



Civics of Justice Statewide Training

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 @ 6:30pm

demnc.co/justice

DEMOCRACY

NC



WELCOME

"We're a nonpartisan nonprofit
working to build a political system
that works for all."

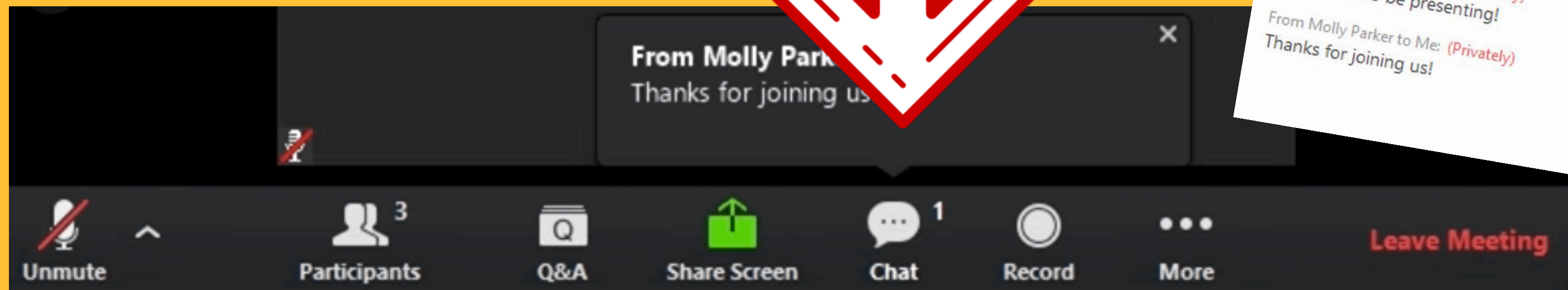
DEMOCRACY NC'S MISSION

I HAVE QUESTIONS. WHAT DO I DO?

THE CHAT BOX IS YOUR FRIEND.

We have questions too:

- Who you are
- Where are you (city or county)
- Why are you here (to be helped, help others or both?)



WHAT YOU GET:

- **Panelist Contacts:** *check the chat*
- **Resource Links:** *check the chat*
- **LIVE Q&A:** *see option below*
- **Next steps:** *ways to act now*
- **Share out:** *check your email*



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OUR EXPERTS:



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- Center the roles police brutality, racial injustice, and the loss of Black lives have in this election.
- Address relationships between what's on the ballot and these important issues.
- Understand how voters can push back to take our power back together and drive civic participation.
- Discuss ways to help our community understand our 2020 voting options and increase voter turnout.

In order to ensure everyone has what we need to survive and thrive we must be able to participate in democratic processes on an equal basis.

That's how we choose (and/or become) leaders we trust to represent us, how we give our representatives the information they need to make decisions in our collective best interest, and hold those leaders accountable when their actions harm us and the environment that sustains us.

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When people are systemically excluded from democratic processes, as Black people have been for centuries, harm, injustice and violence in all forms is all but inevitable.

We are seeing that in the disproportionate rates of Black people suffering harm and death due to COVID-19 and police violence, but also in the desperation that has driven so many people into the streets during a pandemic, and in the hopelessness many people feel watching [politicians] abuse power they gained after winning amidst widespread voter suppression.

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Based on a UNC-Chapel Hill analysis of NC traffic stops from 2000-2016, **Black drivers were 63% more likely to be stopped by police than white drivers** even though, as a whole, Blacks drive 16% less.

Taking into account less time on the road, Black drivers were about 95% more likely to be stopped. **Black drivers were also 115% more likely than whites to be searched at a stop.**

In 2016, the Sentencing Project estimated that **91,179 North Carolinians were disenfranchised due to a felony conviction** — almost half of whom were Black.



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CASE STUDY

FAYETTEVILLE, NC

Residents in Fayetteville, the birthplace of George Floyd, have taken to the streets in 2020 to win police accountability and defend their community.

Repeated protests since Summer 2020 have elevated demands of groups like **Fayetteville PACT (Police Accountability Community Taskforce)** and the Ville's Voice, while also grabbing the City Council's attention. Fayetteville PACT has organized around an independent civil police oversight board and has also demanded an end to cash bail and COVID-19 protections for people incarcerated at the Cumberland County Detention Center.

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KATHY GRIGGS, FAYETTEVILLE PACT



fayettevillepact.org

THE CIVICS OF JUSTICE

"[V]oting is just one of those many choices that we have access to in this time. It feels like an act that honors the legacy of my ancestors who fought and died, just to show up to the ballot box. **I'm showing up to vote for Black Lives.**"

— C.J. Sultt, Chapel Hill, NC Poet Laureate

"Right now the nation is going through a transformation. The transformation consists of police accountability everywhere. **We must continue to advocate for people — no matter who, what, when, where, how.** This is why we need to make sure the power of the vote [is there] for the people."

—Kathy Gregg, Fayetteville PACT, Fayetteville, NC

Communities of color are fed up with being targeted, profiled, and disrespected by federal, state and local justice systems. In 2020, frustration specifically with police brutality and the tragic loss of Black lives has led to major uprisings across the United States and the world. North Carolina is not immune to racially-biased policing. Over the years, there has been a clear pattern of disproportionate enforcement, particularly for nonviolent and traffic offenses.

Based on a UNC-Chapel Hill analysis of NC traffic stops from 2000-2016, **Black drivers were 63% more likely to be stopped by police than white drivers** even though, as a whole, Black people drive 16% less. Taking into account less time on the road, Black drivers were about 95% more likely to be stopped. **Black drivers were also 115% more likely than whites to be searched at a stop.**

According to The Washington Post, at least 154 people have been killed by NC police since 2015. **Black men make up approximately 10% of the population but 32% of those killed by police in that time.**

This pattern of injustice reaches beyond policing; it also corrupts our democracy. In 2016, the Sentencing Project estimated that **91,179 North Carolinians were disenfranchised due to a felony conviction — almost half of whom were Black.**

Frustration with racial bias and inequity is driving pushback and policy changes across North Carolina. Using the tools of democracy, people are fighting back. Case studies — from Asheville to Fayetteville — featured in Democracy NC's Civics of Justice Toolkit (demnc.co/justice) illustrate how organizing, voting, showing up at public meetings, and contacting elected officials can build power.

CASE STUDY: FAYETTEVILLE, NC

Residents in Fayetteville, the birthplace of George Floyd, have taken to the streets in 2020 to win police accountability and defend their community. Repeated protests since Summer 2020 have elevated demands of groups like Fayetteville PACT (Police Accountability Community Taskforce) and the Ville's Voice, while also grabbing the City Council's attention. Fayetteville PACT has organized around an independent civil police oversight board and has also demanded an end to cash bail and COVID-19 protections for people incarcerated at the Cumberland County Detention Center. For more on this and other community movements, visit demnc.co/justice.

Black drivers are 95% more likely than whites to be stopped, and 115% more likely to be searched.

Black men make up 32% of all people killed by NC police since 2015, but only 10% of the population.

In 2016, 91,176 NC voters were disenfranchised due to a felony conviction.

THE POWER OF DEMOCRACY

Engaging at all levels of our democracy can help break the tangle of oppressive practices and policies. Working at the local level is especially powerful because those representatives are most directly accountable to you. **Start from the bottom and move up your ballot in 2020, for example:**

- NC Mayors normally pick the city or town's police chief to manage law enforcement.
- NC City/Town Councils and County Commissions fund that implement justice and public safety programs, including state police, corrections, and juvenile justice.
- NC's Attorney General is the state's leading law enforcement officer; the A.G. heads the NC Dept. of Justice, which protects consumers from fraud, provides legal representation to State agencies, and is a resource for local district attorneys.
- NC Legislators are responsible for defining what is a crime, procedures for responding to crimes, sentences, and funding agencies that deal crimes.
- US Congresspeople can reform the justice system, create federal laws, and confirm US Supreme Court Justices.
- US Presidents appoint US Supreme Court Justices and the Attorney General who leads the Dept. of Justice, and enforce federal laws and administer justice.

We must do more than tell people to vote — particularly when many of the people at greatest risk of illness and violence in this year's elections have also been subjected to policies explicitly designed to make it harder to cast a ballot that counts. Instead, help people understand how barriers to democratic participation result in harm to people we know and to society as a whole. **Provide options that will bring the responses we need and build the more just society we want, such as:**

Voting as a start. Turnout tells elected officials that your community is active and aware. Elected officials pay closer attention to neighborhoods and constituencies that vote. Since elections can be decided in the margins, know and use your vote really will make a difference. You have the power!



Contact elected officials. Elected officials are in office to serve you and your fellow citizens. Let them know your thoughts about the policies that most affect you and your community. Make sure to keep the pressure on, especially after the election.

Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors about these important issues. Help them make their voices heard too. **Ask yourself: If people in power don't hear your voice, whose voices will they hear instead?**

SPOTLIGHT: NC Judges are on the ballot in 2020. **Judges are powerful.** They decide cases that save lives and uphold and overrule laws that affect every aspect of your life. They make decisions in disputes on everything from the cost of electricity, to your right to vote, to who gets the death penalty. You will find judicial candidates near the middle of your ballot — another reason to vote the whole ballot, top to bottom.

NC Supreme Court is the state's highest court. Three of the seven seats are on the ballot.

NC Court of Appeals judges hear appeals of criminal and Superior Courts, North Carolina's trial courts. Five of the 15 seats are up for election.

Lower Court Judges determine sentencing for crimes and who ultimately goes to prison.

GO BEYOND VOTING!

TOOLKIT AVAILABLE AT demnc.co/justice

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Voting is only the beginning, but it is
a beginning.



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Contact your local officials.
Show up at public meetings.
Center speaking up.

Get in Good Trouble.

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WHATS ON THE BALLOT?

- **Mayors** are on the ballot in 2020.
- City/Town **Councils** are on the ballot in 2020.
- County **Commissions** are on the ballot in 2020.
- **Judges** are on the ballot in 2020.
- The **Governor** is on the ballot in 2020.
- The **Attorney General** is on the ballot in 2020.
- **State legislators** are on the ballot in 2020.
- U.S. **Senators and Representatives** in 2020.

And of course, the President is on the ballot in 2020.

**We must build a connection for our communities
between voting and justice in 2020.**

IN 2020, IT'S ALL ABOUT **OPTIONS.**

- make a plan to **vote early**
- If you vote by mail, **follow directions carefully**
- If you vote in-person, know your **there are more (and safer) options**
- this year's **results may take time**
- **protecting our elections** has never been more important

Visit ncvoter.org

**Or call
888-OUR-VOTE
(888-687-8683)**

DEMOCRACY NC

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DR. KIMBERLY MUKTARIAN
PRESIDENT, SAVE OUR SONS RALEIGH



Can you tell me more what's going to be inspiring

CJ, POET LAUREATE OF UNC CHAPEL HILL



CHANGE REQUIRES VOTER JUSTICE.

WE MUST RECLAIM OUR POWER AS VOTERS.

Overcoming generations of voter suppression policies targeting Black, brown, young, low-income and/or disabled voters **will require us to combine our protests with efforts to help people overcome unnecessary barriers to voting.**

We can lobby for and educate our communities about safe voting options to **protect Black voters from both COVID-19 and intimidation by violent racists.**

States must ensure they **offer safe accommodations to ensure free, fair, and safe voting** conditions for Black voters and everyone else.

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CHANGE REQUIRES VOTER PROTECTION.

WE MUST PROVIDE FREEDOM FROM INTIMIDATION.

All polling places and their immediate surroundings must be **gun-free zones and to completely avoid intimidation, police-free zones.**

Officials must work to **stop efforts by political operatives and extremist groups to intimidate or mislead** Black voters and suppress Black turnout.

To prevent the actions of emboldened white supremacists, local officials regardless of political affiliation must clearly declare their commitment to vigorously **defend the civil rights of Black voters and anyone else targeted by hate groups in their jurisdictions.**

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JOIN THE #WEVOTE SQUAD

AND HELP 5-10 PEOPLE IN YOUR
NETWORK "MAKE A PLAN"



STEP 1

Check your friends'
and family's voter
registration
statuses.

STEP 2

Help them
make a plan to vote
— in person or from
home.

STEP 3

Follow-up closer to
the election to help
them follow
through.

Start by pledging to vote yourself at demnc.co/squad

How can you get involved right now?

With the 17-day in-person Early Voting period beginning Oct. 15 through Oct. 31, there's no time like the present to support voting where you live!



BECOME A BOE MONITOR

demnc.co/boemonitor



BECOME A POLL WORKER

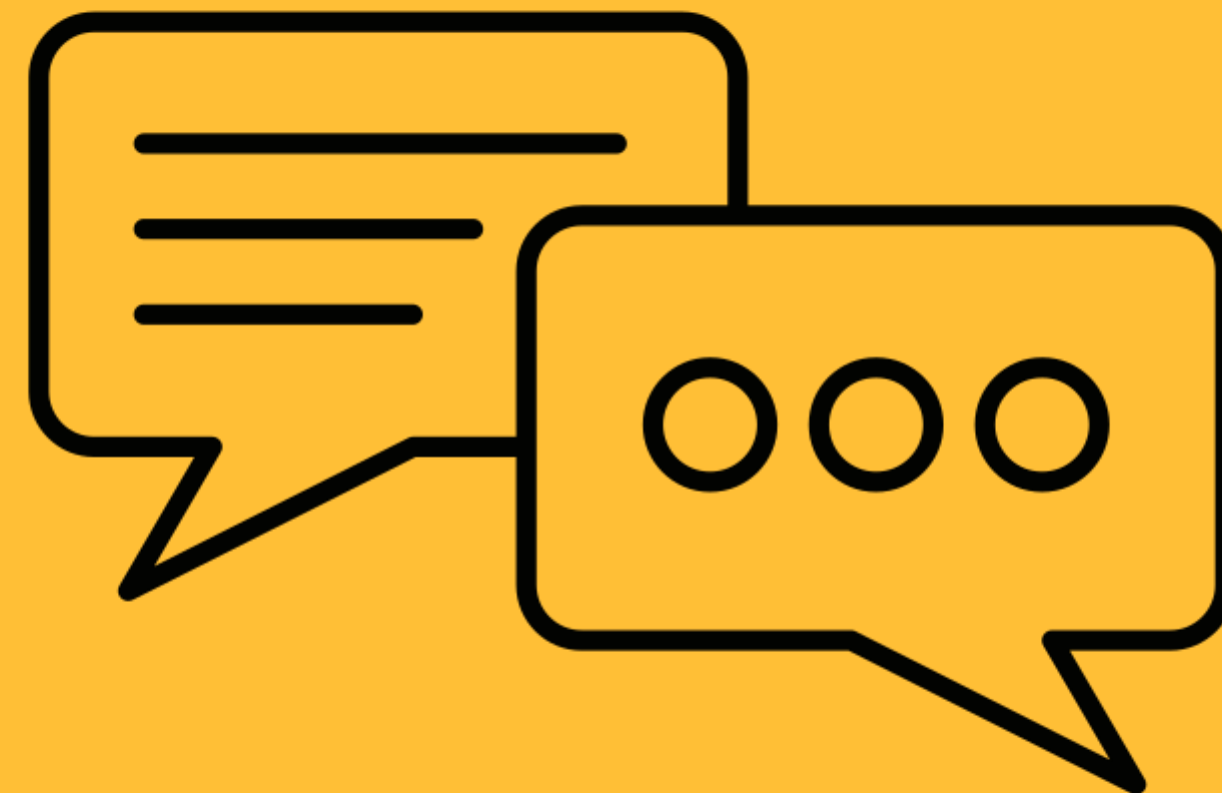
demnc.co/democracyhero



BECOME A VOTE PROTECTOR

demnc.co/voteprotector

**TIME
FOR
Q&A**





demnc.co/justice

DEMOCRACY NC

CONTACT US

FOR INQUIRIES

EMAIL ADDRESS

info@democracync.org

PHONE NUMBER

919-286-6000

VOTER HOTLINE

888-OUR-VOTE (888-687-8683)

TAKE ACTION:

demnc.co/takeaction

GET THE LATEST:

democracync.org

VOTER INFO:

ncvoter.org