

Ensuring Confidence in NC Elections: Part 2



NCACC Annual Conference

Aug 25, 2023

Jennifer Roberts

Jennifer.Roberts@cartercenter.org

Bob Orr

orr@rforrlaw.com



Part 2, 1:30 – 2:30 pm Agenda:

- Organizing an Elections Town Hall in Your County (15 min)
 - Building a panel of experts
 - Choosing a moderator
 - Media coverage
 - Topics and Run of Show
 - Evaluation
- Election Directors – Role of Counties (30 min)
 - Michael Dickerson (Mecklenburg) and Kathy Holland (Alamance)
- NC Commission on the Future of Elections (10 min)



Elections Town Hall Structure

- **75 – 90 minutes, includes Q & A**
- **PANEL to include:**
 - Well known moderator, media personality
 - County Election Director
 - Cyber security expert
 - BOE members: one R, one D
 - Attorneys with election experience (1 or 2)
- **Media coverage** amplifies the info



Sept 2022 Town Hall at UNC Charlotte

Town Hall Program format



Three program segments:

1. Elections and cybersecurity:

- Website hacking
- Tabulating Machine security
- Misinformation

2. Administration of Elections

- List maintenance, mail in ballots, counting, audits, etc.

3. Legal recourse

- Ballot disputes
- Recounts
- Other issues

Feedback: NC Trusted Elections Tour

Thank you for attending the North Carolina Trusted Elections Tour. We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions to offer us constructive feedback on our program:

1. Which event did you attend? Please enter the date or city/county.

2. Prior to attending the event, how would you have rated your confidence in the security of North Carolina's elections? (1 for extremely unconfident, 10 for extremely confident)

3. How would you rate your confidence in the security of North Carolina's elections to date? (1 for extremely unconfident, 10 for extremely confident)

Evaluating the program

Feedback: NC Trusted Elections Tour

189 Responses	06:04 Average time to complete	Active Status
-------------------------	--	-------------------------

[View results](#)

Open in Excel ...

1. Which event did you attend? Please enter the date or city/county.

[More Details](#)

Insights

188
Responses






Latest Responses

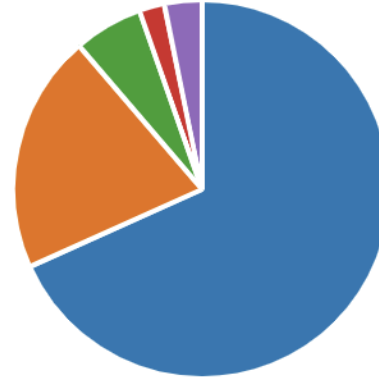
- "Newbern "
- "Hickory, NC"
- "Wilkesboro"

4. How likely are you to tell you friends about what you learned at this meeting?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Very likely	127
 Somewhat likely	38
 Neither likely nor unlikely	11
 Somewhat unlikely	4
 Very unlikely	6








Participants were generally satisfied with the range of topics, and 89% were likely to tell friends about what they learned

5. How satisfied were you with the variety of topics presented at the event?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Very satisfied	122
 Somewhat satisfied	33
 Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14
 Somewhat dissatisfied	10
 Very dissatisfied	7



Journal of Election Administration Research and Practice

Journal of Election Administration Research & Practice, 2023, 2(1)

4

The North Carolina Network for Fair, Safe, and Secure Elections: Implications for Practice

J. Michael Bitzer, *Catawba College*¹

Christopher A. Cooper, *Western Carolina University*²

Martha Kropf, *University of North Carolina, Charlotte*³

Robert Orr, *NC Trusted Elections Network*⁴

Jennifer Roberts, *NC Trusted Elections Network*⁵

How can practitioners and academics join together to improve the practice of democracy in the United States? This article describes and analyzes a unique effort to do just that. With support from the Carter Center, the North Carolina Network for Fair, Safe, and Secure Elections organized a series of 15 town halls spread throughout a single state. Although the initiative was centered in the battleground state of North Carolina, the lessons for practitioners and academics extend far beyond the boundaries of The Old North State, as it is colloquially known. This article first describes the problem of lack of trust in elections, summarizes this unique effort to combat election distrust and misinformation in North Carolina, briefly analyzes the effectiveness of the effort, and concludes with lessons for how this model might apply to other states.

Trust in Elections and the Crisis of Democracy

Town Hall Template we can send you includes:

- This Powerpoint
- Sample Run of Show (including panelist roles)
- Sample moderator questions
- Sample Event Flyer
- Sample Press Release
- Email us for this packet!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 1, 2022

CONTACT:
Jennifer Roberts: Jennifer.Roberts@cartercenter.org
Bob Orr: orr@rforrlaw.com

BI-PARTISAN “TRUSTED ELECTIONS” TOUR COMES TO NEW BERN

NEW BERN, NC – In an era of hyper-partisanship, Democrats and Republicans in North Carolina have found something to work on together: democracy.

In one of its first initiatives, the NC Network for Fair, Safe and Secure Elections is hosting a series of 15 town halls across the state, one in each congressional district and a virtual event for those unable to attend in-person. This *Trusted Elections Tour* aims to provide information on the electoral process, build trust in our voting system, and strengthen civil discourse.

Run of Show
North Carolina Trusted Elections Town Hall NC-12 Charlotte

Date: Tues. Sept. 13, 2022
Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm ET
Venue: UNCCCharlotte McKnight Hall, [Cone University Center](#), North Carolina

Emcee/Moderator: Michael Bitzer

5:15 pm Organizers arrive (Bob Orr, David Capen, Jennifer Roberts, LWV volunteers)
6:15 pm Speakers arrive, pre-event meeting with moderator

6:30 pm: **Jennifer and Bob** tell folks to take seats
6:33-6:38: **Jennifer Roberts:** Initial welcome, thanks to coalition partners, project overview
Bob Orr: Welcome, short history of voting in NC, introduce Michael Bitzer: Dr. Michael Bitzer holds the Leonard Chair of political science and is a professor of politics and history at Catawba College, where he teaches on a wide variety of courses on American

NC TRUSTED ELECTIONS TOUR



Dedrick Russell Executive Producer at WBTV	Brad Reaves Cybersecurity Expert at NC State University	Charlie Collicutt Guilford County Elections Director	Carolyn Bunker Guilford County Elections Board	Mark Payne Former Guilford County Attorney	Bob Hunter Former Justice of NC Supreme Court	Bob Edmunds Former Justice of NC Supreme Court
--	---	--	--	--	---	--

Join us in Greensboro on Sep. 28, from 6:30-8pm at the Civil Rights Center & Museum, Auditorium for our local stop on the bipartisan Trusted Elections Tour, a public town hall to hear from cybersecurity experts, election officials, and election law attorneys.

FREE REGISTRATION >>>
Learn More: www.NCTrustedElections.com



Running County Elections:

What Your Election Director Does Year Round

Panel discussion:

- Michael Dickerson
 - 25 years with Mecklenburg County

- Kathy Holland
 - 31 years with Alamance County



Cross Partisan Election Commission to research Best Practices

NC Network for Fair, Safe & Secure Elections

**PRESS
RELEASE**

NC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2023

NC ELECTIONS NETWORK ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR CROSS-PARTISAN COMMISSION ON FUTURE OF ELECTIONS

RALEIGH, N.C. – Today, the NC Network for Fair, Safe & Secure Elections, in partnership with Catawba College, announced plans for a cross-partisan Commission on the Future of Elections.

State co-chairs of the Network, former Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts and former N.C. Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr, along with Catawba College Professor Dr. Michael Bitzer, Western Carolina University Professor Dr. Chris Cooper, and UNC-Charlotte Professor Dr. Martha Kropf, will serve as the organizing committee for the Commission. The commission will be representative of North Carolina voters across the political spectrum.

Election Committee Topics

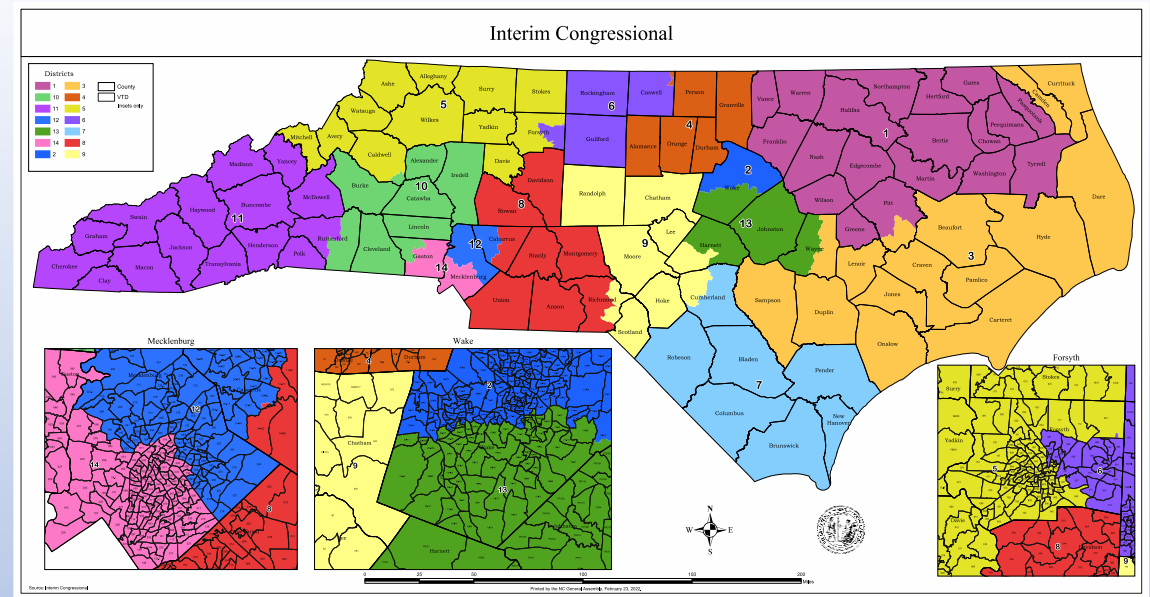
- Registration and List Maintenance
- Ballot Access
- Early Voting
- Primary and Election Day Procedures
- Vote Counting
- Post Election Process
- Candidate Qualifications
- Ballot Security and Cyber Security
- Campaign Finance
- Election Administration



Greg Derr/The Patriot Ledger/USA Today Network

How Counties and Commissioners Can Help

- Endorse the candidate principles
- Share messages of democracy and trusted elections
- **Organize a town hall in your County**
- Attend the town hall and share on social media
- Fully fund your election budget!
- Stand up against violence or electoral harassment or intimidation
- Share accurate information, and call out any misinformation you hear



Thank you! Questions?
Jennifer.Roberts@cartercenter.org
Bob Orr orr@rforrlaw.com



THE CARTER CENTER
Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.

PEACE PROGRAMS

HEALTH PROGRAMS

COUNTRIES

ABOUT US

NEWS & EVENTS

GET INVOLVED

