

## January 2023 Rural Roundup



**From** Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>  
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**Reply-To** <info@newruralproject.org>  
**Date** 2023-02-10 11:18

# The New Rural Project's Rural Roundup Monthly Newsletter

Steve,

In mid-January, the North Carolina General Assembly kicked off the 2023 legislative session. One of the topics likely to come up during this session is Medicaid Expansion which launched 10 years ago in 2013.

North Carolina is one of only 11 states that has not yet taken advantage of the expanded Medicaid program. These additional dollars would have a substantial impact on rural communities in general, and on communities of color in particular, as it would provide access to affordable healthcare, including preventive care, will improve the quality of life for over 500,000 North Carolina residents and reduce healthcare costs in the long run.

Without Medicaid Expansion, rural communities have seen their hospitals and other medical facilities close, resulting in longer drives to obtain healthcare, provided rural folks are able to afford healthcare in the first place. The federal government would kick in up to 90 percent of the price tag and the Biden-Harris Administration has offered additional federal funding to those 11 states in order to ease the cost of expansion.

Like we did last week, we continue to encourage folks in North Carolina to [contact their state legislators](#) to demand that they act on Medicaid Expansion NOW!

As always, thank you for your continued support and importantly, your **action**.

With gratitude,

Cynthia and Helen  
Co-founders of NRP

## HELP SUPPORT OUR WORK



**P.S.** Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) throughout the month of February as we celebrate Black History month shining a light on the state of Black health within our seven focus counties and throughout North Carolina, as well as highlighting the accomplishments of Black medical professionals.

## **LISTENING**

With the overturning of [Roe v. Wade](#) last June by the Supreme Court of the United States, state legislatures around the country have been busy enacting laws restricting access to reproductive healthcare. Aligned with our pledge that our work begins and ends with listening, you may remember that in Spring 2022, we asked about many issues in a poll of rural North Carolina voters who live in our focus counties (Anson, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, and Union).

In this poll, taken prior to the rollback of [Roe v. Wade](#), 63% of voters of color said that they felt that abortion should be legal in all (34%) or most (30%) cases, which counters the non-scientific held belief that rural voters are against abortion in most cases. This result is the same across all age groups.



# CHANGE RESEARCH™

## New Rural Project

Results of Survey of Voters of Color in Rural North Carolina

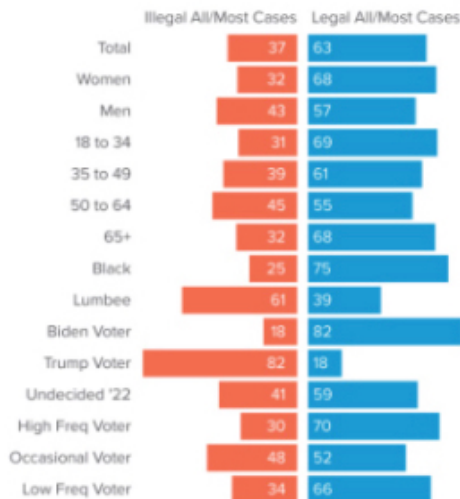
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### Abortion



63% of voters of color feel abortion should be legal in all (34%) or most (30%) cases. Only 16% say it should be illegal in all cases.

Abortion should be:



The rural voters of color that we heard from are overwhelmingly in favor of reproductive healthcare-related decisions remaining between a woman, her partner, and her doctor. Last week in North Carolina, all Democratic lawmakers in the General Assembly signed on to House Bill 19 (HB19) and Senate Bill 19 (SB19) to codify the protections provided under [Roe v. Wade](#) so that North Carolinians can continue to make their own decisions about private healthcare matters, thus signaling that they will likely uphold Governor Cooper's veto of any legislation curtailing the current reproductive laws in NC.

We are listening to rural voices and we're glad that at least *some* of the General Assembly is also listening.

### UPCOMING

One of the top three issues for rural voters of color from our 2021 and 2022 research was crime. On February 16th, our Policy & Advocacy Director, Helen Probst Mills and Program Director, Alexa Roberts, will attend a Hoke County community forum called "Reclaiming Our Community & Restoring Peace: What Will It Take? - Part Two."

The Hoke County Branch NAACP in collaboration with Raeford Police Chief, Marc Colwin, Hoke County Sheriff Roderick Virgil, and Law Enforcement Agencies host a

**COMMUNITY FORUM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**RECLAIMING OUR COMMUNITY  
& RESTORING PEACE**

***"What Will It Take?"***  
***Part Two!***



**THURSDAY • 6:30 PM**  
**FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**2023**

**LEACH SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

621 Arelio Road, Raeford, NC • Reverend Bruce Hurst, Host Pastor

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR COMMUNITY WITH A FOCUS  
ON STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR**

reducing homicides and recent shootings occurring on our streets in Hoke County. Let's talk about becoming violence interrupters and neighborhood change agents. Invited agencies: Juvenile Justice, Probation & Parole, District Attorney, Sandhills Mental Health Center, Hoke County Commissioners, Raeford City Council, Raeford Ministerial Alliance, Hoke County Peacekeepers.

**CONTACT: [hokecountynaacp@gmail.com](mailto:hokecountynaacp@gmail.com) FOR INQUIRIES**

The forum, which will take place at 6:30 PM at the Leach Springs Missionary Baptist Church in Raeford, will focus on reducing violent crime, bringing together community leaders, law enforcement, and residents to discuss strategies for reducing violence in the community. The organizers of the event hope to inspire people to become "violence interrupters" and "neighborhood change agents," as part of finding community driven solutions in Hoke County.

**For more information, send an email to the Hoke County NAACP at [hokecountynaacp@gmail.com](mailto:hokecountynaacp@gmail.com).**

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## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

New Rural Project team members (Cynthia Wallace, Helen Probst Mills, Maryjane Conti, and Quanisea Moses) were present at many MLK Weekend celebrations in January, hosted by our partners across several counties. From prayer breakfasts in Anson County and Moore County to a parade in Richmond County, we celebrated the life of Dr. King, a remarkable man whose belief in the power of the vote and equality for all Americans inspires us to this day.



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### **Anson County Barn Blast**



On Friday, January 27th, Regional Organizer Nisea Moses, volunteered at the Anson County Partnership for Children's "Barn Blast," an annual fundraising event sponsored by this local nonprofit organization.

The Partnership provides services focused on raising the quality of early care and education, supporting families, advancing child health, and expanding literacy. Nisea helped raise money for this nonprofit group by selling necklaces for a "Quick Draw" game that involved some very competitive rounds of "Rock, Paper, Scissors!"



### SVI Men's Business Forum

On Saturday January 28th, the Sandhills Voter Initiative (SVI) held their First "Men's Business Forum." The [SVI](#) was formed by a group of young men in Anson County who were graduates of NRP's first Barbershop Conversations: F.A.D.E. program in early 2022.



The event was an opportunity for participants to learn more about the upcoming zoning changes that will impact Anson County and the importance of being engaged with your local elected bodies, to discuss entrepreneurship and small businesses.



NRP Executive Director Cynthia Wallace spoke about the importance of local elected bodies, attending and speaking out at your local meetings (i.e. county commission, town council), and serving on local boards.

We're so proud of the work the young men of SVI are doing in their community!

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## **ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT**

### **Visit to Raleigh by Vice President Kamala Harris**

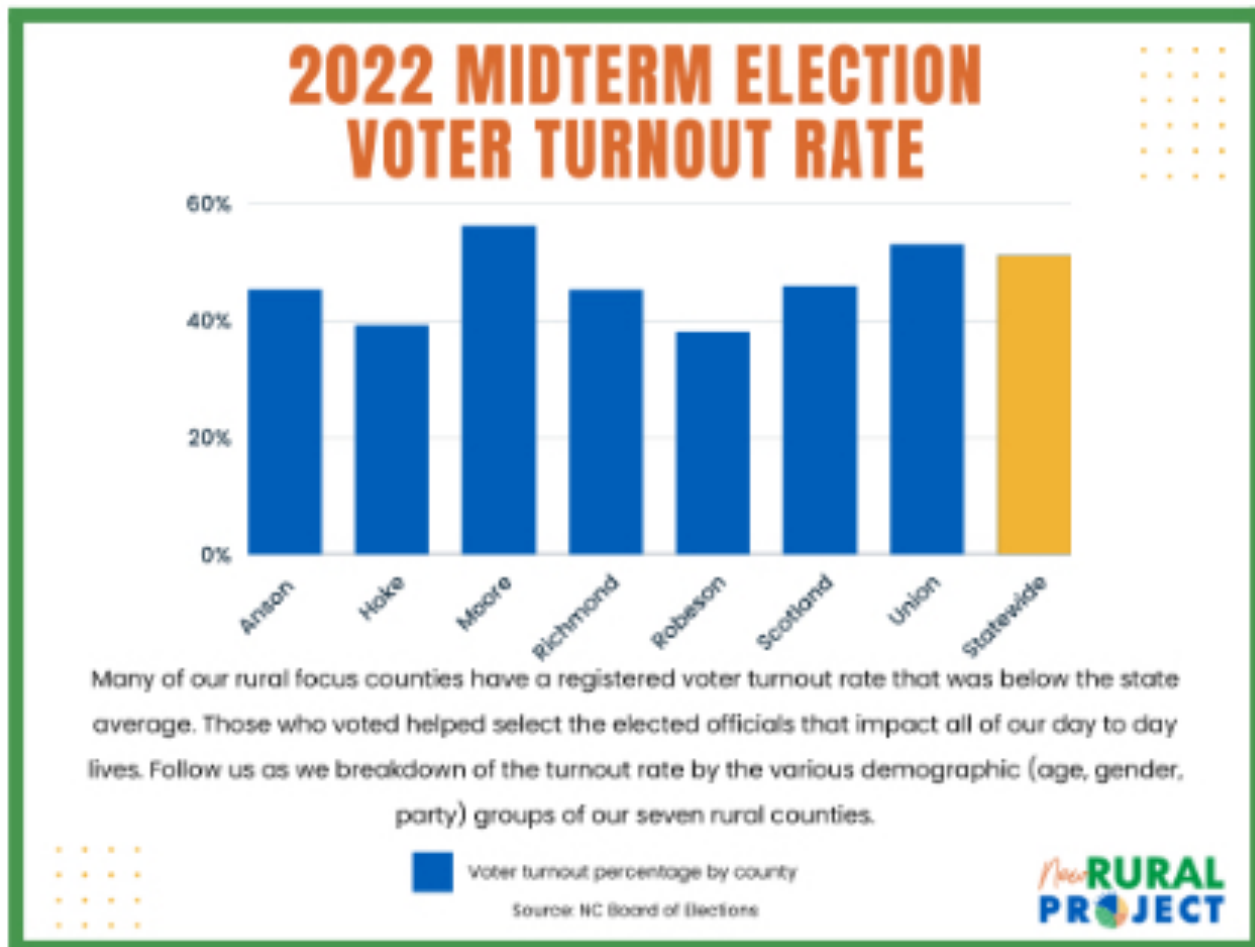
Program Director Alexa Roberts and Regional Organizer Nisea Moses represented NRP at an event in Raleigh. The program was a celebration of the growth and successes of Latinx-owned, Black-owned, and Women-owned businesses and highlighted programs and services from the Small Business Administration and the Latino Community Credit Union available to small businesses in North Carolina.



[Vice President Kamala Harris was a featured speaker at the event, as well as North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Congresswoman Deborah Ross, and Congressman Wiley Nickel.](#)

## 2022 Registered Voter Turnout Data

Our work and goals are always rooted in data. We will share more in future correspondence about how the midterms performed for turnout of registered voters by various demographics (age, race, gender). In the meantime here's how our focus counties turned out vs. the state average turnout. This performance reinforces that there is still much work for NRP to do!



As always, thank you for being on our team.

Sincerely,

Team New Rural Project

**CONTRIBUTE**

**VOLUNTEER**



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