

- ◆ Opponents of public campaign funding plan to kill it
- ◆ The public program for NC judges will only work if you do your part: Mark a check off box on your NC income tax form for a *Public Campaign Fund* (see #4 inside).
- ◆ All four African Americans elected to seats on NC's top courts after 2002 used a public financing program.
- ◆ Under this public funding program, candidates can



## "In the future, we must become intensive political activists."\*

- ◆ In 2008, a record 70% of registered voters in NC voted, but only 44% voted in 2010. In most elections, a big majority don't vote!
- ◆ Make a commitment to tell others about voting. In NC, 16 and 17 year olds can register early. A person with a misdemeanor or who has finished a felony sentence, including probation, can register to vote.
- ◆ Help sponsor and attend workshops in your area on voting, advocacy & political reform (see back panel).

- ◆ Dr. King challenged us to "master the art of political alliance . . . to achieve many far-reaching changes." We must be better organized and "involve everyone we can reach" in unified efforts, because the challenges ahead are many. Some new leaders of the NC legislature want to repeal the Racial Justice Act, cut funding for schools, stop health care reform, and add new barriers to voting. They need to hear your voice.
- ◆ Dr. King faced segregation, beatings, and jail – and yet he organized with others to win changes. He urges us to learn "the creative use of politics" to form alliances, advocate, vote and win.

## FULFILL DEMOCRACY'S PROMISE

*"We must do more than register and more than vote; we shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we respect, who have moral and ethical principles we can applaud."\**

## CHALLENGE THE POWER OF MONEY

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

## EDUCATE, ORGANIZE, ADVOCATE

Dr. King emphasized the value of building coalitions: "If we are united, we can get many of the things that we not only desire but which we justly deserve." And he also emphasized uniting training with action:

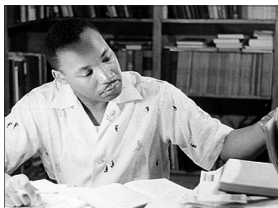
"Education without social action is a one-sided value because it has no true power potential.

Social action without education is a weak expression of pure energy."

To combine action and study, several groups in NC offer leadership workshops that help youth and adults

develop skills in many areas:

- ◆ **Advocacy.** Get your issue and your message heard.
- ◆ **Voting.** How to add voters and focus their energy.
- ◆ **Redistricting.** See #5 inside for the value of drawing maps.
- ◆ **Money & Power.** What's the role of money in politics & your power over it.

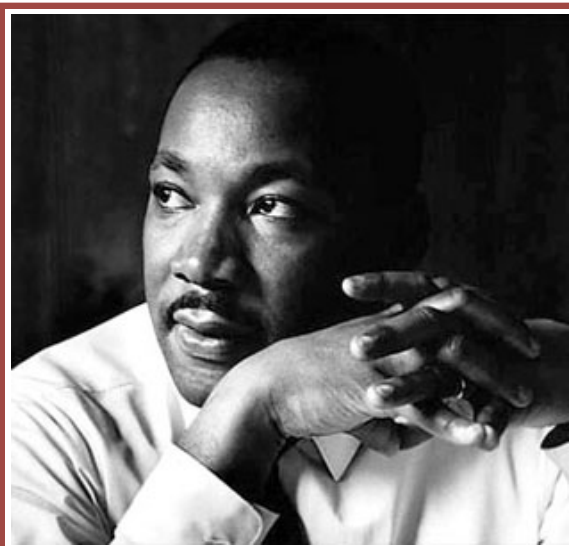


For more on workshops and organizing in NC, call:

- ▶ NC NAACP at 919-682-4700
- ▶ Democracy North Carolina at 919-286-6000; [democracy-nc.org](http://democracy-nc.org)
- ▶ NC Fair Share at 866-302-0031

## Be About Truth . . .

*"The day we see the truth and cease to speak is the day we begin to die."\**



## Five Ways to Meet the Challenge Of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



# Five ‘Positive Actions’ for 2011

***“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**

## 1 Come to “H K on J 5” On Feb. 12 in Raleigh

*This is no time for complacency.* The dynamic H K on J coalition (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) has already achieved major victories since it began in 2007. Led by Dr. William Barber and the NC NAACP, the coalition unites more than 80 groups in support of a broad 14-point People’s Agenda – for diverse schools, affordable housing, worker fairness, voting rights, equal justice and more.

We must keep moving forward and not go backwards! H K on J begins with a rally and continues all year. **Gather in Raleigh at 9:30 am, Feb. 12, at Shaw University (corner of Wilmington & South St.) and march to the Legislature, 16 W. Jones St. The rally begins there at 11:00. 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.**

## 3 Follow Dr. King’s Advice To Become A “Political Activist”

*The passionate concern of dedicated individuals.* Dr. King calls us to become vigorous advocates to “achieve many far-reaching changes.” Get involved with others in your area, work for positive change, and help defend the progress made. Contact the groups listed on the back of this brochure about many local programs or ask for a speaker.

## 4 Say “Yes” For Fair Elections

Because who gets elected is key, please look hard for this box ►►► on your NC income-tax form.

**When you mark “Yes,” it costs you nothing.** Your tax or refund is the same. YES shows support for a Public Campaign Fund.

The Fund (1) pays for a Voter Guide to inform us about the statewide candidates for NC’s courts and (2) gives candidates the option to use public campaign funds if they limit spending and refuse big donations.

The Fund helps a wider diversity of judges serve on our courts, especially those who don’t have big-money connections.

### **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**

<u>You</u>	<u>Your Spouse</u>
● Yes   O No	● Yes   O No

## 2 Fight the New “Poll Tax” - The Plan To Require a Photo ID for Voters

*Human progress is not inevitable.* Republican leaders in the NC General Assembly want to pass a law to make voters show a photo ID before voting. That may seem like a common-sense protection against fraud, but it’s already a felony to illegally vote or to lie when you sign in to vote. Cases of fraud that a photo ID would prevent are extremely rare in NC.

So why do Republicans want to add a new barrier to voting? Because it would mostly affect voters they don’t like, including thousands of people of color, students, people with disabilities and poor voters who don’t have a current photo ID. It’s about political power, racism, and greed. It’s very similar to what the Democrats did 100 years ago when they began the poll tax to disenfranchise black voters who were siding with Abe Lincoln’s Republican Party. We must not go backwards on voting rights.

## 5 Have A Voice in How Your District Lines Are Drawn

*A time for positive action.* Most of our political representatives are elected from districts – from school boards to Congress. How voters get included or excluded from each district has a big influence on who can get elected. This year, using numbers from the 2010 Census, local elected leaders will redraw the district lines for your school board, city council and county commission; and the General Assembly will redraw the legislative and Congressional lines.

This process is called redistricting. It will shape who can win for years to come – and what laws they enact. You can have an impact on how your district maps are drawn, even draw your own maps. To be involved, call Democracy NC at 919-286-6000.