drive, and commitment to a Wisconsin that works for everyone, particularly those communities, like the one that I grew up in, that have been failed by administrations from both parties for far too long"

The Collective PAC endorsement comes on the heels of endorsements for Mr. Barnes from Iron Workers Union Local 8, Communications Workers of America (CWA) District 4, Working Families Party, and more. A full list is available at www.mandelabarnes.com.

Collective PAC was launched in August of 2016 by Quentin James and Stefanie Brown James, with the goal of achieving equity in representation for African-Americans nationwide. Eighteen Collective PAC-endorsed candidates have won elections since its founding, including US Senator Kamala Harris, US Representatives Val Demings, Lisa Blunt Rochester, and Don McEachin, as well as Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax of Virginia.

Mandela's campaign is based on restoring and expanding opportunity across Wisconsin, beginning with what he dubs the 4 Essentials of Opportunity: Equity in Healthcare, Economic Progress, Investment in Education, and Environmental Protection. Barnes is a former 2-term state legislator and community organizer from Milwaukee.