



ALL VOTING IS GLOBAL

— The Global Impact of —
Black Women Voters

All Voting Is Global

The Global Impact of Black Women Voters

- Reimagining “All Voting As Local.”
- Historic Global Impact
- Global Civic Participation of Black Women
- Our Votes Have Power: The Better Life for Women & Girls
- Our Votes Shape Global Outcomes
- Our Global Call to Action

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For years, we have been told

ALL VOTING IS LOCAL.

But the truth of the matter is, Foreign Policy
reaches the Kitchen Table.

**The cost of food. Gas prices.
Education. Childcare costs. The safety
of a family. The future of a coastline.**

Elections help determine who negotiates the
decisions behind daily life.

What the evidence can tell us

Turnout rate: How many eligible people voted?

Voter share: Who made up the people voting?

Representation: Who won seats and gained authority?

Policy impact: What changed, for whom, and why?

BLACK WOMEN WHO MADE HISTORY

Trailblazers in leadership across Africa and the Americas



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

UNITED STATES • 1972

First Black candidate to seek a major U.S. political party's presidential nomination
First Black woman elected to Congress • 1968



ERTHA PASCAL-TROUILLOT

HAITI • 1990–1991

First Black woman president in the Americas
Provisional President of Haiti



RUTH SANDO PERRY

LIBERIA • 1996–1997

Liberia's first woman head of state
Interim Chairperson, Council of State



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

LIBERIA • 2006–2018

Africa's first democratically elected woman president



KAMALA HARRIS

UNITED STATES • 2021–2025

First Black woman Vice President of the United States

A GLOBAL LOOK AT BLACK WOMEN'S CIVIC PARTICIPATION



UNITED STATES



SOUTH AFRICA



UGANDA



GHANA



LIBERIA



NAMIBIA



BARBADOS



BRAZIL

16M

**NUMBER OF BLACK WOMEN
WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE**

67% are registered.

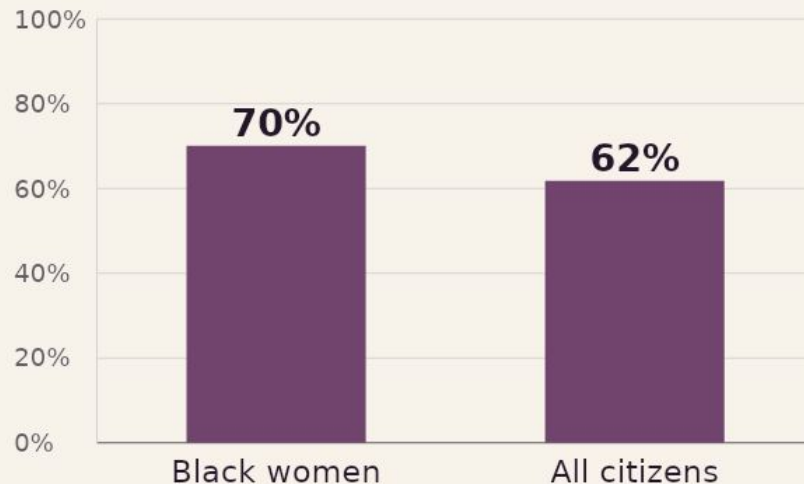


United States: Participation At Scale

70.1%

Black women's reported turnout in 2012

10.4 million Black women citizens reported voting



Citizens age 18+ • CPS survey estimate

United States:

Black Women are a Voting Powerhouse

- **94%** of Black women voters supported Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Presidential Election.
- **96%** of Black women voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, providing the margin he needed to win two presidential terms.
- **92%** of Black women voted for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in 2020 securing the administration's win.
- **92%** of Black women voted Kamala Harris in 2024

South Africa: A Voting Majority

57%

of voters in the 2024 general elections were women

About 9.2 million women, calculated from rounded IEC figures

43% of parliamentarians were women in the Commission's 2025 statement

Sources: S3. Full references in notes and appendix.



Uganda: Black Women Voting Power

BBC NEWS AFRICA

UGANDA
ELECTION 2026

Voters

21.7 million

The number of registered voters in the 2026
general election

Males

48%



Females

52%



Source: Uganda Electoral Commission (EC)



Ghana: Representation Requires Institutions

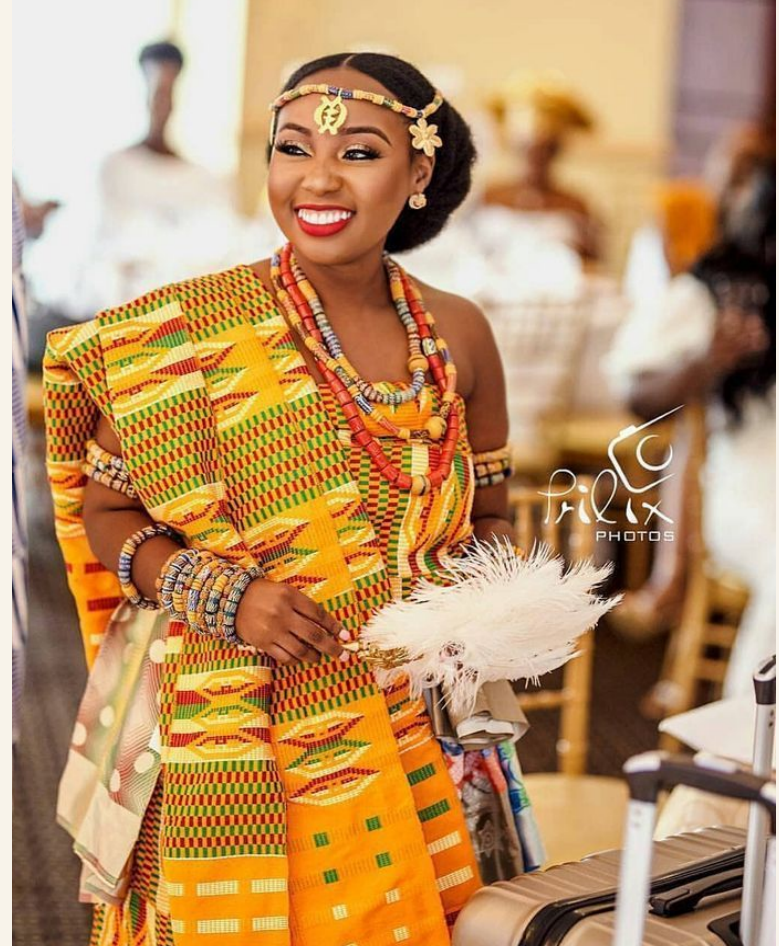
30%

minimum female representation
target in decision-making roles by
2026

Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024

**A legal target creates
an accountability task.**

Sources: S4. Full references in notes and appendix.



Liberia: Organizing Helped Protect Peace



Photo: UNMIL / Christopher Herwig

Women organized across religious lines

Peace negotiations in 2003

Civic education and registration before the 2005 election

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won the runoff with 59.4% of valid votes

Namibia: Closing the Gender Gap



Namibia is the only African country with a female President a Female Vice President and a Female Speaker.

- **President:** Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
- **Vice President:** Lucia Witbooi
- **Speaker of the National Assembly:** Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Barbados: Leadership Changes the Global Agenda



Photo: AFP / Giuseppe Cacace via UNEP

Mia Mottley and the
Bridgetown Initiative

Debt and climate finance
reform

**US\$125 million in fiscal savings
from a 2024 debt conversion**

Planned investment in water
and sewage resilience.

Brazil: The Distance between People and Power

29 of 513

federal deputies elected in
2022 were Black women

**5.7% of the elected
Chamber**

Black women includes pretas and
pardas in this source

Sources: S9, S10. Full references in notes and appendix.





Our Votes Have Power.

A Better Life for Women & Girls is the Policy Test

- Affordable care and less unpaid care work
- Reliable water and safe housing
- Income security and access to decent work
- Safety, equal rights and meaningful public voice
- Healthy pregnancies, births and postpartum care.
- Access to education P-20 (Pre-K to College)
- Mental Health and trauma-informed support services.
- Reparations as a framework for dismantling global white supremacy.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HARMS

How U.S. policy decisions have harmed Africa | 2025–2026



01



FOREIGN AID CUTS

USAID dismantling disrupted essential services.

02



HIV SERVICES DISRUPTED

Funding cuts interrupted treatment and prevention.

03



HUNGER RELIEF CUTS

Aid reductions weakened crisis response.

04



MATERNAL CARE CUTS

Lost grants reduced lifesaving care and protection.

05



WHO WITHDRAWAL

Retreat from coordinated global health response.

06



TRADE DISRUPTION

2025 tariffs threatened exports and jobs.

07



TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Barriers to families, study and professional exchange.

08



SOUTH AFRICA AID FREEZE

Assistance targeted over political disputes.

09



THIRD-COUNTRY DEPORTATIONS

Transfers to African countries raised rights risks.

10



CLIMATE RETREAT

Paris withdrawal weakened collective climate action.

#BlackWomenLead

Foreign Policy has Elected Decision Points

Executive leadership negotiates international agreements.

Legislatures authorize spending and oversee the use of force.

Constituencies can demand public explanations.



Barbara Lee's 2001 dissent illustrates the power to question.



600K BLACK WOMEN FORCED OUT OF JOBS?

A REPORT FROM THE INSTITUTE
FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH
REVEALS MORE THAN 600,000 BLACK
WOMEN HAVE BEEN FORCED
OUT OF THEIR JOBS.

Elections Have Consequences

Black Women
are a global political, electoral,
policy and social justice force.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GIANTS



Fannie Lou Hamer



Winnie Mandela



Yaa Asantewaa
Artist's interpretation



Harriet Tubman



Maya Angelou



Alicia Garza



Patrisse Cullors



Opal Tometi

Co-founders of Black Lives Matter

The Barriers Continue After Election Day

- Access: documents, time, transport and disability inclusion
- Political power: nominations, money and committee authority
- Safety: harassment, intimidation and digital abuse
- Delivery: budgets, implementation and public reporting

GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

- **Join** the All Voting Is Global movement—use your voice, organize your community, and vote to advance peace, justice, and dignity across borders.
- **VOTE** every election, every time.
- **Support** women in leadership roles and build strong accountability models to make that support visible.
- **Stay** abreast on global issues concerning Black Women.
- Consistently pray for the state and status of Black Women and Girls.



NGO Investment Across the Democratic Cycle

- Fund local organizations between elections.
- Support civic learning and access to decision-makers.
- Back leadership development and independent policy analysis.
- Resource safety and community-led accountability.
- Expose girls and young women to leadership training and civics education.





Black Women Belong Wherever Decisions Shape the Future

**Our votes carry consequences across
borders.**

**Our leadership can make those
consequences visible.**

**Our institutions must answer to the people
living with them.**

Happy 100th

***"At present, our
country needs
women's idealism
and determination,
perhaps more in
politics than
anywhere else."
Shirley Chisholm***



Trailblazer by Tony Smith. Oil on canvas.

Training Lab: One Issue with Global Connections

3 minutes • Work in pairs

Choose one issue affecting women in your community.

Name the local need and its international connection.

Identify the office, budget or institution with authority.

Write one measurable demand and a 90-day action.

Sources 1 of 3

**S1 U.S. Census Bureau
Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2012, Table 2, Black alone**

**S2 U.S. Census Bureau
The Diversifying Electorate, P20-568, May 2013**

**S3 Electoral Commission of South Africa
Road to LGE 2026, August 2025**

**S4 Ghana Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
Launch of the Affirmative Action Gender Equity Act, July 2025**

Sources 2 of 3

**S5 United Nations Africa Renewal
Women Liberia's guardians of peace, 6 April 2018**

**S6 Liberia National Elections Commission
2005 presidential runoff results**

**S7 UNEP via United Nations in the Caribbean
How Barbados became a mighty voice for climate justice, 22 July 2024**

**S8 European Investment Bank
Barbados debt-for-climate-resilience operation, 2 December 2024**

Sources 3 of 3

S9 INESC and CommonData

Perfil dos Eleitos nas Eleições de 2022, Brazil

S10 Brasil Tribunal Superior Eleitoral

TSE Mulheres portal statistics, 26 January 2023

S11 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Avoice

Barbara Lee statement of 14 September 2001

S12 UN Women and UNDP

Government responses to COVID-19, 28 June 2022