

Make the Victories Stick

Democracy is a journey, not a destination to reach and relax. Big gains can quickly disappear without vigilance, and they're of little value if they don't help us take the next step forward.

At Democracy North Carolina, we've learned we must spend considerable energy to defend and implement each new win. That's why our organizers and allies are now working hard to:

- ✓ Make the innovative use of Instant Runoff Voting a success in two cities this year, Cary and Hendersonville. IRV can boost voter turnout and save money.
- ✓ Help voter drives use the new tool of Same-Day Registration in Fayetteville, Charlotte, Triangle, Triad, Greenville, etc.
- ✓ Test the best messages and methods to educate youth and others about Same-Day Registration, in time for Fall 2008.
- ✓ Engage national experts to defend judicial public financing in NC from a court challenge.
- ✓ Help develop good rules for the new public financing pilot for Council of State offices.

Support This Work
See Coupon Inside

Resources & Events

For more about the work of Democracy North Carolina, go to www.democracy-nc.org for

- ◀ **Resources:** e.g., a new flyer describes "How to Use Same-Day Registration." Great for campuses, clubs, GOTV, etc. Order by the 100s.
- ◀ **Research reports:** NC's top PACs; the power companies clout; a Civic Participation Index; post-Jim Black.
- ◀ **About Us:** Meet the staff & board
- ◀ **Events:** Meet the authors and buy an insightful book about NC in transition – *Local Democracy Under Siege: Activism, Public Interest and Private Politics*. The authors are donating the royalties to us. *Nice!!*
- ◀ **Hot news, searchable campaign databases, the Democracy Agenda...**

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. Key personnel: Molly Beacham, Leigh Bradley, Jenn Frye, Bob Hall, Beth Jacobs, A. Khamala, Octavia Rainey, Adam Sotak. The Board of Directors are Tom Coulson, Knick Dixon, Mike Glancy, Becky Gomer, Carol Haack, Rosalyn Jones, Margaret McCreary, Gray Newman, Juvencio Rocha Peralta, Natalie Watson, Reginald Watson, and Heather Yandow. Fall 2007

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DEMOCRACY NORTH CAROLINA

DEMOCRACY ADVOCATE

Big Victories in 2007 Reflect Widely Shared Core Values

Simply put, Democracy North Carolina's mission is to make real the promise of "one person, one vote" – the cornerstone principle of equality and self determination. That translates into two primary goals:

(a) increase voter turnout and civic participation, and

(b) reduce the role of wealthy special interests in elections and policy making.

In 2007, we won landmark legislative victories in each area, with crucial help from our allies (*see p. 2*).

The victories reflect widely held values: open and honest government, accountability to the public rather than narrow lobbies, equal opportunity, fair representation, community service, and ethical leadership.

A few highlights:

✓ Voter-Owned Elections.

A new law gives candidates for three Council of State positions an alternative to the money chase, if they accept spending limits & raise at least 750 small donations from voters. It's the

first expansion of public financing in NC since 2002. It covers Insurance Commissioner, Auditor, and Public Instruction Superintendent, effective for 2008.

✓ Same-Day Registration.

A citizen can now go to a One-Stop, Early Voting site (during Early Voting, but not on Election Day), fill out the registration form, show ID, and vote – all on the same day. The law has several protections against fraud.

CLICK & SMILE

At key moments, hundreds of Democracy Advocates emailed or called legislators – with happy results. Small actions led to big changes! We need you, too. Please sign up for news and occasional Action Alerts; go to www.democracy-nc.org

✓ **New protection for judicial public financing.** To address FairJudge.net's 2006 abuses, Voted-Owned candidates can get extra funds if they're hit by 527s or bogus "issue" groups.

✓ **Open hearings.** Jim Black's scandal fueled laws to open the books of legal defense funds, end pension pay to corrupt officials, and open ethics hearings, once probable cause is found.

✓ **Local public financing.** A law lets Chapel Hill sponsor its own program for elections in 2009 & 2011, a model we need to work!

Yes, I'll be a supporter – a Democracy Advocate – for Democracy North Carolina's research, education & advocacy

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

- \$35 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____
 Apply this amount \$ _____ as a one-time special gift for the Building Fund.
 Please sign me up to receive occasional email Action Alerts for election reform.

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Mail to Democracy-NC, 1821 Green St., Durham, NC 27705-4114. 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.

New Voices Champion Reforms

Several factors made the 2007 session of the NC General Assembly especially successful. New partners, new legislative leaders, and new initiatives combined for impressive wins.

✓ **New leaders.** The scandals tied to former Speaker Jim Black created an opening for new leadership to shine. House Speaker Joe Hackney and progressive-leaning members in the House and Senate flexed their muscles to win important reforms in several areas. We are grateful for their wise leadership.

✓ **Campaign Donors.** Nobody knows the dangers of the money chase like political donors. In May, representatives of 700 "Campaign Donors for Campaign Reform" we recruited held a press conference in support of public financing, with Rep. Rick Glazier, former US Sen. Robert Morgan and Rep. Tim Valentine and our allies, **NC Voters for Clean Election.** Their insider's perspective gives our cause a boost.

✓ **NC NAACP.** A broad array of social and economic reformers, led by NC NAACP's gifted

president Dr. William Barber, unified around a 14-point platform that included Same-Day Registration (SDR) and Public Financing. The engaged support of top NAACP leaders, with added clout from the

TARGETED GIVING

We are deeply grateful to these "Campaign Donors for Campaign Reform" and others for their gifts to special projects.

For Democracy Summer stipends/scholarships:

Blumenthal Foundation
Jane Brown & Jim Protzman
Josephus Daniels Charitable Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
Frank Daniels
Mark Erwin
Liz Hair
Wallace & Jeanette Hyde Park Foundation
Calvin Phelps & Lisa Yamaoka
Sandy Welton

For the Building Fund:

Paul & Bessie Carrington
Michael Crowell
Pam George & Dave Austin
Roddy Jones
Jay Miller
Mack Pearsall
Lia Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation
Jennifer McGovern & Steven Unruhe
Wendy Robineau & Don Beskind
Lao Rubert & Steve Schewel
Jane & Adam Stein

Alliance of Black Elected Officials, helped turn the fight for SDR into a crusade for voting rights that couldn't be blocked.

✓ **Young Dems.** When a powerful Democrat tried to stop SDR, **Young Democrats** officer Melissa Price rallied YDers statewide, who blitzed legislators with hundreds of calls and emails. Others, from the NC Council of Churches to conservationists, mobilized for SDR.

✓ **SDR Coalition.** Price was also a key leader in the big **NC Coalition for SDR Share and Dem-NC.** Octavia Rainey, lobbyist extraordinaire, guided the bill over hurdles with master strategist & sponsor Rep. Deborah Ross.

Triumphs for Democracy Summer, 2007

For the 8th year, college youth in *Democracy Summer* experienced the joy, sweat, frustration and thrill of being grassroots organizers for a good cause.



DemSummer's 2007 Team

After an intense training, 9 students in 3 teams went to Durham, Charlotte, and Fayetteville for 8 weeks. Supervisors provided a mix of structure and freedom, and soon the young organizers could see how their public speaking, media "hits," research and door-knocking contributed to major victories.

Stipends (*box at left*) helped us attract a diverse group who bonded together and achieved

their goals. A few successes:

- ✓ 17 speeches at group events;
- ✓ 536 voters registered;
- ✓ 1,384 personal contacts about reform issues;
- ✓ 24 media hits;
- ✓ 90 surveys & 3 focus groups on youth views about voting.

Democracy Summer opens doors for the next generation of advocates and for us: Based on new relationships this summer, we've been asked to co-lead a voter turnout project with civic groups in Fayetteville this fall. Meanwhile, Jenn Frye, *DemSummer* director, adds a new role as our Associate Director! Thanks Jenn!

A New Home for Democracy-NC

We outgrew our office in Carrboro just as Jay Miller of Shared Visions Foundation was renovating an ideal home for nonprofits in Durham. Perfect timing! With Jay's guidance, we're buying the Green St. Building, and raising funds to pay down the mortgage.

Five other



Our new office at 1821 Green Street, Durham

nonprofits share the Building with us. The 100 or so folks who attended our Open House in July saw what a great investment this new home is. Come visit! And please consider making a special, one-time gift to our Building Fund. Use the form at right for your gift.