

# Beyoncé, Kendrick Lamar lead 2023 Grammy nominations

by TheGrio Staff



Beyoncé

**(GRIO)** - The Recording Academy announced the nominations for the “65th Grammy Awards” on Tuesday. Beyoncé leads the pack with nine nominations while Kendrick Lamar follows closely behind with eight.

Three of Beyoncé’s nine nominations are in the general-field catego-

ries. Her album “Renaissance” is up for Album of the Year, while the album’s lead single, “Break My Soul,” is nominated for both Record of the Year and Song of the Year. “Renaissance” is also up for Best Dance/Electronic Album and the album track, “Virgo’s Groove,” received a nomi-

nation for Best R&B Performance.

Lamar also gained nominations in the general field, including Album of the Year for “Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers.” His non-album single, “The Heart Part 5,” is up for Record of the Year and Song of the Year. “Mr. Morale” is also nomi-

nated for Best Rap Album, while “The Heart Part 5” also is up for Best Rap Song and Best Rap Performance.

The “2023 Grammy Awards” ceremony is scheduled to air live at 8 p.m. ET on Feb. 5 on CBS. The ceremony will also stream online on Paramount+.



Kendrick Lamar

## Dear Drake, please leave Megan Thee Stallion and every other Black woman out of your mouth



by Monique Judge  
TheGrio

Dear Aubrey,

I’m coming to you because as a Black woman, I have some questions for you that I am hoping you can answer.

Let me start off by saying I like some of your music. You have had some bops over the years. “All Me” is still in heavy rotation in my car, even though I immediately turn it off once it gets to Big Sean’s part (and that’s not a Big Sean diss. He’s cute, that thang is obviously heavy, and he has some good raps too, just not on that song. To me. You and 2 Chainz carry that one). I also like “Money In the Grave” with you and Rick Ross. That’s a great song to C-walk to if you know how.

I was rooting for you when you had your beef with Meek Mill. People say you don’t even write your own rhymes, and I have excused that for the most part because you usually have pretty dope beats backing you, and since you got your mommy makeover and

BBL and grew out your beard (or used Bigen or whatever if that’s the case), you’ve actually looked kinda hot.

That said, you recently released an album with 21 Savage that has been discussed quite a bit online since its release. I haven’t listened to “Her Loss,” specifically because as soon as I got wind that you were dissing people like Megan Thee Stallion and Serena’s dotting husband, Alexis Ohanian, I immediately knew it was a no for me.

Here’s the thing, Aubrey: Why are you out here picking fights with women (or their husbands) who are not worried about you?

Listen, I get it. You are a white woman of color who was born and raised in Canada. You are an actor who got your start on the Canadian show “Degrassi,” and you are now in the midst of playing your biggest role, that of a rapper named Drake.

I totally understand that you want to bring realism to the latest and longest-running acting role you have ever had, and real rappers actually have beefs at times and

make diss records about each other, so you figured you would do the same. Except, you chose to attack people who weren’t even bothering you.

Calling Alexis Ohanian a “groupie” simply because he is a loving husband who adores his wife and young daughter was absolutely low. That man is minding his business, cheering his wife on and making cute pancakes for his little girl. He has done nothing to you, and he’s not even in the game, so why are you coming for him? Are you mad that he is with Serena and you aren’t? Girl, grow up. Please.

Then you decided to come for Megan Thee Stallion, referencing her assault at the hands of Tory Lanez, and that is some poot-butt ass ish if you ask me.

I know that for you as a white woman taking on the role of bitter bitch this may be hard to grasp, but cracking jokes about a Black woman being physically assaulted (she was shot!) by a Black man is never OK. I’m not sure why you would think it is. You are going too far.

There are people trying to argue the

“double entendre” angle on your behalf, claiming that you weren’t talking about her being shot but rather dangling an allegation that her ass might not be real, and even that is stupid if you ask me.

Are you jealous that Megan’s natural little booty moves and looks better than yours? Are you jealous of her body? Her ability to twerk?

Or is it something deeper? Are you threatened by the way Megan is in charge of her own sexuality? Is it upsetting that she doesn’t center men in her sexy lyrics? Or does the idea that she can actually write her own rhymes make you feel inferior in comparison?

Usually when a rapper disses another rapper, it’s because there was an initial shot fired, but in this case, Megan was minding her own damn business, and here your goofy ass comes unable to keep her name out of your mouth.

Like seriously. There are so many worthy opponents you could have gone after in your rhyme— people you actually have a reason to beef with.

You could have gone

after Pusha T. He literally had to punk you into openly admitting to fathering your child (which, stop putting braids in that baby’s hair! That texture ain’t built for that, and you are giving your child you were previously hiding traction alopecia, ma’am).

You could have gone after Diddy. I heard he slapped fire from your ass once upon a time.

You could have dissed T.I. as a proxy for his late friend, who reportedly peed on you.

I mean honestly, if you were that hard up for a woman to argue with, I hear there is a woman in the rap game who is running out of other women to beef with. Maybe you could argue with her. She never seems to tire of it.

My point is, girl, you didn’t have to go after Megan, and you look like a punk for doing so.

You were probably in the studio thinking you really did something, and actually, you did. You showed us that when it comes down to it, you are just another actor in the rap game getting paid to exploit hip-hop culture and being a sassy ho while doing so. You embarrass-



Megan Thee Stallion

ing us, sis.

The hilarious part of all of this is I heard Megan actually has a writing credit on the “Her Loss” album, which means ultimately, she won.

Listen. You have had a huge impact on the game. There’s no denying or disputing that, but when you do childish and petty stuff like this, it just adds to the long list of reasons no one really takes you seriously.

Next time, stick to attacking people who are attacking you and leave Megan, Serena, Alexis and all the rest of the people minding their business out of it.

Now, run along and go memorize your script. I’m sure you have some lines to run for your next hit.

Look, Drakel Dolezal, at the end of the day, you are just one in a long line of white women role-playing as a person of color, and if you want us to be accepting of that, please learn to stay in your lane, girl.

## Democrats sue for Saturday voting in Georgia Senate runoff

By JEFF AMY | Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock’s campaign and Democratic groups are suing the state of Georgia to overturn guidance by Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger that counties can’t offer Saturday voting ahead of next month’s Senate runoff election.

The lawsuit, filed late Monday by the Democratic Party of Georgia, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Warnock campaign, challenges the state’s finding that it would be illegal to hold early voting on Nov. 26, the day after a state holiday. The lawsuit says the state’s interpretation hurts Warnock in particular because Democrats tend to push early voting more than Republicans.

The race between Warnock and his Republican challenger, Herschel Walker, is headed to a Dec. 6 runoff after neither candidate won a majority of votes in the midterm election. Democrats have already secured control of the Senate but are hoping to increase their narrow margin with a Warnock victory.

“Illegal attempts to block Saturday voting are another desperate attempt by career politicians to squeeze the people out of their own democracy and to silence the voices of Georgians,” Quentin Fulks, Warnock’s campaign manager, said in a statement. “We’re aggressively fighting to protect Georgia voters’ ability to vote on Saturday.”

Raffensperger dismissed the lawsuit as politics. “Senator Warnock and his Democratic Party allies are seeking to change Georgia law right before an election based on their political preferences,” he said. “Instead of muddying the water and pressuring counties to ignore Georgia law, Senator Warnock should be allowing county election officials to continue preparations for the upcoming runoff.”

Walker’s campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Under Georgia’s 2021 election law, there will be only four weeks before the runoff — with Thanksgiving in the middle. Many Georgians will be offered only five weekdays of early in-person voting beginning Nov. 28. And June’s primary runoffs showed time for mail ballots to be received and returned can be very tight.

Raffensperger and Deputy Secretary of State Gabriel Sterling had initially said they expected at least some counties would offer voting on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. State law requires at least five weekdays of early in-person balloting beginning Monday, Nov. 28, but also directs Georgia’s 159 counties to open early in-person voting “as soon as possible” in a runoff.

But Sterling told The Associated Press in a Friday interview that officials had researched the law and concluded that it would be illegal to hold early voting on a day after a state holiday. Thanksgiving and the following Friday are both state holidays. Raffensperger’s office followed up Saturday with an official election bulletin to the counties setting the position into writing.

The plaintiffs say Raffensperger’s interpretation “misreads” and “cherry-picks” the law.

They argue that the bar on voting after a holiday applies only to primary and general elections and not to runoffs. They say a 2017 revision of state law dropped the holiday exception for runoffs, and that reading it that way would mandate early voting on Saturday, Nov. 19, an impossibility since state officials don’t plan to certify the midterm election results until Monday, Nov. 21.

“The Secretary’s insistence that counties may not hold advance voting on November 26 therefore has no support in the law,” lawyers wrote.

The lawsuit, filed in Fulton County Superior

Court, asks a judge to rule that the law doesn’t bar counties from holding advance voting on Saturday, Nov. 26 and to bar Raffensperger from interfering with counties holding voting on that day. The plaintiffs also ask for an emergency hearing and temporary restraining order.

The DSCC has sent letters encouraging counties to defy Raffensperger and schedule Saturday voting anyway. But the lawsuit notes that the State Election Board might retaliate against counties that go ahead by investigating or suspending election officials. Atlanta’s Fulton County is already under investigation after Republican lawmakers used a provision in Georgia’s 2021 election law to demand a state inquiry.

Republicans pushed through the election law in response to Donald Trump’s false claims that he had been cheated out of victory in Georgia. Republicans argued the law was needed to restore public confidence, but it shortened the period to request an absentee ballot and limited ballot drop boxes, leading to a Democratic outcry.

Saturday voting had less participation during the general election than weekday early voting, but Democrats argue that it benefits people who can’t vote on weekdays and that eliminating Saturday voting would harm Warnock “by eliminating a potential advance voting day that is likely to be used by voters who affiliate with the Democratic Party.”

The lawsuit plays out against a yearslong background of clashes over voting in Georgia. In 2018, Democrat Stacey Abrams claimed Republican Brian Kemp used his position as secretary of state to improperly hold back likely Democratic voters in their gubernatorial contest that year. The Abrams-founded Fair Fight Action lost a lawsuit over those claims.