

BLACK MAYORS: A Growing Political Force

Mayor Barbara Mouton, (below) of East Palo Alto, Calif., first moved to the city 30 years ago from her native San Francisco (37 miles away) because it seemed like a good place for her seven children to "grow and prosper." Now serving her second four-year term, Mayor Mouton is committed to making sure that it stays that way for the 19,000 residents—60 percent of whom are Black. There are some serious challenges for the part-time mayor and executive director of the East Palo Alto Senior Center. Delivering city services on a \$2 million budget can take some creative management, she says. And even though many of the city's residents work in nearby larger cities, the unemployment rate hovers between 17 and 23 percent. Attracting new industry and providing job training are some of the top priorities for the former educator and founder of the Nairobi Day School.

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