

## 2nd Quarter 2025 Rural Roundup



**From** Team New Rural Project <info@newruralproject.org>  
**To** Steve Johnston <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Reply-To** <info@newruralproject.org>  
**Date** 2025-07-02 16:30



Dear Steve,

As we've seen over the past few months, this year has brought its share of challenges. Yet, New Rural Project's resolve has never wavered. On April 6th, we celebrated our organization's fourth trip around the sun with the ladies of C.U.R.L.S. at our final program session! Throughout the month, we reflected on the four transformative years New Rural Project has been in service. Although we did not host a party this year, we were incredibly grateful for all our supporters who made [contributions to continue fueling our fight for rural North Carolina](#).

June was a time to honor the hard-won milestones in our collective journey toward freedom and deepen our resolve to protect our democracy. During Juneteenth celebrations, we commemorated the news of emancipation reaching the enslaved people in Texas, marking a pivotal moment in the fight for justice. This month also shines a spotlight on Pride, celebrating the resilience and courage of LGBTQ+ communities in the face of systemic oppression and discrimination. Finally, this month reflects on gun violence awareness and the ongoing fight to increase public safety throughout the country.

**PLEASE HELP US FIGHT FOR RURAL NC!**

As we enter July, we urge you to [join us in contacting your congressperson to oppose H.R.1 TODAY!](#) This "[Big Ugly Bill](#)" has already passed the Senate and is being considered in the House of Representatives. It is projected to **cut up to \$600 billion from Medicaid**, risking coverage for 15 million low-income Americans and threatening the **closure of over 300 rural hospitals**. SNAP funding (food stamps) could be **slashed by \$267 billion**, affecting 7.4 million people, and federal student financial aid and Pell grants for low and middle-income students would also be reduced. Meanwhile, **the bill adds \$2.5 trillion to the deficit to fund nearly \$4 trillion in tax breaks for the wealthy**. Rural communities and working families will suffer most—your voice matters!

Here are ways to make your voice heard:

Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at **202-224-3121**. You can also [find your representatives here](#).

Use the [5 Calls Website](#) to find easy-to-use scripts as you contact your lawmakers. You can also download the **5Calls app** on your smartphone.

Yours in the fight,

**Cynthia L. Wallace**  
Executive Director  
New Rural Project

**PS: Our birthday might be over, but our fight never ends!  
Make a belated birthday contribution today to fuel our fight for NC!**

### **LISTENING**

Our **Beauty Salon Conversations: C.U.R.L.S. (Cultivating Unified Relationships with Ladies for Success)** program wrapped up after three consecutive Sunday sessions and an outpouring of support from the Richmond community! The second and third sessions occurred on March 30 and April 6.



Our Richmond County businesswomen, including Rainbow Child Development Center owner **Iris McRae**, S. Class Solutions Trucking owner **Shanieka Davis**, and Richmond Community College's Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications **Brandi Miller**, led riveting discussions on **entrepreneurship, business resources, and networking**. With almost a standing-room-only group, **Dr. Jennifer Smith** and First Impressions Hair Designs' own **Lois Jones (C.U.R.L.S. co-chair)** curated a meaningful conversation around **mental health and wellness**, dropping gems on taking care of your mental health and giving exercise and nutritional tips to maintain your physical health to close out our third session.

### **Town Halls**

On **April 24**, New Rural Project partnered on a non-partisan town hall for the greater Charlotte region alongside **Indivisible CLT, Common Cause NC, Red Wine & Blue NC, Democracy NC, and others** for constituents to exercise their right to peacefully assemble and express their concerns with current policies. North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis was invited to hear his constituents' concerns and did not attend the event. We are proud of our over 800 neighbors who ensured their voices were heard!



**HOKE RURAL ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY TOWN HALL**

---

 **SATURDAY**  
MAY 17, 2025

 **RAEFORD CIVIC CENTER**  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

On **May 17**, we participated in the **Rural Accountability & Transparency Town Hall in Hoke County**, which gave folks a chance to voice our concerns, set priorities, and hold our elected officials accountable.

**NRP Board member Christina Davis-McCoy of Blue Springs – Hoke County CDC** led the initiative, partnering with **NRP, Democracy NC, Common Cause NC, Red Wine & Blue, Blueprint,** and the **Hoke County NAACP.** The Raeford Civic Center was filled with energized constituents, creating a powerful display of civic engagement and commitment to their rural communities.

The tour will continue soon as it makes its next stop in Richmond County! Follow us on **Facebook, Instagram,** and **Mobilize** to stay up to date on the latest details on Richmond County's **Rural Accountability & Transparency Town Hall** and be sure to spread the word with your community. The more voices, the more impactful the message!

---

### **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

For the fourth year in a row, NRP participated in the **HOLLA! 5K** in May, which also celebrated the **HOLLA! Center's 20th anniversary!** We won an award for having the highest team participation, and a few of our volunteer team members placed in various categories.



---

On Saturday, June 14, and Thursday, June 19, **Organizing Director Nisea** and **Organizer Jarvis** led New Rural Project's 2025 planning to join folks in Union, Richmond, and Scotland counties to celebrate **Juneteenth** with the community! We played some games, enjoyed good food, and put our boots on the ground with our neighbors, exchanging important information and spreading the word about the upcoming elections this year.

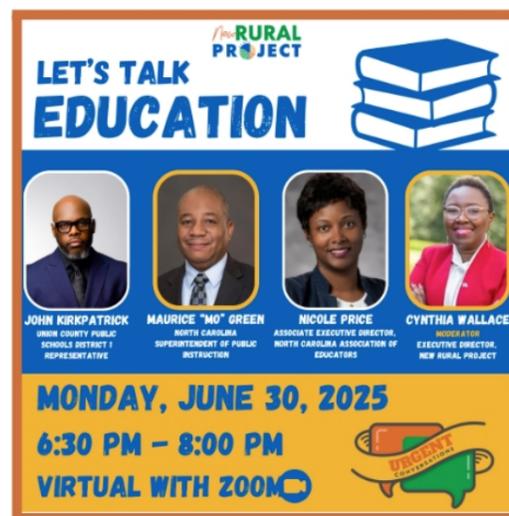


Thank you to our amazing volunteers who kept the energy flowing all day! Congratulations to our raffle winners who went home with \$25 gift cards for completing our survey on the 2024 election!



### Urgent Conversation: Let's Talk Education

On **Monday, June 30**, we hosted our second virtual **Urgent Conversation** of the year, focusing on public education in North Carolina. The event, led by **Policy & Programs Director Caroline Sumpter** along with her team, **Eric** and **Kia**, saw a stellar turnout of folks across North Carolina and beyond engaged to learn more about the future of education for our Rural youth!



We are incredibly grateful for our esteemed panel of speakers, including **Union County Public Schools District 1 Representative John Kirkpatrick**, **Associate Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Educators Nicole Price**, and **North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Mo Green!**

**Cynthia** moderated the discussion, and there was amazing energy in the space as folks listened to information, asked questions, and gave their thoughts concerning the state of public education.

Missed the conversation? Don't worry! You can catch the playback on our [YouTube channel](#) and be sure to subscribe!

### Wadesboro Coalition for Peace

On **Wednesday, June 18**, New Rural Project joined the **HOLLA! Center**, the **Caraway Foundation**, **Black Voters Matter**, and the **Town of Wadesboro** to launch the **Wadesboro Coalition for Peace**.



This community-led initiative aims to combat the growing strain of gun violence in Wadesboro and Anson County. With an encouraging attendance of over 70 Wadesboro residents, the community galvanized to begin developing meaningful solutions to improve the conditions for the youth to steer them in the right direction and away from senseless violence. The next meeting will take place **tonight, Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at 6:00 PM** at Smith's Funeral Home located at **604 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, NC**. [RSVP here.](#)



## ELECTORAL ENGAGEMENT



The North Carolina Supreme Court Election dragged on for **six months**, tied up in the courts because Jefferson Griffin refused to concede his defeat after **two recounts confirmed his loss by 734 votes**. After a long legal battle, a federal judge issued a ruling calling for the North Carolina Board of Elections to certify Justice Allison Riggs' decisive victory over Griffin. Shortly after, **Griffin conceded, marking the official end of his legal challenge and securing Justice Riggs' win!**

---

## OTHER UPDATES

### Conference Season!

#### America Votes State Summit

In early April, **Organizing Director Nisea Moses, Executive Director Cynthia Wallace, and Policy & Programs Director Caroline Sumpter** headed to Washington, D.C., to attend the annual **America Votes State Summit**. As always, they represented rural North Carolina well as they learned more about advocacy and community building with talented advocates across the country!



#### North Carolina Black Alliance Summit

**Nisea & Caroline** attended the **North Carolina Black Alliance Summit** in Raleigh, North Carolina. They had a great time connecting with stakeholders and community leaders as everyone learned from each other to chart a new path for a more equitable North Carolina! They even personally secured the NC Superintendent of Instruction to be our **Urgent Conversations: Let's Talk NC Public Education** speaker during the conference!

#### Rural Policy Action Summit

On **April 28-30, Cynthia** attended the 2nd annual **Rural Policy Action Summit** in Des Moines, Iowa, hosted by Rural Democracy Initiative and other rural-focused organizations. The summit featured 50 rural advocates from across the country focused on crafting a policy agenda that establishes our "pro-rural" agenda and the essential components to defend against mounting threats. She was excited to finally meet **Iowa State Representative JD Scholton**, who, back in 2022, donated the proceeds from the sale of his former Iowa 04 congressional campaign RV (Sioux City Sue) to NRP!



### Upcoming Local Elections

Elections happen every year, which means we get to use our voices at the ballot box annually! The [2025 Municipal Elections](#) will be held in October & November, where folks will be able to vote for candidates to take local positions in their county and town.

Elections can't happen without candidates! If you're considering running for a position in your local community, **the candidate filing period begins Monday, July 7, and closes at noon on July 18.** [Stay in the know about the important dates, including voter registration deadlines and early voting periods.](#)

**North Carolina  
2025 Municipal Election Dates**

- July 7 – 18: Candidate filing period**
- October 10, 2025: Voter registration deadline (5 p.m.)**
- October 16, 2025: In-person early voting begins.**
- October 21, 2025: Absentee ballot request deadline (5 p.m.)\***
- October 31, 2025: In-person early voting ends (3 p.m.)**
- November 4, 2025: ELECTION DAY, Absentee ballot return deadline (7:30 p.m.)\***
- November 14: County Canvass**

\* Note: Dobbins Heights, NC's Election Day is October 7, 2025. Visit [ncsbe.gov/voting](https://ncsbe.gov/voting) for dates and deadlines

**New RURAL PROJECT**

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), add us on [LinkedIn](#), and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to keep up with our activities and information about what's happening in North Carolina!

Thanks for reading! We appreciate you!

**Team New Rural Project**

**DONATE**

**VOLUNTEER**



New Rural Project is a 501(c)(4) registered non-profit organization and does not support or oppose any political candidate or party. New Rural Project can accept unlimited contributions from individuals, PACs, corporations and unions, and other 501(c)(4) organizations, but contributions to New Rural Project are not tax deductible.

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

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please [unsubscribe](#).