



# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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President, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - Milwaukee Branch  
2745 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Suite 202  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

Dear Mr. President,

Unfortunately, we must respectfully decline the NAACP's invitation to attend the planned "NAACP-Milwaukee Northside Debate 2020".

1. We stridently object to any candidates being asked to appear in person during the worst health pandemic in a generation. While the planned event is scheduled to be streamed live for the public, we believe it be incredibly dangerous and irresponsible to have this candidate debate in person considering the country's COVID-19 related death count surpassing 210,000 and Wisconsin's recent record breaking COVID-19 count days. We note that adherence to health and safety protocols is being driven by a partisan divide that pits science against partisan messaging. As Democrats, we are following the science to protect our health and the community in which we live.
2. We object to the partisan affiliation of the organizer of this event. Unfortunately, the NAACP's Milwaukee Branch Political Action Committee Chair is a compensated consultant for the campaign of one of the participating candidates. Clearly, this presents a conflict of interest and diminishes any confidence in the possibility of an objective, non-partisan execution of the debate.
3. We are concerned that the initial invitation was inappropriately sent to some of the candidates' official state tax payer funded email accounts, not from the storied NAACP, but from "[chris@kingfishmke.com](mailto:chris@kingfishmke.com)" that is also linked to a media outlet that in the past

has shown political bias. (Although the press release sent out by the NAACP's Milwaukee Branch Political Action Committee Chair on September 28, 2020 and came from "[political@naacpmke.org](mailto:political@naacpmke.org)", the name registered to the email address is "KINGFISHmke.com"). This name also links back to the media outlet previously mentioned.)

4. On Monday, October 5, 2020 an email was sent out from the "[political@naacpmke.org](mailto:political@naacpmke.org)" email account. In the email a flyer for the scheduled debate was included attached with the following quote from the NAACP's Milwaukee Branch Political Action Committee Chair, "Candidate debates are the centerpiece of Democracy, those that do not participate are nothing more than political chumps!". As the Chair of the NAACP's Milwaukee Branch Political Action Committee and a representative of the organization that desires to hold a candidate debate; these comments are extremely inappropriate. For an organization with such a great history and track record of advancing colored people, it is sad to see that it has now been reduced to name calling and publicly slandering local elected officials and candidates. This email also included a reference to the 'Kingfishmke.org' media outlet as well.

Transparent and fair candidate debates are an important element in a democracy. Under most circumstances, we would be eager to share our vision for our service, outline our policy objectives, provide information and get feedback. However, we are not confident that the public can benefit from an event that we believe lacks a good faith effort to be unbiased and transparent. We look forward to working with the NAACP on the myriad of issues facing African Americans in Milwaukee and nationally, in the future. However, for the reasons outlined above, we must respectfully decline the invitation by the NAACP to attend your planned "NAACP-Milwaukee Northside Debate 2020".

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Gwen Moore, 4th CD WI.  
State Senator LaTonya Johnson SD-6  
State Representative Kalan Haywood, AD16  
Ms. Dora Drake, Democratic nominee AD11  
Milwaukee County Supervisor Supreme Moore-Omokunde, Democratic nominee AD17

CC: 1st Vice President Clarence Nicholas  
2nd Vice President Paul Blackman III  
3rd Vice President: Alex Edwards IV  
Treasurer Eric Johnson  
Political Action Committee Chair Chris Johnson