

EJC Newsletter

economicjusticecoalition.org

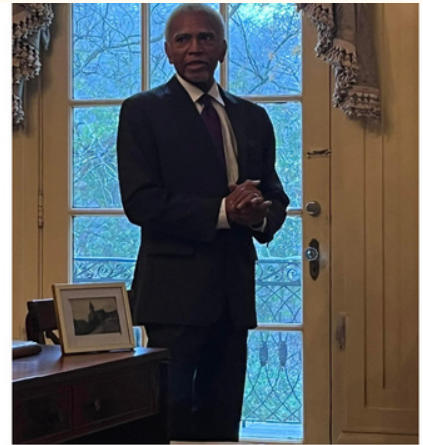
FEBRUARY 2024

New Scholarship Fund Honors Former Athens Slave Who Founded Augusta's HBCU in 1882

Lucius Henry Holsey, a former Athens slave, embarked on his educational journey at the age of 14 when he arrived in Athens in the winter of 1857, owned by a University of Georgia professor, his third owner. Despite the law forbidding enslaved individuals from learning to read and write, Holsey, inspired by the atmosphere of the town and a burning desire for knowledge, began his clandestine pursuit of education. With earnings from selling discarded rags, he assembled his first library, including two Webster blue back



(Athens, GA Jan. 27, 2024) The Athens Area Paine College Club is proud to introduce the Lucius Henry Holsey Scholarship Fund, named in honor of the esteemed former Athens slave who founded Augusta's HBCU in 1882. Among the special guests present for the announcement in Athens was Paine College President Cheryl Jones, seated at the center.



Fundraising chairperson Fred O. Smith Sr. (above) made the announcement at Athens' Taylor-Grady Landmark Commons. The club will present an inaugural \$10,000 gift to the college during this year's Homecoming Convocation on Feb. 9th in Augusta.

spellers, a common school dictionary, Milton's Paradise Lost, and a Bible. Studying by the flickering light of the fireplace and snatched moments throughout the day, Holsey's determination led him to further education. When the University of Georgia closed during the Civil War, he moved with his owner's family to Hancock County, where he met his future wife, Harriett A. Turner, owned by Bishop George Foster Pierce of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They married in 1862, amidst the turmoil of war, and three years later, they gained their freedom. In 1868, Holsey received his license to preach, followed by his ordination as an elder in 1869. By 1873, he was elected the fourth bishop of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. His crowning achievement in education came in 1882 when, at the age of thirty-nine, he appealed to the bishops at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the establishment of a college to educate black preachers and teachers. The following year, in 1883, Paine College opened its doors with approximately thirty students, thanks in part to Bishop Holsey's efforts, including a generous contribution of \$100 and his role as the first vice-president of the board of trustees. His daughter, Katie M. Holsey, was among the first graduating class of 1886. In 1897, while on a national fundraising tour for the college, Bishop Holsey found unprecedented success in Athens, the town he had left as a slave years earlier. Addressing the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church's North Georgia Conference, he shattered fundraising records and received overwhelming support. Beyond his contributions to education, Holsey founded churches, wrote and revised religious texts, and edited a newspaper, The Gospel Trumpet. He also played a pivotal role in establishing three other schools: Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee; Helen B. Cobb Institute in Barnesville, Georgia; and Holsey Industrial Institute in Cordele, Georgia.

Important Upcoming Dates

2024 Election Calendar



Election	Voter Registration Deadline	Election Date
Presidential Preference Primary Special Election (County/Municipal)	February 12, 2024	March 12, 2024
Special Election Runoff (County/Municipal)	February 12, 2024	April 9, 2024
General Primary/ Nonpartisan Election	April 22, 2024	May 21, 2024
General Primary / Nonpartisan Runoff	April 22, 2024	June 18, 2024
General Primary/ Nonpartisan Runoff Federal Offices	May 20, 2024	June 18, 2024
General Election	October 7, 2024	November 5, 2024
General Election Runoff	October 7, 2024	December 3, 2024
General Election Runoff Federal Office	November 4, 2024	December 3, 2024

Need a Ride to the Poll?

Call: 1-877-524-8683

Or go to: www.ridetothepoll.com

Important Upcoming Dates

**Athens Mayor Pro Tem
OVITA THORNTON**



**Guest Speaker
at New Grove Baptist
Church's Annual
Black History Month Program**

**"We, Too, Sing America!
Red, Black and Green
Day!"**

**10:00AM, Sunday
Feb. 25, 2024**

A former Clarke County School Board Member, Ms. Thornton represents District 9 on the Athens-Clarke County Commission. The longest serving current non-judicial elected official in Athens-Clarke County, she's in her second consecutive term as Athens Mayor Pro Tem.

New Grove Baptist Church is located at 1228 Moores Grove Road in Winterville. Dr. Rev. Elijah R. Swift is pastor.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**NEW GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
1228 MOORES GROVE RD.
WINTERVILLE, GA 30683
SUNDAY FEB 25TH, 2024
AT 10:00 AM**

**RED
BLACK
AND
GREEN
DAY**



**GUEST SPEAKER:
OVITA THORTON,
ACCGOV MAYOR PRO-TEM, BOARD MEMBER EJC
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 9
DR. ELIKAH R. SWIFT JR.
PASTOR**

The Economic Justice Coaliton



The Economic Justice Coalition (EJC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Athens, Georgia, focuses on advocating for quality jobs with living wages and benefits. Teaming up with the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, we prioritize voting rights, education, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, and equal participation for underrepresented communities.

Operating across thirteen Northeast Georgia counties since 2003, we've registered 20,000+ voters. We actively engage in local governance, attending city council, election board, and school board meetings.

Reviving our origins, the Workers Center at EJC educates and empowers workers. Our initiatives educate on rights, foster leadership, and assist in forming worker-

owned cooperatives and unionizing workplaces. Our initiatives educate on rights, foster leadership, and assist in forming worker-owned cooperatives and unionizing workplaces.

Strategic Goals:

1. Conduct direct-action voter registration and encourage civic engagement.
2. Empower workers to know their rights, develop bargaining skills, and build collective bargaining power.
3. Link living conditions to policies, fostering civic engagement for economic justice.

EJC remains a vibrant force in Athens-Clarke County, enhancing worker conditions, aiding low-income families, and bolstering voter engagement as we grow and evolve.

The Workers Center - AT THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE COALITION



The Workers Center, established in 2021, has made significant strides in advocating for worker rights and reclaiming over \$100,000 in withheld wages for immigrant workers. In collaboration with the Athens Clarke County government, we've initiated Community Benefit Agreements and supported four workers with legal claims. Our center serves as a vital hub for empowering non-unionized, low-wage workers, especially those from historically marginalized groups like Black, Latinx, and immigrant communities in Athens, Georgia, and surrounding areas.

Worker centers play a crucial role in fostering economic justice by offering education, organizing opportunities, leadership development, and advocacy.

Our efforts include partnering with local unions, lawyers, and organizations, connecting workers with resources, and championing policies for fair wages and improved working conditions. By addressing underlying issues contributing to financial hardships, we aim to create a more resilient community.

Membership at the Workers Center is open to all, regardless of their ability to pay dues. However, dues-paying members participate in decision-making processes, shaping the center's direction. Your recurring monthly contribution as a member empowers us to sustain long-term organizing efforts and create a more equitable future for workers in our community. Join us in building a stronger, more just workforce at the Workers Center.

Above and Beyond - AT THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE COALITION



Image credit: @reallygreatsite

Above and Beyond Home Healthcare is dedicated to providing exemplary care for elderly residents requiring specialized attention. As a compassionate home healthcare service, we prioritize the well-being and comfort of our senior community members. Our team of skilled professionals is committed to going the extra mile in delivering personalized care tailored to each individual's unique needs.

We understand the significance of maintaining independence while receiving the necessary support, which is why we offer a range of services designed to assist elderly residents with

daily activities, medical needs, and emotional support. From medication management to companionship, our caregivers ensure a safe and nurturing environment, promoting both physical and mental well-being.

At Above and Beyond Home Healthcare, our mission extends beyond traditional caregiving; we strive to create a familial atmosphere where seniors feel valued, respected, and cared for. Through our dedication and unwavering commitment to excellence, we aim to enhance the quality of life for every elderly individual we serve, ensuring they receive the compassionate care they deserve in the comfort of their own homes.

County Election Links:

Staying informed about local affairs is crucial! To streamline access to information, we've provided convenient buttons below, each linking directly to the Registration and Elections office for the 13 counties under our purview. These resources are at your fingertips for easy reference. If you require any guidance or support, don't hesitate to contact us. We're here to help and may be able to offer assistance tailored to your needs.

[BARROW COUNTY](#)[HANCOCK COUNTY](#)[BANKS COUNTY](#)[JACKSON COUNTY](#)[CLARKE COUNTY](#)[MADISON COUNTY](#)[ELBERT COUNTY](#)[MORGAN COUNTY](#)[GREENE COUNTY](#)[OCONEE COUNTY](#)[HART COUNTY](#)[OGLETHORPE COUNTY](#)[WALTON COUNTY](#)


Donations

Join us in making a meaningful difference in our community! Your support matters greatly to us at EJC. Every contribution, regardless of its size, holds the power to create positive change. Be a part of this transformative journey by donating today. Your generosity fuels our mission. Thank you for considering making a difference with us!

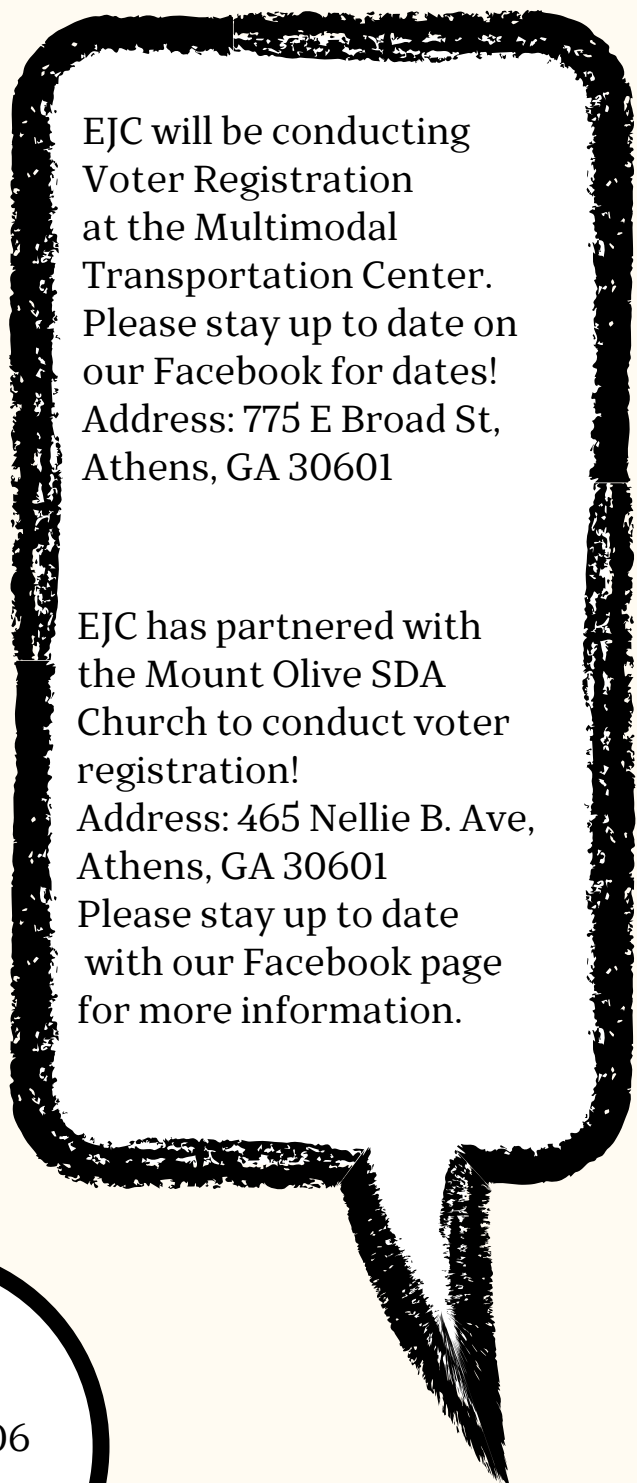


DONATE TO THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE COALITION
LINK: [HTTPS://SECURE.ACTBLUE.COM/DONATE/EJCCATHENSGA](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ejccathensga)

Where to find EJC:

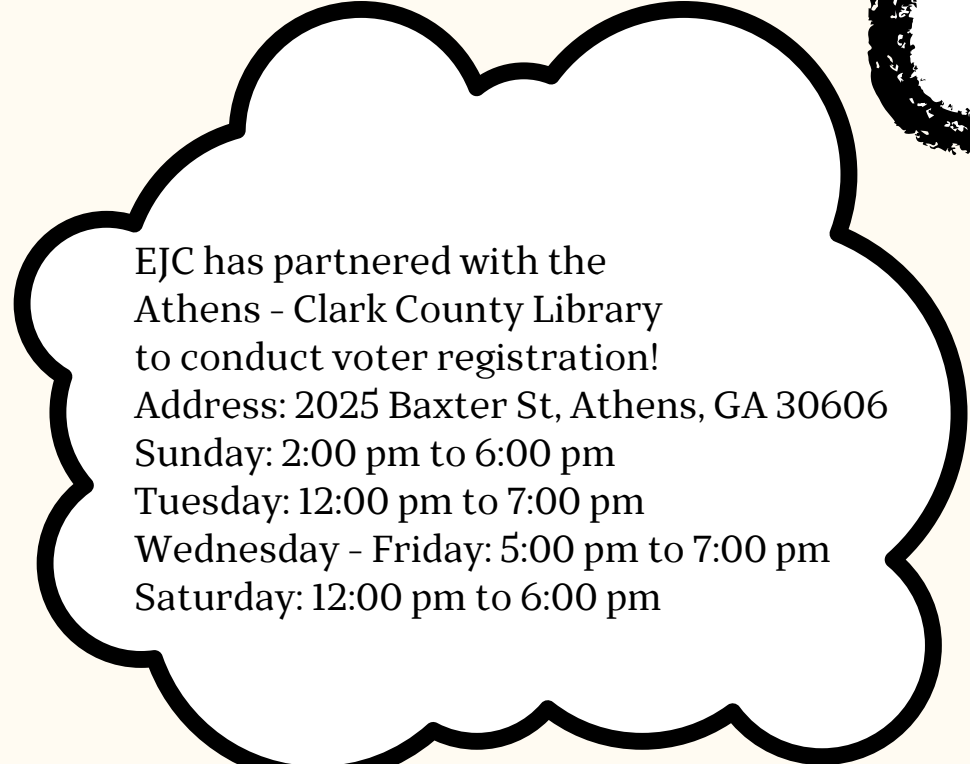


EJC has partnered with Advantage Behavioral Health Systems to conduct voter registration!
Address: 126 Barrington Drive,
Athens, GA 30605
Please stay up to date with our Facebook page for more information.



EJC will be conducting Voter Registration at the Multimodal Transportation Center. Please stay up to date on our Facebook for dates!
Address: 775 E Broad St,
Athens, GA 30601

EJC has partnered with the Mount Olive SDA Church to conduct voter registration!
Address: 465 Nellie B. Ave,
Athens, GA 30601
Please stay up to date with our Facebook page for more information.



EJC has partnered with the Athens - Clark County Library to conduct voter registration!
Address: 2025 Baxter St, Athens, GA 30606
Sunday: 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Tuesday: 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday - Friday: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Saturday: 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

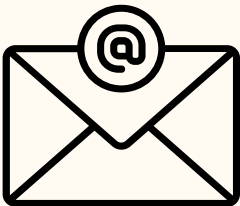
Contact Us



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