

# 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 *Election Advocates*, with duties including:

- ▶ **Attending monthly meetings and filling out our reporting form ([demnc.co/boereportform](https://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 2022, we were able to:

- ▶ **Reverse the decision to cut 3 of 4 early voting sites in Rockingham County**, in an effort to protect early voting access for Rockingham voters.
- ▶ In partnership with Common Cause, You Can Vote, Blueprint NC, and Southern Coalition for Social Justice, **placed advocates in 41 NC counties** with a history of election disinformation, unfounded voter challenges, and reports of voter intimidation. Identified key issues during the Canvass process, such as high rates of illegible postmarks that resulted in ballots being discounted.
- ▶ Supported County Boards of Election with **poll worker recruitment** in key places facing poll worker shortages.

In 2023, we face many challenges, but we also face an opportunity to build on the successes that Election Advocates have achieved so far. 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](https://demnc.co/boesignup).