

Support our work by becoming a "Democracy Advocate"

Democracy North Carolina depends on the financial contributions and volunteer efforts of individual supporters. Our *Democracy Advocates* contact legislators about key issues, keep us informed about what's important in their part of the state and tell others about our initiatives. If you would like to be a *Democracy Advocate* and receive a copy of our email newsletter, please call (919) 286-6000 or email us at info@democracy-nc.org.

You can also support Democracy NC financially:

- Make an annual contribution.
- Pledge a monthly amount on your credit card.
- Direct a gift to a specific program like voter outreach, research, Democracy Summer or community organizing.
- Make a legacy gift.

Contributions to Democracy NC are tax-deductible!

Regardless of how you give, when you invest in Democracy North Carolina, your money is put to good use:

- **\$2,300** sponsors a Democracy Summer student intern.
- **\$1,000** pays for original research into money in politics, voter participation and good government.
- **\$500** supports travel for a professional organizer and materials for multiple regional meetings.
- **\$100** supports electronic outreach to Advocates.
- **\$50** helps us print and distribute fact sheets on voter rights.

To donate to Democracy North Carolina, please mail a check to the address below, call Molly Beacham at (919) 286-6000 or visit us online at www.democracy-nc.org.



1821 Green Street, Durham, NC 27705
888-OUR-VOTE – or – 919-286-6000
www.democracy-nc.org

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Democracy North Carolina 1821 Green Street, Durham, NC 27705

Have you heard about Democracy North Carolina yet? You should: we work for you!

We have worked hard to... win **stricter ethical standards** for government officials... **limit lobbyist donations** and regulate their behavior... implement innovative **public campaign financing** programs that have brought North Carolina national acclaim... **expose corruption** in public office... **track the connections** between big money donations and special interest legislation... **advocate** for Early Voting and Same Day Registration... **protect voter rights... educate** citizens on their rights as constituents... **train new generations** of leaders for our state.... **anchor coalitions** in many NC cities... and **partner with civic organizations** that represent NC voters of many different backgrounds as well as many different political affiliations.



The people of North Carolina deserve a responsive and accountable government

Democracy North Carolina plays a unique role in our state. For over a decade, we have combined innovative research and grassroots organizing to improve the vitality of our democracy. On behalf of the people of North Carolina, our staff and volunteers have fought for and won:



- Rules to limit lobbyist donations and to regulate their behavior.
- Stronger ethical standards for elected officials.
- More transparent campaign finance reporting.
- Expanded Early Voting and Same-Day Voter Registration.
- Public campaign financing for judicial and Council of State races.

We have also protected voter rights, trained new leaders and inspired thousands of ordinary North Carolinians to demand a better government. Going forward, with your help, we will continue to protect democracy and be an effective watchdog for all the people of North Carolina.



“Democracy North Carolina is a much-needed advocate for good government and an effective force for improving our elections.”

— William C. Friday, UNC President Emeritus

Democracy North Carolina is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that promotes a government truly of the people, for the people and by the people of NC. We protect and educate the public on voting and constituent rights, advocate for legislation to eliminate barriers to running for office and work to reduce the corrosive effect of big money in politics. A belief in equality plus a respect for the civil rights of all citizens underpins our work.

We're changing people and changing policies: help us continue our good work!

Research-Based Advocacy

No other group in North Carolina has done more to document the connection between big money campaign donations and their often corrosive effect on election outcomes, government ethics, legislation and public policy.

We use our research to inform voters as well as to strengthen our advocacy and public outreach strategies. Our research has exposed corruption in office, inspired stricter ethical standards for elected officials, improved campaign finance reporting rules and confirmed the positive effects of electoral reforms on democracy in our state.

Going forward, we will:

- Follow the money trail in NC politics, especially the impact of special interests on public policy.
- Explore how electoral policy and voting patterns affect the quality of life that North Carolina offers.

> Contact Bob Hall at (919) 489-1931 or email him at sprc@mindspring.com for information on our research. Visit www.democracy-nc.org for a list of all current and archived research reports.

"The money we give to Democracy NC may not approach the millions that special interests pour into Raleigh each year – but it does make a difference and we can see it."

—Bessie & Paul Carrington, Durham, NC

\$98.8 million

Total Value of Donations to all NC Campaigns and Committees in 2008.



We are unique in NC in combining research with advocacy and grassroots organizing. Our integrated approach helps us remember that ultimately, numbers and policy affect the lives of real people.

Using Research to Win Electoral Improvements

Our research documented that NC ranked among the worst 15 states for voter turnout (1980–2004), that one million citizens were not even registered, and that barely 2% of young adults knew the cutoff to register was 25 days before Election Day. We also learned that "Same-Day Registration" in other states increased turnout, especially among youth and people of color. As a result, we began promoting a bill in the NC legislature in 2003 to allow citizens to go to an Early Voting site, show ID, register and vote – all in one day. We gained support from elections officials, mobilized our grassroots Advocates, led a 4-year campaign and eventually won! Result: 253,000 North Carolinians used Same-Day Registration in 2008 and NC ranked in the top 20 states for voter turnout.

Grassroots Organizing

Our organizers lead local civic coalitions in cities like Charlotte, Greensboro, Greenville and Fayetteville. Statewide, we have built a dedicated grassroots volunteer base consisting of thousands of people who take action on our issues.

Our local partners include civic organizations, faith-based communities, businesses, high schools, colleges and more. We provide them with training, print materials and hands-on support. Our goal is to empower regular people to play a more visible role in NC politics.

We also work with statewide partners on common goals like issue advocacy; voter registration, education and turnout; protecting voter rights; and public campaign financing. These partners include the AARP, League of Women Voters, the NAACP, the NC Bankers

Association, Generation Engage plus other groups representing a wide variety of North Carolinians.

With your help, we will:

- Add new chapters in NC's Triad, Coastal and Western regions.
- Expand the training we offer our statewide volunteer base.

> Contact Adam Sotak at (919) 286-6000 or email him (adamsotak@democracy-nc.org) for information on organizing activities.



Democracy North Carolina traces its roots back to 1970, when the Institute for Southern Studies was founded by veterans of the civil rights movement. We began as an Institute project and then became the NC Project of Democracy South before incorporating as a separate organization. We remain committed to promoting and protecting the equal rights of all NC citizens – including equal voting rights, equal representation in government and an equal voice in shaping policies.

Leadership Training

North Carolina's future depends on our ability to inspire new leaders. That's why we target younger voters, conduct leadership training for our partners, recruit role models from underrepresented groups and serve as mentors to young organizers.

"We need to leave our state in good hands for the future. I give to Democracy Summer each year because it's the best training program there is."

—Liz Hair, Charlotte, NC



Inspiration. Opportunity. Mentorship. These are the gifts we give our local coalition members so that they can perfect their organizing and leadership skills. We also sponsor Democracy Summer each year, a renowned training program for college students that teaches them all the fundamentals of effective advocacy.

Going forward, we will:

- Increase our leadership training around the state.
- Expand our Democracy Summer program.

> Contact Jenn Frye at (919) 286-6000 for more information on any of our activities. Email her at jennfrye@democracy-nc.org.

Inspiring a New Generation



"Before Democracy Summer, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer but I wasn't sure what area of law I wanted to practice. But after doing work with the local and state Board of Elections, I developed a desire to make sure people's voting rights are protected. Today, I am in law school at North Carolina Central University. I plan on practicing election law after graduation. Democracy Summer helped me find my passion and I'll always be grateful I had the opportunity to discover what I love doing."

—Terrell Nicholson, Dem Summer Alum

368

Number of Early Voting Sites Opened in 2008.

101

Young Leaders Trained Through Democracy Summer Since 2000.

4,697

Number of Statewide Democracy NC Volunteers Advocating for Our Issues.

