

COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS ADVOCACY

In North Carolina, many important decisions about election planning and administration, such as polling place selection, poll worker training, and early voting plans, are made by County Boards of Elections. The boards meet regularly throughout the year, and it is vital to Democracy NC's mission of ensuring safe and accessible elections that we monitor these meetings.

Initially, we gave volunteers the title of "CBOE Monitor", but volunteers do so much more than that, with crucial responsibilities as Democracy NC's on-the-ground operatives. Going forward, our volunteers will be considered *Election Advocates*, with duties including:



- ▶ **Attending monthly meetings and filling out our reporting form (demnc.co/boereportform).** Advocates provide us with important information about the boards' decisions and any county-level issues we need to monitor.
- ▶ **Monitoring election-related news in your county** as well as the actions of the CBOE and Board of Commissioners.
- ▶ **Cultivating relationships with your county board members**, building contacts from a grassroots level. Board members are most receptive to the voices of their own constituents.
- ▶ **Independently pushing for progressive changes** to election laws and procedures. As an advocate, you know best about the needs of local communities within your county.

We've already seen some incredible achievements made possible through the tireless efforts of our advocates. In 2020, we were able to:

- ▶ **Win more early voting hours than ever before.** We advocated for better early voting plans and won the most Sunday hours ever. Sunday voting is crucial to increasing voter turnout, especially among working-class voters and communities of color.
- ▶ **Ensure that elections were adequately resourced** by recruiting and training thousands of poll workers, and advocating for proper elections administration funding.
- ▶ **Cultivate a network of 70+ volunteer CBOE Monitors** in more than half of North Carolina counties. We built a program powered almost entirely by ground-up organizing.
- ▶ **Mobilize the State Board of Elections to intervene in several counties**, protecting against voter intimidation and building relationships with influential SBOE staff.
- ▶ **Verified that all eligible votes were counted**, leading to an election in which North Carolina saw record turnout of 75% of all registered voters across the state.
- ▶ **Provide Personal Protective Equipment** to ensure voters could remain safe.

In 2021, we face many challenges, but we also face an opportunity to build on the successes of last year. We need your help to ensure smooth elections and protect our fundamental right to vote. If you can, please sign up to be a CBOE Monitor at: demnc.co/boesignup