

# FOIA MARKER

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**OA/ID Number:** 10980

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**

Meeting with African American Leaders (New Orleans) 10/24/96

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
MEETING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
OCTOBER 24, 1996**

**Acknowledgments:** Sen. Breaux; Cong. Jefferson & Fields;  
Mayor Morial; Sen. Cand., Mary Landrieu

Working hard for every vote b/w now and 11/5. we are taking no vote for granted. **6 days:** we need your help. Election will make huge difference to people you serve & see everyday.

**Question:** Who can lead America into 21<sup>st</sup>C? **Campaign about:** Two very different visions. **Choice:** Bridge to future or bridge to past? Build bridge together or cross alone? Scripture: "rise up and build; let us strengthen our hands for this good work."

**Four years ago:** High unemployment, widespread frustration.

**Determined to change country:** to enter 21<sup>st</sup>C w/Am. Drm alive for all, coming together not torn apart, still strongest force peace and freedom.

**Simple strategy:** expand opp, demand resp, strengthen comm.

**Then:** Took me on faith.

**Now, Record:** 10.5M new jobs; 162K in LA; Last yr: AfAm unemp in single digits 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2 decades. Deficit cut 60%. 4.5M new homeowners. Incomes on rise; median HH inc. up \$1,600 after infl, over 2yrs; lgst drop child poverty in 20yrs;

AfAm pov rate dropped to lowest level in history. Tax cut 15M. Welfare down 1.8M; ch supp up 50%. FBI: crime @ 10-yr low; still too much. Last few weeks: Min. wage, 10M. K-K, 25M. 48 hrs newborns & mothers.

**We did this with an Admin & Campaign that look like America:** Fed bench: 42 Af-Am nominated; highest ABA ratings in history. Cabinet: O'Leary, Jesse Brown. OMB Dir.: Frank Raines, 1st in history. 3 top WH advisors: Alexis Herman, Bob Nash and Maggie Williams. Honorary camp. chrs: Alma Brown, John Lewis. 3 top camp ldrs: Tina Flournoy, Ted Carter, Alan Wheat. Af-Am outreach: Harold Gist @ campaign, Ben Johnson @ WH.

**Campaign investment:** Peter Knight announced C/G campaign depositing largest sum ever by Dem. Pres. Comm. in 4 leading minority-owned, community-based banks: 2 Af-Am, 2 Hispanic.

**Investing in people, communities:** EZ's working: Detroit raised \$2B private investment to go w/tax incentives and cash grants. AffirmAction: Mend it, don't end it. Church burnings: protecting our houses of worship and the right of all to worship without fear.

America is on the right track to the 21stC. But more to do.

**This is an important election. Your vote decides:** Balance budget, protect M, M, E, E, targeted tax cuts: educ; raise child; save for home, pay health care **OR** Risky tax scheme, Medicare

cuts, blow hole in deficit.

Passed FMLA, **now vote decides:** Expand to parent-teacher, doc visits; choice to use overtime: in pay or for time w/family.

Passed K-K, **now vote decides:** Whether help people b/w jobs keep insur 6mos; 1M children; Alz; Med res: stroke, b. cancer.

Passed 100K, **now vote decides:** Whether finish 100K; target violent gangs w/RICO.

Made air, H<sub>2</sub>O, food safer; **now vote decides:** Whether clean up 2/3 toxics by 2000.

**Vote decides:** World-class education: All read by 3<sup>rd</sup>. Classrooms to Internet. Tax cuts for college: 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> universal as HS; \$1,500 indiv; \$10K fam. Vote decides whether: 8 - read, 12 - Internet, 18 - college.

This is an important election: Your responsibility to help get out the vote on Nov. 5. Just 6 days. Will you help me build bridge?