

June 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

Dear Steve,

We are all in the midst of historically high temperatures with last week hitting the highest recorded temperatures in the history of the globe! In the middle of these high temperatures, filing for candidates in this year's municipal elections in North Carolina started on Friday, July 7th and concluded on Friday, July 21st.

North Carolina was front and center in June in extremely consequential Supreme Court of the United States rulings. After working with Common Cause NC last August to kick off their statewide "barnstorming" tour to put *People Over Politics* and get the word out about the "Moore v. Harper" case, we are celebrating the decision to reject the obscure "independent state legislature" theory which threatened our system of checks and balances in the three separate branches of government. Only a few days later, the same court decided in "Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina" ruled the use of affirmative action in admissions at the university was unconstitutional.

The New Rural Project is busy continuing our Barbershop Conversations, launching our first Beauty Salon Conversation, contacting purged voters to help them re-register to vote, and getting the word out that for the first time in North Carolina, an ID will be required to vote.

We are also in the midst of working hard to expand our Field Organizing team so that we can knock on the doors of more of our rural neighbors to make sure they know that the issues they care about solving in their local communities are on the ballot in their mayor, city and town council elections. We hope that our efforts not only disseminate vital voting information but it also helps them see the power they hold to change their community.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Cynthia Wallace
Executive Director of NRP

VOLUNTEER

LISTENING

Hoke County

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

Along with our community partners, Breaking Every Chain, Hoke Reentry Council, Maggie's Outreach Center, and Program Chair and hosting barber, Bryan Gaines of Game Time Barbershop, we spent Sunday afternoons in June chatting, chewing, and chopping it up with over three dozen men (and even some women!) in the Barbershop. Special thanks to North Carolina Representative Garland Pierce and Hoke County Commissioner Chairman, Allen Thomas, for coming to engage with constituents and join the conversations.



We also engaged with local entrepreneur, Marvin Frink of Briarwood Cattle Farms who shared excellent resources, knowledge and information. From discussions (facilitated by local community leaders like Shamell Peterkin, Bernice McPhatter and Will Munn) about new voter ID requirements and the importance of voting in local elections to Second Chance programs and resources and celebrating people's successes, these Hoke County residents are ready to get engaged and be the change they want to see in their communities.



Allen Thomas, Hoke County Commission Chair

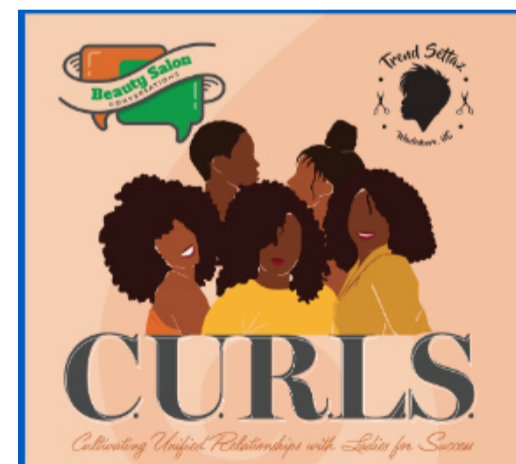


L to R: Program Chair Bryan Gaines, one of our F.A.D.E. graduates, and community partner Shamell Peterkin

Anson County

Cultivating Unified Relationships with Ladies for Success (C.U.R.L.S.)

After months of planning our pilot **Beauty Shop Conversations: C.U.R.L.S.** program is finally here! Weekly sessions started in Wadesboro, NC at Trend Settaz Salon on Sunday, July 9th, and concluded on Sunday, July 23rd. We will share awesome highlights in our July Rural Roundup. If you can't wait, check out the highlights on our Facebook page [here!](#)



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



On Saturday, June 17th, Regional Organizer Nisea Moses led NRP's efforts to participate in our second Juneteenth event in Marshville, NC. We talked with residents from across Union County and neighboring counties about the upcoming municipal elections, distributing helpful information about when candidate filing would begin and when the October and November elections would be held. We also shared resources on [how to get free help to obtain a voter ID](#) and how to sign up to get free or reduced internet costs via the Biden-Harris passed [Affordable Connectivity Program](#).



OTHER UPDATES

We're Hiring!



NRP is hiring a motivated and experienced Organizing Director to promote and manage our civic and electoral engagement programs in the focus counties of Union, Anson, Richmond, Scotland, Moore, Hoke, and Robeson Counties. [The Organizing Director will be responsible for coaching and managing a team of Regional and County level organizers.](#)

June 4th - 7th: Small Town Summit, Missoula, MT

Cynthia and Nisea attended a convention for and by small-town organizers called the **Small Town Summit**. The summit brought together nearly 250 small-town and rural organizers from 25 states across the country.



The rooms and workshops resonated with a shared commitment to shifting power, changing narratives, and strengthening capacity for our rural communities.

A highlight for Cynthia and Nisea was meeting Zoey Zephyr, the inspiring transgender Montana lawmaker who was silenced after she spoke out against the multiple anti-LGBT+ bills that were being proposed in 2023.

June 16th - 2023 Intersectional Dynamic Pride: Diversity and Disability Conference in Union County

Cynthia was a featured speaker at this conference which focused on how to raise, educate, and employ a diverse community while protecting and empowering each other in today's society and political environment. She spoke about rural activism sharing reasons for low rural voter turnout, ways to increase engagement across all demographics, and how recently proposed legislation could impact disabled and LGBTQIA+ folks.



2023 ELECTION INFORMATION

2023 Candidate Filing Period

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.

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](https://www.ncsbe.gov/) 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.

Get free help to obtain a voter ID [here](#).

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.

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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