## ⚡ THE POWER HOUR MESSAGE: ACTIVATE!

The inaugural October Civic Engagement SHE POWER HOUR was more than a conversation—it was a **call to action**. Women were challenged to recognize that civic engagement, social action, service, faith, and everyday life are interconnected. The evening centered around one powerful question:

**What are we going to DO about it?**

The goal of the series is not simply to talk about issues, but to equip women with information, resources, practical tools, and specific actions they can take in their own families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Roxy shared her own awakening, acknowledging that she had recently been spiritually challenged to more fully use the platform and influence God had given her. **"I got inspired. I got motivated. So I got activated."**

The challenge to every woman was clear: **You do not have to do everything—but you must do something.**

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## 🙏🏾 FAITH IN ACTION: WHY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Civic Engagement and Social Action directly tied to biblical principles of ***responsibility, service, justice, compassion, and care for others.***

**Biblical Foundations**

**Luke 12:48 — To whom much is given, much is required.**
Use your gifts, influence, opportunities, and resources responsibly.

**Proverbs 31:8–9 — Speak up for others.**
Defend the rights of those whose voices are overlooked.

**Matthew 25:35–40 — Care for people in need.**
Feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and care for the sick.

**Micah 6:8 — Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly.**
Allow these principles to guide both our private and public lives.

**Mark 12:31 — Love your neighbor.**
Let love shape how you serve your community.

**James 2:14–17 — Put faith into action.**
Respond to the needs of people with practical help.

**Jeremiah 29:7 — Seek the well-being of your community.**
Work and pray for the place where you live.

**1 Timothy 2:1–2 — Pray for leaders.**
Pray for those in authority and for peaceful lives for everyone.

The message was simple: **Our faith should move our feet.**

Caring for people is not limited to Sunday morning. The decisions made by elected officials affect education, healthcare, housing, poverty, families, communities, and the people who need advocacy the most.

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## 📋 COMMISSIONER DIANNE WILLIAMS-COX

**"If you don't do politics, politics will do you."**

Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox of Tallahassee, Florida, brought a passionate challenge centered on the power and responsibility of voting.

Her message came down to three actions:

**REGISTER. VOTE. RUN.**

Commissioner Williams-Cox reminded participants that **every election matters**, especially local elections.

She emphasized that registering is only the first step:

**Registering to vote does not elect anyone. You have to actually VOTE.**

She encouraged women to:

- Verify their voter-registration status.
- Register before applicable state deadlines.
- Vote early whenever possible.
- Learn what is actually on the ballot.
- Research candidates and ballot measures.
- Help family members and friends get registered and vote.
- Stay in line on Election Day until their vote is cast.
- Consider running for elected office.
- Support qualified candidates when running personally is not their calling.

One especially powerful example demonstrated how much individual votes matter: Commissioner Williams-Cox shared that a recent local candidate missed advancing to a runoff by only **14 votes**.

## 🔥 Every. Vote. Matters.

Commissioner Williams-Cox also issued a direct challenge to women:

**RUN FOR OFFICE.**

Women already organize families, churches, organizations, businesses, schools, and communities. Those same leadership skills can be used in public service.

And for women who do not feel called to run:

**Get behind somebody who is.**

Volunteer. Knock on doors. Raise money. Make calls. Share information. Help elect people who will represent the interests of the community.

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## WE DIDN'T JUST TALK — WE ACTIVATED!

During the Power Hour, participants were asked to stop and **check their own voter-registration status in real time.**

Participants were directed to **Vote.gov** and walked through the process of locating their state's voter-registration information.

The group was also reminded that previous voting does not mean we should assume everything is still correct.

**THE CHALLENGE:**

**CHECK YOUR STATUS.**

Then:

**CHECK ON SOMEBODY ELSE.**

Send the information to:

- Your children
- College students
- Young adults
- Family members
- Friends
- Coworkers
- Congregation members
- Anyone who may need assistance registering or voting

Dr. Cie Armstead modeled the activation in real time. After initially being uncertain about her status, she continued through the process and confirmed that she was an **active registered voter in Illinois.**

That was SHE POWER in action.

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## ⚖️ JUDGE TERESA PATTON

**Why Women Must Be at the Table**

Judge Teresa Patton of Michigan's 34th District Court expanded the conversation from voting to **representation and leadership**.

She reminded participants that many decisions affecting everyday life happen at the local level through mayors, city councils, township boards, courts, and other local governmental bodies.

Her challenge:

**Pay attention to what is happening in YOUR community.**

Attend local government meetings.
Watch them online.
Learn what decisions are being made.
Speak during public-comment opportunities.
Vote in local and midterm elections.

Judge Patton also spoke passionately about the importance of women seeking elected office.

Women bring different experiences and perspectives into policymaking—particularly on issues affecting women, children, families, and communities.

When women participate, government becomes more representative of the people it serves.

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## 👩🏾‍⚖️ JUDGE PATTON'S TESTIMONY

**"Activate and let God do the rest."**

One of the most powerful moments of the evening came when Judge Patton shared the story of her own campaign for the bench.

She ran in a district encompassing communities with very different racial, socioeconomic, and political demographics. She was the **only woman running for judge against two white men.**

Judge Patton and her family put **boots on the ground**: ***They knocked on doors. They entered communities different from their own. They talked to voters. They did the work.***

But the campaign became deeply personal when an opponent attempted to weaponize a painful chapter from Judge Patton's past. Judge Patton shared that she had previously been in an abusive relationship and had once been arrested in connection with a domestic-violence situation, although the matter was dismissed after she was determined not to have been the aggressor.

During the campaign, her opponent circulated her mugshot and used the incident in campaign materials and attacks against her.

She faced a choice: **Fight dirty—or trust God and continue doing the work.**

She chose faith, transparency, service, and perseverance. What she feared might destroy her instead became part of her testimony.

**The result?** She won every jurisdiction in the general election. **And she won by more than 10,000 votes.**

Her painful experience also gave her a deeper understanding of the people who now appear before her in court. Her past did not disqualify her.

It helped prepare her to serve with greater compassion, fairness, understanding, and humanity. Judge Patton's declaration became one of the defining messages of the entire evening:

**ACTIVATE AND LET GOD DO THE REST!**

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## ROXY'S TAKEAWAY

Roxy shared that reconnecting with Judge Patton was itself an example of that message.

She knew Teresa as an attorney and knew her heart, but she did not know when asking her to partner in this civic-engagement effort that Teresa was now a judge—or the extraordinary story behind her election.

Roxy simply made the decision to **activate**. Then God connected the pieces. **"I activated, and God did the rest."**

The lesson: **We do not have to know every step before taking the first one.**

Do your part. Take the step. Make the call. Use your influence. Open the door. Serve somebody. Register somebody. Take somebody to vote. **ACTIVATE.**

## 🤝🏾 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

When asked how women could support civic engagement beyond their own states and communities, Commissioner Williams-Cox encouraged working through established, trusted organizations that are already doing voter education and community engagement work.

Organizations mentioned during the discussion included the **NAACP, Urban League, and League of Women Voters**, along with women's organizations and other trusted community groups. The emphasis remained on helping people receive **credible information**, understand their ballots, get their questions answered, and participate in the electoral process.

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## 🚌 NEXT ACTION: SOULS TO THE POLLS

Roxy introduced a vision for a coordinated **SHE POWER Souls to the Polls** effort.

The concept: SHEnergized SisStars in different cities across the country would mobilize on the **same Sunday during early voting**, wearing SHE POWER/SHE POWER Votes attire and helping people get to the polls.

Imagine SisStars activating simultaneously in communities across the country: **Jacksonville. Tallahassee. Romulus. Chicago. And beyond.**

Whether someone brings **5 people, 10 people, 20 people, or 30 people**, every person matters. The goal is not merely to encourage voting. **Help somebody actually GET THERE.**

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## 🙏🏾 PRAYER REQUESTS

The Power Hour closed by lifting several needs in prayer.

### ❤️‍🩹 Meredith

Special prayer was offered for **Meredith**, who was undergoing her kidney-transplant journey that day. The group prayed for her medical team, the surgical process, and a successful outcome.

### ❤️‍🩹 The Homeless & Sick

Young **Qimya** offered a heartfelt request that the group pray for **homeless people and people who are sick**.

Her request beautifully reinforced the evening's message: civic engagement ultimately involves caring about the lives and needs of other people.

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## 🙏🏾 CLOSING PRAYER — JUDGE TERESA PATTON

Judge Patton closed by thanking God for the SHE POWER HOUR and praying that women would stop compartmentalizing faith, family, community involvement, and civic engagement.

She prayed that everything would come together under God and that the Holy Spirit would continue to **"prick our hearts"** and move women from concern into action.

She prayed for courage to activate, for Meredith and her medical team, for the homeless and sick, for every unspoken need represented in the gathering, and for the SisStarhood to continue growing and connecting women who are ready to make a difference.

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## ❤️🤍💙 OUR SHE POWER COMMITMENT

We will not simply complain. We will not simply talk. We will not assume somebody else will handle it. **WE WILL ACTIVATE:**

**✓ Check your voter registration.**
**✓ Help someone else check theirs.**
**✓ Learn what is on your ballot.**
**✓ Vote in EVERY election.**
**✓ Pay attention to local government.**
**✓ Help someone get to the polls.**
**✓ Support qualified candidates.**
**✓ Consider running for office.**
**✓ Use your gifts, resources, voice, and influence to serve others.**
**✓ Bring another woman to the next SHE POWER HOUR.**

Roxy challenged every participant: **Do you know ONE woman who could be positively impacted by this information? BRING HER.**

The vision is to grow this movement to **100+ activated women.**

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## ⚡ THE DECLARATION

**I GOT INSPIRED. I GOT MOTIVATED. NOW I'M ACTIVATED.**

**ACTIVATE AND LET GOD DO THE REST!**

**SHE POWER + GOD POWER = POWERFUL CHANGE!**

**❤️🤍💙 VOICE • VOTE • OUR RESPONSIBILITY ❤️🤍💙**