

NATIONAL

Williams Says President Biden, Democrats Have Delivered Major Wins for Georgia In Less Than a Year

By Georgia Congresswoman Nikema Williams

Last holiday season, our country and our state were in the midst of three once-in-a-generation crises — a deadly pandemic that has afflicted over 1.6 million Georgians' health, worsening economic turmoil that left over 270,000 Georgians un-

employed, and an increasingly partisan division in our politics that caused many of us to wonder if our democracy would make it out the other end. But it wasn't fear that brought us a brighter day — it was hope.

Georgians had hope that President Biden and Vice President Harris would lead us toward a strong economic recovery and help bring us out of this pandemic. That's why Georgia Democrats mobilized, organized, and turned voters out like never before to flip Georgia blue for the

first time in two decades, sending Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House and Jon Ossoff and Reverend Raphael Warnock to the Senate. Now, after less than a year in office, Georgia families are seeing results as the Biden-Harris administration has tackled these crises and delivered historic relief for Georgia families.

Without a moment to lose, the Biden-Harris administration and Georgia Democrats got to work crafting and passing the American Rescue Plan — the legislative package that ramped up our nation's COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs, put economic relief directly in Georgians' bank accounts, cut taxes for middle-class families, and got our country back to work. Having grown up in poverty, I'm especially proud of the American Rescue Plan's expansion of the Child Tax Credit, which experts say will lift about 171,000 Georgia children out of poverty. From slashing childhood poverty in half to literally saving lives with vaccines, it simply cannot be overstated how impactful President Biden's American Rescue Plan has been on Georgians' lives.

While every single Georgia Democrat supported this historic relief package, every single Georgia Republican opposed it. It is absolutely inexcusable that the GOP continues to go to bat for corporations and the ultra-wealthy but would leave Georgia's middle-class families out to dry if they had their way.

Thanks to the President's economic plan, unemployment is at a historic low in Georgia and across the country, and the U.S. economy has added a record-shattering nearly six million jobs since the Biden-Harris administration took office. This time last year, I heard from Georgians across the state who were at their wit's end looking for work to keep the lights on and frightened to safely gather with their loved ones without risking contracting COVID-19 and becoming seriously ill. One year later, the Biden

economy is booming, and vaccinated Georgians are able to come together with their families for the holidays more safely.

The American Rescue Plan was only the first step, however, in restoring and revitalizing our country. Despite the narrative from pundits in the media, the President believed both Democrats and Republicans could still come together and work towards a historic investment in America's economy — and he was right. With his Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, President Biden brought 19 Republican Senators and 13 House Republicans together with Democrats to deliver a pothole-filling, broadband-expanding, bridge-fixing, economy-boosting legislative package — all without raising taxes one penny for middle-class Georgians.

Georgia is already feeling the positive impacts of the infrastructure law — delivering immediate relief to stress on our supply chain at the Port of Savannah, laying the groundwork for a robust expansion of electric vehicle technology, and paving the way for thousands of good-paying jobs at a new automotive plant here in the Peach State. Yet again, Georgia Republicans shamefully refused to put their partisanship aside to support this historic legislation and do what's best for our state.

As we look ahead to 2022, delivering for Georgians isn't just a winning message for Democrats — it's a better path forward for our state, plain and simple. The Biden-Harris administration has delivered an economic boom to Georgia that we're feeling across the state, and they continue to help us fight back against this pandemic and ease financial pressures on our families. While Republicans struggle to explain why they oppose tax cuts and lower costs for the middle class, President Biden and Democrats are showing Georgia voters exactly why they went to the polls and flipped this state in 2020 and 2021. And next year, we'll show them again.

Amanda Gorman Writes 'New Day's Lyric'

NEW YORK -- The 23-year-old poet, whose reading of her own "The Hill We Climb" at President Joe Biden's inauguration made her an international sensation, posted a new work and accompanying video Wednesday on Instagram to mark the end of 2021. "New Day's Lyric" is a five-stanza, 48-line resolution with themes of struggle and healing known to admirers of "The Hill We Climb" and of her bestselling collection "Call Us What We Carry," which came out in early December:

"What was cursed, we will cure.

What was plagued, we will prove pure.

Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,

Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,

Where we weren't aware, we're now awake;

Those moments we missed

Are now these moments we make,

The moments we meet,

And our hearts, once all together beaten,

Now all together beat."

Poets rarely enjoy the kind of attention Gorman received in 2021, but in an email to The Associated Press she reflected less on her own success than on the state of the country.

Gorman wrote that the "chaos and instability" of the past year had made her reject the idea of going "back to normal" and instead fight to "move beyond it." She mentioned Maya Angelou's poem "Human Family" and added, "To be a family, a country, doesn't necessitate that we be the same or agree on everything, only that we continue to try to see the best in each other and move forward into a shared future. Whether we like it or not, we are in this together."

Amanda Gorman's poetic answer to pandemic grief: "Do not ignore the pain"

Gorman offered an alliterative response when asked what inspired "New Day's Lyric," telling the AP



Amanda Gorman ended her extraordinary year on a hopeful note.

that she "wanted to write a lyric to honor the hardships, hurt, hope and healing of 2021 while also harkening the potential of 2022."

"This is such a unique New Year's Day, because even as we toast our glasses to the future, we still have our heads bowed for what has been lost," she wrote. "I think one of the most important things the new year reminds us is of that old adage: This too shall pass. You

can't relive the same day twice — meaning every dawn is a new one, and every year an opportunity to step into the light."

In her Instagram post, Gorman urged readers to donate money to the International Rescue Committee (<https://www.rescue.org>) to help those affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Instagram's parent company, Meta, has pledged \$50,000.

10-Year Old Black Girl Dies From Online TikTok Challenge, Family Warns



Nyla Anderson, a 10-year old girl from Chester, Pennsylvania, has sadly died after reportedly trying the "blackout challenge"

NATIONWIDE — Nyla Anderson, a 10-year old girl from Chester, Pennsylvania, has sadly died after reportedly trying the "blackout challenge" that tells participants to hold their breath until they faint. Her grieving family wants to alert others about its dangers.

Nyla was found unconscious in her bedroom of their home on December 7. She was rushed to the hospital where she was admit-

ted to the pediatric intensive care unit for days before she died on December 12.

"She happened to be in her own bedroom of her house, with her family at home," Elizabeth Wood, a licensed clinical social worker at the local hospital, told ABC 7. "But no one was in the bedroom with her when this happened, so there was no one there to save her."

Her family describes her as a

happy and bright child who spoke 3 languages. They are still in a state of shock after Nylah's tragic death.

"I'm so hurt," said her mother Tawainna Anderson. "This is a pain that won't go away. It's at the top of my throat. I am so hurt."

Moreover, Nylah's family wanted her story to be known, warning other parents to keep a close eye on their children to prevent it from happening.

"Make sure you check your kids' phones," Tawainna said. "You never know what you might find on their phones. You wouldn't think 10-year-olds would try this. They're trying because they're kids and they don't know better."

The trend, which reportedly traces back to the 1990s, had been recently resurfacing on social media where it spreads faster. A TikTok spokesperson said it is taking measures to stop users from sharing any content that promotes dangerous behavior.

"This disturbing 'challenge,' which people seem to learn about from sources other than TikTok, long predates our platform and has never been a TikTok trend," the spokesperson said, according to Today. "We remain vigilant in our commitment to user safety and would immediately remove related content if found. Our deepest sympathies go out to the family for their tragic loss."

Nashville High School to Be Named after Civil Rights Leader Rev. James Lawson



Civil Rights Leader Rev. James Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Nashville's newest public high school will be named in honor of the Rev. James Lawson, a civil rights icon and Vanderbilt University Distinguished Professor, emeritus.

The Metro Nashville Board of Education voted unanimously on Nov. 23 to recognize Lawson, after board member and Vanderbilt alumna Abigail Tylor

advocated for the change. The new school, which replaces Hillwood High School, is slated to open in the Bellevue neighborhood in 2023.

"I am pleased to see Rev. Lawson honored in this way. This is proof that you can leave the world better than you found it while still here," said Emilie Townes, dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School and distinguished professor of womanist ethics and society. "He has offered our society wisdom, knowledge, and a lifelong witness to the power of love and hope in a world so desperately in need of both."