

# ***“Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.”***

*We have cast our ballots, but our power does not stop at the polls. Now is the time to make your voice heard!*



## ***Passionate concern of dedicated individuals***

A democracy only works when we **the people** are **involved** and **engaged**. We are faced with hard political times, so it is vitally important to join others in your area to work for positive change and defend the progress already made.

Attending rallies, signing petitions and contacting your legislators are just some of the ways you can make a difference.

**Inside this brochure** you will find 4 specific actions you can take in 2013. Join others who share your vision of moving North Carolina forward, not backwards.

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***“To attempt radical reform without adequate organization is like trying to sail a boat without a rudder.”***

## **HELPFUL RESOURCES**

**Online resources:** There is a lot of information about workshops, videos, and tools to help activists. A good place to start is Democracy NC's site: [www.democracync.org](http://www.democracync.org).

Several groups in NC offer workshops that help youth and adults develop skills in many areas:

- ◆ Advocacy: Get your issue and message heard.
- ◆ Voting: How to add voters and focus their energy.
- ◆ Money & Power: The role of money in politics & your power over it.

For more on workshops and organizing in NC, call:

**NC NAACP** at 919-682-4700

**Democracy North Carolina** at 919-286-6000



**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”**

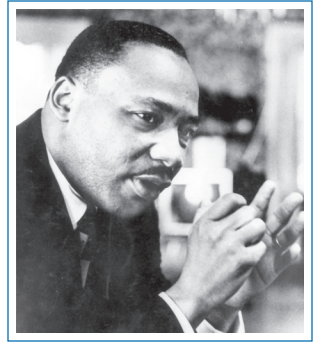


**Four Ways to Meet the Challenge of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

# Four 'Positive Actions' for 2013

"Human progress is neither automatic **nor inevitable**... Every step toward the goal of justice requires [the] **passionate concern of dedicated individuals**... This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is **a time for vigorous and positive action**."

- Dr Martin Luther King Jr. in *Stride Toward Freedom*, 1958



## *The People's Assembly in Raleigh - HK on J*

The NAACP of NC has built a large coalition called HK on J (Historic Thousands on Jones St.) in support of a People's Agenda with 14 issues.

Our state ranks 49th nationwide in education, the poverty rate is going up, and median household income is going down. Legislators have cut millions from education, Medicaid, mental health and other critical services -but they gave big tax breaks to wealthy corporations.

Add your voice to the thousands of North Carolinians who believe in economic and social justice. Join us at HK on J! **Gather in Raleigh at 9:30 am, Feb. 9, at Shaw University (corner of Wilmington and South St.) and march to the Legislature, 16 W. Jones Street. The march begins at 10:30 am** and lasts a couple hours, but the work of justice is year round. Be a part of this vital movement for change!

For details, go to [www.HKonJ.com](http://www.HKonJ.com) or call 1-866-NC-NAACP toll free.

## *Democracy for the People, Not Big Money!*

In 2010, in a case called "Citizens United," the US Supreme Court ruled that corporations are the same as "people" and political spending is the same as "free speech." As a result, an unprecedented amount of corporate money is pouring into national and local elections, tilting democracy in favor of wealthy special interests

But people are fighting back! 13 cities in North Carolina have passed resolutions calling on Congress to overturn "Citizens United." Make your city number 14! Contact Democracy North Carolina at 919-286-6000 if you are interested in mobilizing your community against big money in politics.

## *Voters choose politicians, politicians should not choose voters!*

The same legislators in Raleigh who want to exclude voters who don't have a government photo ID also want to end Same-Day Registration, shorten Early Voting and pass other laws that make it harder for some people to vote. These politicians want to choose who votes - we have to call them out!

Same-Day Registration and Early Voting are popular reforms that have helped increase voter turnout in North Carolina and we know democracy works best when more people participate. Voting is a right that no politician should have the power to manipulate. Join Democracy NC, the NAACP and a coalition of others working to protect fair, sensible voting laws! Write a letter to the editor, hold a film showing about voting rights (see back for contact info), or take a group to visit your legislators in your hometown. Tell them to respect your vote!

## *Say "yes" for fair elections*

Look for the box below on your NC income tax form. When you mark "yes" it costs you nothing; your tax refund stays the same.

Marking YES shows support for the Public Campaign Fund. The Fund pays for producing a Voter Guide about statewide candidates for NC's courts and offers those candidates public campaign funds if they limit spending and refuse big donations.

The Fund helps a wider diversity of judges serve on our courts.

### **N.C. PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FUND**

Mark "Yes" if you want to designate \$3 of taxes to this special Fund for voter education materials and for candidates who accept spending limits. Marking Yes does not change your tax or refund.

You	Your Spouse
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No