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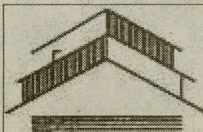
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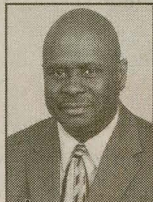


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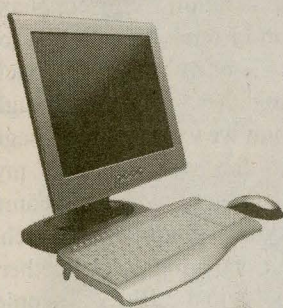
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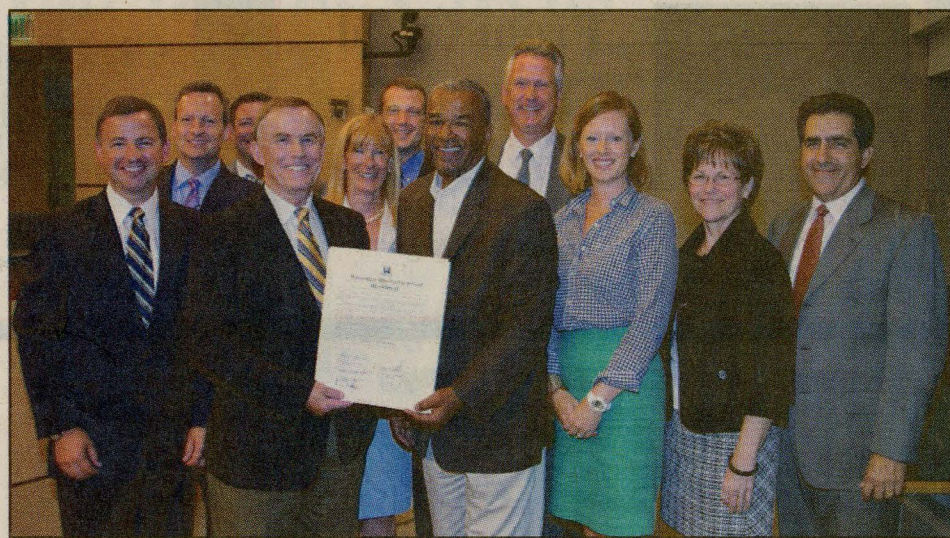
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County Council Honors WSU's Elson Floyd

Earlier this week, the King County Council recognized the late Washington State University President Elson Floyd. This recognition, honoring Floyd and his legacy, was presented to Washington State University Regent Ron Sims and WSU Vice President for Government Relations, Colleen Kerr.

President Floyd was highly sought after for leadership positions at higher education institutions around the nation prior to becoming president at Washington State University, which he considered to be "the best job in the country."

His vision to expand WSU's presence throughout the entire state and to increase higher education opportunities to students from various backgrounds became a reality when campuses in Spokane, the Tri Cities, Vancouver, and Everett were established.



King County Councilmembers present WSU representatives with a recognition honoring WSU President Elson Floyd. Pictured (L-R): (Back Row) King County Councilmembers Rod Dembowski, Dave Upthegrove, Reagan Dunn, Jane Hague, Joe McDermott, and Larry Phillips. (Front Row) Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, WSU Regent Ron Sims; WSU Vice President of Government Relations, Colleen Kerr; Councilmember Kathy Lambert, and Washington State Lobbyist, Rob Makin.

"President Floyd was a man for all seasons, and an advocate for all sections of our state," said Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer. "He was a true visionary—and his vision was for the entire state."

Floyd's legacy will not

only impact Washington State University, but also the entire state of Washington through his belief in the importance of education and developing new doctors.

"Elson Floyd's death was a great loss to our state"

said Councilmember Reagan Dunn of Maple Valley. "He was a true leader in every sense of the word and his legacy will live in the hearts and minds of all of us."

N.C. NAACP Will Seek To Get Voter Restrictions Lifted

By Freddie Allen
Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – In less than a week, a voting rights trial is expected to begin that will challenge North Carolina's restrictive voting law. Whatever the verdict, experts expect to ruling to have a ripple effect in states that have passed similar laws in the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision that weakened the Voting Rights Act.

Shortly after the Supreme Court invalidated Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act in the *Shelby v. Holder* decision two years ago, a number of states rushed to pass voting laws that civil rights groups say discriminate against people of color and poor people.

In its decision, the Supreme Court voted to annihilate the Voting Rights Act that required jurisdictions with a demonstrated history of racial discrimination to pre-clear any election law change with the U.S. Attorney General or a district federal judge in Washington, D.C.

Rev. William Barber II, the head of the North Carolina branch of the NAACP and co-founder of the Moral Mondays Movement, said that the deliberate, race-based voter suppression law passed by the North Carolina state legislature and signed by North Carolina's Gov. Pat McCrory is a sin.

"[House Bill 589] violates our deepest constitutional values and our deepest moral and religious values, which demand equal protection

Marijuana

jobs and they can afford to buy the product."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Rick Garza, director of Washington's Liquor Control Board — soon to be renamed the Liquor and Cannabis Board — says he's most proud of

under the law and the establishment of justice," said Barber.

The Advancement Project, a multi-racial civil rights group, called H.B. 589 a "monster" bill that shortens the early voting period by a full week, eliminates same-day registration, requires strict forms of voter ID, resources that disproportionately affect minority and low-income voters.

The bill also blocks out out-of-precinct voting and expands the ability to challenge voters at the polls, and ends a pre-registration program for 16- and 17-year olds, according to the advocacy group

"The number of voters silenced because of the new law likely exceeds 30,000 and could reach 50,000 or more," according to analysis by Democracy North Carolina, a watchdog group that monitors elections.

The report said that the repeal of same-day registration, out-of-precinct voting, and straight party voting "which created backlogs inside the voting enclosure and longer lines outside as voters took longer to mark each contest on their ballot," created the most problems for voters during the 2014 general election in North Carolina.

As the nation mourns the mass murder of the nine members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston S.C., Barber said that Americans are in "the middle of a serious season about race" and that it's not just about symbols like the Confederate flag it's also about the substance of

public policy and the racially disparate impact of that the public policy.

"The fact that the extreme agenda around voter suppression has been so racialized and framed by the suppressors as somehow saving the country and saving the democracy is the reason that, not only must flags come down, but the opposition to voting rights and these suppressive laws must come down," said Barber. "Racialized rhetoric and policy rooted in untruth creates a climate in which we can say, 'the perpetrator of race-based terror has been arrested, but the killer, racism and race-driven policies and rhetoric, is still at large.'"

Donita Judge, a senior attorney for Advancement Project, said that group will also show that the North Carolina general assembly knew that the law would discriminate against African American voters, making it harder for them to participate in the electoral process, but passed it anyway.

Judge said that the lawyers representing the North Carolina branch of NAACP in the lawsuit against Gov. McCrory plan to use Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act that prohibits voting laws that result in the denial or abridgement of voting on the basis of race to challenge H.B. 589.

"The outcome of this trial will have national implications for voting rights," said Judge, adding that dozens of states have passed similar legislation after *Shelby v. Holder* decision. "The solvency of the Voting Rights Act to

stop these discriminatory voting practices hangs in the balance and that battle will be waged in Winston-Salem starting July 13."

In June, less than a month before the trial, North Carolina legislators eased restrictions on the photo ID requirements in the state's contentious voting law. The changes, if approved by Gov. McCrory, would allow voters to sign an affidavit acknowledging hardships that they encountered in obtaining a photo ID. Voters could then present other forms of identification.

Barber noted that the last ditch effort by state lawmakers to soften the blow of the photo ID statute, only addressed one part of the 2013 law, leaving the cuts to early voting days, same day registration and pre-registration for some teenagers intact.

The same day that the trial is set to begin, the Moral Mondays movement will also host a march and rally for voting rights in Winston-Salem, N.C., Barber said, to show the world that North Carolina residents plan to fight for their right to vote.

"This is our Selma, and we implore all who care about voting rights to join us," said Barber. "Selma is not just something that happened 50 years ago. Selma is not just a movie that you can go see to be nostalgic about the fight that was. Our Selma is the fight that is. The fight against voter suppression right now, right here, today."

marijuana in-state and keeping pot away from kids.

The state adopted background checks and financial investigations of pot-license applicants, and capped the total amount of production to try to keep it in line with in-state demand.

While public health advocates say they wished the state had done more to stress the potential harms of pot to teens, the state required strict packaging and labeling requirements to keep children from getting into the weed. Products that appeal to kids also remain banned — no marijuana cotton candy or gummy bears.

Those will remain priorities as the state moves forward with the big task of

merging the recreational and medical markets, Garza says.

Less of a concern, he says, is competition from the next state to offer legal marijuana sales: neighboring Oregon. So far, the stores in Vancouver, just across the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon, have been some of the top-selling stores in the state. The flow of customers across the river will likely reverse as Oregon's medical marijuana stores are allowed to start selling for recreational use this fall.

"This isn't the first time people have gone to Oregon to buy something either because it's cheaper or because they don't apply sales tax," he said. "We saw it for liquor, we see it for tobacco."

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