

**HBCUS LAUNCH  
CORONAVIRUS  
TESTING PROGRAM**

► NEWS

**PHILLY REMEMBERS  
MALIK B.**  
FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ROOTS

► OBITUARIES



# The Philadelphia Tribune

Vol. 136, No. 73

Friday, July 31, 2020 | www.phillytrib.com | \$2.00

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

## A call to protect voting rights at Lewis funeral

Former president Obama praises civil rights leader, says Congress should renew legislation

Bill Barrow

ATLANTA — Former President Barack Obama used Rep. John Lewis' funeral on Thursday to issue a stark warning that the voting rights and equal opportunity the late civil rights icon championed are threatened heading into the 2020 election.

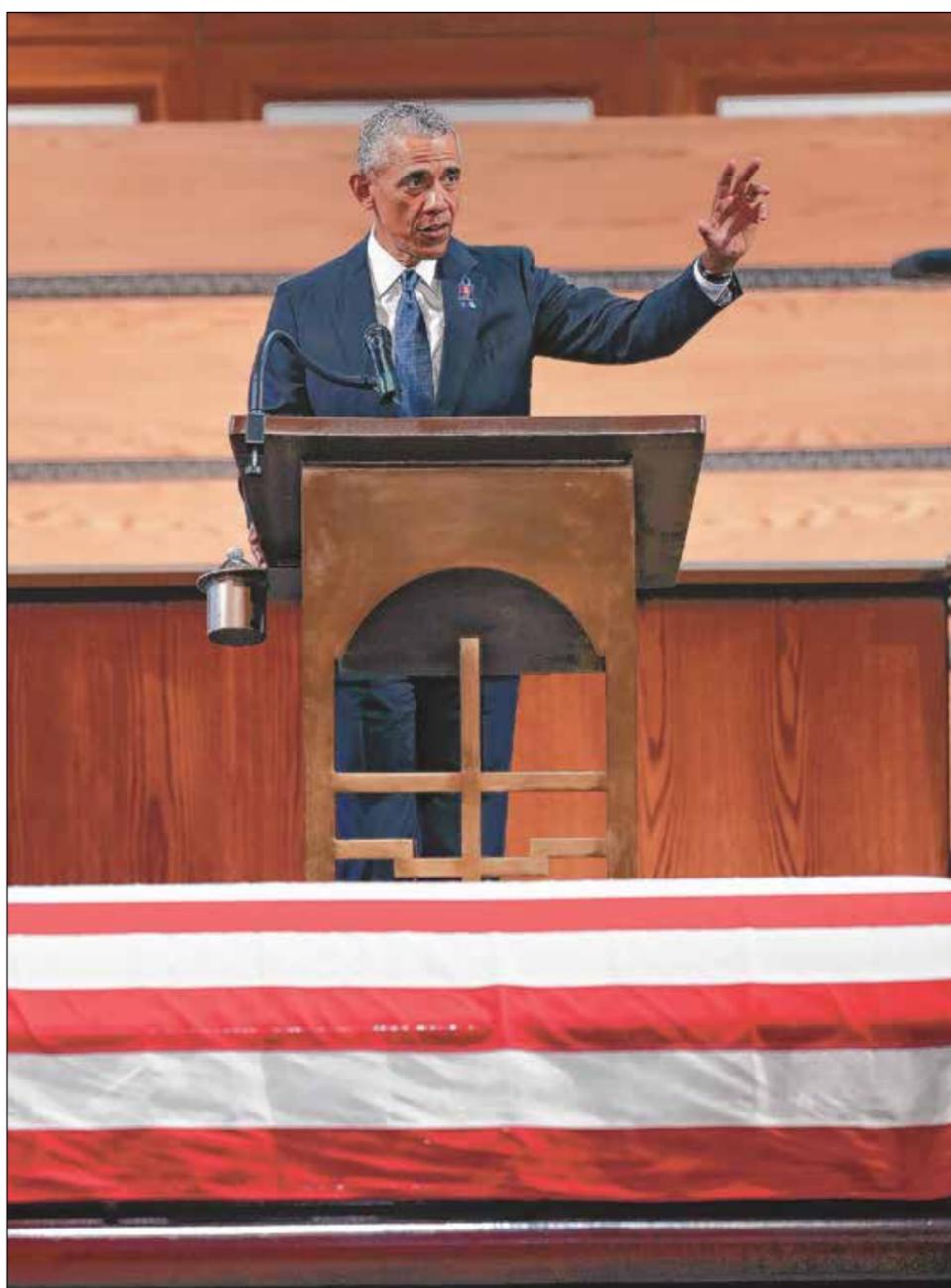
Speaking from the pulpit of the church that Martin Luther King Jr. once led, Obama did not mention President Donald Trump. But the first Black president drew unmistakable contrasts with his successor, and he implicitly lambasted how Trump has handled voting procedures and ongoing civil unrest amid a national reckoning over systemic racism.

Obama called on Congress to renew the Voting Rights Act, which Trump and Republican congressional leaders have left unchanged since the Supreme Court diminished the landmark law in 2012.

"You want to honor John? Let's honor him by revitalizing the law that he was willing to die for," Obama said, arguing that the bipartisan praise for the Georgia congressman since his death isn't enough.

Obama endorsed ending the Senate filibuster if that is what's needed to pass an overhauled voting law. He called the procedural hurdle that effectively requires 60 votes to pass major legislation a "Jim Crow relic," referring to the segregation era.

The Democratic-led House has adopted a sweeping rewrite of the Voting Rights Act. Democrats want to name the new version after Lewis. It faces opposition in the Republican-led Senate and likely couldn't get 60 votes even if Democrats reclaim a narrow majority after the November elections.



Former President Barack Obama, addresses the service during the funeral for the late Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on Thursday. —ALYSSA POINTER/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION VIA AP, POOL

Obama noted that the original Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its renewals drew Republican and Democratic votes in Congress and were signed by presidents from both parties. Obama singled out former President George W. Bush, a Republican, who also spoke Thursday at Ebenezer Baptist Church near downtown Atlanta.

Still, Obama said, "There are those in power doing their darnedest to discourage people from voting by closing polling locations and targeting minorities and students with restrictive ID laws ... even undermining the Postal Service in an election that's going to be dependent on mail-in ballots."

Hours before Lewis' funeral, Trump suggested delaying the November election, something he doesn't have the authority to do. Trump has falsely claimed that a surge of mail ballots because of the coronavirus pandemic will threaten the election's

LEWIS » 5A

## Trump suggests delaying election

President hit with backlash as he raises unsubstantiated claims that increased mail-in voting due to pandemic would result in fraud

Zeke Miller  
Colleen Long

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, lagging in the polls and grappling with an economic collapse and public health crisis, on Thursday floated the startling idea of delaying the Nov. 3 presidential election. The notion drew immediate pushback from Democrats and Republicans alike in a nation that has held itself up as a beacon to the world for its history of peaceful transfer of power.

Trump suggested the delay as he pushed unsubstantiated allegations that increased mail-in voting due to the coronavirus pandemic would result in fraud. But shifting Election Day is virtually impossible and the very idea represented another bracing attempt by Trump to undermine confidence in the American political system.

The date of the presidential election — the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every fourth year — is enshrined in federal law and would require an act of Congress to change.

Top Republicans in Congress quickly rebuffed Trump's suggestion. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the election date is set in stone and House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy said the election "should go forward" as planned. Regardless, the Constitution makes no provisions for a delay in the end of Trump's term — noon on Jan. 20, 2021.

"With Universal Mail-In Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is good), 2020 will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history," Trump tweeted Thursday. "It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the Election until people can properly, securely and safely vote???"

In fact, only five states conduct elections entirely by mail, although more states expect to rely more heavily on mail-in ballots in November because of the virus outbreak. California has announced plans to send ballots to all

DELAY » 5A

## Tumar Alexander to become interim city managing director

Michael D'Onofrio  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

An African-American man is poised to take up the highest unelected position in Philadelphia.

Mayor Jim Kenney is expected to appoint Tumar Alexander, 45, as interim city managing director to replace Brian Abernathy when Abernathy leaves his post on Sept. 4, Kenney spokeswoman Deana Gamble confirmed today in an email.

Kenney said in an email that Alexander, currently the first deputy managing director, is well-positioned to transition into the acting managing director's role,



Tumar Alexander

adding, "he is certainly in consideration for the permanent appointment."

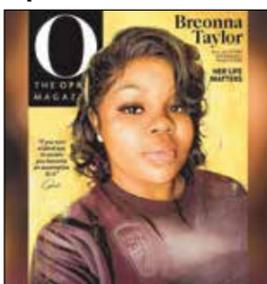
"He is a lifelong Philadelphian with deep community roots; a hard worker; and is well-respected among his colleagues and our many partners," Kenney said.

The administration continues to review the manag-

ALEXANDER » 4A

### INSIDE

NEWS  
Breonna Taylor to be featured on O Magazine's September cover



ENTERTAINMENT  
Idia Gamble, daughter of recording legend Kenny Gamble, releases debut album

### INDEX

Opinion.....10A Health.....6B  
Entertainment...1-3B Classifieds.....11B  
Lifestyles.....4-5B Sports.....12B

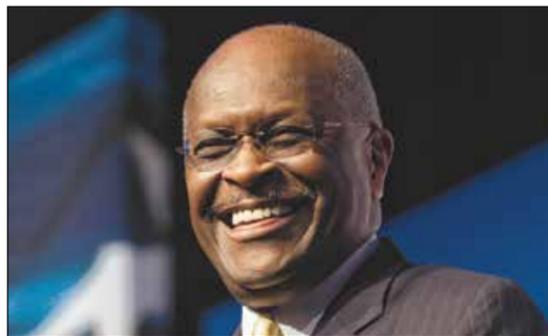
## Former GOP presidential hopeful Herman Cain dies of coronavirus

Lisa J. Adams Wagner

ATLANTA — Herman Cain, former Republican presidential candidate and former CEO of a major pizza chain who went on to become an ardent supporter of President Donald Trump, has died of complications from the coronavirus. He was 74.

A post on Cain's Twitter account Thursday announced the death. Cain had been ill with the virus for several weeks. It's not clear when or where he was infected, but he was hospitalized less than two weeks after attending Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in June. Cain had been co-chair of Black Voices for Trump.

"We knew when he was first hospitalized with



Herman Cain has died after battling the coronavirus. A post on Cain's Twitter account on Thursday announced the death. —AP PHOTO/MOLLY RILEY

COVID-19 that this was going to be a rough fight," read an article posted on the Twitter account.

In a condolence tweet Thursday, Trump described Cain as "a Powerful Voice of Freedom and all that is good."

"Herman had an incredible career and was adored by everyone that ever met him, especially me," Trump wrote. "He was a very special man, an American Patriot, and a great friend."

CAIN » 5A