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... for Democracy North Carolina's voter education and other work.

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

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Or contribute online at [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org)

**Democracy Advocates** help advance voting rights and electoral reform in NC by responding to our requests to take action or by making a financial donation (or both).

As a Democracy Advocate, you'll receive:

- Regular updates and action alerts (if you list your email address).
- Notices of research reports.
- Invitations to our skill-building workshops and other events.
- A positive feeling, knowing that you're improving democracy in our state, step by step.

# democracy ADVOCATE



Democracy North Carolina

Spring 2010

## What would North Carolina be like without us?

**W**e ask ourselves this question at Democracy North Carolina whenever the challenges we face seem overwhelming. The answer always reassures us: North Carolina would be a very different state. We would not be the national leader we are today, with Same Day Registration, Voter-Owned Elections, Youth Pre-Registration and other electoral reforms that serve as models for the rest of our country.

Take a moment to think of how profound this statement is: over the past decade, with your support and the help of our allies, we have transformed North Carolina into a state where good government is a priority and where participation in democracy is rising faster than in any other state. When we look at it that way, it gives us the strength to keep on fighting.

We needed this strength recently when the *Citizens United* ruling came down from the Supreme Court, leaving a lot of people worried that their voices would be drowned out by

**We could not have accomplished any of these things without our dedicated partners or without you, our unwavering supporters — thank you for standing by us.**

money in politics. We moved quickly to reassure people that we will meet this challenge in the same way we have met every other challenge to democracy in the past decade: by identifying practical opportunities for reform and uniting those who are willing to join us in fixing the fundamental flaws in our system.

This is not the kind of work that ends up in headlines very often. Winning electoral and ethical reforms requires the ability to pull back in the short-term to protect long-term progress. Above all, it requires perseverance. All of which means our greatest victories are often incremental wins. But we always move forward and, in a decade of shaping North Carolina's democracy, we have never strayed from our mission of achieving a government that is truly of, by and for the people.

won victories in local, state and federal Voter-Owned Elections, successfully shepherded Youth Pre-Registration through the General Assembly and set the stage for stronger ethical reforms.

### 2010: Seizing Opportunities

There will never be an easy year for Democracy North Carolina and we can guarantee you that 2010 will be no exception.

We hope you will stick with us as we:

- Advocate for legislative fixes to unleashed corporate spending in elections;
- Tighten ethics laws and address blatant conflicts of interest;
- Work to expand Voter-Owned, public financing options; and
- Ensure broad participation from educated voters.

These goals to defend and improve democracy are lofty and they will never be easily won. But we have the power of democracy itself on our side — and we've learned to use that power. We do not intend to back down now.

**With ethics and *Citizens United* on people's minds, we have a rare opportunity to make significant progress with reform in 2010. You can help by telling incumbents and challengers alike that you want meaningful change and more public campaign financing programs for NC.**

### Stay Informed

In December, we launched a revamped website that highlights our 2009 accomplishments and also offers research reports, issue education, program descriptions, details about our current advocacy goals plus a Link-of-the-Day, news about Democracy NC and more. Please join us regularly at [www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org) to stay informed!

### A Look at 2009

Last year, we did what we have always done at Democracy North Carolina. We acknowledged the challenges we faced (a recession; political scandals; state budget woes; an anxious public) and we evaluated our resources (research; on-the-ground organizing; powerful partnerships; dedicated Advocates; a talented staff). We then developed a workplan and moved forward methodically, week-by-week. By the end of the year, we had once again made significant progress. We'd



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# Thank You for Your Support in 2009

## Income by Source in 2009

**Individuals & Donor-Advised Funds:** \$199,538

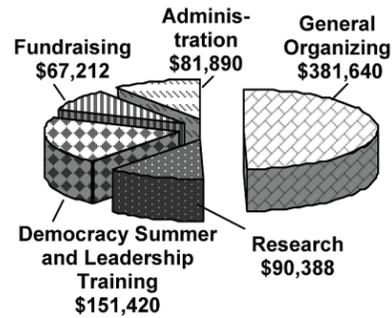
**Foundations, Nonprofits:** \$550,500

**Honorariums, Interest, etc.:** \$38,812

## How Did My Donation Help in 2009?

It was a big year for advancing public financing and voting opportunities. Here is a pie chart of our expenses.

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