

Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus Launches “Count the BLOC” Effort in Cuyahoga County

New initiative focuses on increasing voter turnout

CUYAHOGA COUNTY, Ohio - For generations, Black women have been the backbone of our communities and among the most steadfast champions of democracy. They have organized neighborhoods, led movements, protected voting rights, strengthened families, built institutions, and turned out at the ballot box, often while carrying the responsibility of bringing others along with them.

Now, the Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus (CDWC) is building on that legacy through **Count the BLOC**, a community-led initiative focused on increasing Black voter participation across Cuyahoga County. The effort is based on a landmark study released in June showing that more than 600,000 eligible Black Ohioans did not vote in the last midterm election, with the largest concentration in Cuyahoga County. The goal is simple: encourage more Black voters to make their voices heard in every election, presidential, midterm, and local, ensuring that our communities are represented at all levels of government.

Count the BLOC will begin with a focused launch in Warrensville Heights and East Cleveland, two communities where nine in ten residents are Black. The initiative pays special attention to Black women who vote faithfully in presidential years but not during midterm season, with the aim of turning them into consistent voters whose voices shape every election.

Count the BLOC was developed by former elected official Shayla L. Davis, who is leading the initiative. It pairs public voter data with neighborhood, door-to-door outreach, culturally relevant voter education and information from trusted local messengers. An approach research shows can move disconnected voters far more than advertising alone.

“Black women show up for everyone, even when we are tired. Count the BLOC is about reminding us how much we matter to a just democracy, because a community that cannot be counted cannot be represented. When we show up, everything changes, and that is the work ahead of us,” said Davis.

“As a caucus, we are diverse. We come from different backgrounds and lived experiences, but what ties us together is how we show up for other women. This election season, we want every voter to feel that they matter, especially Black women. Count the BLOC is our answer, our way of standing behind a community-led effort that makes sure our neighbors know their voices count,” said Cindy Demsey, Chair of the Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus.

Count the BLOC is now recruiting volunteers, community partners, and resources for its launch ahead of the November 2026 election. Residents who want to knock on doors, help with content, or support the work can get involved by emailing countthebloc@gmail.com.

About the Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus

For more than two decades, the CDWC (<https://cuyahogadwc.org/>) has been dedicated to mobilizing women to engage in the political process and run for office at every level of government.

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