

# DEMOCRACY NC

## *Donor Briefing*

FALL  
2023



### **Democracy Summer was a success!**

Earlier this spring, we came to you with a simple yet urgent idea: North Carolina needs young people dedicated to social change. We asked for your support to fully fund the 24th class of Democracy Summer “Friendterns” during their 9-week summer internship, and you RESPONDED!

Thanks to your generosity, 18 students graduated from the program, each receiving a \$5,000 stipend. At the end of the summer, eight Friendterns were awarded \$500 grants to promote student engagement and activism on their campuses during the fall semester. *We are proud to support them on their journeys ahead.*



## Organizing Spotlight: Lucas Seijo — Eastern NC

### How did you become involved with organizing?

I first became involved through Democracy Summer as an organizing intern. I got the chance to develop my skills in the communities where I grew up.

### What's happening in your region this fall?

My region is vibrant, rural, and spread out! This is a region with a deep history when it comes to the movement that we are in, and I am always taken aback by the things I learn every day from the meetings that I have with community members.

We have many old and historic districts out here, and are proud of who we are and where we come from! Some of the biggest, most important, issues that are discussed include: the environmental, housing affordability, education, and of course, voting rights! *All of these issues are critical to the future of Eastern NC.*

Issues concerning access to the ballot seem to always exist out here! Along with the history of intimidation that persists and because we are in such a rural area, it is not always easy to access the Board of Elections or other in-person resources. Changes that are coming to the voting process are very worrying to the communities that I serve.

### What activities are you pursuing in your region?

Right now, I am focused on activating students on the campus of East Carolina University to get more engaged with both the civic structures in the Greenville/Pitt County community, and also more active with local community groups.

### What makes you passionate about your work?

It is the way that we can voice our concerns and make efforts towards bettering our communities together.

Voting is a right that has been fought for long and hard, and that we continue to fight for each and every day.

When I get the chance to sit down with someone and have a conversation about how voting makes a long term impact, I know that I am making a difference in our community.





## Policy Team Update

### NCGA Enacts Voter Restrictions and Weakens Governor's Oversight of Elections

In 2018, over 60% of voters struck down many provisions found in these anti-voter bills when proposed as an amendment on the ballot. Intentionally going against the people's will is a total affront to who we, as Democracy North Carolina, are, rise, and fight for.

"These actions are a threat to the fundamental principles of democracy and the rule of law...the public must demand that the legislative leadership abandon these efforts to undermine the judicial system and limit access to justice." - Carolyn Smith, Policy Director

### North Carolina Legislative Leadership Undermines Judicial System

A Senate proposal in the state budget (HB 259) aims to prevent people from challenging unjust laws by putting the legislature in charge of appointing the judges who handle cases brought against them... with this initiative, legislative leadership is on the verge of obtaining a level of unchecked power that should greatly alarm every North Carolinian. With gerrymandered supermajorities, the legislature can currently pass any law over the governor's veto!

*[Read our most recent press release at demnc.co/statement.](https://demnc.co/statement)*

### Democracy NC Joins Lawsuit against Youth Voting Restrictions

SB 747 places undue burdens on college-aged voters by severely limiting same-day registration and increasing the risk of disenfranchisement.

"There is indeed a long and troubling history in North Carolina of lawmakers making blatant attempts to restrict voting access for young voters. Those leading such efforts forget what has always followed — a series of champions challenging such suppression across the political spectrum." - Cheryl Carter, Co-Executive Director





## Board Member Spotlight: Greg Walker-Wilson, Chair

### How did you get involved with Democracy NC?

About 10 years ago, my wife and I felt a real connection with Democracy NC's mission. We started donating and attending events in Asheville, our hometown. Over the years, that connection has only deepened.



### What motivates you in the world?

You know, it's easy to look at the headlines and feel disheartened about where democracy is headed. But that's precisely why I'm here. Democracy NC has this amazing ability to rally communities to stand up for voting rights, and I wanted to be part of that. I'm not just inspired; I'm motivated to contribute what I can to keep democracy alive and kicking!

*Donate today and follow @democracync for the latest updates!*

[democracync.org](https://democracync.org)



### What drives you to serve on the Board of Directors?

I've worked in the nonprofit sector as a long-time consultant, sat on different boards, and even served as an Executive Director for 11 years. I've seen firsthand how a nonprofit can be a force for good and that's what I see in Democracy NC. It's why I jumped at the chance to serve on the board. Serving on the Board of Directors is not just a volunteer role for me; it's a way to actually make a difference in creating a more just and equitable world.

*A movement built of, by, and for the people!*

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