

# Incumbent Democrats do well at CAAN forum

By Albert C. Jones  
Sentinel-Voice

Of those who came seeking endorsements, incumbents fared well in the second of three Caucus of African-American Nevadans-sponsored candidates forums, presenting this time before double the number of attendees who showed in June in the sanctuary of Victory Missionary Baptist Church.

"People are beginning to take our endorsements seriously," Hannah Brown, vice president of the Caucus of African-American Nevadans (CAAN), said at one point during the five-hour session on Saturday. As the number

of attendees increased to about 80 from 40, the length of the session shortened from eight hours to five hours.

The third and final forum will hear from judicial and board of education candidates on Aug. 7.

Democrat Yvonne Atkinson-Gates, a three-term incumbent on the Clark County Commission, representing District D, was one of 12 candidates who won an endorsement during the CAAN candidates forum.

"I enjoy being on the County Commission," Gates said. "It's been a rewarding experience. You can't find a better person to do this job.

Before me, ask yourselves what you had? Since I have been serving, ask yourselves what you have gotten?"

Gates represents a district with 198,000 residents. The majority is African-Americans, with a large and growing portion of Hispanics carved out of the city of North Las Vegas and the city of Las Vegas. She is leading the effort to build a 42,000-square foot community center on a 17-acre site at Martin Luther King Blvd. and Carey Ave.

"The money is in the bank," Gates said. "We have sent out an RFP (request for proposal). We are considering from three nonprofit pro-

viders, including the Boys and Girls Club, Urban League and YMCA. We will be making the decision in early September who will be the provider."

Gates, the longest serving Democrat on the County Commission, faces ballot opposition from four, including two Democrats in the September primary. She was the lone District D candidate to present. State Sen. Joe Neal, who is retiring from the senate after 32 years, was a notable no show.

Nineteen of the 60 candidates invited, including the two major party candidates running for president, pre-

sented during the forum.

Several incumbents running for state assembly seats won CAAN endorsements, including Democrats Wendell P. Williams (District 6); Morse Arberry Jr. (District 7); Kelvin Atkinson (District 17); Chris Giunchigliani (District 9); and William C. Horne (District 34), who is running unopposed.

Williams took credit for leading the fight for passage of legislation that established "The Pilot Program," forcing the Clark County School District to replace 10 aging school buildings as part of the 10-year, \$3.7 billion capi-

tal improvement program that voters approved in 1998.

Arberry, who led the effort to get a law school at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is pushing legislation to establish a heart research and transplant center in Las Vegas administered by the University Medical School.

"That's something that is really needed," Arberry said. "We need to train doctors in this area and conduct research. Las Vegas is a big city now. We should no longer have to go to Los Angeles or Utah to receive this type of medical service."

An arbitrator recently re-  
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Secretary of State Colin Powell, right, looks on as World Bank President James Wolfensohn, left, speaks during an international donors conference on Haiti on Tuesday in Washington. Haiti is seeking \$1.3 million in aid.

## Powell urges global assistance for Haiti

WASHINGTON (AP) - New international aid must flow rapidly to Haiti to bring jobs, better roads, water fit to drink and other improvements to people's lives, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday.

Opening a donors' conference for the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, he urged support for the interim government to help establish a working democracy and a stable economy.

"Haiti's needs are great, but with our help her government and people will be equal to the task," Powell said.

The session at World Bank headquarters drew representatives from more than 20 countries as well as 30 intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. Organizers said the two-day session, which began Monday, yielded pledges of \$1.085 billion, more than the \$924 million objective.

"I am delighted to say we raised more than expected, which reflects a great vote of confidence in the interim government and signals a bright future for Haiti," said Caroline Anstey, the World Bank's director for the Caribbean.

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# Morial rejects dividing Black groups

By Hazel Trice Edney  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - National Urban League President Marc Morial says that while he is pleased President Bush agreed to address his organization's annual convention this week, he disagrees with Bush's decision to skip the NAACP convention.

"I can't speak for the White House. Nor can I speak for the NAACP. But let me say this: I certainly believe that this president and every president should go to and visit the NAACP meeting and visit the Urban League meeting and dialogue with the Congressional Black Caucus," Morial says. "I have fundamental and complete respect for the NAACP as a sister organization of ours."

Morial, celebrating his first year as National Urban League president, did not contain his glee at having landed both Bush and Sen. John Kerry, his Democratic opponent, as convention speakers.

"Few Black or White organizations get both candidates to come to their meetings. That's the thing. Name me another organization, Black or White, that got both candidates to come to their meeting," he says. "For many

people who will come to our conference, this is the only opportunity they're going to have to see John Kerry and George Bush in person, in a direct appeal."

Kerry was scheduled to speak Thursday and Bush was set for Friday. The Urban League speech will be the third for Bush; the only conference he missed as president was 2002.

Bush's speech to the Na-

tional Urban League comes on the heels of major controversy in which Bush declined an invitation to speak before the NAACP convention for the fourth consecutive year. NAACP leaders say Bush is the only president in modern time to reject speaking invitations from the nation's oldest civil rights organization. Even Ronald Reagan spoke to NAACP delegates.

Some civil rights activists

worry that by ignoring the NAACP, Bush is playing one civil rights group against another. As further evidence, they point to the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 last month at the White House. Bush publicly acknowledged Morial's presence in the East Room ceremony, but did not extend an invitation to NAACP president and CEO Kweisi

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Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

## MEETING AT THE SUMMIT

The 2nd Annual African-American Leadership Summit, held last week on Capitol Hill, drew local politicians and dignitaries. From left to right are Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., Cordell Stokes, a spokesman for the Caucus of African-American Nevadans, and Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. Sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus and House and Senate Democrats, the summit brought hundreds of leaders together to discuss issues important to African-Americans.