



Black Lives Matter Activist & “Berniecrat” Wins Georgia City Council Seat

SOUTH FULTON, GA — khalid kamau, an Atlanta Black Lives Matter Activist-turned political candidate, won a seat on the inaugural city council of South Fulton, Georgia. Created by referendum in the November 2016 election, Georgia’s newest city is also among its largest. The 107-square mile municipality adjacent to Atlanta covers nearly as much land area as the capitol itself, and boasts the state’s fifth largest population.

kamau stunned local politicians in a March 2017 Special Election, defeating four opponents with the widest margin of any of the city’s eight races for mayor and council. He then went on to handily defeat his runoff challenger by margin of more than two-to-one ([see South Fulton Election Results](#)).

“This proves grassroots organizing around *political education*, not personalities, is highly effective in getting out the vote.” said kamau of his results, which point to above-average turnout among ever-elusive young voters. kamau is the first African American “Berniecrat” to win an election since November 2016. ” In a symbol of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, kamau was sworn in April 29th on a copy of bell hooks’ *Salvation*, a blueprint for building community building popular among African American activists and intellectuals.

kamau’s campaign was [nationally endorsed](#) by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and the Bernie Sanders-affiliated Political Action Committee *Our Revolution* — the first endorsement of a candidate in a Georgia race. khalid received thousands in funding from an international network of Democratic Socialists and former Sanders delegates, who also organized volunteers across the county to phone bank on his behalf. These groups are now setting their sights on Atlanta’s mayoral race, whose field of candidates includes Sanders surrogate, Georgia State Senator Vincent Fort.

kamau, whose legal name is all lower-cased in the Yoruba tradition of emphasizing the community over the individual, is a long-time Atlanta activist who gained attention in 2016 both as a leader in [summer protests which temporarily shut down Atlanta streets](#); and as a negotiator, who coordinated a [summit between local Black Lives Matter activists and Civil Rights icons](#), including Georgia Congressman John Lewis.

For more information on KHALID or South Fulton, GA, visit: www.khalidCares.com