

democracy ADVOCATE



DEMOCRACY NORTH CAROLINA

SPRING 2012

Of, By and For the People

Through our various programs, Democracy North Carolina seeks to create a vibrant, multi-racial civic culture that respects diverse voices and empowers everyday people to work together for the common good.

It's never been easy to advance our core goals of increasing voter participation and reducing the harmful influence of big money in politics. It took five years to win Same-Day Registration and even longer to enact a public campaign financing alternative for some executive branch offices.

The new team in control of the General Assembly is even more challenging! But thanks to your wonderful help in 2011, we mobilized thousands of voters to protect past wins and score new ones.

During 2011, we:

- Blocked several measures that would suppress voter participation, including the photo ID bill and the repeal of Same-Day Registration.
- Protected the judicial and Council of State public financing programs from attacks by a group of lawmakers.
- Helped organize the new Greensboro Voters' Alliance to boost turnout in that city's 2011 election with a popular voter guide, forums, canvassing, etc.
- Organized volunteers to make hundreds of calls in Wake County's pivotal school board election.
- Trained citizens to create redistricting plans for Mecklenburg County.

- Continued to build multi-racial coalitions in Charlotte, Greenville, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville and other areas.

- Exposed the discriminatory effect of the new General Assembly district plans, and joined broad coalitions to challenge those plans in court and also promote an independent redistricting process.



Democracy NC staff, ready for action

- Uncovered cases of the corrupting role of money in politics, which helped our partners fight bad policies, such as the consumer-loan industry's legislation to hike interest rates and the insurance industry's effort to control implementation of health-care reform in our state.
- Launched our *Pathways to Power* program, with 3-day workshops for 60 volunteer leaders in Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Wilmington, and Greenville.
- Held our 12th *Democracy Summer* program to expose college youth to organizing and a life-changing experience.

We are now working hard in this big election year to make voting more accessible and policies more accountable to the public interest, not narrow special interests. We are adding field organizers to expand our outreach to more parts of the state, bringing our total staff to 12.

During 2012, we will:

- Continue to lead a large coalition to challenge all legislation that will suppress voter participation or starve funding for more Early Voting sites.
 - Recruit 1,000 faith centers to educate and mobilize voters in a giant *Souls to the Polls* campaign.
 - Provide voting resources and aid to 400 service agencies with moderate and low-income clients.
 - Help 25,000 youth under 25 to register, follow-up with issue education, and boost youth turnout in the primary and general election.
 - Train 1,000 volunteers from 45 counties to implement multi-stage voter engagement projects.
 - Distribute 1,000,000 voter guides and handouts, co-sponsor Election Protection hotlines, promote our site NCElectionConnection.com and conduct a publicity campaign to provide useful election information and combat rumors and misinformation.
- Continue to challenge the redistricting plans in court and defend NC's public campaign financing programs.
 - Help groups push local governments to adopt resolutions calling for an amendment to the US Constitution that reverses the *Citizens United* decision, and push the General Assembly to beef up disclosure of all money in elections.

Thanks for your great support in 2011!

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2011 Income by Source

Individuals & Donor-Advised Funds: \$214,862
Foundations, Nonprofits: \$614,000
Honorarium, Interest, Other: \$31,649

2011 Expenses by Program Area

General Organizing: \$402,752
Democracy Summer, Leadership Training: \$158,590
Research: \$101,862
Administration: \$85,850
Fundraising: \$70,282

Up to \$100

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help advance voting rights and electoral reform in NC by responding to our requests to take action or by making a financial donation (or both).

As a Democracy Advocate, you will receive:

- Regular updates and action alerts (if you list your email address).
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- Invitations to our workshops and other events.
- A positive feeling, knowing that your action is improving democracy, step by step.

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