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Newton & Arroyo, PLLC [newtonarroyolaw@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 5:05 PM**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

Hi Steve,

Sorry, I meant to write earlier but it slipped my mind. My name is Matt Newton and I am running for Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Chair.

Here is some additional pertinent information:

I have been an active member of our party for years. I was the 2012 Mecklenburg County Get-Out-The-Vote Chair, and helped coordinate and implement a strategic vision for victory. Our County Party made thousands of phone calls to Democrats, canvassed, and staffed the polls in a successful effort to get Democrats elected that year. I have also served as Parliamentarian for both County and Congressional District Conventions and successfully represented Democrats in front of our State Party's Council of Review.

I also have a proven track record as a community spokesperson, organizer and leader. In 2013, I successfully coordinated 11 community-based organizations and wrote policy to change Charlotte's Citizens Review Board. Over a nine-month period, I led the charge for reform and my policy was passed in November 2013. That new policy reformed Charlotte's Citizens Review Board and now provides independent, external oversight of our police department. Furthermore, I am an active Board Member of The Male's Place, and Board Member and General Counsel of the National Action Network-Charlotte.

I am a native of Charlotte and a graduate of Myers Park High School. After earning my undergraduate degree from UNC-Wilmington at the age of 19, I moved to San Diego where I obtained my J.D. at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. After clerking for two law firms in California specializing in personal injury and workers compensation cases, I moved back to Charlotte and have been licensed to practice law in North Carolina since 2006. As founder and managing director in my law firm, Newton & Arroyo PLLC, I assist clients with criminal defense, expungements, bankruptcies, civil litigation and estate planning.

Last year's ranking of 93 (out of 100 counties) in voter turnout was not just abysmal, it was embarrassing. The State counts on Mecklenburg to get Democrats to the polls and we can't let them down again. I plan on turning things around by focusing on the implementation of a genuine Get-Out-The-Vote plan, by engaging our auxiliaries and precinct committees (as well as engaging the general public), and by instituting rolling fundraising efforts. I also plan on reaching out to non-Charlotte Democrats, and doing my best to include their voice in County Party decisions. It is important that the County Party create a buzz that rejuvenates the Party faithful while broadening our base, and that's what I will do.

Thanks Steve!

Matt