Myths & Rumors

We hear all sorts of bad rumors about voting. Here's the truth:

✓ You may quietly wear a button, hat, or shirt with a candidate's name when you vote, but you may not actively draw attention to your choices. You may take a list of your choices into the poll, but do not show it to others or leave it.

✓ You may go to any of the Early Voting sites in your county to vote – or even register and vote at the same time if you’re not registered or if your registration is outdated.

✓ Same-Day Registration & Voting is not something you can do on Election Day; you may only use it during Early Voting.

✓ Voting a “straight-party ticket” does not include the president; you must vote for president and nonpartisan judges separately.

✓ You may vote in any precinct in the county on Election Day, but your choices only count for items on your home precinct’s ballot.

✓ Felons convicted in NC or any state may vote in NC after serving all their sentence and probation. No release document is needed.

✓ If you have an outstanding warrant, bankruptcy, traffic ticket, or civil fine, you may still vote.

Questions? Call 888-687-8683 or go to 2008ElectionConnection.com

Democracy North Carolina

One person, one vote. Democracy in action.

For months, our 11-person staff has focused on expanding voting opportunities for all citizens, especially for young adults and people of color. Our work has made a difference:

★ Urban Coalitions. We’re coordinating voter-empowerment coalitions in Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville, High Point and Wilson that have reached 230,000 people via direct contact, including 55,000 new or infrequent voters.

★ Souls to the Polls. In coalition with the NC NAACP, ministerial associations, General Baptists leaders, Prince Hall Masons, etc.

★ Early Voting Sites. Working with key officials and grassroots advocates, we led the effort to make 3 dozen counties expand Early Voting opportunities, including hard fought campaigns that helped put sites at 20 college campuses and that allow Sunday voting in 12 counties.

★ Election Protection. We’re a leading watchdog for protecting voting rights, including aiding ‘Election Protection’ hotlines and our major campaign to teach ex-felons they can vote.

★ Communication. We’re distributing over 600,000 Same-Day Registration flyers, “I will vote” pledge cards, voter rights pamphlets, Voter Guides, etc.; plus we sponsor a series of TV/radio PSAs and the popular site 2008ElectionConnection.com.

“STEP UP” VOTER GUIDE

With 31 nonpartisan groups, we’ve produced a unique voter guide that • profiles the state candidates  • details voting rights & procedures  • maps the key issues facing NC

See the guide, view a sample ballot, and our major campaign to teach ex-felons they can vote. For more information, or to order a guide, call 888-687-8683.

Election Tips

Best Time to Vote: Early Voting sites are open 8:30-6:30 Mon-Fri, 8:30-5 Sat, and on Election Day. You may vote after 12:30 PM on Election Day, but be aware that there may be long lines.

What If I’ve Moved? Early Voting sites are open 8:30-6:30 Mon-Fri, 8:30-5 Sat, and on Election Day. You may vote after 12:30 PM on Election Day, but be aware that there may be long lines.

Protect Your Vote: If you have a problem or see suspicious activity, call the Election Protection hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE. Don’t leave the polling place without voting; ask for a provisional ballot.

Voting a “straight-party ticket” does not include the president; you must vote for president and non-partisan races like judges separately.

With 31 nonpartisan groups, we’ve produced a unique voter guide that • profiles the state candidates  • details voting rights & procedures  • maps the key issues facing NC

See the guide, view a sample ballot, and our major campaign to teach ex-felons they can vote. For more information, or to order a guide, call 888-687-8683.
Public Campaign Programs & 
Same-Day Registration Highlight NC

North Carolina is attracting national attention for innovative programs that make voting and public service available to more people.

We are the only state in the South, and the largest in the nation, with a version of Same-Day Registration (SDR). During the primary, nearly 50,000 citizens used our new SDR law, which lets citizens register (or update a registration) and vote at the same time at an Early Voting site (but not on Election Day). That amounted to 11% of all the votes cast early.

Our analysis shows that two underrepresented groups – African Americans and youth – comprised half of the SDR voters in May’s primary. SDR is better than costly registration drives, particularly because 100% of the new voters actually vote! We’re proud of our leadership, with the NAACP and others, in winning the SDR law in 2007 and in opening dozens of new SDR sites this year.

We are also proud that North Carolina’s “Voter-Owned Elections” public financing program is a model for other states and cities; several even use the VOE name for their programs.

This year, 11 of the 12 candidates in contested races for the appellate courts are enrolled in NC’s judicial public financing program, the highest participation rate since it began in 2004. Meanwhile, the new Voter-Owned Elections program for three Council of State positions is also proving popular.

Four of the six candidates (two Democrats and two Republicans) are using it, and a fifth tried but did not qualify.

All totaled, NC leads the US by providing a public financing option for 25 statewide offices. NC is also leading the fight to offer public financing in Congressional races. Rep. Walter B. Jones is the top Republican sponsor of the Fair Elections Act, largely because of the advocacy of Common Cause and a group of Republican and moderate Democratic leaders we mobilized in eastern NC. The bill will be reintroduced in 2009. Our thanks to the advocates and former elected officials who encouraged Rep. Jones to act! See democracy-nc.org for more news.

Focus on the New Generation

This year’s Democracy Summer program immersed 10 college-age youth in the role of voting-rights advocate, educator and organizer. This unique program. Thank you! As part of our focus on young voters this year, we have interns working at several colleges across NC to boost turnout at Early Voting centers that we helped place on campuses.

Democracy Summer Teams, 2008

We gained the approval of the Cumberland County school system to conduct a registration and turnout program, called “Vote Young, Vote Forever.” We’ve also worked with 30 other high schools and trained over 150 student leaders to conduct effective voter registration and GOTV campaigns.

We're in the final days of the biggest election in NC history. We urgently need your gift for our nonpartisan efforts to protect the winners to champion reform. Please use the coupon at right NOW. Thank you!

Public Campaign Programs & Same-Day Registration Highlight NC

Talented Staff Join Democracy-NC

Our staff has grown with the addition of 4 talented organizers, each covering a part of NC, and a wonderful new communications director, Katy Munger. We welcome your invitation to speak to a group about effective political reform.

The new field organizers, and their “territory” of focus, are:

- Robert Dawkins, Charlotte/West
- Ashley Holloway, Fayetteville/SE
- Jonathan Peterson, Triad area
- Tia Stanley, Pitt/Nash/Wilson/East

Reach any of us at 919-286-6000.

See democracy-nc.org for more news.

Robert Dawkins  Ashley Holloway  Katy Munger  Jonathan Peterson  Tia Stanley

Yes, I’ll be a supporter – a Democracy Advocate – for Democracy North Carolina, a voter education and other work. I’ll make a contribution of ___________________________ (payable to Democracy North Carolina).

Here's my tax-deductible donation payable to Democracy North Carolina. Please sign me up to receive occasional email Action Alerts for election reform.

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If you prefer, mail your gift to Democracy-NC, 1821 Green St., Durham, NC 27705 Or contribute online at www.democracy-nc.org

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