



**Chatham County Democratic Party Weekly News Digest  
February 12, 2024**

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## **Upcoming CCDP-Sponsored Events and Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Attend Your Annual Precinct Meeting on February 17!**

Join your neighbors on Saturday, February 17 from 10 a.m. to Noon to learn how you can help us elect Democrats in November! This year, most precincts will participate in a “centralized Zoom” meeting run by the CCDP in two parts, the first of which will be common to all attendees and led by CCDP Chair Sue Blalock, and the second part will consist of separate “business” meetings for each precinct, conducted in its own break-out room. Precincts who will be holding separate, in-person meetings include Crossroads, Albright, Bynum, and East and West Pittsboro.

During the precinct business meetings, each precinct will elect their delegates to the County Convention, hold elections to fill any vacancies among precinct officers and elect officers in our newly-organized precincts, consider and vote upon any resolutions submitted by precinct members, discuss precinct goals, and conduct any other precinct business.

For all precincts participating in all or part of the centralized Zoom, **pre-registration is required for each participant**. Here is the link to register: [2024 Centralized Precinct Meeting](#)

More information on signing up for your precinct meeting can be found here: <https://www.ccdpnc.org/precinct-meetings-2024> .

### **Precinct Meeting After-Party, February 17, 1 – 3 p.m., Community Engagement Center, Pittsboro**

After your precinct, come join your fellow precinct members and those from other precincts to socialize after the precinct meeting work is done! Since most of the precinct meetings are on Zoom, it will be fun to get together LIVE after the meetings at the Community Engagement Center in Pittsboro.

Stop in anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. or come and stay the whole time. We'll have cake, cookies, coffee, and lots of cheer to share.

And, if you haven't yet heard about the Chatham County Cackalacky Challenge...this will be the place to find out what that is all about.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Sign up [here](#).

**Get Ready to VOTE in the Primary Election!**

The 2024 Democratic Primary Election is upon us! Mail-in ballots are available now. Early voting starts on February 15, and Primary Election Day is March 5.

Want to vote by mail? Request an absentee ballot by 5 p.m. Tuesday, February 27, at <https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov> . The Chatham County Board of Elections began mailing out absentee ballots on January 19.

**The Early Voting Period runs from February 15 to March 2. Early Voting Polling places are listed on page 4 of this digest. During Early Voting, polls are open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday February 25 (only) from Noon to 3 p.m.**

On Election Day, March 5, polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. On Election Day, you should vote in your precinct. To find out where you can vote on Election Day, visit: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/reglkup/> , visit <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-and-elections/precincts-and-polling-places>, or call the Chatham County Board of Elections at 919-545-8500.

**As a reminder, the previously announced Early Voting Polling Site at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Cary has been replaced by Holland Chapel AME Zion Church in Apex.**

For more information on Early Voting Polling sites, checking your voter registration, and photo ID requirements, visit: [Primary Election Calendar | CCDP-NC \(ccdpsc.org\)](#)

You can view a sample Primary ballot at: <https://www.ccdpsc.org/2024-sample-primary-ballot> .

For information on your 2024 Democratic candidates, visit: <https://www.ccdpsc.org/2024-democratic-candidates> .

**Climate Solutions, Possibilities and Hope, February 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m., CCDP Community Engagement Center, 628 East St, Pittsboro**

Are you worried about the climate crisis? Want to know more about solutions in Chatham County? We're presenting an overview in three important areas:

- Climate Justice
- Are There Natural Solutions?
- Policy Solutions (Inflation Reduction Act Energy Funds)

Join us **tonight** for this program, which will be presented by Meredith Dillon, Nita Dukes and Vickie Atkinson. Additional guest speakers will present specialized information on these topics. Afterward, we'll ask whether you want more information on specific climate solutions in Chatham County.

To register, go to: [Climate Solutions, Possibilities and Hope](#)

## **Call for Poll Observers**

It is that time of year again! Early voting for the 2024 NC Primary begins on February 15th and runs through March 2nd. We are recruiting volunteers to serve as POLL OBSERVERS.

This year more than ever CCDP Poll Observers watch for any missteps in the election processes inside each polling place. They've been in use for at least a hundred years as a way to promote election integrity, with the idea that if both parties are watching, it's much harder for either to tamper with the votes. If someone goes amiss, poll observers contact a central incident reporting operation.

You must be a resident of Chatham County to be a poll observer in Chatham County.

Poll Observers typically sign up for a 4-hour shift at a specific polling location. In addition to these shifts, we would like to have a list of at-large Poll Observers and a small team of Hot Line volunteers. In general, at-large observers are allowed to observe at any polling site in the county for any length of time. Hot Line volunteers can work from anywhere and enter issues reported by observers into a central easy-to-use system.

If you would like to learn more about these opportunities or Poll Observing in general, please join one of a no obligation informal info session. The hope is that we can start to build these teams during the primaries and have this early experience carry over into this year's all important general election in the fall. Sign up at: [Poll Observer info session](#).

If you already know that you would like to serve as a Poll Observer, you can sign up for a shift (or several) at: [Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Petitions Near Me](#)

Thank you for helping us protect democracy in 2024!

## **Sign Up To Be a Primary Election Poll Greeter!**

Sign up at the links below to be a Primary Election poll greeter at one of the five early voting sites in Chatham County!

[CCCC Health Science Building, 75 Ballentrae Court, Pittsboro 27312](#)

[Chatham County Agricultural Center, 1192 US Highway 64, Pittsboro 27312](#)

[Goldston Town Hall, Goldston Town Hall, 40 Coral Avenue, Goldston 27252](#)

[National Guard Armory, 801 Alston Bridge Rd, Siler City 27344](#)

[Holland Chapel AME Zion Church, 360 Burgess Rd., Apex, NC 27523](#)

Please [download CCDP's Poll Greeting Guidelines](#) and read them before your first poll greeting shift.

CCDP is also offering optional (but highly recommended) [Poll Greeting Training](#). There are seven sessions to choose from, at times intended to accommodate different schedules.

Thank you for volunteering!

### **Join Our Texting Team!**

2024 is here, and we are gearing up for the elections ahead. Early voting for the March primary begins on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Help us spread the word.

We are launching a very targeted texting program aimed at making sure our supporters have all the information they need to vote in 2024. We plan to begin texting shortly before early voting begins on February 15<sup>th</sup> and we will wrap up on March 5<sup>th</sup>, Primary Election Day. Then, we will gear up to do it again next fall for the November election.

If you are shy around people, but not around computers.....this is the volunteer opportunity you have been looking for!

Volunteer [here](#).

### **Submit a Resolution for Our Upcoming CCDP Precinct Meetings!**

Interested in submitting a resolution to be considered for adoption at our upcoming February precinct meetings and possible incorporation into the state and national Democratic party platforms? Here's the most recent guidance document from the North Carolina Democratic Party.

NCDP Resolutions Guidance: <https://www.ncdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-NCDP-Guidelines-for-Resolutions-1.pdf>

Anyone contemplating submitting a resolution may also want to look through the Platform and the Resolution Adoption Report to see what's already there:

2022 Platform: <https://www.ncdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022-NCDP-Adopted-Platform-Adopted-June-18-2022-in-Durham-NC.docx.pdf>

2022 Resolution Adoption Report: <https://www.ncdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022-NCDP-Adopted-Resolutions-Adopted-June-18-2022-in-Durham-NC.docx.pdf>

If you have questions about the process or would like some help in submitting a resolution, please contact Tony Carroll, Chair of the CCDP Resolutions Committee, at [Anthony.j.carroll@outlook.com](mailto:Anthony.j.carroll@outlook.com). The Resolutions Committee will review all resolutions adopted at the precinct meetings, but it's very helpful to get comments from the committee before submitting them.

### **CCDP Volunteer Trainings**

You're invited to sign up for any of these upcoming training sessions:

February 13 & February 27, 1:30 - 3 p.m. [Training - Staffing Tent Events](#), CCDP Community Engagement Center (CEC), 628 East Street, Pittsboro

February 14, 16, 19 & 22, [Canvassing Orientation & Training](#) @Zoom.  
Please tell us a little about your previous canvassing experience and training by completing our [Canvasser Intake Form](#). Your responses will help us tailor the training to the needs of those attending each training session.

February 15 & 23 and March 1, 8, 15 & 22, [Volunteer Orientation](#) @Zoom

February 20, 1:30 - 3:30, [Training - Join Our Office Crew](#) @Zoom

February 23 and March 8 & 22, [Events Team Orientation](#) @Zoom

February 24, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., [Training - Introduction to Voter Registration & Voter Education](#), CCDP Community Engagement Center (CEC), 628 East Street, Pittsboro

**Event Hosts are needed for those trainings held at the CEC. To sign up, go to: [CEC Event Host](#) .**

###

### **Other Upcoming Events**

**Board of Elections Absentee Board Meeting, February 13, 5 - 7 p.m., Board of Elections Office, 984 Thompson St, Suite D, Pittsboro and online via GoToMeeting**

The Board of Elections will meet each Tuesday, beginning January 30th, prior to the Election on March 5th, to review all absentee ballots that were submitted to the Board of Elections since the previous meeting. During the Absentee Meeting the board will review the ballots and approve for final submission.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/783990557>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 783-990-557

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Agenda can be found at: [Draft Agenda February 13 2024](#)

**NC Counts Coalition Redistricting Roundtable, February 13, 2 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

During this meeting we will have additional dialogue on our plans to push redistricting education in this important election year; share updated messaging that connects redistricting and election work; introduce a comms piece that provides an overview of the current redistricting litigation; and we will be joined by guests who will provide updates on voter ID and resources you can use in your 2024 election work. The meeting should last about an hour.

Meeting notes from last month can be found here - January Roundtable Meeting [Participant Folder](#).

Sign up at: [Meeting Registration](#)

**Democracy NC Statewide Advocates Call, February 20, 6 - 7 p.m.**

We are calling all advocates to the table to discuss recent changes that are impacting voters in North Carolina and ways we can prepare for the primary election. You'll meet advocates from across the state and hear from panelists who previously held office. We'll also discuss local and state races that are on the ballot and important dates to remember.

Sign up at: [Statewide Advocates Call 02.20.24](#)

**Every Child NC Day of Action for Education Rights, February 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Join Every Child NC advocates in Raleigh as they condemn the NC Supreme Court's rehearing of Leandro and demand that the state honor the November, 2022 ruling by immediately funding the full Leandro Plan.

For more information and to sign up, go to: [Day of Action for Education Rights](#).

**Ballots y Belleza, February 24, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., ReCity, 12 Broadway St, Ste B, Durham (Sponsored by Poder NC)**

Join us at this event, where pampering intersects with civic education. Be in community as we learn, in depth, who is on your ballot 2024 and what each position does while getting a FREE pampering service from an aesthetician, nail tech, tarot reader, or make-up artist. Bring a friend with you and enjoy the experience together! By participating, you'll not only enjoy a day of relaxation but also gain the knowledge needed to vote confidently in the upcoming elections.

**Sign up for a one-hour slot at: [Ballots y Belleza Sign-up](#)**

**CORE Racial Equity Fundamentals Workshop, March 9, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, Pittsboro**

CORE's Racial Equity Fundamentals workshop builds a foundational knowledge of equity concepts and terminology. This workshop initiates conversations about race and racism while exploring methods to drive systemic change, shift power, and promote community healing as we move towards our collective liberation.

Cost to attend:

Standard rate - \$125/person

Equity-based - \$75/person

Pay-It-Forward - \$200/person (provides scholarship)

*Registration cost includes continental breakfast and lunch.*

Register [here](#).

###

**Events Sponsored by Red, Wine & Blue**

**Ask Me Anything: Black Moms: "White Suburbs," February 13, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

Suburban areas nationwide are growing and becoming more diverse. But while the media loves to discuss the impact of suburban women on elections, they consistently associate suburban with "white." The perspectives of women of color in these communities are too often ignored and their experiences left out of the national



narrative. We want to talk about it. Join us for this Ask Me Anything session where we will continue the conversation with our panel of Black moms about attacks on DEI and affirmative action, the glass cliff and the 2024 elections. What is actually being discussed in suburban communities and what does the media gets wrong?

Register at: [Ask Me Anything - Black Moms: "White Suburbs"](#)

### **Ask Me Anything: AMA:Facts vs Myths on Trans Sports Policies, February 15, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

Are you confused about trans sports bans in public schools? Disinformation is everywhere and extremists are using this issue to scare and cause division. Want a better understanding of facts vs. fiction and feel confident discussing it with your friends? Join us for this informative session with Anya Marino of the National Women's Law Center. Let's get answers to all your questions and make sure that all kids feel welcome and included at school and in their communities.

### **Banned Book Club: Caste, March 6, 7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

Join us for our March Banned Book Club as we read and explore *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Wilkerson draws parallels between caste systems in America, India, and Nazi Germany, identifying eight pillars that underlie such systems. Wilkerson also delves into the health and cultural implications of caste, ultimately suggesting ways for America to move beyond divisive human divisions towards a more hopeful shared humanity.

Sign up [here](#).

###

## **Calls to Action**

### **Improving Chatham County Public Schools**

The Chatham County Association of Educators (CCAЕ) is collecting signatures on a petition that asks the county for meaningful raises and phasing out mandatory dual roles. You can read more about the petition (in English and Spanish) and sign here: [Chatham's Schools Need Chatham's Help](#)

### **Lifting Children Out of Poverty**

If you're a parent, you probably remember that in the latter part of 2020 and through 2021, you received up to \$300 a month per child as part of the pandemic relief package. For families living below the poverty line, that money made a bigger difference than *any other program in history*. It's true – child poverty dropped to a low never seen before, and parents were able to buy more food, pay rent, and provide clothes and school supplies for their kids. Then Congress allowed the tax credit to expire, and child

poverty more than doubled, to 12.4%. And it is worse for Black families, 18.3% of whom now live below the poverty line, and Latino families, who are at 19.5%.

The bill that the House just passed – with both Democratic and Republican votes – won't see a return of the monthly checks, but it will do a lot of good, including increasing the amount of the child tax credit and expanding eligibility to many more families. It's a serious win, especially in today's divided Congress, and anyone who cares about the welfare of kids should be behind it!

But Senator Chuck Grassley spoke for Senate Republicans, saying that they don't plan to vote for the bill because, "Passing a tax bill that makes the president look good...means he could be re-elected." We have to let every single one of our senators know that we won't stand for letting them use our most vulnerable kids as a political football.

Tell NC's Senators to vote for the Expanded Child Tax Credit bill: [Help Lift Children Out of Poverty!](#)

###

## **News from the North Carolina Democratic Party**

**Press Release – February 8, 2024**

### **NEW REPORT: Under Unaccountable GOP Voucher Program, North Carolina Taxpayers Paid Almost \$483,000 to Private School that Appears to Not Exist**

Today, WFAE published an [article](#) highlighting how under the disastrous Republican voucher program, North Carolina taxpayers have sent almost \$483,000 to a private school that is impossible to locate and might not exist at all in the Charlotte area.

Six months after investigating the Teaching Students Achieving Academy that receives scholarship money under the voucher program and failing to locate the physical school, a WFAE reporter attempted again to find the institution and learn more about the education being offered at the school. Two registered addresses with the school were visited with no success and several phone calls to school officials were shut down or ended without answers.

While the General Assembly continues to chronically underfund North Carolina's public schools, Teaching Achieving Students Academy has received \$42,000 in money under the voucher program during the current school year, bringing the total over the last 10 years to almost \$483,000.

"This report proves just how unaccountable the Republican private school voucher program is – North Carolina taxpayers have sent a phantom private school over \$480,000 while our public schools struggle to stay afloat," said Tommy Mattocks, North Carolina Democratic Party Communications Director. "Republicans are siphoning away

money from public schools to funnel billions into their dangerous private school voucher program as part of their scheme to dismantle public education in North Carolina.”

The General Assembly’s most recent budget will expand this disastrous voucher program by \$250 million over the next two years to a total of \$4 billion over the next ten years. Some school districts will lose up to 8% of their revenue to private schools and several rural schools may be forced to combine with other schools or to close due to lack of funding.

Read the full investigation [here](#).

## **Press Release – February 8, 2024**

### **All Four Democrats on Council of State to Appear at YDNC’s 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

For the first time in recent YDNC history, all four Democratic members of the North Carolina Council of State will be appearing at the Young Democrats of North Carolina’s 2024 [convention](#). Council of State speakers include Governor Roy Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein, Sec. of State Elaine Marshall, and State Auditor Jessica Holmes.

The Young Democrats of North Carolina’s [annual statewide convention](#) will be held in Durham, North Carolina from February 9–11, 2024. YDNC’s 2024 convention is the largest meeting of young democrats in North Carolina and will also include the College Democrats of North Carolina and the North Carolina Association of Teen Democrats.

Other notable speakers and attendees include:

NC House Minority Leader Robert Reives

NC Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue

NC Democratic Party Chair Anderson Clayton

Young Democrats of America President Quentin Wathum-Ocama

“North Carolina’s future is remarkably bright thanks to the work of so many young and dedicated leaders in our state who have proven themselves as forces for positive change on everything from climate change to reproductive rights,” said Governor Roy Cooper. “This convention will be an exciting opportunity to learn, organize and get fired up to win North Carolina for Democrats up and down the ballot in 2024.”

“I’m excited to join the Young Democrats of North Carolina along with our Governor, Attorney General, and State Auditor at their upcoming state convention,” said Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. “North Carolina has a very large, diverse group of voters ages 18–35, and I look forward to working with YDNC this year to engage with and turn out the Millennial and Gen Z voters who can shape the future of our state by voting.”

“Our young folks in North Carolina are on the front lines in this fight for the future of our state and our country,” said NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton. “I’m excited to be a part of

this convention in such a crucial election year. The energy of this group will carry us through November and I'm looking forward to being with the young Democrats who will see us win when we hit the polls."

"It speaks volumes of our elected leaders and of our organization that young people are not only taken seriously, but embraced as vital partners in our shared pursuit of a better, bluer North Carolina," said YDNC President Dorian Palmer. "I look forward to seeing all of our Council of State Democrats, elected leaders, and party leaders in Durham on February 10th."

You can visit YDNC's convention website at [convention.ydnc.org](https://convention.ydnc.org) to purchase tickets, check out the convention schedule, and more.

YDNC will also be presenting the inaugural [Kay Hagan Memorial Scholarship](#) at this year's convention. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to young women pursuing higher education in fields of political science and public administration.

About YDNC: The Young Democrats of North Carolina serve as the official youth arm of the North Carolina Democratic Party and founding chapter of the Young Democrats of America. The vision of the Young Democrats of North Carolina is to make North Carolina a better place by promoting its issues, its young people, and the spirit of the Democratic Party.

### **Lawsuit Filed Against New Laws in NC Affecting LGBTQ+ Students**

The Campaign for Southern Equality has filed a complaint with the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, saying new North Carolina laws are creating a hostile environment for LGBTQ+ students. The lawsuit, highlighted in a new article by [The Advocate](#), states that "the laws violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the federal law banning sex discrimination in educational programs," [the complaint says](#). "The Department of Education has interpreted Title IX to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The statutes also violate North Carolina schools' obligation to provide every student with a safe school environment free from discrimination, according to the Campaign for Southern Equality."

The complaint addresses two laws passed last year through legislators' override of Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's veto. Senate Bill 49, characterized by its supporters as a "parents' bill of rights," limits instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools and forces staffers to out transgender students to their parents. House Bill 574 bars trans girls and women from competing in female sports in public schools and some private ones, plus both public and private colleges.

### **Statement from Chair Clayton**

"The harmful and dangerous Senate Bill 49 and House Bill 574 are examples of what's at stake in this election. We must protect our LGBTQ youth and I'm proud of The

Campaign for Southern Equality for standing up for our communities and our families to fight like hell to right this wrong. The future of our state is on the ballot this November and North Carolina is better than this. This is why every down ballot race is so crucial because we must have checks and balances in our state government to prevent implementation of hurtful legislation like these homophobic and transphobic bills.”

###

### **News from NC Congressman Jeff Jackson – February 9, 2024**

Other than the time we fired the Speaker, this was the craziest week I’ve had in Congress. Right now I’m sitting at my gate waiting to fly home, trying to figure out where to start. Let’s start here:

So, I’m on the House floor and we’re voting on a small bill, but we’re waiting for the big one. The big one is impeachment. For the first time in 150 years, it looks like we’re getting ready to impeach a cabinet secretary. But it’s not clear if the Speaker is going to call the vote. Two members of the majority party have said they’re opposed and another has been a little vague, so there might be three No votes in the majority. Assuming 100% attendance from the minority party - and with all of them voting against impeachment - three No votes from the majority would be enough to sink it. BUT the minority party doesn’t have 100% attendance. One member is in the hospital.

So, I’m watching the Speaker confer with his team and all the sudden he points his finger in the air and whips it in a circle - *let’s do this* - and they call the vote. A big clock on the wall starts counting down. Five minutes to vote. A moment later, a side door opens and Rep. Al Green - who had been in the hospital - *gets wheeled onto the floor in a blazer, hospital clothes, and no shoes*. He casts his vote and ties it, 215 to 215.

A tied vote means a failed vote, so this sparks a huge commotion on the floor. Now the Speaker is scrambling. His allies surround one of the No votes - the one who they thought might be a little squishy - and they’re really working on him. Voices are being raised; fingers are wagging. *Cmon cmon cmon*. And this gentleman just folds his arms and shakes his head. *Nope nope*.

The clock runs out, but the Speaker is at the podium and technically the vote stays open until he bangs the gavel. He’s watching his allies try to find one more vote... meanwhile the minority party is chanting, “Order! Order!”, which is what happens when the clock runs out and one party wants the Speaker to bang the gavel.

After a few minutes, the Speaker gives up - but not entirely. He knows he’s about to lose the vote, but he wants to be able to try again later. To do that, technically you need one member who was on *the winning side* to offer a motion to vote again. But since the vote failed, all of the Speaker’s folks were on the losing side. That meant the Speaker needed someone who voted for the impeachment to switch their vote so they could then

request a re-vote. So that's what happens. A member who voted for impeachment walks up to the House clerk and formally changes his vote, giving the majority the option to request a re-vote at a later date.

At this point it's pretty wild on the floor, but to be honest, my first thought when I saw him switch his vote was, "He's about to get pounded on social media." And he was. Holy smokes. Folks on social media who supported the impeachment had no idea he was just doing the Speaker a favor. They thought he was springing some secret trap and torpedoing the whole thing. They roasted him online. It was so brutal that he had to post a video explaining why he switched his vote, *but even that didn't work*. Last I checked the guy was still being hammered because people think it's some big conspiracy.

Just to be clear, the secretary could still be impeached. BUT - the special election to replace Santos is this Tuesday and if the minority party picks up the seat, it could affect the probability of impeachment.

### **The Border Bill**

So why was the Speaker so motivated to call the vote on impeachment this week? Because he needed to counter-message the abandonment of the border bill. Ok, but why was the border bill abandoned? Because the Speaker decided that allowing some version of that bill to pass would be a political disaster for him, and that outweighed any potential improvement in policy.

First, he probably would have been fired. His right-flank would have gone ballistic and tried to end his speakership. Maybe the minority party would have stepped in to provide the votes to save him, but that's a situation he'd rather avoid. Second, addressing the border would remove the top source of outrage available to the majority party heading into this election.

In the midterms, the top two sources of outrage used by the majority party were inflation and the border. Inflation has come down enough that it's no longer regularly in the national news, and that's the key. Campaigns don't actually have enough money to generate whole new sources of national outrage. You need the national press to do that. Once that happens, campaigns spend money on a "message," which is really just trying to pin the blame for the national outrage on the other side. Right now, there's only one source of outrage large enough for the majority party to base a national campaign on, and that's the border. That's why they didn't just criticize the border bill - they immediately chucked the whole thing overboard."

But Jeff, the border bill had real problems." Ok, but that's why we've got committees and subcommittees and members and staffers. The whole idea is to take stuff and rework it. None of that was attempted. What we saw instead was the instant abandonment not just of the bill, but of the idea of *even trying*. Only one reason for that: They knew they simply could not afford to give up their biggest source of outrage, even if its effectiveness is now weakened because of these fairly transparent tactics.

The Speaker is strategic enough not to say this stuff out loud, but some of his allies aren't, and they've given the game away with some of their comments. That said, despite everything, *it will still work as a campaign issue*. Not as much as it would have before this week, but enough to still be a top source of outrage for the election.

###

## **News from Neighbors on Call**

Thanks to the more than 350 of you who joined us on February 7<sup>th</sup> for “NCDP’s Roadmap to 2030.” We’re deeply grateful to Anderson Clayton (NCDP Chair), Jonah Garson (1st Vice), Dr. Kimberly Hardy (2nd Vice), Elijah King (3rd Vice), and Kian Sadjadi (NCDP Executive Director) for sharing their vision and energy with us, and to Braxton Winston for leading a fast-paced, informative discussion. We’re fired up!

Watch and share the [video recording](#) of “NCDP’s Roadmap to 2030.”

## **Get to Know Neighbors on Call, February 22, 7 p.m. (Virtual Event)**

Learn about NoC’s mission, strategy, and how we make it easy and fun to canvass (even if you’re nervous – we can relate!).

Spoiler alert: You can even sign up as a “silent canvasser”!

In 2024 we’re knocking doors in Wake and Granville Counties to help break the Republican supermajority in the NC General Assembly.

Come check us out!

Sign up [here](#).

## **Actions**

### **Every Child NC Day of Action for Education Rights**

Thursday, February 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Downtown Raleigh

Details and RSVP to Every Child NC [here](#).

### **Mass Poor People’s and Low Wage Workers’ State House Assembly and Moral March on Raleigh and to the Polls**

Saturday, March 2 – gather at 10 a.m., March at 11 a.m.

NC State Capitol (1 E. Morgan Street, Raleigh)

Details and RSVP to the NC Poor People’s Campaign [here](#).

## **Policy Updates for February 12, 2024:**

## Voting Rights

- [On Thursday NC Senator Jay Chaudhuri \(D-Wake\) announced his intention to file a bill that would allow the NC State Board of Elections to review constitutional challenges to candidates and potentially remove them from the ballot.](#) The board previously voted to dismiss a challenge seeking to remove Trump from the primary ballot, with four out of five members saying they lacked the authority to do so, given that primary ballots are decided by parties. It is unlikely that Chaudhuri's bill will progress in the NCGA, and Republican NC House Speaker Tim Moore has even declared an intention to file a bill that bars the election board from disqualifying candidates for insurrection.

## Justice

- [The state attorney general's office has asked the NC Supreme Court to provide guidance to lower courts about how to use a particular study when evaluating claims of racial discrimination in jury trials.](#) This could have implications for an upcoming hearing over whether racial discrimination played a role in the conviction of Hasson Bacote, a Black man on death row, based on the Racial Justice Act. That case could also impact the convictions of other people on death row.
- [A committee considering changes to the North Carolina State Bar's disciplinary processes met again on Friday.](#) The bar counsel, Carmen Bannon, spoke to the committee to address their concerns of "cancel culture," saying that she did not believe political motivations or "cancel culture" had been a factor in any of the bar's disciplinary cases. The committee also heard from lawyers who have represented bar members facing discipline, who said that social media has caused disciplinary matters to become potentially less private. While Republican legislators have been pushing for changes to the disciplinary process, a group of Democratic lawmakers warned that the requested reforms could reduce transparency.

## Policy Updates for February 5, 2024:

### Fair Representation

- [A group of North Carolina voters represented by former NC Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr announced Wednesday that they are suing the state on the basis that gerrymandered maps violate voters' rights to fair elections under the NC Constitution.](#) The suit, filed in state Superior Court, mentions specific new districts that were redrawn to favor Republicans. Orr, a redistricting expert and former Republican (he is now registered as unaffiliated), [said that the fair-elections claim hasn't been used previously](#) (as the other three cases challenging the election districts drawn last year are based on arguments about racial discrimination).



## Voting Rights

- [On Tuesday state elections officials announced changes in the way they intend to confirm addresses of people who register to vote using same-day voter registration.](#) New guidance requires election workers to take additional steps if an address verification card is returned, first comparing the addresses on the voter registration form and the card and then contacting the voter by mail, email, and phone to allow them to appeal or submit a new identification document. The changes come in response to a court ruling last week that same-day voting registrants' ballots can't be thrown out on the basis of one address verification mailing being returned as undeliverable; U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder said he would remove his injunction only once elections officials improve the process. He has not yet said whether the new rules satisfy his requirement.

## Education Policy and LGBTQ Rights

- [On Tuesday the Campaign for Southern Equality \(CSE\) filed a federal Title IX complaint against the State Board of Education and the North Carolina Department of Instruction, alleging that the so-called "Parents' Bill of Rights" law causes schools to discriminate against LGBTQ students.](#) The law requires schools to disclose students' name or pronoun changes to their parents and prohibits instruction on gender identity and sexuality in grades K-4. The CSE asked the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to protect students, who they contend are suffering from a hostile environment due to the law.

## Economic Policy

- [On Tuesday a legislative oversight committee held a hearing about North Carolina's auto insurance practices, specifically the use of a reinsurance facility for high-risk drivers.](#) North Carolina is one of only two states to use such a facility (the other is New Hampshire), a nonprofit group that operates as a risk pool for high-risk drivers. Lawmakers questioned leaders of the North Carolina Reinsurance Facility about their monitoring to make sure insurers aren't improperly or illegally assigning drivers to the high-risk pool. A 2023 report to the legislature recommended doing away with the facility model altogether, but legislators in the hearing seemed to favor other potential reforms.

## Immigration

- [On Wednesday NC House Republicans sent a letter to Governor Cooper calling on him to direct the 125 North Carolina National Guard members in Texas to work with the Texas National Guard rather than the U.S. Border Patrol.](#) Governor Greg Abbott of Texas is currently defying the federal government by preventing federal agents from reaching the border to cut razor

wire Texas installed. The letter also called on Cooper to sign a bill that would require county sheriffs to cooperate with ICE. Cooper responded by pointing out that the U.S. Congress is considering a bill that would include tough border security measures, but Republicans are not supporting the bill at the direction of Donald Trump, who believes a strong border bill passing now could hurt his campaign.

## Reproductive Rights

- [On Tuesday Governor Cooper, along with the 21 other governors that make up the Reproductive Freedom Alliance, filed an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court urging the justices not to restrict access to the abortion drug mifepristone.](#) Anti-abortion groups are seeking to overturn FDA approval of the drug, and the Supreme Court agreed to review the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that would roll back guidelines on prescribing and dispensing the drug to pre-2016 status, when it was significantly more restricted than it is currently. The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case on March 26.

## Justice

- [On Monday Governor Cooper issued an executive order to improve outcomes for people leaving prison.](#) The order calls on the Department of Correction to work with agencies across the government to improve formerly incarcerated people's access to housing, health care (including getting enrolled in Medicaid), and education. With this order, Cooper has enrolled North Carolina in a national effort called Reentry 2030, which aims to get state leaders to improve outcomes for people leaving prison and sets a series of benchmarks to track progress in this area by 2030.

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News from the North Carolina Department of Justice/Attorney General Josh Stein

[January Newsletter](#)

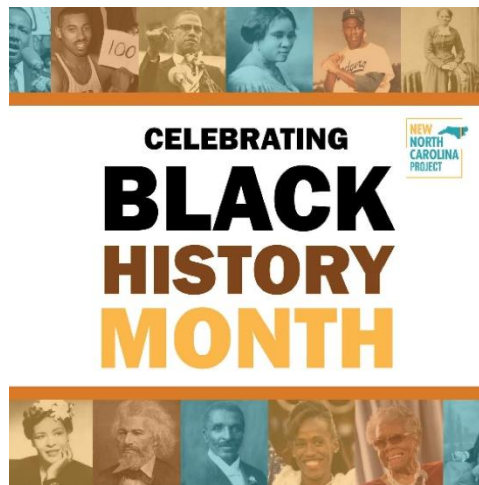
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News from the New North Carolina Project

## Celebrating Black History Month

Happy Black History Month from the New North Carolina Project!  
Black history is largely absent in discussions on American History despite being an integral part of it. By leaving out Black history, you are leaving out a whole people:

families, friends, educators, scientists, artists, laborers. People who made and continue to make America what it is today.



The Black community is beautiful. We are America. So, this month we're showcasing Black history, American history, in North Carolina in regards to our four pillars of economic mobility, housing security, civic engagement, and public safety

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## A Note from the CEO

Dr. Aimy Steele



To the Friends of NNCP and NNCPAF,

I am **deeply grateful for your continued support and commitment to a North Carolina that truly reflects and works for people of color.** It is fitting at the start of Black History month for me to take a brief

How will we do this work? NNCP, our service-based, nonpartisan 501c3 organization spent months analyzing our data, staying in communities, deepening existing relationships and creating new ones to provide a roadmap of service for the future. NNCP exists to lift Black and Brown people, and we do this through our Four Pillars:

moment to share some of our highlights and to walk with you through our movement into 2024.

There is too much to cover here (my team will not allow me to share everything in this note...so please stay connected!), but we are eager for you to engage with our updated websites and social media platforms to learn about all things New North Carolina Project and New North Carolina Project Action First!

In our first year of operation, **our team connected with over 60,000 people on the doors throughout NC. We made over 130,000 phone calls and sent over 2 million texts. We welcomed over 1300 volunteers and hosted 678 events.** These connections in our target communities led to new voter registrations. While voter registration is key to any equitable democracy, we learned during our conversations that that is only the beginning. **Collectively, we must all work to engage in historically and continually marginalized communities to bridge the gaps between politics, politicians and people.** We must put humanity, basic needs and fair practices at the kitchen table. In doing this most critical work, we help lift



We invite you to continue learning more about our specific programs, and we are excited to share the work with you.

New North Carolina Action First, an education-focused 501c4 organization, remains committed to making North Carolina politics reflect the true majority by centering & investing in communities of color, expanding the engaged electorate, and creating #lifelongvoters. **We continue to partner with other NC-based organizations that expand voter registration, deepen constituent connections to the voting process, protect voting rights and educate voters in BIPOC communities.**

Friends, there is a lot to do. Our mission and focus is clear, and we invite you to join us. It cannot be overstated how much is at stake. With your help, we will forge new paths forward and realize a government that is truly by and for the people.

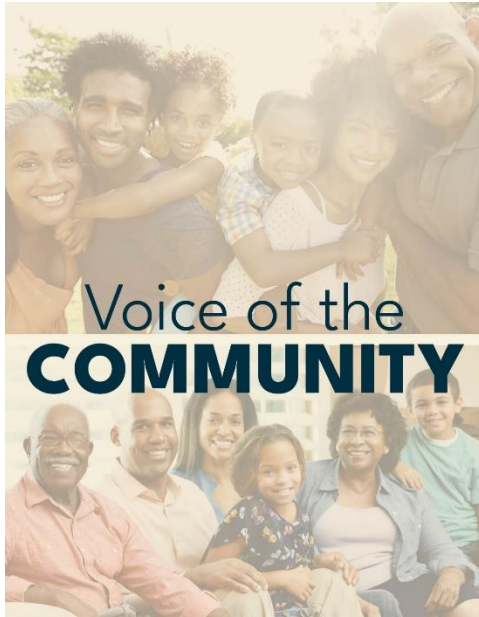
Sincerely,

*Dr. Aimey Steele*

Black and Brown people to claim their power and be active and engaged participants in our shared democracy. This is what we have learned, and this is our ongoing and steadfast commitment.

We look back at our work these past two years as tremendous progress towards engaging BIPOC communities in the electoral process. Our organizers and volunteers registered many North Carolinians to vote and informed thousands of people about state and national politics. We'll use our past achievements to fuel our next steps forward with our Four Pillars: Economic Mobility, Housing Security, Public Safety & Civic Engagement. Don't Miss Out! Follow our latest updates and resources on our websites and social media, stay ahead of the curve with the New North Carolina Project and New North Carolina Project Action First.





From thousands of our conversations with North Carolinians in 2022, we learned that eligible voters were sitting out of elections because they were facing unaddressed economic injustices. These racial injustices inhibit BIPOC communities from mobilizing for issues that affect them. It is unreasonable to expect our communities to be actively participating in our democracy when they're battling against its injustices. This is why we're refocusing our efforts on uplifting BIPOC communities through our Four Pillars of Economic Mobility, Housing Security, Public Safety & Civic Engagement.

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### **Selected News and Opinion Stories**

The Advocate: [North Carolina's 'don't say gay' law challenged by activists](#)

The Assembly NC: [Prosecutorial Discretion](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Democrats' Shrinking Tent](#)

The Assembly NC: [The Wages of Sin](#)

The Assembly NC: [Lift All Boats](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Democrats increase their focus on NC's once neglected rural areas](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Republicans cave to Trump, block border security deal they demanded](#)

Cardinal & Pine: [Trump is not immune from prosecution in his 2020 election interference case, US appeals court says](#)

Carolina Public Press: [Voter ID led to confusion during NC municipal elections, report says](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Winning NY-3, Do More/Worry Less, The Republicans Are Having A Truly Awful 2024](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Why I Am Optimistic About Winning This Year \(Video\), Big Final Push For Suozzi, 4 Things Biden Should Do Now](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Work To Do In NY-3, Republicans Want The Border in Chaos, Putin to Win and America To Lose](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [The US Economy Is Strong, The Republican Party Is Broken, Flipping NY-3 Really Matters](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Suozzi Leads In New Poll, 4 Things Biden Should Do Now, Hopium on CNN, Stat Of The Day](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Important New Bipartisan Senate Bill, Support Tom Suozzi Today, More Notes on Polling](#)

Hopium Chronicles: [Helping Tom Suozzi Close Strong, Dr. Jill Biden's Inspiring Note to All of Us](#)

Lucid: [When Rule of Law Becomes Rule of the Lawless](#)

News & Observer: [NC Voter Guide 2024: Governor candidate Mike Morgan, Democrat](#)

NY Times (may require subscription): [Biden and the Question of Age: When Does Old Become Too Old?](#)

NY Times (may require subscription): [How Mark Meadows Became the Least Trusted Man in Washington](#)

NY Times (may require subscription): [Special Counsel Report Clears Biden on Documents but Raises Questions on His Memory](#)

NY Times (may require subscription): [Biden Classified Documents Case: Takeaways From the Special Counsel Report](#)

NY Times (may require subscription): [Special Counsel Report Is Legal Exoneration but Political Nightmare for Biden](#)

NY Times (may require subscription): [How Trump Uses the Power and Imagery of His Presidency](#)

NC Health News: [Providers needed for delayed Medicaid plans](#)

NC Health News: [Lawmakers look for answers on child care funding cliff](#)

NC Newsline: [The race to get to 30% in crowded North Carolina primaries](#)

NC Newsline: [AG's Office pushes for delay in landmark Racial Justice Act hearing](#)

NC Newsline: [Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey rejects large rate increase](#)

NC Newsline: [Former Chatham County Housing Authority Director Sentenced to 2-1/2 Years in Prison for No-Bid Contract Scam](#)

NPR: [Read the special counsel's report on Biden's handling of classified documents](#)

WRAL: [NC child care model "unsustainable," approaching fiscal cliff, leaders caution](#)

WUNC: [Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson Talks Bathrooms, Suggests Transgender People Should Go 'Outside'](#)