

May Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
Date 2023-06-17 10:01

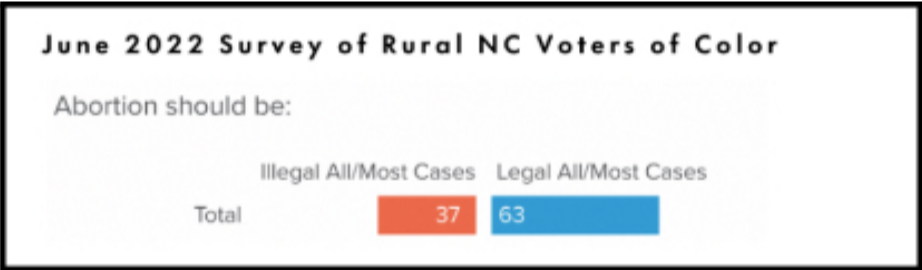


Dear Steve,

We start this rural roundup with a quick update. With sadness and deep gratitude, we announce that Helen Probst Mills, Co-founder and Policy & Advocacy Director, has stepped away from her day-to-day work with New Rural Project (NRP) as of June 2nd, 2023, due to struggling to recover from long COVID. We appreciate Helen's hard work and dedication to NRP from day one when she and I dreamed of a better world for rural North Carolinians and decided we could help work towards that vision by launching the New Rural Project in early 2021. We wish her a speedy recovery, but we are pleased that Helen will remain involved on the NRP Board of Directors as Vice-Chair.

On May 16, women's reproductive freedom took a direct hit when North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper's veto of the Care for Women and Children Act was overridden. This bill, which is effectively an abortion ban, shows no care for women, children, or families and imposes significant, and in many cases insurmountable, barriers on people trying to get an abortion early in pregnancy.

Our polling showed that 63% of rural NC voters of color feel that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. **We continue to stand with rural women of color and demand that they have access to reproductive healthcare.**



These and the many other proposed bills that will impact voting rights show us that our work to get everyone involved in our electoral process is needed now more than ever. We need to continue to stand up, increase our grassroots advocacy, and elect officials up and down the ballot who will be fair and impartial judges and legislators that listen to the will of the citizens.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Cynthia Wallace
Executive Director of NRP

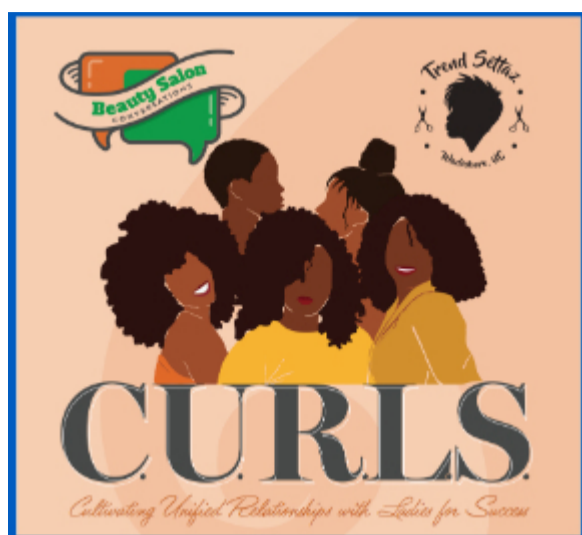
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[LISTENING](#)

[Anson County](#)

[Cultivating Unified Relationships with Ladies for Success \(C.U.R.L.S.\)](#)

In May, Alexa Roberts (NRP Program Director), Nisea Moses (NRP Regional Organizer), and Cynthia Wallace (NRP Executive Director) returned to Anson County to continue the planning meetings for the launch of the **Beauty Salon Conversation: Cultivating Unified Relationships with Ladies for Success (C.U.R.L.S.)** program in Anson County in July.



The group of Anson County women leaders gave us good feedback and direction to use for marketing, which aided in our work with our graphic designer to create our image and print materials you see here. The program will launch on July 9th with a focus on Black Women 18 - 40(ish) years old. **Please use or share [this link](#)** with women in Anson County as this program promises to **bring the heat and the tea!**

Hoke County

Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment (F.A.D.E)

In May, we completed the final details to prepare for the program launch of our **Hoke County Barbershop Conversation Series** which launched on June 4th, 2023. We are thrilled to be partnering with **Game Time Barbershop** and to have Mr. Bryan Gaines serving as our Program Chair.



The **Game Time** barbers and the NRP team, along with our community partners, Breaking Every Chain and Maggie's Outreach Center, spent the month generating BUZZ about the FADE around the community. There's still time for any of the 18-40(ish) Black men of Hoke County to join us for the final session in the Hoke series by [registering here for the June 25th](#) session.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



On May 6th, Alexa attended the SPIRIT ("Site Identification and Resolution of Issues Together") Community Leader forum in Moore County.

The full-day program, sponsored by the Sandhills Coalition for Peace, Love, and Justice, the Moore County NAACP, and the US Justice Dept. Community Relations Service, was designed to "improve communities' abilities to problem solve and build capacity to prevent and respond to conflict, tension, and hate crimes based on race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability."

New Rural Project is working with several of our focus counties on community-based public safety campaigns to facilitate the sharing of helpful information and relevant resources between our focus counties.

UPCOMING EDUCATION ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY

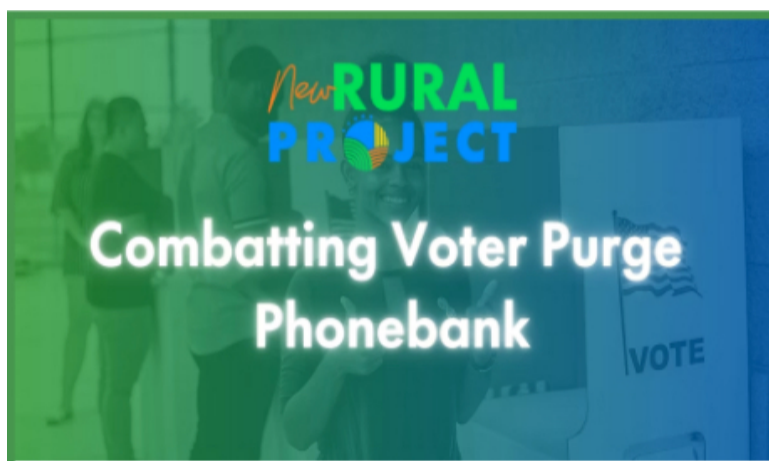
Continuing our partnership with the **Communities for the Education of Every Child NC** coalition and focus on Education, we hope that you will join us at the State Capitol on **Wednesday, June 21st, 2023**, at 10:00 AM. With a musical performance by NC music educator and instructor, Destiny Stone, this promises to be an event you will not want to miss.



[REGISTER HERE](#) to let Every Child NC know you are coming and if you need any support with funds to cover your transportation expenses!

ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

Combatting Voter Purge Phone Bank



Since our first **Weekly Virtual Phone Bank: Combatting Voter Purge**, we have trained over 45 new volunteers who have completed and made over 1,600 calls, but we still have 600 calls to make! Please register to join us from wherever you are as we continue these calls on **Thursday evenings from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.**

All you need is a phone, a computer with internet access, and a change-maker attitude! **Sign up [here!](#)**

OTHER UPDATES

We're Growing Our Organizing Department

NRP is excited to participate in a new program called Organize NC. In May, Alexa attended a meeting with the leaders of Brighter Future Institute and several other like-minded organizations across NC to learn about this new Fellowship Program for new Organizers.

The five-month, full-time, paid fellowship opportunity (with potential for continued employment) is for new and aspiring community organizers based in NC who are interested in exploring a career in our state's social movement ecosystem and who want to develop skills and experiences to organize communities, build grassroots power, and advance racial, social, gender, and economic justice. Applications are closed, and we hope to introduce our new Organizing Fellow by August!





We are also hiring an **Organizing Director** and a **Regional Organizer**. Information about these opportunities is coming soon so please check out our [Indeed](#) page and our [website](#) regularly!

On May 4, Cynthia was on a panel with Rotrina Campbell of Common Cause NC and longtime friend and partner, Brandon Rivers of You Can Vote, hosted by former TV personality Dedrick Russell. The panel was hosted by the Reimagining America Project (RAP). They discussed the issues with low voter turnout and ways to change it! You can [watch the full program here](#).



2023 ELECTION INFORMATION

Voter ID Required for 2023 Elections

Voter ID requirements will be implemented in North Carolina in 2023. A list of acceptable photo IDs for voting can be found on the [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#) website.



All voters will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID, but if a voter cannot show photo ID when voting in person, they can still vote by filling out an ID Exception Form. However, New Rural Project will be working with voters in our focus counties to ensure that they have the appropriate photo ID so that this new law does not become a barrier to voting.

2023 Municipal Election Information Including Dates

2023 Municipal Elections
(Voter ID requirements in place)

- Oct. 6, 2023: County Boards of Elections begin mailing absentee ballots for November 7th election.
- Oct. 19, 2023: One-stop, in-person early voting begins for November 7th municipal elections.
- Nov. 4, 2023: One-stop, in-person early voting ends for November 7th municipal elections.
- Nov. 7, 2023: ELECTION DAY in municipalities with November elections.

Follow us!

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Voter ID Info



Learn more at [NCSBE.GOV](https://www.ncsbe.gov)

Odd-Number Year Municipal Elections Filing Period

Candidate filing period for partisan and nonpartisan municipal contests ***begins at noon*** on **Friday, July 7, 2023**, and ***ends at noon*** on **Friday, July 21, 2023**. Candidates must file at the appropriate county board of elections office.

2023 Municipal Elections

- **Tuesday, October 10, 2023** - Municipal Election (Dobbins Heights)
- **Tuesday, November 7, 2023** - Municipal Election (all other towns & cities)

Your municipal election ballot may include races for mayor, alderman, town commissioner, and city, town, or village council.

You can also click your county on the [2023 Municipal Elections Map](#) to see what's on the ballot in your area in 2023.

Until next time,

Team New Rural Project

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