

“Whatever affects one **directly**, affects all **indirectly**.”*

Fifty years after the assassination of Dr. King, the long struggle for civil rights continues. Dr. King taught us to recognize the long arc of history and “the fierce urgency of now!”

“This is the time for vigorous and positive action,” he said. “We must demonstrate, teach and preach until the very foundations of our nation are shaken.”

IMPORTANT ELECTIONS IN 2018

Elections in 2018 are crucial – and may be confusing. Help educate voters!

◆ Court battles continue over the district maps used for some N.C. legislative elections. Voters need to be prepared for changes.

◆ Legislators may put confusing questions on the ballot, such as asking voters to approve replacing judicial elections with appointments

or add a voter ID rule to the N.C. Constitution.

◆ There’s no U.S. Senate or high profile race on the ballot. But this is the year to elect state legislators, county commissioners, sheriffs, judges, DAs. *See inside: Justice is on the ballot!*

This is a great year to get more involved with Democracy NC, the NAACP, and other civic groups. See back panel.

Call the hotline 888-OUR-VOTE if you have a question about voting or go to NCVoter.org.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.”*

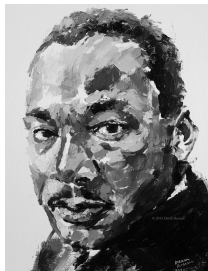
Resources & Opportunities

◆ **Know What’s True:** Keep up with NC political news, voting rights, and ways to be involved at ncpolicywatch.com and twitter.com/democracync; and also facebook.com/democracynorthcarolina and at naacpnc.org.

◆ **Share the Light:** Tell others about the online resources above. Order copies of this brochure (50 or 500 or more) and other materials from Democracy NC, all free, at info@democracync.org or call 919-908-7914.

◆ **Democracy Summer:** College-age youth can receive a stipend

and learn the nuts and bolts of grassroots organizing through a unique 9-week program. See demnc.co/demsummer.



◆ **Nonprofits:** If your agency serves low-wealth clients, get a grant to help them register, vote: Call 919-908-7931.

◆ **Events:** Learn about monthly meetings, events and trainings in your area; join others in non-partisan actions:

- ▶ Democracy North Carolina at 919-286-6000; democracync.org
- ▶ NC NAACP at 919-682-4700 or naacpnc.org

*Quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Prepared by Democracy NC, 2018

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”*



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Justice is on the Ballot in 2018

2018: Justice is on the Ballot!

“Necessity will draw us toward the power inherent in the creative use of politics.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



County sheriffs, district attorneys, and local judges are on the ballot this year. Want them to treat you right? Do you want officials who do the right thing for justice? Now's your chance to vote them in or vote them out! Justice is on the ballot.

You can also elect a N.C. Supreme Court justice this year and Court of Appeals judges.

***BUT . . .** Some leaders in the N.C. General Assembly want to replace elections of judges with a process that lets legislators essentially appoint their friends as judges. That would require voters to approve an amendment to the N.C. Constitution, so **be prepared for a ballot question about judges.** They may call it “merit selection,” but look closely!*

The General Assembly is changing other parts of the justice system. One proposal (House Bill 717) redraws the district lines for local judges to make it harder for Black and women judges to be elected.

Read about the N.C. legislature's attack on fair courts at demnc.co/faircourts and learn about a big RALLY FOR JUSTICE on January 10 at the General Assembly. Tell others!

What should we resolve to do in 2018?

1 Let Justice Roll at the Polls

Take your commitment to Justice to the ballot box this year. All elections matter, but a smaller number of people vote in an off-year like 2018. That means you can have a big impact **with a well-focused voter education and turnout effort.** All state legislators are up for election in 2018; it's time to hold them accountable! Justice officials are on the ballot, too – sheriffs, DAs, and judges. **It's a Justice Election. Pass it on!**

2 Attend the Moral March on Raleigh February 10, 2018

This inspirational rally and march has become the annual kick-off for people of goodwill and the social justice movement in North Carolina. Bring the family and be part of this exciting event.

This year's assembly will focus on the fight for justice, from the legislature to the courts to the ballot box. It is led by Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, president of the state NAACP.

Gather at 9:00 am, February 10, at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, 2 E. South St., and march to the State Capital. Come and learn about the work ahead for 2018. For more about the rally, go to HKonJ.com.

3 Be a Democracy Advocate

The election system can be a means of empowerment if it is used well! Last year, hundreds of Democracy NC volunteers held events, made calls, and spoke to people about ways to use their power. 2018 is an even more critical year, with important elections and a fight to defend fair courts and our voting rights.

You can be a non-partisan Democracy Advocate, too. Staff organizers hold regular meetings and trainings in parts of N.C. **Volunteers are needed to:**

- *Distribute material to educate voters, young & old;*
- *Help with voter registration and voter turnout;*
- *Push for a fair redistricting process.*

Use the Democracy NC contact info on the back.