

Voter Education & Registration

This year, we helped win approval of a trial program for Instant Runoff Voting (see inside.)

Last year, we helped win approval for out-of-precinct voting to protect the rights of voters who go to the wrong polling place in their county.

And next year, we hope to win approval for Same-Day Registration at Early Voting Sites, with proper safeguards.

We also work with partners to educate voters and boost turnout. This year, we will:

- ✓ Help the Board of Elections produce and deliver the Judicial Voter Guide by mid-October.
- ✓ Register young voters, low- and moderate-income renters, and other targeted non-voters.
- ✓ Produce thousands of door-hangers and flyers about voting.
- ✓ Help organize get-out-the-vote calls, "Souls to the Polls," and Voter Awareness Month in Charlotte and key counties.

Volunteer for our phone banks in Oct.-Nov. Call 888-687-8683

Support This Work
See Coupon Inside

Special Events

Quick: Time Is Running Out!
Go to www.democracy-nc.org to sign up NOW for:

- ◀ **Sept 29, Rocky Mount.** Join the Democracy North Carolina board of directors for dinner and discussion with Dr. William Barber, Pres. of NC NAACP, ex-US Rep. Tim Valentine and more on "Ethical Politics for North Carolina." Starts at 6, dinner at 6:30 pm. Holiday Inn. Just \$25.
- ◀ **Oct 7, Carrboro.** Enjoy a first-class performance of the Broadway musical '1776' at the Carrboro Arts Center. A \$30 benefit for Dem-NC. Reception at 6 pm, the show's at 8.
- ◀ **Oct 17-18, Triangle/Triad/Charlotte** Hear **Spencer Overton**, author of "Stealing Democracy," on his tour.

Democracy North Carolina is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to fulfill the promise of "one person, one vote" — to increase voter participation and reduce the money chase in politics. The staff are Jeanne Allen, Molly Beacham, Leigh Bradley, Jenn Frye, Bob Hall, Kristi Henderson, A. Khamala, Adam Sotak. The Board of Directors are Tom Coulson, Mike Glancy, Carol Haack, Rosalyn Jones, Margaret McCreary, Gray Newman, Juvencio Rocha Peralta, Linda Sutton, Natalie Watson, Reginald Watson, and Heather Yandow. Fall 2006

Democracy North Carolina
105 W. Main Street
Carrboro, NC 27510

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No 450
Chapel Hill, NC



DEMOCRACY NORTH CAROLINA

DEMOCRACY ADVOCATE

Reforms Follow Scandal

Not since the Watergate scandal has North Carolina made so many changes to "clean up" its political system.

Scandal again pushed the 2006 state legislature to adopt ethics, lobbying and campaign finance reforms. Many lawmakers did not like the reforms, but they felt compelled to respond to public pressure following months of news about illegal lobbying tied to passage of the state lottery and a multi-faceted Board of Elections inquiry spurred by a Democracy North Carolina complaint.

The united power of reformers (*box*) led to landmark success, but more needs to be done:

✓ The state's first Ethics Commission will oversee ethics education and conflict-of-interest problems in all three branches of government, but its hearings should be open and it needs more authority.

✓ Restrictions on lobbyists supplying free meals, trips and gifts promise real change, but the law's wording has some loopholes that need plugging.

✓ The new ban on lobbyists making campaign donations to state candidates does not address the larger issue of special interests supplying millions through PACs, etc. And the total ban will likely be challenged as unconstitutional. A better approach would be to offer a public financing alternative; yet, sadly, a pilot for 4 legislative races didn't get enough support in 2006.

See next page for other reforms.

The continuing state and federal investigation into

money-in-politics corruption should set the stage for a new push in 2007 to refine the gains of 2006 and expand the public financing program.

HEROES & ZEROS

Key allies: We worked hard for these victories with the Coalition for Lobby Reform and NC Voters for Clean Elections

Legislator advocates include: Joe Hackney, Julia Howard, Dan Clodfelter, Deborah Ross, Tony Rand, Martha Alexander, Jeff Barnhart, Larry Bell, Walter Church, Margaret Dickson, Lorene Coates, Jean Farmer-Butterfield, Susan Fisher, Rick Glazier, Pricey Harrison, Verla Insko, Carolyn Justice, Ellie Kinnaird, Paul Luebke, Marvin Lucas, Grier Martin, Marian McLawhorn, William McKee, Wilma Sherrill, Fred Steen, Alice Underhill, Tracy Walker, Jennifer Weiss, Larry Womble.

Most Disappointing: Thomas Wright and Bill Faison opposed the public financing pilot and voted to weaken lobby reform!

Yes, I'll be a supporter – a Democracy Advocate – for Democracy North Carolina's voter education and other work

Here's my tax-deductible donation (payable to Democracy North Carolina).

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

Please sign me up to receive occasional email Action Alerts for election reform.
 Just send me electronic versions of the newsletter to save postage and paper.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Credit Card Donation: Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. _____

Mail to Democracy-NC, 105 West Main St., Carrboro, NC 27510. Or contribute online at www.democracy-nc.org

- Democracy Advocates** help advance voting rights and electoral reform in NC by responding to action alerts and/or by making a donation. As a Democracy Advocate, you'll get:
- ▶ Regular updates and action alerts (if you list an email);
 - ▶ Notice of research reports;
 - ▶ Invitations to skills-building workshops and other events;
 - ▶ A positive feeling, knowing you're improving democracy in North Carolina, step by step.

Campaign Donors for Campaign Reform

Cy King of Raleigh has been active in politics for many years. He lets his representatives know his views on a wide range of issues, and organizes his fellow voters to do the same.



Cy King Sr.

Here's Cy's latest tactic: Send a message that grabs the politician in the pocketbook!

This spring, we were pleased to receive a copy of a letter Cy sent his Congressman, along with a donation to Democracy North Carolina. The letter explained that half of Cy's usual contribution to the

candidate was being given to us, in the Congressman's honor, to emphasize the importance of comprehensive public financing.

He's sending similar letters and checks to other groups.

It's brilliant, Cy!
Kudos and thank you!

A growing number of "Campaign Donors for Campaign Reform" are urging elected leaders to back reform. Talk it up! We welcome tithes like Cy's, too, but don't suggest your political gift will change if a candidate takes a certain action; that's a no-no!

Talent Abounds at Democracy-NC

Our founding board chair, **Peg Chapin**, is succeeded this year by **Dr. Reginald Watson**, English professor at East Carolina, alum of NC Central, youth mentor, human rights leader, and more.

On the staff, **Elizabeth Waugh-Stewart** recently left to become a new mother, and the new deputy director is **Jeanne L. Allen**, who left the state after college at UNC. She returns with years of experience in



Reggie Watson



Jeanne Allen



Kristi Henderson

adult education, administration and strategic planning.

Jeremy Collins left to become the new head of the coalition for a moratorium on NC's death penalty. Our new organizer is **Kristi Henderson** of Warren County. She has degrees from Howard University & the London School of Economics, and media and political campaign experience. She'll focus outreach on the eastern part of NC.

From Blank Checks to Instant Runoff

In addition to the big ethics and lobbying reform bill (p. 1), a host of new laws passed this year. Here are the major ones:

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

↓ **Use of campaign funds.** For the first time, NC law specifies that campaign funds can only be used for costs related to campaigning or holding office, not for personal benefits.

↓ **No blank checks.** New wording clarifies that donors can't give checks with blank payee lines (creating a slush fund) but must specify who it's for.

↓ **Cash donations.** The limit on cash donations is now \$50 per election and the treasurer must have a record of who gave all money. (No passing the hat.) Treasurers must attend training classes by the State Board of Elections.

OTHER LEGISLATION

↓ **Instant Runoff Voting.** In 2007, 10 cities can save money by letting voters rank their choices in a city election 1-2-3. If no candidate wins outright, the top 2 go into a "virtual" runoff; the votes of those choosing a

loser go to whichever remaining candidate they ranked highest. In 2008, up to 10 counties can use IRV rather than pay for runoffs. Then the Board of Elections (which oversees this pilot) will submit an analysis to the legislature. If it works, let's use IRV statewide!

↓ Judicial Public Financing.

Several changes improve this program for appeals court judges and can help undercut the current legal challenge by opponents.

↓ **Funds for Board of Elections.** Despite fears about reprisal for its investigation

of Speaker Jim Black, the Elections Board actually got more money: Six new staff positions are being added to the Campaign Finance Division, the first real change in years. So it pays to do a job well — with public backing!

↓ **527 Committees.** Two new laws beef up the restrictions on "issue ads" being paid for by business or union funds near an election and require more disclosure of the ads' funders. Expect challenges in court to both.

NEW WEBSITE

Details of the new laws will be on our new website after Oct 1. Go to www.democracy-nc.org

CHECK-OFF ALERT

Tell your tax preparer to mark YES for the Public Campaign Fund. It does not change your taxes!