

# “We must accept **finite disappointment**, but never lose **infinite hope**.”\*

The civil rights battles of 50 years ago teach us that we must not become discouraged. Together, we can make progress.

Dr. King said, “We must demonstrate, teach and preach until the very foundations of our nation are shaken.”

Demand justice, teach people the new voting rules, create a voter action ministry for your congregation!

## “Voting is the foundation stone for political action”\*

Five changes in NC’s election rules that affect you:

- 1.** No Photo ID in 2015. Poll officials will ask if you have a photo ID, but you don’t need to show it until 2016. Even in 2016, curbside voters with a disability and voters using a mail-in ballot will not need a photo ID.
- 2.** No straight-party voting: Voters must mark their choice in each race on the ballot.
- 3.** Early voting is cut from 17 to 10 days.
- 4.** No late registration. You must be registered at your current address at least 25 days before Election Day. You must update your registration if you move.
- 5.** No out-of-precinct voting on Election Day. You can vote at a central location during early voting, but on Election Day, you must go to your own precinct’s polling place.

**Save This Number:** Call toll-free 1-888-OUR-VOTE (888-687-8683) if you have a question about voting, experience a problem at the polls, or know someone who will have a hard time getting a photo ID.

open

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

## Helpful Resources

Dr. King stressed the importance of combining study 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.”

**Learn & Act:** Learn about the new voting rules. Help people get IDs. Hold a registration day for your congregation. Call *Democracy NC* for help or visit [www.demnc.co/jumpstart](http://www.demnc.co/jumpstart).

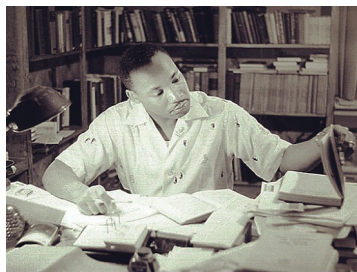
*Democracy North Carolina* and the *NC NAACP* sponsor workshops and grassroots projects that help youth and adults develop skills and have an impact in their communities.

For more about activities and materials, contact:

**Democracy North Carolina**  
919-286-6000 or  
[www.democracy-nc.org](http://www.democracy-nc.org)

**NC NAACP**  
919-682-4700 or  
[www.naacpnc.org](http://www.naacpnc.org)

You can also find both groups on Facebook!



Prepared by Democracy NC, 2015  
\* Quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”\*



### Actions for the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act

# Black Lives *and* Voting Rights

*“Voting is the foundation stone for political action.” \**

*-Dr Martin Luther King Jr., writing from a jail in Selma, AL, 1965*

## Lessons from 50 Years Ago



*The Voting Rights Act of 1965 became law in response to the persistent organizing and sacrifice of non-violent freedom fighters across the South. The galvanizing moment occurred in Selma, Alabama, on “Bloody Sunday,” March 7, 1965, when Alabama state troopers*

*viciously attacked 500 marchers with clubs and tear gas.*

*The marchers were protesting the harassment of African Americans trying to register to vote and the police murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson after a vigil. Pictures of “Bloody Sunday,” broadcast around the world, spurred Congress to adopt the Voting Rights Act against discriminatory practices that block voting. It became a powerful tool for justice.*

*In 2013, the US Supreme Court overturned part of the Voting Rights Act – and the NC legislature immediately adopted a host of new voting restrictions. Fifty years after the VRA passed, we can and we must mount new campaigns to “make real the promise of democracy,” as We the People have done in the past.*

## 1 The Moral March for Love & Justice: February 14, 2015

On Valentine’s Day, thousands of North Carolinians will march for voting rights, economic justice, good schools, equal justice, quality health care, and more. These are the goals of the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (H K on J) coalition, led by Rev. William J. Barber II and the NC NAACP.

Gather at 9:00 am, Feb. 14, at Shaw University (corner of Wilmington and South St.) and march to the legislature, 16 W. Jones St., Raleigh. The event lasts a couple of hours, but the work for justice is year round. Be a part of the Forward Together movement!

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

## 2 All Elections Matter

The city police report to the city government, and voters elect the mayor and city council! Black lives matter and so do elections – especially on the local level where focused organizing can pay off. Hundreds of NC cities and school boards hold elections in 2015.

“Necessity will draw us toward the power inherent in the creative use of politics,” said Dr. King. Learn more about local elections at [NCVoter.org](http://NCVoter.org).

## 3 Be a Democracy Advocate

In 2014, hundreds of Democracy North Carolina volunteers educated voters about the new election rules and pressured county election boards to provide better early voting locations and hours.

You can be a non-partisan Democracy Advocate, too. Volunteers are needed to register voters, monitor local boards of elections, serve as poll observers, and help people get IDs for voting. You’ll work with other volunteers in your area as part of a coordinated statewide effort.

You can also volunteer to promote policies that improve how elections are conducted, reform the redistricting process, hold police and public officials accountable, restore the Voting Rights Act and tackle the corrupting role of big money in politics.

To sign up, visit [www.demnc.co/jumpstart](http://www.demnc.co/jumpstart) or call the Democracy NC office: 919-286-6000. Or call a regional Democracy NC office:

**Charlotte:** 704-957-3105

**Winston-Salem:** 336-870-2168

**Fayetteville:** 910-527-5441

**Rocky Mount/Greenville:** 252-885-5187