

July's Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
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Steve,

With the temperatures currently over 90 degrees most days here in North Carolina, it is hard to believe that we are less than 100 days until Election Day on November 8th. Election Day conjures up images of a cold, gray foggy morning that seems so disconnected from our current hot, lazy summer days, and yet our days now, and how we spend our time, are directly connected to the votes cast on Election Day and the choices made.

Though 2018 reversed a declining trend, midterm elections (two years after the presidential election) historically have much lower voter turnout rates than presidential election years. And yet, the races that will be decided this year during the midterm elections are for elected officials whose actions more directly impact our lives than those of the President. From the Board of Education, to the Board of County Commissioners, to the North Carolina General Assembly, these elections are vital; not to mention that this year in North Carolina we are electing one of our United States Senators, all of our US Congressional representatives, and two positions on our State Supreme Court.

The New Rural Project is spending the next (nearly) 100 days engaged in conversation with voters of color to help them understand that no matter the issue that is most important to them, at least one of the offices on their November ballot will be one that is charged with the responsibility of addressing that issue. Sign up [here](#) to participate in our many opportunities that you'll hear about in this newsletter to help folks understand the power of their vote and the need for them to exercise that power.

With gratitude,

Cynthia and Helen
Co-founders of NRP

LISTENING

In July, the NRP Team got to "Chat, Chew and Chop it Up" again as we reconnected with folks from our first Barbershop Conversation: Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment (F.A.D.E.) in Anson County for our first F.A.D.E. Reunion. After the four week series ended in April, several of our Anson F.A.D.E. participants were inspired to continue their civic engagement by launching the Sandhills Voter Initiative! They are hard at work putting together their introductory event - an Anson High School Alumni Basketball Tournament in Wadesboro in September, where civic organizations will be sharing information, registering voters, and helping Get Out The Vote in Anson County for November.



Follow our [Mobilize](#) link to learn when we launch our next Barbershop Conversation series in Robeson and Union counties in August/September - just in time to help motivate registered voters to cast early ballots!

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

For this electoral cycle, the NC Supreme Court struck down the gerrymandered maps drawn by extremist politicians in Raleigh, but the US Supreme Court took up the Moore v. Harper case which may overturn that decision, dramatically changing how federal elections are conducted and giving state legislatures broad, unchecked power over future elections.

On Tuesday, August 9th, we are jumping into action partnering with Common Cause NC, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, and the Moore County NAACP to kick off a state-wide #MapOurFuture barnstorming tour, People Over Politics: the Moore v. Harper case.



To join the online town hall, click [here](#), OR our North Carolina friends can join us in person in Carthage, NC by clicking [here](#).

From the Barbershop to Civic Action!

On July 11, two of our Scotland F.A.D.E. Barbershop graduates were appointed to local Scotland County boards! This was a mere 45 days after attending their very first Scotland F.A.D.E. Barbershop Conversation on June 5th where they learned about these opportunities!



NRP is thrilled to congratulate F.A.D.E. participants Jerome John, who was appointed by the Scotland County Board of Commissioners to the City of Laurinburg's Planning and Zoning Board and Jeremy Baker, who was appointed to the Scotland County Tourism Development Authority Board!

We started F.A.D.E. to help communities leverage their civic power from voting to serving on vital decision making boards! Thank you to our co-chairs barbers, Sheldon "Dee" Rogers and Chris Dawson, and our Scotland Program Assistant, Rev. Gregory Taylor, for making this effort so successful!

Advocacy & Partnership

New Rural Project joined the North Carolina Justice Center, Every Child NC Coalition, and 143 other ally organizations in signing on to a Brief of Amicus Curiae filed with the North Carolina Supreme Court in support of funding the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan which would increase educational opportunities for rural counties. The Leandro case was decided in 1997 when North Carolina was found NOT to be meeting its constitutional obligation to provide fair and equitable access to quality public education. To read more about the Amicus brief, click [here](#).

On July 21, the New Rural Project was invited to join Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor Roy Cooper as they highlighted the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to "Internet for All" acknowledging access for affordable reliable internet is not a luxury but a necessity.



[Check out the Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\) to see if you qualify for \\$30 per month off your internet bill!](#)



ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

We spent July calling our great volunteers that have signed up! Now we are ready to re-start calling our infrequent voters across rural NC during our Weekly Deep Canvas Phone Banks every Thursday at 6:00pm. Come join Nisea and the New Rural Project team "virtually" no matter where you live! [Sign up](#) here so you can help bring folks back to the polls!

Every Wednesday we feature voters or future voters across our focus counties explaining "Why I Vote." Check out our latest video featuring our intern, Jare, on our [Facebook page](#). If you'd like to share "why you vote" and be featured, please reply to this email.

OTHER UPDATES

NRP is still hiring! We're looking to hire folks to support our Field Organizing work. Please check our [Indeed page](#) and our [website](#) to learn more about these opportunities! We're looking for an [Organizing Director](#), an additional [Regional Organizer](#), a single county based [Organizer](#), and four to six [paid part-time canvassers](#) each in Union, Anson, Scotland, and Robeson Counties.



Other NRP Happenings



New Rural Project's Executive Director joined four other **Turnout Project Grant** recipients from across the country to discuss the unique and different ways they are reaching voters.

NRP was honored to be selected in May by the Progressive Turnout Project as one of nine out of 250 applicants to receive their inaugural grants.

**Important Dates for the November Election
(Click the graphic below for more information)**

North Carolina Statewide Election Dates

September 9: Absentee-by-mail ballots can be requested

October 14: Final day to register to vote

October 20 - November 5: One-Stop (early) voting

November 1: Final day to request absentee-by-mail ballot

November 8: ELECTION DAY & deadline to mail
absentee-by-mail ballots



As always, thank you for being on our team.

Sincerely,
Team New Rural Project

CONTRIBUTE

VOLUNTEER



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