NEWS

Tennesseans to Vote on Amendment Banning Slavery and Involuntary Servitude

By Camm Ashford

Five years after the Civil War's end in 1865, the Tennessee Constitution was amended to prohibit slavery--but one exception remained.

That slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, are forever prohibited in this state," Article 1, Section 33 of the Constitution still says.

Now, following years of advocacy and near unanimous and bipartisan support from state lawmakers, Tennessee voters will have the chance to vote that exception out.

'Tennessee voters need to be aware of the proposed Constitutional amendments on the ballot," said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. "Voters can view the exact ballot language on our website in order to be prepared to make informed voting decisions."

Amendment 3, which appears on the Nov. 8 state and federal general election ballot, would replace the Tennessee Constitution's conditional ban on slavery that

has lingered for more than 150 years with unequivocal language that says: "slavery and involuntary servitude are forever prohibited in this State."

The measure received overwhelming support from Republican and Democratic lawmakers. At the request of the Department of Correction, a second sentence was added: "Nothing in this section shall prohibit an inmate from working when the inmate has been duly convicted of a crime."

Proposed Constitutional amendments are presented as yes or no questions. A yes vote is a vote to amend the Constitution and adopt the proposed language in the amendment. A no vote is a vote not to amend the Constitution and keep the current language in the Constitution unchanged.

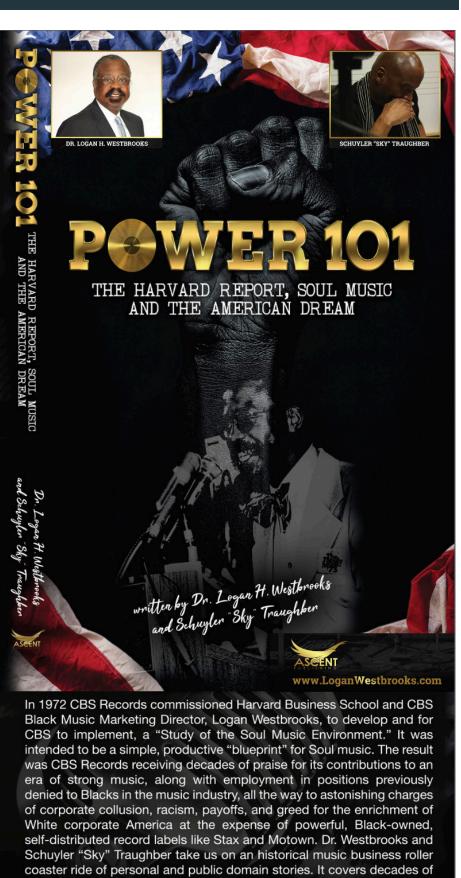
Two things must happen for an amendment to pass and become part of the Constitution. The first is the amendment must get more yes votes than no votes. The second is that the number of yes votes must be a majority of the total

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Organizers of the "Vote Yes on 3" campaign say it is long overdue to commemorate the promise of abolition in the Tennessee Constitution.





controversial revelations of how "The Harvard Report" may or may not have lived up to its reputation of being both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde—the

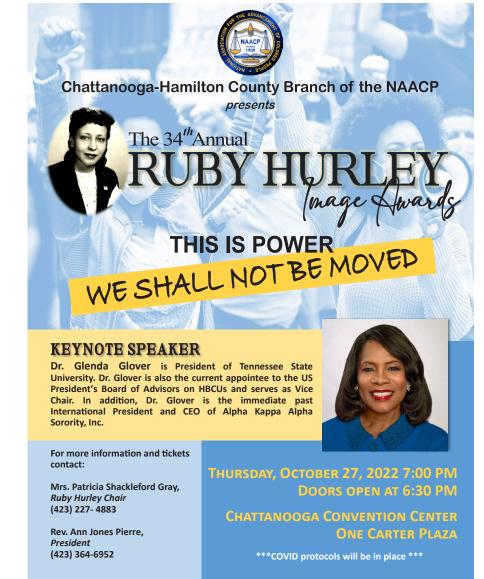
Savior and the Demon-of what Black Music became during this

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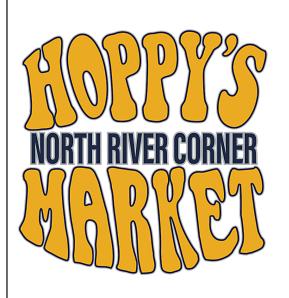


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