

August'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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The New Rural Project's
Rural Roundup
Monthly Newsletter

Steve,

August was a busy month! We've been able to spend time in our counties as well as spend quality time doing foundational work which is less publicly visible to you, our friends and supporters. A lot of that foundational work has involved **HIRING!** We have been spending hours hiring folks in our counties as Deep Canvassers and Organizers to speak to their own neighbors about voting in the November election! Help us find great talent by clicking the image below...it could be you!



We've also been turning our research work into informational pieces for voters, advocating for expanded Early Voting days and times, and organizing our volunteers. Further down in the Rural Roundup, you will read more about the Candidate Conversations we will be hosting with various partners so that rural residents can hear directly from the candidates on their ballot.

[Join us](#) as we continue to roll up our sleeves and dig in to the hard work that is foundational to our democracy - full electoral participation by everyone!

With gratitude,

Cynthia and Helen
Co-founders of NRP

LISTENING

Anson County



Three enterprising young men who attended our first Barbershop FADE series in Anson County have launched their own organization: The Sandhills Voter Initiative! We are partnering with them as they start their efforts with a Anson County High School Alumni basketball tournament. New Rural Project will be there listening to voters and future voters and sharing timely information about the 2022 elections.

You can find more information on the Sandhills Voter Initiative's newly launched [Facebook page](#).

[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

Back to School!

August is "Back to School" time! On Tuesday, August 2, Nisea, our Regional Organizer, spearheaded the engagement of our intern, Jare, our Administrative Assistant, Maryjane, and our Executive Director, Cynthia, as we participated in the Town of Marshville's "National Night Out and Back to School Bash." We joined other community groups providing school supplies to local students, and we talked to parents about the work of the New Rural Project and provided them with voting information.



On Saturday, August 13, our Program Director, Alexa Roberts, was in Scotland County at Scotland High School for the NAACP school supply event in collaboration with the Scotland Health Department, AKA, and many other local community organizations.



More than 1,500 backpacks filled with supplies were available, as well as COVID-19 vaccinations, booster shots, and much more, just in time for "Back to School!"

People Over Politics: #MapOurFuture

On Tuesday, August 9, NRP partnered with the Moore County Chapter of the NAACP to host in Carthage the Southern Coalition for Social Justice and Common Cause North Carolina for the Moore County Kick-off of the "#MAPOURFUTURE: People Over Politics" tour. Our Policy & Advocacy Director, Helen, and Program Director, Alexa, participated with state and local advocates who are barnstorming North Carolina to inform voters about the radical "independent state legislature theory" at the heart of the Moore v. Harper case that will be heard at the U.S. Supreme Court later this year. You can watch the video of this event on our [YouTube](#) channel.



Digital Divide Update

As a follow up to the information we provided last month about the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#), on August 31, Governor Roy Cooper announced an additional \$206M in Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants to expand internet access in 69 counties across North Carolina, including in four of our target counties: Hoke, Richmond, Scotland, and Robeson. Earlier in the month, it was announced that Anson County, along with ten other NC counties, would be included in \$30.8 million in GREAT grants.



On Tuesday, September 27, at 7:30 PM, we will be hosting the third quarter installment of our virtual "Young People's Conversations" series, focusing on "Combating Mis- and Disinformation."

The graphic is a promotional banner for a virtual conversation series. At the top left is the "New RURAL PROJECT" logo, with "New" in script and "RURAL PROJECT" in bold blue and green letters. At the top right is the "Young People's CONVERSATIONS" logo, featuring a stylized orange and green speech bubble. Below these logos, the text "3RD QUARTER 2022 YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS SERIES: COMBATING MIS- AND DISINFORMATION" is centered in yellow. Below this text are four circular headshots of the participants. Under each headshot is the person's name and title in black text: Alexa Whaley (Media Coordinator, Millennial Action Project), Tyler Daye (Policy & Civic Engagement Manager, Common Cause NC), Melissa Price Kromm (Director, NC Voters for Clean Elections), and Cynthia Wallace (Moderator, Executive Director, New Rural Project).

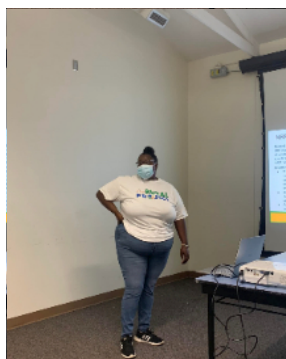
Our Executive Director, Cynthia, will be moderating the conversation with Alexa Whaley, Media Coordinator for the Millennial Action Project, Tyler Daye from Common Cause NC, and Melissa Price Kromm from North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections. They will be discussing some of the ways Millennials and Gen Z are leading the way in combating misinformation and disinformation. Sign up to join us for this Zoom event [here](#).

We are still talking to voters each week during our Weekly Deep Canvas Phone Banks on Thursday at 6:00pm, calling infrequent voters across rural NC. Come join Nisea and the New Rural Project team "virtually" no matter where you live! [Sign up here](#) so you can help us bring folks back to the polls!

ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

Canvassing

We are back talking to voters on their Front Porches! We re-started our canvassing on August 19th! We've been having these conversations about barriers to voting, sharing upcoming election information, and encouraging voters to make a pledge to vote in the midterms! We are doing this important work seven days a week with outstanding Deep Canvassers we have hired from our focus counties! We know these conversations will increase voter turnout this year and beyond.



Candidate Conversations: Learning Who's On Your Ballot

SCOTLAND COUNTY

On Tuesday, September 20, NRP will partner with the Mid Sandhills Unit of the League of Women Voters of NC to host a "Candidate Meet 'n Greet" for the candidates appearing on the Scotland County ballot. This event will be held in [Hammond Park in Laurinburg, NC](#), from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. It is open to the public and light refreshments will be available.

Hoke County

On Thursday, September 29 at 6:00 pm, we are partnering with the Hoke County NAACP to host a Board of Education candidate forum along with our sponsors: the Hoke County Civic League, the North Carolina Association of Educators, the Hoke County Association of Educators, the NC Justice Center, and EveryChildNC. The event will be held at JW Turlington School, [116 W Prospect Ave 2 Raeford, NC 28376](#). Sign up [here](#).

Important Dates for the November Election

**North Carolina
Statewide Election Dates**

September 9: Absentee-by-mail ballots are available from your local Board of Elections

October 14: Final day to register to vote

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

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

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

New RURAL PROJECT



Are you ready to vote? Click [HERE](#) to check your registration status, see your sample ballot, and make sure you're ballot-ready!

As always, thank you for being on our team.

Sincerely,
Team New Rural Project

CONTRIBUTE

VOLUNTEER



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