

Myths & Rumors

We hear all sorts of bad rumors about voting. Here's the truth:

- ✓ You may quietly wear a button, hat, or shirt with a candidate's name when you vote, but you not actively draw attention to your choices. You may take a list of your choices into the poll, but do not show it to others or leave it.
- ✓ You may go to any of the Early Voting sites in your county to vote – or even register and vote at the same time if you're not registered or if your registration is outdated.
- ✓ Same-Day Registration & Voting is not something you can do on Election Day; you may only use it during Early Voting.
- ✓ Voting a "straight-party ticket" does not include the president; you must vote for president and nonpartisan judges separately.

- ✓ You may vote in any precinct in the county on Election Day, but your choices only count for items on your home precinct's ballot.
- ✓ Felons convicted in NC or any state may vote in NC after serving all their sentence and probation. No release document is needed.
- ✓ If you have an outstanding warrant, bankruptcy, traffic ticket, or civil fine, you may still vote.

Questions? Call 888-687-8683 or go to 2008ElectionConnection.com

Election Tips

- ◀ **Best Time to Vote.** Vote in the Early Voting period, **Oct. 16-Nov. 1.** It might rain on Nov. 4, or you may have an emergency. Go on a **week-day, in the mid-morning or early afternoon,** if you can.
- ◀ **What If I've Moved?** Especially use Early Voting if you have moved or are not sure you are registered.
- ◀ **Vote the Full Ballot.** Go top to bottom; look at the back of a paper ballot. **Marking the "straight-party" option does not include president or non-partisan races like judges;** you must vote for them separately.
- ◀ **Protect Your Vote.** If you have problems or see **suspicious activity** call the Election Protection hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE. **Don't leave the polling place without voting; ask for a provisional ballot.**

Democracy North Carolina is a 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 Staff: Molly Beacham, Leigh Bradley, Jenn Frye, Bob Hall, Ashley Holloway, A. Khamala, Katy Munger, Jonathan Peterson, Adam Sotak, Tia Stanley. The Board of Directors are Tom Coulson, Knick Dixon, Becky Gomer, Carol Haack, Rosalyn Jones, Margaret McCreary, Gray Newman, Juvencio Rocha Peralta, Natalie Watson, Reginald Watson, and Heather Yandow. **Fall 2008**

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Find your county's Early Voting sites and see a sample ballot at www.2008ElectionConnection.com



DEMOCRACY NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRACY ADVOCATE

Boosting Election Activism in NC

For months, our 11-person staff has focused on expanding voting opportunities for all citizens, especially for young adults and people of color. Our work has made a difference:

★ **Urban Coalitions.** We're coordinating voter-empowerment coalitions in Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville, Greenville, High Point and Wilson that have reached 230,000 people via direct contact, including 55,000 new or infrequent voters.

★ **Souls to the Polls.** In coalition cities, and from Asheville to Wilmington, we're engaging 300 churches in Get-Out-the-Vote efforts, in concert with the NC NAACP, ministerial associations, General Baptists leaders, Prince Hall Masons, etc.

★ **Early Voting Sites.** Working with key officials and grassroots advocates, we led the effort to make 3 dozen counties expand Early Voting opportunities, including hard fought campaigns that helped put sites at 20 college campuses and that allow Sunday voting in 12 counties.

★ **Communications.** We're distributing over 600,000 Same-Day Registration flyers, "I will vote" pledge cards, voter rights pamphlets, Voter Guides, etc.; plus we sponsor a series of TV/radio PSAs and the popular site 2008ElectionConnection.com.

★ **Election Protection.** We're a leading watchdog for protecting

"STEP UP" VOTER GUIDE

With 31 nonpartisan groups, we've produced a unique voter guide that

- profiles the state candidates
- details voting rights & procedures
- maps the key issues facing NC

See the guide, view a sample ballot, check your registration, and more at www.2008ElectionConnection.com.

voting rights, including aiding 'Election Protection' hotlines and our major campaign to teach ex-felons they can vote.

★ **Training & Data.** We have conducted 47

registration/GOTV trainings and supplied allies with data for targeting and lists for canvassing.

★ **Youth Focus.** Through new intern programs and outreach at high school and colleges, we're exposing a new generation to political activism. *(More inside.)*

★ **Strong Collaboration.** In all this work, we're building important relationships with state and local groups and leaders that will advance our long-term advocacy for public campaign financing and other reforms.

Public Campaign Programs & Same-Day Registration Highlight NC

North Carolina is attracting national attention for innovative programs that make voting and public service available to more people.

We are the only state in the South, and the largest in the nation, with a version of **Same-Day Registration (SDR)**. During the primary, nearly 50,000 citizens used our new **SDR** law, which

lets citizens register (or update a registration) and vote at the same time at an Early Voting site (but not on Election Day). That amounted to 11% of all the votes cast early.

Our analysis shows that two underrepresented groups – African Americans and youth – comprised half of the **SDR** users in May's primary. **SDR** is better than costly registration drives, particularly because 100% of the new voters actually vote! We're proud of our leadership, with the NAACP and others, in winning the **SDR** law in 2007 and in opening dozens of new **SDR** sites this year.

We are also proud that North Carolina's "Voter-Owned Elections" public financing program

is a model for other states and cities; several even use the **VOE** name for their programs.

This year, 11 of the 12 candidates in contested races for the appellate courts are enrolled in **NC's judicial public financing program**, the highest participation rate since it began in 2004.

Meanwhile, the new **Voter-Owned Elections program for three**

Last Days

We're in the final days of the biggest election in NC history. We urgently need your gift for our nonpartisan efforts to protect voters from mischief and misinformation, increase turnout through Same-Day Registration and Souls to the Polls, and push the winners to champion reform. Please use the coupon at right NOW. Thank you!

Council of State positions is also proving popular. Four of the six candidates (two Democrats and two Republicans) are using it, and a fifth tried but did not qualify.

All totaled, NC leads the US by providing a public financing option for 25 statewide offices.

NC is also leading the fight to offer public financing in Congressional races. Rep. Walter B. Jones is the top Republican sponsor of the **Fair Elections Act**, largely because of the advocacy of Common Cause and a group of Republican and moderate Democratic leaders we mobilized in eastern NC. The bill will be reintroduced in 2009. Our thanks to the advocates and former elected officials who encouraged Rep. Jones to act!

See democracy-nc.org for more news

Focus on the New Generation

This year's *Democracy Summer* program immersed 10 college-age youth in the role of voting-rights advocate, educator and organizer.

Teams in Fayetteville, Charlotte, Greenville, Salisbury & Bertie Co. registered 700 voters, successfully

worked with coalitions to open more Early Voting centers, educated college and high schools students about voting rights, and investigated how well legislators complied with campaign disclosure rules.

Donations from friends like you allow us to provide stipends that help attract a diverse group for

this unique program. Thank you! As part of our focus on young voters this year, we have interns working at several colleges across



Democracy Summer Teams, 2008

NC to boost turnout at Early Voting centers that we helped place on campuses.

We gained the approval of the Cumberland County school system to conduct a registration and turnout program, called "Vote Young, Vote Forever." We've also worked with 30 other high schools and trained over 150 student leaders to conduct effective voter registration and GOTV campaigns.

Talented Staff Join Democracy-NC

Our staff has grown with the addition of 4 talented organizers, each covering a part of NC, and a wonderful new communications director, **Katy Munger**. We welcome your invitation to speak to a group about effective political reform.

The new field organizers, and their "territory" of focus, are:

- **Robert Dawkins**, Charlotte/West
 - **Ashley Holloway**, Fayetteville/SE
 - **Jonathan Peterson**, Triad area
 - **Tia Stanley**, Pitt/Nash/Wilson/East
- Reach any of us at 919-286-6000.



Robert Dawkins



Ashley Holloway



Katy Munger



Jonathan Peterson



Tia Stanley

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.

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