

July 2023 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,

As July closed, you saw the exciting news in the email we sent on August 4th about how our team has expanded with two amazing new Fellows who will help us *Get Out The Vote* for the November municipal elections. While national elections get a lot of attention, at NRP we know that our local elected officials impact all of our day-to-day lives significantly.

For the last few months, through our social media, at community events, and mostly recently during our first textbank with VoteRiders, we have been getting the word out that [photo identification will be required in order to vote in the 2023 North Carolina municipal elections](#). We plan to work every day until election day, November 7th, to ensure that rural folks in our focus counties are aware of this change and have all of the information they need so that their ability to vote isn't disrupted.

Saving our democracy is a team sport and this work needs YOU. Please donate [here](#) to help support our efforts to *Get Out the Vote*. If you have time to help as a volunteer, sign up [here](#)!

We thank you for being on our team!

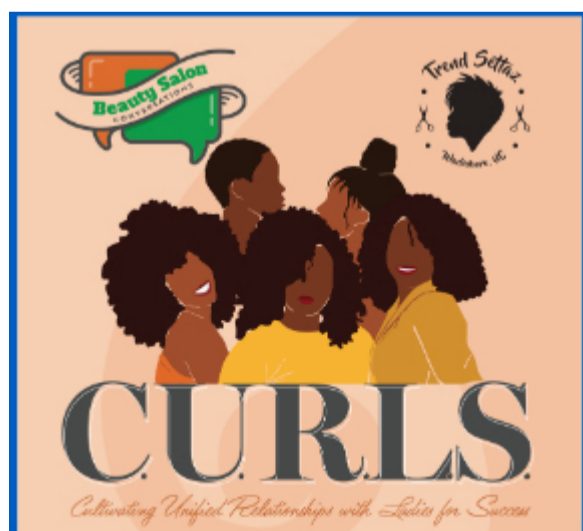
Cynthia Wallace
Executive Director of NRP

Donate to help us GOTV for November!

LISTENING

Anson County

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



We did it! After months of preparation, Alexa Roberts (Program Director) led the launch of our very first Beauty Salon Conversation in Wadesboro (Anson County) and spent three Sunday afternoons in July *bringing the heat and the tea* in Trend Settaz Salon with Program Chair and salon owner, Shay Jackson Green. Our first session focused on *Women, Stress, and Wellness* with our program partner, Devin Pettiford of NETworX Anson, who taught us grounding and meditation techniques, and led great discussions about mental healthcare.

When we came back the following Sunday to talk about *Civics at the Local Government Level*, it was standing room only with over 30 folks in attendance including program participants from Anson County, elected officials, and community leaders from the surrounding counties. The lively conversation highlighted a variety of ways women can engage with their elected representatives and get involved in bringing the change they want to see in their communities.

In our third and final session, we "spilled all the tea" about *Entrepreneurship and Connecting the Dots*, informing our participants about the resources available to existing and aspiring small business owners.

We wrapped things up with a celebration with pomp and circumstance as we held our certificate ceremony. We know that the Anson County women who participated in our three-week series are fired up and ready to go!



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



On July 24th, NRP was a co-sponsor of Common Cause NC's #UniteNC Town Hall in Moore County with the Sandhills Coalition for Peace, Love, and Justice, the Moore County NAACP, League of Women Voters of Moore County, and Women Leading/Mujeres Liderando. Nearly 100 folks from Moore and surrounding counties had the chance to voice their issues and concerns in two minute speeches.

We also had the opportunity to hear virtually from Neal Katyal, the attorney who presented a compelling oral argument before SCOTUS which led to the court rejecting the obscure "independent state legislature" in the Moore v. Harper case in June. While the invited members of the NC General Assembly did not attend, there were local elected Board of Education members who participated in the event and engaged in discussions with citizens.

We will co-sponsor another #UniteNC town hall in September in Wagram led by Common Cause with several Scotland and Hoke County community partners. Register [HERE](#) to let us know you will join us - children are welcome and food will be provided!

ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT



We had over 250 people sign up to help us call through our list of rural purged voters of color since March! By our final phone bank on August 3rd, our volunteers had called the purged voters on our list two times which means we called voters back that we missed in our first round of calling.

In July, Nisea Moses (Regional Organizer) began preparing for our first textbank which occurred on August 10th with our partner, [VoteRiders](#). We'll share the results from this fun event next month. In the meantime, follow our [Mobilize page](#) to stay informed about volunteer opportunities.



OTHER UPDATES

On July 18-20th, Alexa joined 35 existing and emerging economic development and health professionals, educators, and civic and nonprofit leaders in Asheboro and is now a graduate of the NC Rural Center's Homegrown Leaders program, a three-day regional leadership and economic development program that develops and supports highly motivated leaders committed to regional collaboration.



Alexa spent time collaborating with some of the Anson and Union County community leaders who will be partnering with us on future programs and events.

We're Hiring!

NRP is still 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.



2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Photo ID Requirements for Voting in the 2023 Municipal Elections



Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina in person or by mail-in ballot. A list of acceptable photo IDs for voting can be found on the [North Carolina State Board of Elections](#) website.

For most voters who vote in person, they will simply show their North Carolina-issued driver's license. If a voter does not have an acceptable photo ID, they can get one for free from the [NC Division of Motor Vehicles \(NCDMV\)](#) or from their [county board of elections](#).

If a voter cannot show a photo ID when voting in person, they can still vote by filling out an ID Exception Form. If folks are voting by mail and they are unable to include a copy of their photo ID in their ballot return envelope, they can also fill out an ID Exception Form with their ballot.

2023 Municipal Election Dates

A graphic titled "2023 Municipal Elections (Voter ID requirements in place)". It contains four colored boxes with dates and events: an orange box for Oct. 6, 2023 (County Boards of Elections begin mailing absentee ballots for November 7th election), a blue box for Oct. 19, 2023 (One-stop, in-person early voting begins for November 7th municipal elections), an orange box for Nov. 4, 2023 (One-stop, in-person early voting ends for November 7th municipal elections), and a blue box for Nov. 7, 2023 (ELECTION DAY in municipalities with November elections).

Go to the [North Carolina State Board of Elections Voter Search](#) page to see what's on your ballot for the 2023 municipal election!

Until next time,

Team New Rural Project

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VOLUNTEER



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New Rural Project
PO Box 77424
Charlotte, NC 28271
United States

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