

2022 Year End Rural Roundup



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The New Rural Project's
Rural Roundup
Monthly Newsletter

Steve,

In the final months of 2022, New Rural Project stayed busy with community and electoral events. Similar to how we began the year, helping the community we serve with our community vaccine events focused on health equity, we spent the first weeks in December focusing on economic equity by providing grocery gift cards to residents of Taylortown, Moore County, who were impacted by the senseless attack on the local power grid.



As we end the year, we are counting down NRP's "Twelve Days of Rural Empowerment" on our social media platforms! Recap the first 10 days and follow the final three days on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), including an exciting audio on Christmas Day!!



With gratitude,

Cynthia and Helen
Co-founders of NRP

Donate now to help us start 2023 strong!

LISTENING

Anson County

[The Sandhills Voter Initiative \(SVI\)](#), a group started after three enterprising young Black men attended NRP's Anson Barbershop Conversations, hosted the championship game of their inaugural basketball tournament on Saturday, October 15, a fun community event that combined sports with civic information.





Sandhills Voter Initiative

October 16 · 🌐

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Thank you to all the players who participated in the Anson Alumni Tournament and congratulations to the 2011-2015 team for winning it all!

Thank you Pastor Steve and [Harvest Ministries Outreach Center](#), [New Rural Project](#), [Anson County Schools - Official Site](#) for helping to make this event possible. Thank you to the vendors Latrice Little-McNeil and [Daija Rivers](#). Also, thank you [Lacy's, Inc.](#) for the championship trophy and [Elohim Embroidery & More](#) for the championship shirts!

You can't spell 'community' without 'unity' and unity is exactly what we need to tackle the challenges we face in our community. We are better together so thank you to everyone who came out and supported this event. Lastly, November 8th is quickly approaching! You can same-day register and vote early between Thursday, October 20th and Saturday, November 5th. Go vote!



Pictured: SVI founders Allen Jackson, Teyon Williams, and Sam Cole (in blue shirts) with the Champion Team captains and MVP.

Union County

Barbershop Conversations Come to Union County!

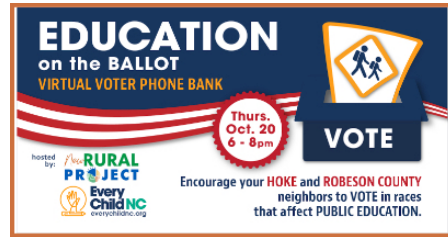


Fresh off of Election Day, we went right back into our listening work, kicking off Union County Barbershop Conversations: Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment (F.A.D.E.) at [Blendz Hair Studio](#) in Monroe (11/13, 11/20, 12/4, and 12/11) in partnership with our program Chair, Shamil Bradshaw, the Monroe Democracy Center, and the EXCEL Enrichment Program. This was our first session that included college students who hailed from Wingate University.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

On Thursday, October 20, as One Stop Early Voting began, we partnered with education advocates from Every Child NC to call our neighbors in Hoke County to ensure that everyone knew that education was on the ballot.



We gave out information about Early Voting locations and hours, Election Day polling locations, the impact of funding the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan, and encouraged everyone to vote and #ArriveWith5 at the polls.



On Thursday, October 27, we partnered with the Human Rights Campaign for our weekly virtual phone bank. They hosted their democracy training before we began phone banking!

On Friday, October 28, NRP participated in Marshville's "Trunk or Treat" event, distributing candy to children in the Marshville community. Regional Organizer, Nisea, did a great job of decorating for the event and representing NRP! We had the cutest "trick or treater" help distribute candy, too!



ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

GOTV for the Midterms

Deep Canvassing

From August 19 - November 8, six to seven days a week, our deep canvassing team knocked on over 9,000 doors of infrequent, but essential voters in Anson, Robeson, Scotland, and Union Counties! When they were at home, we had conversations about why they didn't vote, received pledges to vote in the 2022 midterm election, and got them to agree to #Arrivewith5, ensuring their friends and neighbors would vote as well.



In October and early November, we partnered with Indivisible District 9 (ID9) for Deep Canvassing in Union County. We were grateful to be joined by so many members of ID9 who first canvassed with us in Anson County months ago.





Candidate Conversations: Learning Who's On Your Ballot

In October, in partnership with local community organizations like the Hoke County NAACP, Hoke Civic League, Scotland County MidAtlantic League of Women Voters, and the HOLLA! Cultural Development Center in Anson County, we held five "Candidate Conversation" events. Ranging from traditional candidate forums to a speed-dating-style table event, we helped ensure over 200 of our rural voters had the opportunity to talk directly with the candidates on their ballots so that voters could make informed decisions at the polls.



At our first ever "Barbershop Conversations with Candidates" in Union County, we teamed up with Blendz Hair Studio, the Monroe Democracy Center and E.X.C.E.L. Enrichment Program and of course, we reminded everyone to get out and vote and #ArriveWithFive!

Fun at the Polls

"Souls to the Polls" - Anson County

We partnered with Leon Gatewood and HOLLA! for a non-partisan event to express unity among the churches and the community to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and take SOULS TO THE POLLS on Sunday, October 30! Church vans took voters to the polls and folks stopped by for free food, music, and voting information!



Party at the Polls - Robeson County

On the last day of One Stop Early Voting (Saturday, Nov 5), one of our Robeson County Lead Canvassers, Caroline Sumpter, led our partnership with Araminta Ross Legacy Circle and Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sigma Iota Omega Chapter in a "Party at the Polls" from 11 AM - 3 PM in Red Springs, across from their Early Voting location. Voters received voting information and enjoyed free food and entertainment.



OTHER UPDATES

NRP In the News

["Anson County Alumni Return for Fundraiser"](#) - Richmond County Daily Journal

["Critical Battle for Rural America Voters"](#) - NBC Nightly News

["Democrats Must Do Better in Rural America"](#) - The Nation

["Moore County attack leaves a community feeling vulnerable"](#) - Charlotte Observer

["Gov. Cooper visits Southern Pines businesses financially recouping after days-long power outages"](#) - WRAL

["Anson County's flip to red highlights a shift in rural NC counties"](#) - WFAE

North Carolina Supreme Court Decisions

The North Carolina Supreme Court wrapped up its 2022 term with some very significant decisions.

1. In **Harper v. Hall**, the NC Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's use of the remedial Congressional map that was used only for 2022 (since the map had been drawn by the court, it has to be redrawn by the NC Legislature in 2023). However, this decision by the NC Supreme Court may ultimately impact the US Supreme Court case of **Moore v. Harper**, which was recently argued and for which a decision is not expected until Spring 2023. That impact on the US Supreme Court case may happen because in **Harper v. Hall**, the NC Supreme Court noted that under North Carolina state law, the role of the NC Supreme Court is to serve as a check on the NC Legislature in matters of redistricting.
2. The **NC Senate maps will have to be redrawn** to meet NC Constitutional standards, however, the NC House maps will be used as currently drawn for the remainder of the decade.
3. **The NC Supreme Court also ruled that the current voter ID law was unconstitutional.** Associate Justice Anita Earls wrote in the NC Supreme Court's 4-3 majority ruling that "the law was enacted with discriminatory intent to disproportionately disfranchise and burden African-American voters in North Carolina." NC Senator Phil Burger and other members of the NC GOP leadership have made it clear that they will reintroduce voter ID legislation. With the NC Supreme Court's shift to the right after the recent election, a new voter ID legislation could be upheld and voter ID may be required for the 2023 or 2024 election cycle if the legislation passes and withstands a possible veto by Governor Cooper.

As always, thank you for being on our team and have a safe and joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Team New Rural Project

CONTRIBUTE

VOLUNTEER



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