

TAX TIME THURSDAYS: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

PAHEADRA ROBINSON, SENIOR POLICY CONSULTANT

SOUTHERN RURAL BLACK WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

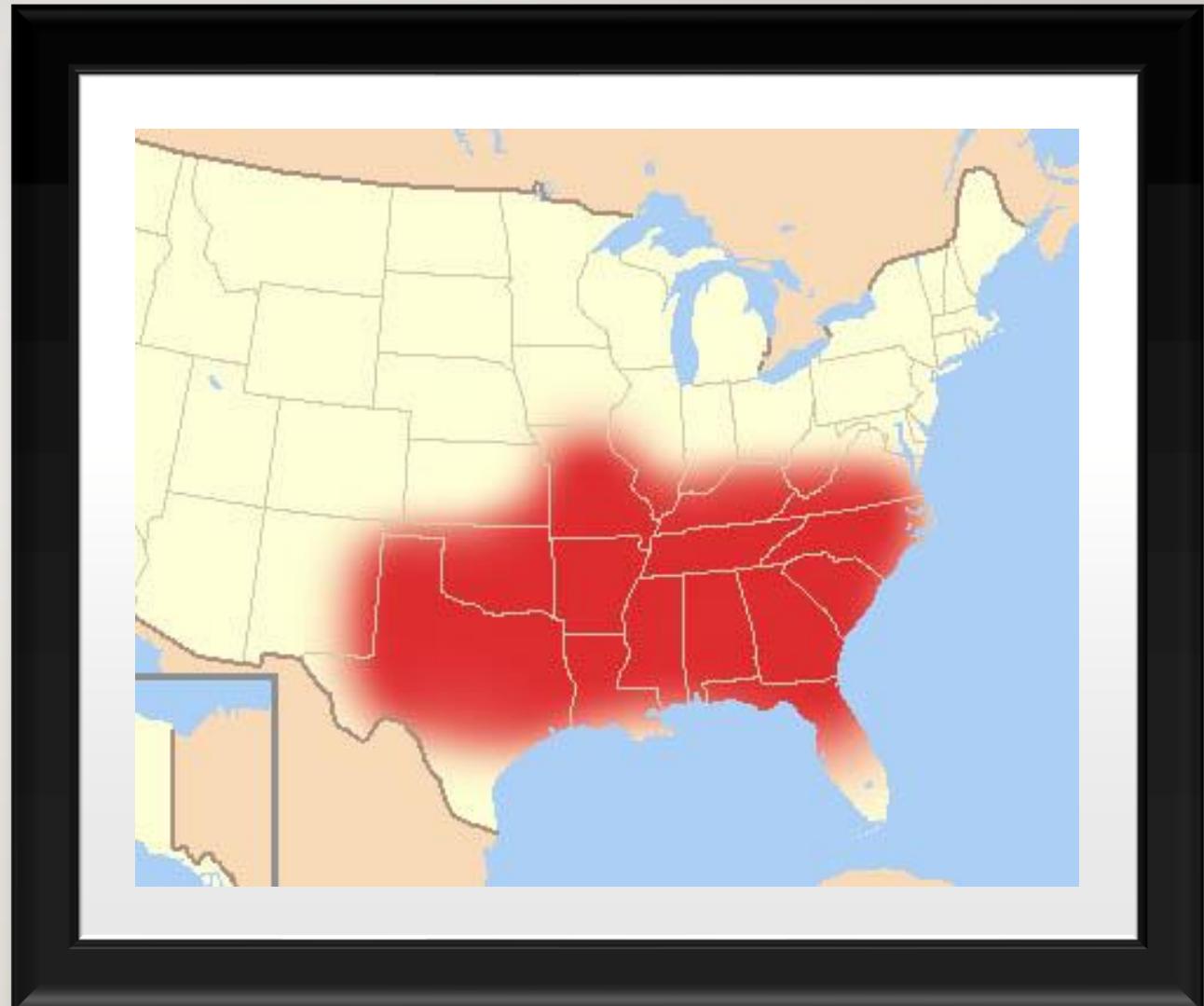


SOUTHERN RURAL BLACK WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

The Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice (SRBWI) is a 501c3 Human Rights organization, formed in 2001 to address historical race, class, cultural, religious and gender barriers faced by Black women and young women in the rural U. S. South.

COVERAGE AREAS

- 77 Counties across 3 states
- **Children's Defense Fund Southern Regional Office**
- **Bama Kids, Inc.**
P.O. Box 212
Camden, Alabama 36726
Phone 334.682.5925
Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews
- **Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education, Inc.**
P.O. Box 1933
Albany, GA 31702
Phone 229.432.5799
Shirley Sherrod
- **Children's Defense Fund Southern Regional Office**
P.O. Box 11437
Jackson, MS 39283
Phone 601.321.1966
Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald



A dark, high-contrast aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A winding, light-colored path or stream bed cuts through the center of the frame, surrounded by dark, textured fields. Some clusters of trees are visible along the edges of the fields.

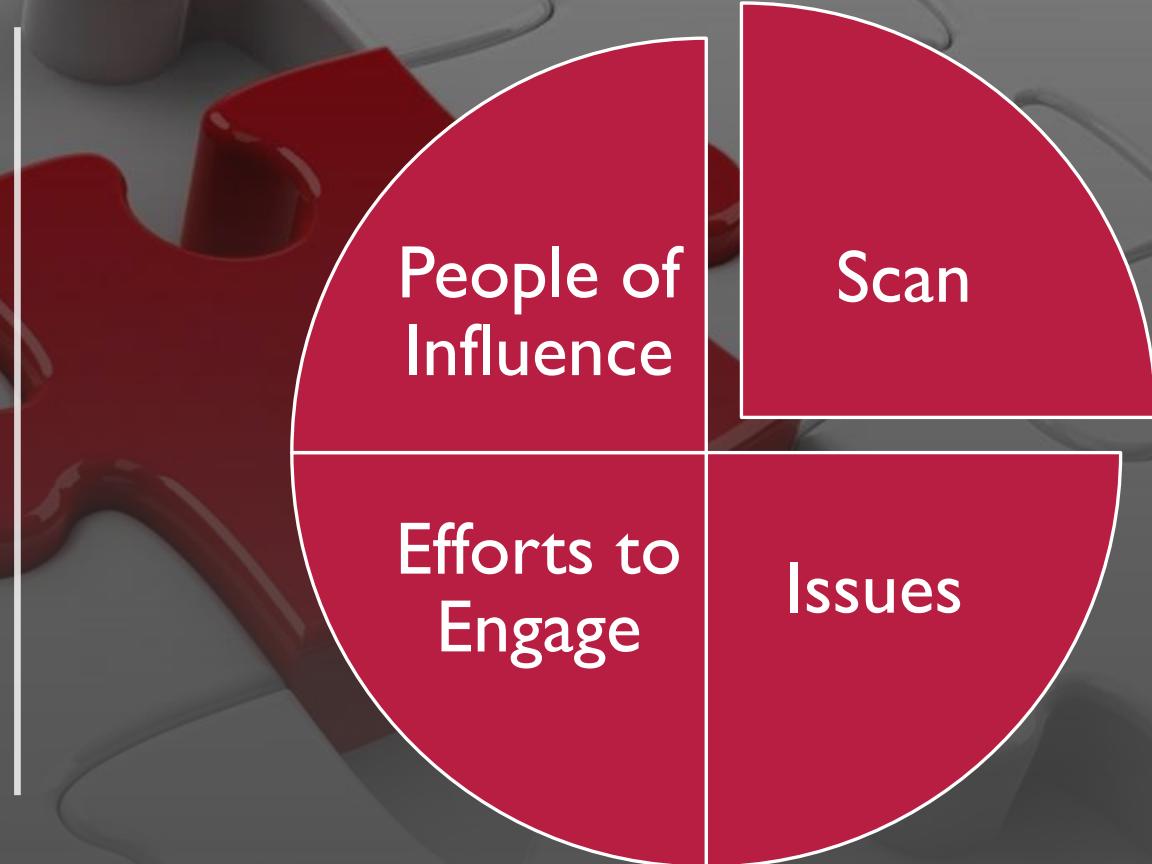
RURAL POPULATION

- 97% of the country's land mass is rural but only 19.3% of the population lives there.
- About 60 Million people, or one in five Americans, live in rural America.

CHALLENGES

- Distance between residents and communities
- Broadband challenges
- Brain Drain
- Availability
- Resistance to change

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES



APPROACH

- Grassroots organizing
 - relationship building
 - issue identification
 - local action
- Grass tops
 - assess their position
 - ascertain what actions are needed

SUCCESSFUL APPROACHES

- Traditional and progressive outreach
- Learn the community
- Listen to the advice given
- Follow through and be consistent
- Engage youth voice
- Give autonomy; no paternalism

Paheadra B. Robinson, Esq.

Senior Policy Consultant

Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative

paheadra@brattongroupllc.com

(601)955-4213