



## STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: DECISION AWAITING, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

**The Last Four Years.** This presidential term has been a continual reminder about why the Black AIDS Institute uniquely and unapologetically advocates for *all* Black lives. We've fought systemic anti-Blackness that manifested through normalized acts of violence and health injustices. Black people made up [43% of the new HIV infection rate](#) and [double the COVID deaths](#) compared to white Americans. We're ready for change.

**An Unusual Election Day.** Our ancestors fought for the right to be *counted*, and [the Black vote is essential to the election result](#). Because the pandemic led to a record amount of early voting, election officials need more time this year to tally mail-in ballots and the in-person votes cast yesterday. At this point in the vote counting, a Biden-Harris win is likely. But we're prepared for the final election outcome to be delayed till every vote is counted, and if a legal battle ensues.

**Good Trouble:** We're energized by state and local level wins. **Mondaire Jones** and **Richie Torres** from New York are the first Black, gay men to become members of Congress; **Michelle Rayner-Goolsby** is Florida's first Black and openly queer State Legislator; **Cori Bush** is the first Black woman to be elected to Congress from Missouri; **Mauree Turner** is the first Black, Muslim, and non-binary state legislator in Oklahoma, and many more! It's proof that when we mobilize, we plant the seeds for the next four years. We are tracking these wins and will soon share a full list.

Regardless of the decision, the BAI team remains hopeful and committed to:

- **Our People. Our Problem. Our Solution:** For Black people to live our best lives, we have to unite amongst ourselves instead of relying on the white gaze. Together, we are enough. [See how we serve our own people.](#)
- **Black Empowerment:** Leading the fight to end HIV in Black communities by centering Black lives and leadership. [Get to know our Black-centric point of view.](#)
- **We The People:** Our 2020 national campaign and report that is a roadmap to ending the HIV epidemic among Black people. [Read our goals and recommendations.](#)

We've shown up and been heard. I'm grateful to stand with you all. Now, I hope you can find joyful, calming, and rewarding ways as we await final outcomes.

In hope and solidarity,  
Raniyah