

The logo for Democracy NC, featuring the word "DEMOCRACY" in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background, followed by "NC" in blue capital letters on a white rectangular background.

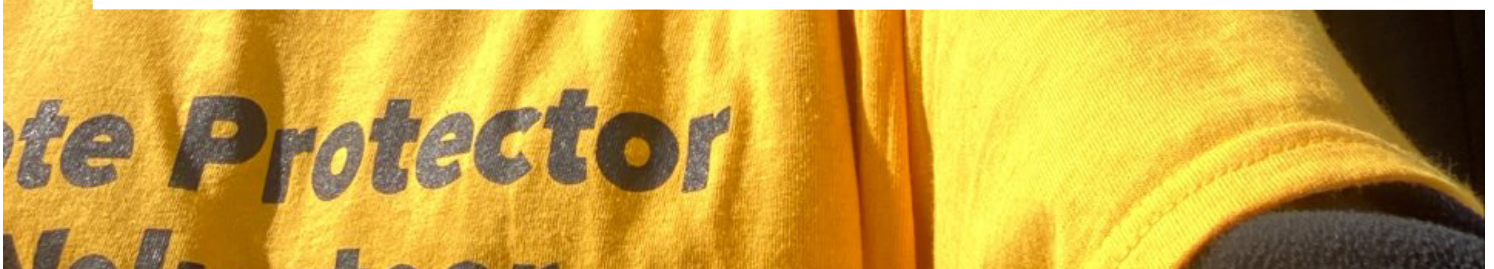
DEMOCRACY NC

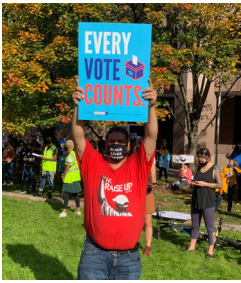


DEMOCRACY NC

2020 SNAPSHOT

Democracy North Carolina works to strengthen democratic structures, build power in disenfranchised communities, and inspire confidence in a transformed political process that works for all. Through grassroots organizing, policy advocacy and research, and strategic communications, the nonpartisan organization takes on powerful interests to protect and advance voting access, ensure fair representation, and increase the participation of those historically underrepresented in the political process.





DEMOCRACY FACED UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES IN 2020

Our democracy faced unprecedented challenges in 2020: a devastating pandemic, a polarizing mass disinformation campaign, and a nation grappling with systematic structures that continue to perpetuate a long history of racism and violence against Black and brown communities. While these challenges remain in the forefront of our work as we look ahead, our collective action in 2020 yielded historic results for voters across the state.

In 2020, we successfully expanded voting access and removed barriers to voting for all North Carolinians. Our work to protect historically marginalized and underrepresented voters contributed to unprecedented voting options and record election turnout in all parts of the state and for voters of all types.

We advocated to improve in-person voting access, using research to show the importance of early voting and weekend options for voters, and mobilizing the public to advocate for voter-friendly hours and locations at the local level.

RESULT: Secured the most voting hours (77,887) and sites (451), and early votes (3.63 million) in North Carolina history, including a historic number of Sunday voting options in both the primary and general elections, three weekends of voting for the first time in all 100 counties, and helped promote the newly-established online voter registration system.

We removed barriers to voting by mail amid the pandemic, serving as co-lead plaintiffs in the federal court case *Democracy North Carolina v. NC State Board of Elections*. We fought for legislation that reduced North Carolina's witness requirement for by-mail ballots and to establish a cure process through which voters could correct errors on the ballot envelope without having their ballot spoiled and starting anew. We produced voter education materials that reached hundreds of thousands of residents, led statewide advocates calls, and worked with organizers to host coalition webinars and presented to many community groups and organizations across the state.

RESULT: Over 98% of submitted absentee ballots were accepted and counted for the general election, compared to just under 86% for the 2020 primaries. Our strong legislative advocacy and successful litigation contributed to building confidence in the overall by-mail voting process.

We hosted one of the largest non-partisan election protection programs in the country in which 2,043 Vote Protectors were recruited, trained, and deployed on the first and last days of Early Voting and Election Day. Nearly 400 additional volunteers staffed the non-partisan voter assistance hotline 888-OUR-VOTE, totaling almost 5,000 hotline volunteer hours.

RESULT: Volunteers were deployed to nearly one in three precincts on Elections Day, offering real-time voter assistance and documenting voter-related issues to lay the groundwork for future pro-voter litigation and legislation. Our voter information hotline (888-OUR-VOTE) received over 14,000 calls from voters between Labor Day and Election Day – an exponential increase from 2016.

HELP ADVANCE PRO-VOTER SAFETY NETS AND LEGISLATION IN 2021

Despite the pandemic and deliberate barriers from day-long lines to last-minute litigation, **voters turned out in record numbers** to cast their ballot and make their voices heard. Let's defend these protections in 2021 and beyond by:

- ▶ demanding our leaders **extend and expand pro-voter policies** from 2020;
- ▶ advocating for **fair voting maps** in an independent and transparent redistricting process and;
- ▶ **listening to communities of color**, which disproportionately face racial bias and limits to voting access, **and building connection** to what's on the ballot in this year's local elections.



Learn more ways to become a part of **"Democracy in Action"** at demnc.co/democracyaction.