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# THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE

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**Greetings!**

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.  
This War on Oppression will only be won as one  
mass movement.

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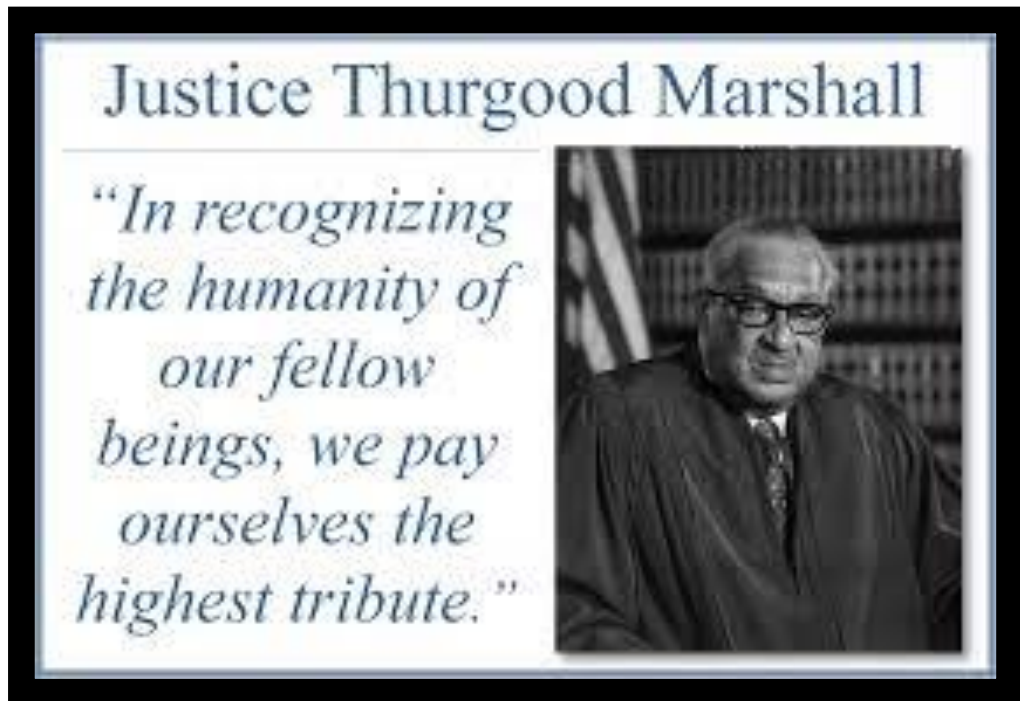
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## Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

## Spotlight



### Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

(June 2, 1908 - January 24, 1993)

**By DonnaMarie Woodson**

*In response to the Republicans ramming through an extreme conservative judge, [Amy Coney Barrett](#), an [originalism](#) in the mold of [Antonin Scalia](#), I decided to profile the true model of an exemplary Supreme Court Judge. Whom, established and upheld that all people should have the same rights and justice under law.*



From left, attorneys George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, and James Nabrit Jr. celebrate their victory in the Brown case on May 17, 1954.)

On October 2, 1967, Chief Justice Earl Warren swore in [Thurgood Marshall](#) as the first black U.S. [Supreme Court Justice](#) in the nation's history. Justice Marshall would remain on the Supreme Court for 24 years before retiring for health reasons, leaving a legacy of upholding the rights of the individual as guaranteed by the [U.S. Constitution](#).

From a young age, Marshall seemed destined for a place in the American justice system. His father, William Marshall, who was a railroad porter, and his mother, Norma, a teacher, instilled in him an appreciation for the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law.

Thurgood Marshall was born Thoroughgood Marshall on June 2, 1908 in Baltimore, Maryland. Tired of having his friends poke fun at his first name, he decided to try to improve the situation and, at the age of six, legally changed it to Thurgood.



As a young man, perhaps the person who had the most influence on him was his father, a man who always told his son to stand up for his

beliefs. His father's influence was so strong that, later in life, Marshall once said that his father "never told me to become a lawyer, he turned me into one."

A feeling that was reinforced by his schoolteachers, who forced him to read the document as punishment for his misbehavior.



Marshall immediately liked the document and set about memorizing various parts of it. He took special interest in Article III and the Bill of Rights. Article III establishes the judicial branch of government and the Bill of Rights lists the rights that all American citizens are supposed to enjoy. Growing up in an era when Jim Crow laws still permeated much of the country, Marshall knew that many African-Americans were not enjoying all of their constitutional rights. From an early age, Marshall was aware of racial injustices in America, and he decided to do something about them. Moreover, he also knew that the courts might be the best means for doing so.

After graduating from the all-Black Lincoln University (the oldest African-American institution of higher education in the country) in 1930, Marshall sought admission to the University of Maryland School of Law, but was turned away because of the school's segregation policy, which effectively forbade blacks from studying with whites. Instead, Marshall attended Howard University Law School, from which he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1933. (Marshall later successfully sued Maryland School of Law for their unfair admissions policy.)

Setting up a private practice in his home state of Maryland, Marshall quickly established a reputation as a lawyer for the "little man." In a

year's time, he began working with the Baltimore [NAACP](#) (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), and went on to become the organization's chief counsel by the time he was 32, in

Marshall 1957



1940. Over the next two decades, Marshall distinguished himself as one of the country's leading advocates for individual rights, winning 29 of the 32 cases he argued in front of the Supreme Court, all of which challenged in some way the 'separate but equal' doctrine that had been established by the landmark case [Plessy v. Ferguson](#) (1896). The high-water mark of

Marshall's career as a litigator came in 1954 with his victory in [Brown v. Board of Education](#) of Topeka. In that case, Marshall argued that the 'separate but equal' principle was unconstitutional and designed to keep blacks "as near [slavery] as possible."

In 1961, Marshall was appointed by then-President [John F. Kennedy](#) to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, a position he held until 1965, when Kennedy's successor, [Lyndon B. Johnson](#), named him solicitor general. Following the retirement of Justice Tom Clark in 1967, President Johnson appointed Marshall to the Supreme Court, a decision confirmed by the Senate with a 69-11 vote.

Over the next 24 years, Justice Marshall came out in favor of abortion rights and against the death penalty, as he continued his tireless commitment to ensuring equitable treatment of individuals—particularly minorities—by state and federal governments.

Marshall retired from the Supreme Court in 1991 due to declining health. In his retirement press conference on June 28, 1991, he expressed his view that race should not be a factor in choosing his successor, and he denied circulating claims that he was retiring

because of frustration or anger over the conservative direction in which the Court was heading. He was reportedly unhappy that it would fall to President [George H. W. Bush](#) to name his replacement. Sadly, Bush nominated [Clarence Thomas](#) to replace Marshall as Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett, cementing the ultra-conservative bent of the Supreme Court.

Thurgood Marshall died in 1993 from heart failure, leaving behind a legacy that earned him the nickname "Mr. Civil Rights." Before his funeral, his flag-draped casket was laid in state in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court. He was only the second justice to be given this honor.



Cecilia Marshall (2nd from left) and Justice Thurgood Marshall (right) and their two sons.

Marshall was married twice. He married [Vivian "Buster" Burey](#) in 1929. After her death in February 1955, Marshall married [Cecilia Suyat](#) in December of that year. They were married until he died in 1993, having two sons together: [Thurgood Marshall Jr.](#), a former top aide to President [Bill Clinton](#); and [John W.](#)

[Marshall](#), a former [United States Marshals Service](#) Director and [Virginia Secretary of Public Safety](#).

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## Editorial

# Reforming the Electoral College

By

Tarik Kiley

October 24, 2020

To be anti-climactic, I'm going to argue in this article that the Electoral

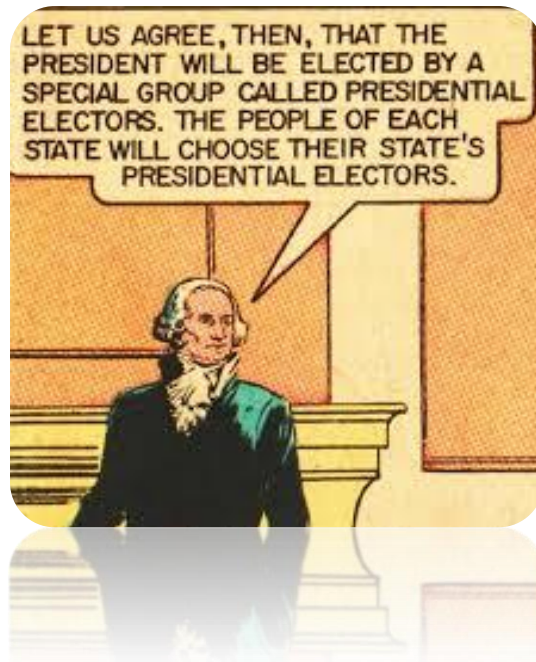


College should be completely reformed-- with the Electoral College being the process by which the President of the United States is chosen. Under our current system, the President of the United States is installed into power *not* by the

national popular vote, but by the states' electoral votes.

The Electoral College was originally created by the Founding Fathers because they didn't trust democracy completely. They felt that a pure democracy would actually be mob rule, so they instilled the Electoral College to counter that.

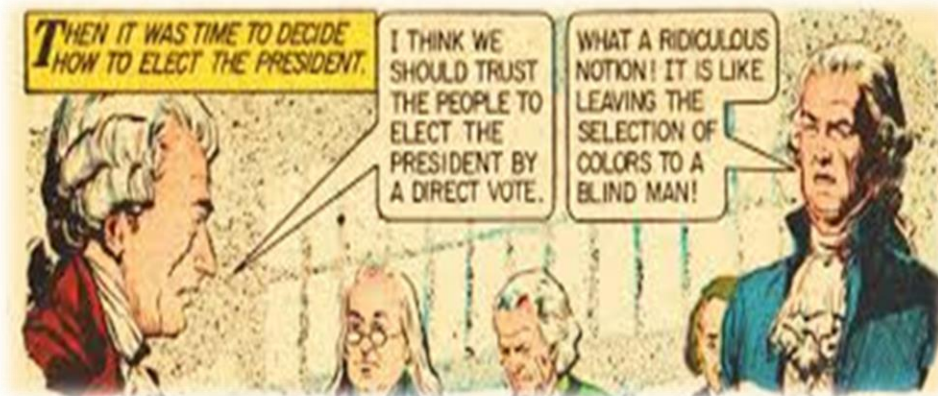
According to the American Bar Association, “The basis for the Electoral College is found in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution, which spells out how the president shall be chosen. It gives each state “in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct” electors equal to its representation in Congress. The Constitution originally stipulated that the top vote-getter chosen by these electors would become president and the individual with the second-most votes would be vice president. But after the presidential election in 1800 resulted in an acrimonious tie vote between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, the 12th Amendment was ratified in 1804. It provides for separate votes for president and vice president and specified that those individuals must be from different states.”



So, the idea here is that the Constitution can change. Just as the 12th Amendment was passed, so can another amendment be passed to change the fundamental nature of the Electoral College. If you examine history, the vote has been expanded over time, giving more power to citizens to determine who their representatives will be. In 1920, the 19th Amendment was passed to give women the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed racial discrimination in voting. The vote has been granted to more and more American citizens over time, and our country has become more inclusive because of it, moving towards the “more perfect union.”



**It is elitist to allow a small group of persons to choose who the**



**President of the United States should be, because this leads to minority rule, as with the current**

**President, Donald Trump, and with the contested 2000 election, where President Bush won. More people today, are more educated and have more knowledge than was the case at the time of the creation of the Electoral College. This means that more people are aware of civics and have access to information on an unprecedented level. Given this fact, people should be entrusted and be consulted for their consent when it comes to selecting the President.**

**The fear of mob rule is essentially a fear that ignorant people will make bad choices for the future of the country, and that they don't have the capacity to choose their leader wisely. But, because of the proliferation of information, people are actually more now than ever capable of choosing their leader. This makes the Electoral College both undemocratic and unfair.**

***According to the New York Times***

**The main problem with the Electoral College today is not, as both its supporters and detractors believe, the disproportionate power it gives smaller states. Those states do get a boost from their two Senate-based electoral votes, but that benefit pales in comparison to the real culprit: statewide winner-take-all laws. Under these laws, which states adopted to gain political advantage in the nation's early years,**

even though it was never raised by the framers — states award all their electors to the candidate with the most popular votes in their state. The effect is to erase all the voters in that state who didn't vote for the top candidate. Today, 48 states use winner-take-all. As a result, most are considered “safe,” that is, comfortably in hand for one party or the other. No amount of campaigning will change that.

The only states that matter to either party are the “battleground” states — especially bigger ones like Florida and Pennsylvania, where a swing of a few thousand or even a few hundred votes can shift the entire pot of electors from one candidate to the other.

### **Electoral College**

- **An American president is not chosen directly by the people.**
- Instead, an Electoral College is used.
- The Electoral College was established by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution of the USA
- **In a close election the importance of the College grows.**
- The electoral college is the name given to a group of “**electors**” who are nominated by political activists and party members within the states.

The winner takes all laws are counterintuitive, and exactly reflect a flaw in our two party system. Though I'm not necessarily recommending proportional representation, an all or nothing approach may be flawed. This would have to be examined in greater

detail. It needs to be examined because “faithless electors” can still vote for the least popular candidate, and also because of the disproportionate attention given to swing, battleground states. With the Electoral College, the power to win is on the state level. The more populous states get more electors, so the idea is to win the majority of states, rather than the national popular vote.

Changing the Electoral College will need to come about by a constitutional amendment, and a younger more educated population might support it. Also, using the popular vote will make America more

inclusive, as the non-white popular vote becomes more important. If we continue to keep the Electoral College, then the vote should go to whoever wins the popular vote on the national level. This again is a move towards the “more perfect union.” Regardless of the solution to the Electoral College dilemma, the people should still be entrusted to decide for themselves.



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# Announcements



## Imagining Pride:

**Governor Cooper & (future) Lt. Governor Holley  
Hosted by LGBTQ Democrats of North Carolina  
Sunday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 PM**

**Register:**

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/imagine20>

## **Wallace for Congress**

**Final Wallace For Congress Fundraiser for 2020 Election Cycle  
Sunday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 PM**

**Register:**

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/110120finalevent>

## **NO LONGER SILENT NO LONGER INVISIBLE**

**Hosted by Glencie Rhedrick**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020 AT 12 PM EST – 1 PM EST**

**Let's Talk About: We're Better Than This  
My Fight For The Future of Our Democracy  
with Maya Rockey Moore Cummings**

**Online Event:**

<http://bit.ly/thekeyofwe>

# Announcements



## Mecklenburg County COVID Testing (West Charlotte)

Hosted by StarMed Family & Urgent Care  
Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30AM - 7:30PM  
4001 Tuckaseegee Road Charlotte, NC 28208

## Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

November Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – Zoom

## Mecklenburg County COVID Testing (East Charlotte)

Hosted by StarMed Family & Urgent Care  
Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00AM - 5:00PM  
5344 Central Ave, Charlotte 28212



Please submit your group events to [donnamarie93@gmail.com](mailto:donnamarie93@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

# Happenings Gallery!

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## Coalition of United Progressives Char-Meck

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**The Executive Corner:**

**Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson**

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson,**

**Rev Glencie Rhedrick**

**Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle**

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