

May's Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
Date 2022-06-04 08:30

The New Rural Project's Rural Roundup Monthly Newsletter

Steve,

This past year, in preparation for the May 17th primary and municipal elections, we launched our Front Porch Conversations (Deep Canvassing), F.A.D.E. Barbershop Conversations, and weekly phonebanking efforts to reach the folks who aren't typically receiving phone calls or door knocks. **We listened and learned so much from these voters, and in the Electoral Engagement section of our #RuralRoundUp, you'll hear a couple of voting success stories!**

We're now officially in the General Election season, and thanks to your generous support, we're already preparing for November by ramping up our voter outreach efforts and engaging with more rural voters than ever before.



Finally, over the month of May, our democracy has been greatly tested. A leaked draft opinion from the Supreme Court shows Roe v. Wade could be overturned, leaving reproductive rights to the states, and the mass shootings in Buffalo, NY, and Uvalde, TX, still weigh heavy on our hearts. These tests of our democracy show us that our work to get everyone involved in our electoral process is needed now more than ever. We need to elect officials up and down the ballot who will be fair and impartial judges and legislators that will enact common sense gun laws that over 80% of Americans support.

Let's continue working together to achieve this goal.

With gratitude,

Cynthia and Helen
Co-founders of NRP

LISTENING



On June 5, we will launch our second Barbershop Conversations: Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment (F.A.D.E.), where barbershop talk meets civic engagement, at Main Street Barbers I in Scotland County.

We are excited to announce our partnership with a collective of five barbershops that call themselves the Master Barbers of Laurinburg (Masters on Main, C&J's Smoove Cuts, Wizard Cuts, Veterans Barber, and Creig's Barber Shop). Registered attendees will receive a \$25 gift card for each session they attend (that's \$100 for all 4 sessions!). Dinner will be provided. **Young Black men in Scotland should sign up here.**

The four-part series with a focus group of 12-15 men of color between the ages of 18-40(ish), will occur on Sunday June 5, June 12, June 26, and July 3. Like our Anson F.A.D.E. program, we will bring local community leaders, entrepreneurs, and elected officials together with young Black men from Scotland County to discuss other issues important to them, such as the justice system, crime, voting, civic engagement, and more.

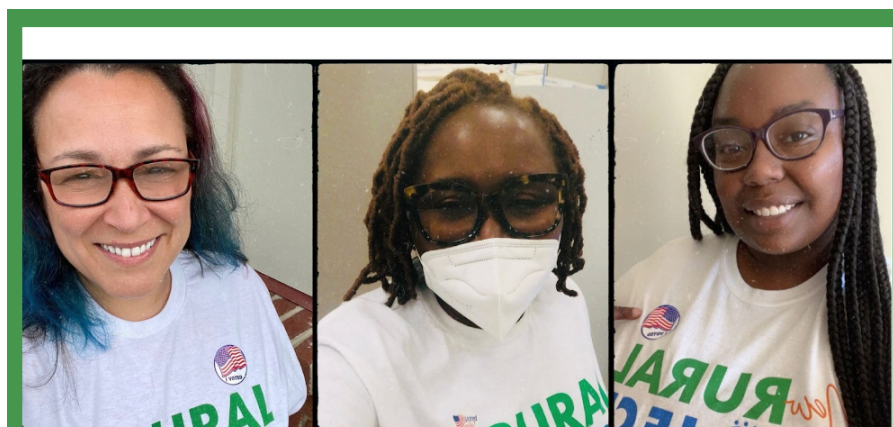
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

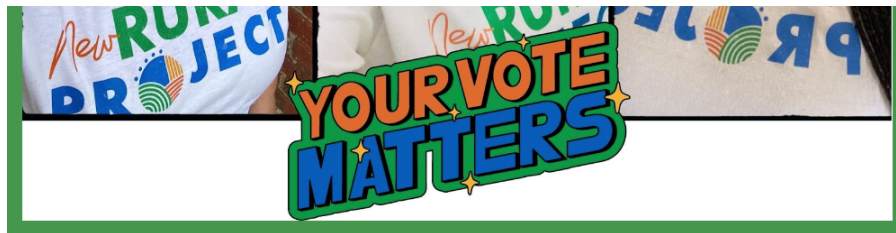
If you follow us on social media, you have probably noticed that we've been pushing out information about



funding the Leandro Plan. On May 23rd, we partnered with Communities for the Education of Every Child NC and Pastors for NC Children for a Zoom webinar to unpack the Leandro Plan and discover what it would mean for our seven focus counties. Once the Comprehensive Remedial Plan is enacted, Anson, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland and Union would receive, combined, more than \$245 million in additional funding from the state. Missed the webinar? [Here's the link to a recording of the full event.](#)

ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT





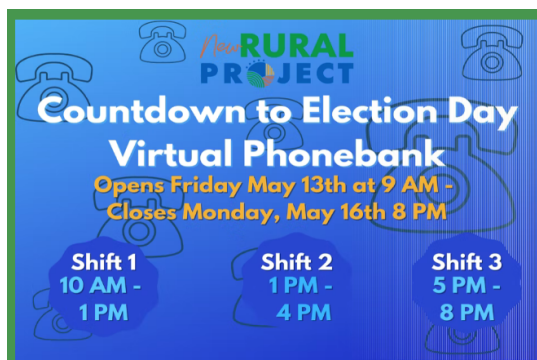
Canvassing in Scotland

On May 14th, the last Saturday of Early Voting, we canvassed in Laurinburg (Scotland County) one last time.



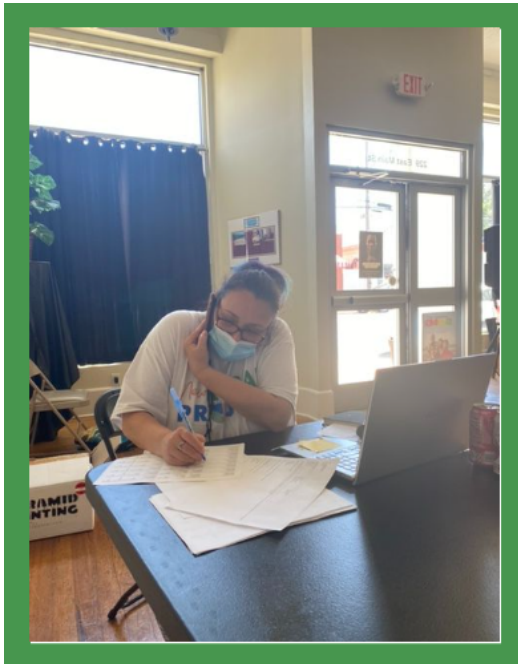
We even had a first time voter in our own midst! Takala, an 18-year-old senior at Scotland High School (pictured above), canvassed for the first time with us! When we learned she hadn't voted yet, we sprang into action answering every question she had about candidates and the process. Our super volunteer Helen Wood went to the polls with Takala and she walked out as a first time voter! This is an example of the power of canvassing, education, and voting!

Weekend of Action Before Election Day



We hosted several phone banking shifts the weekend before Election Day to call rural voters, answer any questions they had, and encourage them to get out and vote. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who showed up and showed out! [Sign up to volunteer with us here!](#)

Election Day: May 17th



On Election Day, the NRP team partnered with the HOLLA! Center in Morven, where volunteers knocked on doors and hit the phones to remind people to get out and vote. From the large windows of HOLLA!, the NRP team manning the phones watched as their conversations led to a slow, but steady, stream of voters walking proudly into their polling location across the street.

Our Regional Organizer, Nisea, knocked on Ms. Linda's door around 11:30 am on Election Day. Ms. Linda said she would vote, but she didn't have transportation from the polls to go home. Nisea told Ms. Linda that if she voted, she would make sure she got home from the polls. Around 3:30 pm, Ms. Linda walked through the doors of the polling site!



Nisea not only took her home, but she took her to the Family Dollar store so that she could pick up some essential items! **Nisea epitomizes New Rural Project's mission: to be an organization that shows the community we care about them as a full person in addition to being a regular voter!**

We're still phonebanking [every Thursday into the seven counties we serve in rural North Carolina!](#) Come join us "virtually" no matter where you live!

OTHER UPDATES

July 26th Elections

There are still more North Carolina elections that will occur prior to November! Six municipalities will hold an election on Tuesday, July 26th:

- Charlotte
- Fayetteville
- Greensboro
- Hickory
- Mooresville
- Sanford

[Find out more information about these elections here.](#)

Statewide General Election

The statewide general election is on Tuesday, November 8th! This election is also known as the "midterm," as it is held two years (mid-way) into the four-year U.S. presidential term. Races on the ballot in NC include:

- 1 U.S. Senate seat
- 14 U.S. House seats
- State offices, including the General Assembly, Supreme Court, and Court of Appeals
- Local judges and prosecutors
- County offices, like Sheriff and County Commissioners

NRP in the News

Cynthia Wallace, our Executive Director, participated in a voting rights panel moderated by former Charlotte Mayor, Jennifer Roberts, with the Reimagining America Project. The mission of the Reimagining America Project is to call to account – through testimony, witnessing, and atonement – the history of racialized oppression in the U.S. and, then, to enact systemic changes to end racism permanently.



The video of the panel has been

Silencing Voices: The Racialization of Representation
Panel Discussion
 Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 5:30pm ET



Dr. Rodney Sadler, Jr.
Associate Professor of
Bible,
Director, CSJR

Jennifer Roberts,
Former Mayor,
City of Charlotte

Dr. Almy Steele
Executive Director,
The New North Carolina
Project

Cynthia Wallace,
Co-Founder/Executive
Director,
The New Rural Project

Ray S. McGinnon,
Chair
INL/INM Board of
Commissioners

added to
 their [YouTube](#)
[page](#) here. You can
 also check out
 this [Facebook](#)
[video](#).

As always, thank you for your being on our team.

Sincerely,
 Team New Rural Project

CONTRIBUTE

VOLUNTEER



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