LEADERSHIP NOW ENDORSES FOUR ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES FOR NEW LEADERS LIST

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Leadership Now Project announces the endorsement of four additional candidates for their 2020 New Leaders to Watch List: Jaime Harrison for South Carolina Senate, Desiree Tims for Ohio’s 10th Congressional District, Patricia Timmons Goodson for North Carolina’s 8th Congressional District, and Mondaire Jones for New York’s 17th Congressional District.

“These four talented and highly qualified Black candidates were selected for their exceptional credentials and professional backgrounds, their commitment to reforming American democracy, and their record of advancing Leadership Now’s four principles. If elected, each of these candidates would make history as the first Black woman or man to hold their respective seat,” said Leadership Now COO Meghann Curtis.

Leadership Now created its New Leaders to Watch List in 2018 to recognize principled and diverse candidates who champion democracy reform and bring new perspectives and skills to Congress. The 2018 list of New Leaders saw high rates of success in their elections.

Leadership Now has always prioritized diversity in their candidate slates. The organization’s first wave of 2020 New Leaders to Watch was forty percent racially or ethnically diverse and more than half were women. The national groundswell for racial justice and the Black Lives Matter movement prompted the organization to reflect on its own selection process and rubric.

“While we were satisfied with the diversity of our slate overall, we believe we could have done better to identify promising Black candidates. Specifically, we think aspects of our selection criteria may have disadvantaged individuals who face race-rooted obstacles to fundraising or acquiring and financing a variety of academic or professional experiences. It was clear we could do better,” said Curtis.
Leadership Now is pleased to endorse these principled and committed leaders for its 2020 races and looks forward to supporting them on the road to November and once elected. For Leadership Now’s full list of 42 New Leaders to Watch, visit our website.

**Jaime Harrison** is a candidate for Senate in South Carolina - he is running against Sen. Lindsay Graham. Jaime is a former high school teacher, Congressional aide to Rep. James Clyburn, and he was the first Black South Carolina Democratic Party Chair. Jaime’s platform prioritizes democracy reform; in 2017 he led a bipartisan redistricting reform effort with former chair of the South Carolina Republican Party. He is a graduate of Yale University and Georgetown Law School.

**Desiree Tims** is a candidate in Ohio’s 10th district. She is a senior advisor for the League of Conservation Voters and Child Care Aware. Previously, Desiree worked in the U.S. Senate as a legislative aide and as the President of the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus. She is a strong advocate for campaign finance reform. Desiree is a graduate of Xavier University and Georgetown Law School.

**Patricia Timmons Goodson** is running for Congress in North Carolina’s 8th district. Pat was the first Black woman on the North Carolina Supreme Court and was appointed to the US Commission on Civil Rights during the Obama Administration. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and University of North Carolina School of Law.

**Mondaire Jones** is a candidate for New York’s 17th district, which includes Westchester County. He is the co-founder of a non-profit organization Rising Leaders and a civil rights attorney with a passion for criminal justice reform. If elected, he would be the first openly gay Black member of Congress. He is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School.