

What It Really Means to Stand with Black Women in Politics

By Attorney Brenda Stallings

When I wrote *Black Women Are the Salt of the Earth*, I spoke to our endurance, our labor, our brilliance, and the way we hold communities together, often invisibly but always faithfully. Shortly after, a Sorority sister approached me and asked a question that stopped me in my tracks:

“Soror, what does support for Black women running for office really look like?”

It’s a simple question with a layered truth, especially for those of us committed to equity, justice, and legal empowerment in our communities. Support is not only about helping a candidate win. Support is about dismantling the systemic barriers that have historically kept Black women from seats where decisions are made. Supporting Black women in politics is, at its core, an act of justice.

Support is more than a vote...it is an investment in equity. Voting matters, but meaningful support begins long before Election Day. Black women candidates face financial gaps, credibility challenges, and an exhausting double standard. Black women are expected to be twice as qualified simply to be considered equal. If we want equity, we must help level the playing field.

Support can be practical, accessible, and powerful:

1. Financial Support.

Guess what? \$25 every two weeks for five months equals \$250, money we often spend on The Lip Bar, Amazon or Chick-fil-A without thinking. Grassroots contributions help cover yard signs, digital ads, and the basic costs of running a competitive campaign. Small donations, given consistently, shift elections.

2. Spread the Word.

Tell your family, coworkers, neighbors, church members, and group chats about the candidate. A trusted recommendation is one of the strongest political endorsements a candidate can receive especially in under-resourced communities where equity depends on reliable, culturally rooted communication.

3. Bring Her Into Your Spaces.

Invite the candidate to your church, your civic group, or your community meetings. Representation increases when candidates have access, visibility, and authentic connections which is something Black women candidates are often denied.

4. Host or Attend a Fundraiser.

A living room, a backyard, a Zoom room is enough to host a fundraiser. Fundraisers don't have to be extravagant. And in the alternative, attend a fundraiser. Physically show your support.

5. Offer Prayer and Emotional Support.

Campaigns are mentally and spiritually taxing. A simple text, *"I'm praying for you, keep going"*, can sustain a woman through the hardest parts of political life.

6. Learn Her Platform.

Equity requires clarity. Know what she stands for so you can communicate her vision with confidence. A well-informed supporter strengthens her credibility.

7. Mobilize Voters.

Call or text people and ask them to vote for your candidate, offer rides to the polls, check voter registrations, and remind folks of election deadlines. Support is not passive. Support is active, intentional, and rooted in community care.

Support is a reflection of how we value Black women's leadership. Black women do not run for office for glory or power. Black women run because our children deserve fully funded schools, our neighborhoods deserve safety, and our communities deserve policy shaped by people who understand our lived experiences. Supporting Black women in politics is not charity; it is a commitment to justice, equity, and community empowerment.

If we want systems to change, we must help elect leaders who understand the systems they are changing. If we want equity, we must invest in those who fight for it. Black women have always stood in the gaps for our families, our churches, our schools, and our communities.

It's time we stand in the gap for Black women loudly, boldly, and without apology!

About the Author

Brenda Stallings is an attorney, law professor, and community advocate based in Arkansas. She writes on civic empowerment, racial justice, and legal equity. Her articles center on building power in Black communities through education, engagement, and action. This piece is part of an ongoing series on legal empowerment, equity, and justice in our communities.