
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

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

Sections

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
 - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
 - **Announcements**
 - **Happenings Gallery!**

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

POLITICAL POWER!



By DonnaMarie Woodson

I've been experiencing a myriad of feelings since the Supreme Court decision on Roe V Wade. Then, this past weekend, I came across this short video by Joy Reid (MSNBC The Reid Report) about power and how we have failed as a Party to be relentless in voting for values the majority of this country holds.

CLICK PHOTO FOR VIDEO



Transcript: “Please, please understand voting is not just an exercise. It’s not just about civics or making your auntie or your mama get off your back cause you got that sticker. It’s about POWER. The Christian right didn’t vote once or twice in order to cancel [#roevswade](#) they voted RELENTLESSLY for 50 YEARS and took over the Republican Party, more than 25 state legislatures, governorships, and enough Senate seats to shut Biden’s agenda DOWN, and get three Supreme Court seats under Trump.

THAT’s how they stole your rights. They never got tired. They never stayed home. They never stopped believing they were at war with modern society. We have to be just as relentless.

TAKE BACK CONTROL OF YOUR STATE LEGISLATURES, secretary of state offices, governorships, Senate seats, House seats, AND the White House. Or sit back and watch more of your rights fall. That’s how power works.” *Joy Reid - MSNBC The Reid Report*

Thank you, Soror Joy Reid (Delta Sigma Theta), for stating the facts plainly and clearly. We’re in this moment of post-Roe v Wade for not being relentless and consistently voting for a fair and inclusive country. Hate is unyielding, so when deciding NOT to vote, remember that rights once given are no longer guaranteed and CAN be quickly taken away.

Politics is a buzzword to make you believe your vote doesn't count. But your vote is your voice and your power! When I speak with



neighbors who say they are “not political,” this is my response – “Write the word politics on a piece of paper and then set the paper on fire.”

The minority in this country figured out long ago that keeping Americans uneducated and without the power of the

vote could guarantee minority rule and policies detrimental to those same American citizens.

Education in our country is sorely lacking because that's the plan. When you can keep the people ignorant of the facts, they will fall for anything - 2016 TRUMP – ‘nuff said.

Never forget that it was only 55 years ago that the Voting Rights Act passed, granting Black folks the right to vote.

But those same voting rights took a giant step backward in 2013 when the U.S. Supreme Court dealt a significant blow to the Act by ending pre-clearance for southern states who habitually used outrageous voter suppression laws to keep their citizens from voting.

I believe this 2013 decision was the first pillar to fall - opening the door to the overturning of Roe V Wade.

Let's take a historical look back.



The Voting Rights Act

Click on the link below for **Voting Rights Act Video**
master.m3u8

Long title	An Act to enforce the Fifteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and for other purposes.
<u>Acronyms</u> (colloquial)	VRA
Nicknames	Voting Rights Act
Enacted by	the <u>89th United States Congress</u>
Effective	August 6, 1965

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, signed into law by **President Lyndon B. Johnson**, aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African Americans from exercising their right to vote as guaranteed under the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Voting Rights Act is considered one of the most far-reaching pieces of civil rights legislation in U.S. history.



During the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, voting rights activists in the South were subjected to various forms of mistreatment and violence. One event that outraged many Americans occurred on March 7, 1965, when peaceful participants

in a [Selma to Montgomery march](#) for voting rights were met by Alabama state troopers who attacked them with nightsticks, tear gas, and whips after they refused to turn back. Some protesters were severely beaten and bloodied, and others ran for their lives. The incident was captured on national television.

In the wake of the shocking incident, President Johnson called for comprehensive voting rights legislation. In a speech to a joint session of Congress on March 15, 1965, the president outlined the devious ways in which election officials denied African American citizens the vote.

Literacy Tests

Black people attempting to vote often were told by election officials that they had gotten the date, time, or polling place wrong, that they possessed insufficient literacy skills, or that they had filled out an application incorrectly. Black people, whose population suffered a high illiteracy rate due to centuries of oppression and poverty, would often be forced to take literacy tests, which they sometimes failed.

Voting officials, primarily in Southern states, were known to force Black voters to “recite the entire Constitution or explain the most complex provisions of state laws,” a task most white voters would have been hard-pressed to accomplish. In some cases, even Black people with college degrees were turned away from the polls.

Voting Rights Act Signed into Law



President Johnson & Dr. Martin Luther King
Voting Rights Act, 1965

The voting rights bill was passed in the U.S. Senate by a 77-19 vote on May 26, 1965. After debating the bill for over a month, on July 9th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 333-85

President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, 1965, with Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders present at the ceremony.

The Act banned literacy tests, provided federal oversight of voter registration in areas where less than 50 percent of the non-white population had registered to vote, and authorized the U.S. attorney general to investigate poll taxes in state and local elections.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment made poll taxes illegal in federal elections; poll taxes in state elections were banned in 1966 by the U.S. [Supreme Court](#).

Voter Turnout Rises in the South

Although the Voting Rights Act passed, state and local enforcement of the law was weak, and it often was ignored outright, mainly in the South and in areas where the proportion of Black people in the population was high. Their vote threatened the political status quo.

Still, the Voting Rights Act gave African American voters the legal means to challenge voting restrictions and vastly improved voter turnout. In Mississippi alone, **voter turnout among Black people increased from 6 percent in 1964 to 59 percent in 1969.**

Changes to the Voting Rights Act

Since its passage, the Voting Rights Act has been amended to include such features as protecting voting rights for non-English speaking American citizens. It has also been walked back.

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 vote that constraints placed on specific states and federal review of states' voting procedures were outdated. In [Shelby County v. Holder](#), the [U.S. Supreme Court struck down](#) the coverage formula as unconstitutional, reasoning that it was no longer responsive to current conditions. The court did not strike down Section 5, but without a coverage formula, Section 5 is unenforceable.

The jurisdictions which had previously been covered by the coverage formula massively increased the rate of voter registration purges after the Shelby decision, with several states enacting laws limiting voter access, including ID requirements, limits on early voting, mail-in voting, and more.

Research shows the Act successfully and massively increased voter turnout and voter registrations, particularly among black people. The result is concrete outcomes, such as more significant public goods provision (such as public education) for areas with higher black population shares and more members of Congress who vote for civil rights-related legislation.

We must educate friends, neighbors, and students about our history and how NO Right is guaranteed. We must be vigilant and fight for the power of our voice. Our ancestors died for progress and our freedom which we maintain with the power of our vote.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER TO BE RELENTLESS WITH THE
POWER OF YOUR VOTE!**

Works cited:

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/voting-rights-act>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_Rights_Act_of_1965

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelby_County_v._Holder

Editorial

When Your Rights Are Taken Away: The Overturning of Roe vs. Wade

By
Tarik Kiley
6/25/2022



Roe v. Wade has been overturned in what has become the dystopian nightmare, which is the current condition of living in the United States of America. Without getting into the argument of whether

life starts at conception or birth, let's examine how denying women control over their reproductive health is a fundamental denial of rights. Now that the right to abortion is not federally protected, the states can outlaw abortion individually. The right to abortion is not federally protected, the states can outlaw abortion individually.



What has been considered a healthcare issue can now be placed under the purview of criminal law? For example, according to nytimes.com, “Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery of Tennessee is seeking to



expedite the implementation of the state’s trigger law, which bans nearly all abortions with no exceptions for rape or incest.” Now, understandably

so, many women are outraged over the Supreme Court’s decision, and people are taking to the street in protest.

The overturning of Roe vs. Wade becomes critical here because it can lead to the overturning of other rights. According to usatoday.com, “in addition to the pressing questions about reproductive rights raised by the Supreme Court ruling, there are concerns about what the court could now do with other milestone decisions.

Particularly after conservative Justice Clarence Thomas called for the Supreme Court to 'reconsider' gay marriage and contraception.”

Unfortunately for the populace, the overturning of Roe vs. Wade may also be a slippery slope to the people losing other rights. Additionally, Justice Thomas may not ultimately realize that his right to marry who he has chosen was fought for in the Loving v. Virginia case.



The Loving case was a milestone case in which interracial marriage was upheld. Please, understand that the Loving case took place not too long ago, in 1958 when a White man and a Black woman married one another in the District of Columbia and returned to the state of Virginia

after marriage. It is essential to understand that the state of Virginia had an anti-miscegenation statute on its books.

In Loving vs. Virginia, in 1967, it was decided that “Virginia's anti-miscegenation law violate[d] the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment... "Under our Constitution," wrote Chief Justice Earl Warren, "the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the State," according to oyez.org. So, if Justice Clarence Thomas wants to go after gay marriage next, it is not too far for the Supreme Court to come after interracial marriage.

I would also argue that conservatives are not necessarily pro-life but pro-birth. Under their plan, women would continue to give birth but would not have the tools they would need to take care of their babies—significantly not poorer mothers. We still don't have the essential tools working families need to take care of their children, for example, universal pre-k education, an appropriate term of maternity leave, jobs with living wages, and universal healthcare.

Lastly, I would argue that the American people cannot afford to fall asleep at the wheel and not pay attention to what is happening politically in our country. And many people are wide awake to our current condition, but we all need to be paying attention.

Again, it is a slippery slope into extremism to go from overturning Roe vs. Wade to overturning gay marriage and other rights such as interracial marriage.

Works Cited

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/06/25/us/abortion-roe-wade-supreme-court>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/06/24/roe-wade-live-updates/7723840001/>

"Loving v. Virginia." Oyez, www.oyez.org/cases/1966/395. Accessed 25 Jun. 2022.

Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg:
Monthly Meeting
Thursday, July 7th at 7:00 PM
David B. Waymer Center
14008 Holbrooks Rd., Huntersville

Senior Democrats of Mecklenburg County
Monthly Meeting
Friday, July 8th at 11:30 AM
Speaker: Justice Sam Ervin
Zoom

International Minority Coalition
Sunday, July 10th at 5:00 PM
President Willie Fleming
ailfleming3@gmail.com

Announcements



**LGBTQ Democrats of Mecklenburg
County, Onya Nerves and 3 others**
Rents Due Benefiting LGBTQ+ MeckDems
SATURDAY, JULY 9th at 12:00 PM

N. Meck Progressives
Monthly Meeting
July 11th at 6:00 PM
RSVP n.meck.progressives@gmail.com

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County
Membership Meeting - Wednesday, July 13th
6:30 PM Candidate/Officials Reception
7:00 PM Program
RSVP Facebook Link



**Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com
by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.**

Happenings Gallery!



Peace ★ Love ★ America



The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Rev Glencie Rhedrick

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley