

September 2023 Rural Roundup



From Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>
To Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <info@newruralproject.org>
Date 2023-10-14 10:00

The New Rural Project's Rural Roundup Monthly Newsletter

Dear Steve,

September in North Carolina finally saw the passage of a state budget which we are happy to report included the **expansion of Medicaid!** It's been a long time coming and we are thankful that it means that over 600,000 uninsured North Carolinians will have the opportunity to get access to healthcare starting on December 1. **However**, the budget process was not transparent and provisions like reducing the personal income tax rate will mostly benefit the wealthy.

Per the NC Budget & Tax Center, the reduction in revenue from these cuts will "decimate the state's ability to generate funds to pay for what all North Carolinians rely on - public schools, parks, roads, clean water, and more." Salary increases for teachers and school employees are minimal and do not keep up with inflation and public school funds are being diverted to a voucher program that puts public funds into private schools.



September also included the launch of New Rural Project's canvassing efforts to GOTV for the 2023 municipal elections in Union County (Marshville and Monroe) and Anson County (Wadesboro). Every weekend until the November 7 election, our canvassers are listening to our rural neighbors at their Front Porches. These conversations are helping the voters connect the dots so that they see that **our vote** is the key to having **our voices** heard so that we elect leaders who reflect the diversity of **our rural communities** and will fight **for us**.

With gratitude,

Cynthia Wallace
Executive Director of NRP

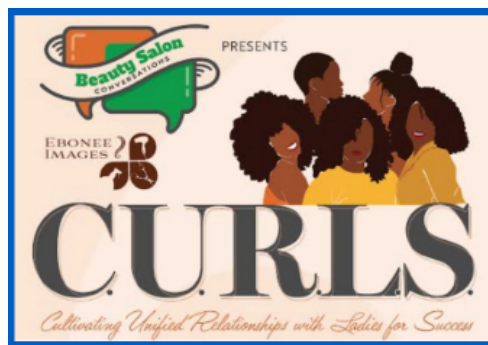
P.S. Read to the end to see the exciting changes to our [website!](#)

CHECK OUT OUR VOTER RESOURCES

LISTENING

Union County

Beauty Salon Conversations: Cultivating Unified Relationships with Ladies for Success (C.U.R.L.S.)



Our *C.U.R.L.S.* program series in the City of Monroe wrapped up on **Saturday, September 30**, with over 40 women in attendance over the course of the three-week program. A heartfelt thank you to all our attendees for their enthusiastic participation, our fantastic facilitators, the talented Sharon Crowder for the delicious catering, and the wonderful host and Program Chair, **Alfreda Leak Green** of Ebonee Images.

In **Week 1**, our focus was **Entrepreneurship**; in **Week 2**, we tackled **Civics at the Local Government Level**; and in **Week 3**, we dove into topics surrounding **Stress & Wellness**, ending with a celebration of all the program participants. Our Program Assistant, Benita Sanders, will work with the program participants to plan a C.U.R.L.S. voting event before Early Voting ends on November 4. We are excited to continue the momentum in Monroe!

Watch our C.U.R.L.S recap [HERE!](#)



Anson County Partner Event

On **September 30**, we participated in the **Second Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament hosted by the Sandhills Voter Initiative (SVI)** which was founded in May 2022 by three amazing young men after they attended NRP's first *Barbershop Conversation Series: F.A.D.E.*



The SVI event seamlessly blended a basketball tournament fundraiser with voter outreach initiatives at Anson High School. Cynthia, Maryjane Conti (Administrative Assistant extraordinaire), and her super volunteer husband Tony had the opportunity to have conversations with current and future voters and share information about the upcoming municipal elections and NRP's efforts to hire local community folks to canvass their community. We're excited to continue partnering with SVI team to ensure that our community is informed, empowered, and actively participating in the democratic process by exercising their right to vote!

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

#UniteNC Town Hall: Wagram

On **September 14**, the Wagram Recreation Center was filled with over **70 residents from Scotland and Hoke County** who gathered to voice their concerns and discuss matters important to their community during our second partnership with **Common Cause NC** for the statewide **#UniteNC Town Hall** program initiative.



Program Director, Alexa Roberts, led our successful planning efforts for the event along with partners from the MidSandhills MAL Unit of the League of Women Voters NC, the Hoke County NAACP, the Hoke County Civic League, the Blue Springs Community Development Center, and the Hoke County Reentry Council. The discussions held during this gathering were dynamic and multifaceted, touching upon a wide range of issues that struck a chord with all those in attendance. Click [here](#) to view the Wagram Town Hall event.

Union County Pride Event

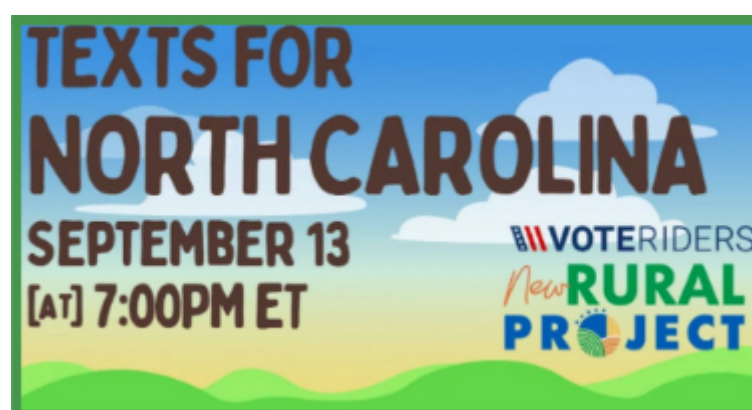


We participated in the **Union Pride** event held on **September 17** and even the downpour of rain couldn't dampen our spirits during the vibrant celebration at the Belk Tonawanda Park in Monroe!

Our new Regional Organizer, Brittany Lowder, led our efforts to inform folks about the new requirement for photo IDs for the upcoming election, helped register voters, and even launched a canvass shift...all from the park!

ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

On **September 13**, we had our second text bank event in partnership with VoteRiders. At **no cost**, [VoteRiders](#) helps people in North Carolina get their driver's license or state ID and any supporting documents they need (e.g. social security card, birth certificate, etc.). Similar to our text bank in August, we informed thousands of young rural folks via text about the new photo ID requirement for the 2023 municipal election.



Deep Canvassing



In early September, Cynthia and the NRP Organizing team (Nisea, Brittany, and Edward) spent five days at the Holiday Inn in Monroe along with our Organizing Consultant hard at work interviewing and hiring canvassers and preparing for our overall municipal GOTV efforts!

Since September 8, when we launched our first canvassing shift in Monroe, our amazing Organizing team and dedicated canvassers have spent every weekend attempting almost 5,000 Front Porch Conversations with our neighbors about the upcoming municipal elections and new photo ID requirements.

To knock doors in Monroe, Marshville, and Wadesboro, we are still hiring more local canvassers. Help us find great talent in or near these communities by clicking our **"We are Hiring"** graphic.



Upcoming Event Monroe Candidate Forum



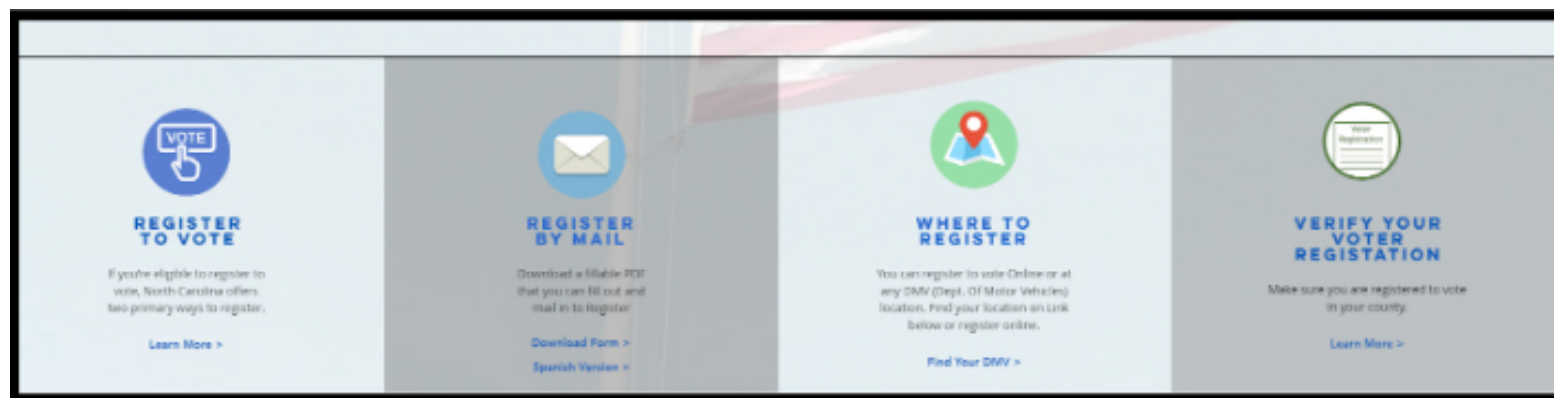
On **Sunday, October 22** at 6:00 PM at Reboth Church of Monroe, New Rural Project is partnering with the Union County NAACP and the Monroe Democracy Center to provide an opportunity for folks to meet the candidates running for Monroe City Council and Mayor. This town hall forum will give candidates a chance to introduce themselves and their platforms, as well as give residents a chance to ask questions and speak directly with the candidates.

If you live in Monroe, we encourage you to join us and spread the word!

2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION INFORMATION

Voter Resources

We are delighted to announce that our website's [Voter Resources](#) page has undergone substantial updates in preparation for the 2023 municipal election.



It now includes county-specific ballot information for all seven of NRP's focus counties: Anson, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, and Union. Furthermore, each county page will offer contact details for candidates, including phone numbers and email addresses when available. [Be sure to check it out!](#)

Important Dates for North Carolina's November 2023 Municipal Election



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

One-stop, in-person early voting for the November 2023 elections begins **Thursday, Oct. 19, and ends Saturday, Nov. 4.**

On Election Day, polling places will be open from **6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.** *Any voter in line at their assigned polling place at 7:30 p.m. will be able to vote.*

North Carolina Municipal Election Dates

- Oct. 13, 2023: Civilian voter registration deadline (can still register during One-stop, in-person early voting)
- Oct. 19, 2023: One-stop, in-person early voting begins for November 7th municipal elections
- Oct. 31, 2023: Last day to request mail-in ballot. Request must be received by 5pm on 10/31
- Nov. 4, 2023 - One-stop, in-person early voting ends for November 7th municipal elections
- Nov. 7, 2023: ELECTION DAY! Vote at your assigned polling location between 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM
- Nov. 7, 2023: ELECTION DAY: Absentee-by-mail ballots hand-delivered to your county Board of Election must be received by 5 PM
- Nov. 10, 2023: Date that absentee-by-mail ballots postmarked by Election Day (Nov. 7) must be received at your county Board of Election

Live outside of North Carolina or NRP Rural focus counties? Click [HERE](#) to check your registration status, see your sample ballot, and make sure you're ballot-ready!

As always, thank you for being on our team.

Team New Rural Project

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VOLUNTEER



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