

Ensuring Confidence in NC Elections: How Your County Can Help

The Democracy Initiative of the Carter Center



NCACC Annual Conference

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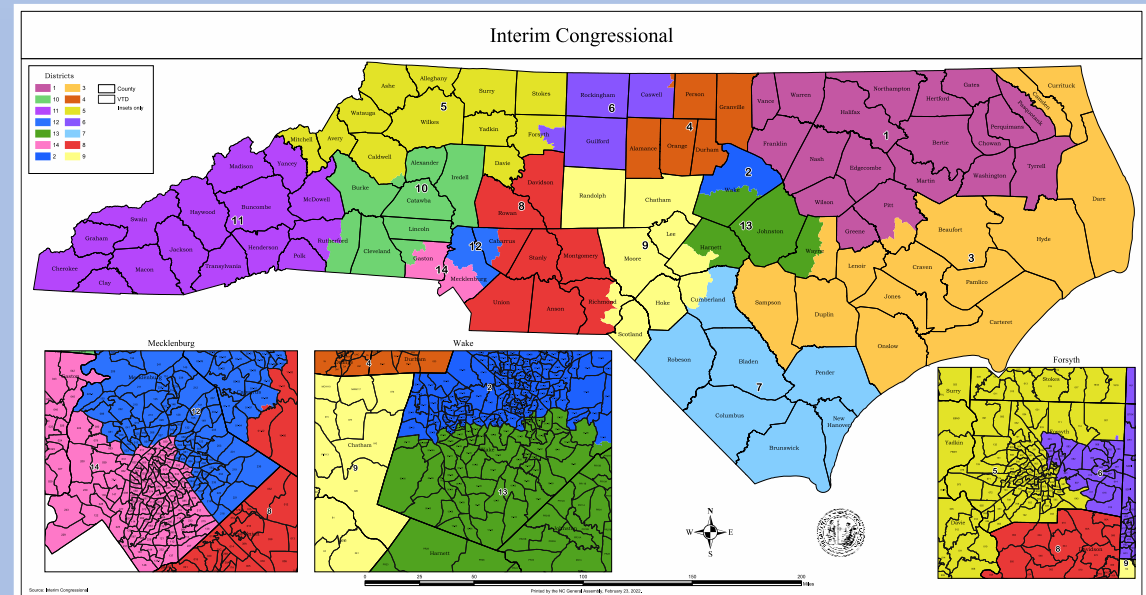
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Part 1 - 10:45 – 11:45 am Agenda:

- Increasing Polarization in US and in NC
 - NC in the spotlight
 - Carter Center engagement
- NC Strategy for Supporting Democracy
 - NC Network for Fair, Safe and Secure Elections
 - Candidate Principles
 - NC Trusted Elections Tour
- Elections Town Hall (45 mins)

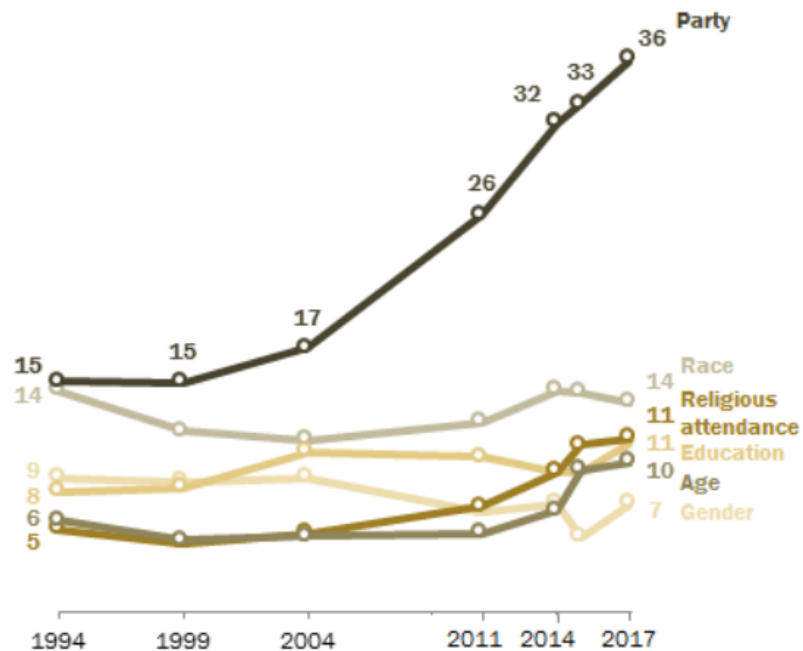


THE PARTISAN DIVIDE ON POLITICAL VALUES GROWS EVEN WIDER

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Average gap in the share taking a conservative position across 10 political values, by key demographics



Notes: Indicates average gap between the share of two groups taking the conservative position across 10 values items. Party=difference between Rep/Lean Rep and Dem/Lean Dem. Race=white non-Hispanic/black non-Hispanic. Education=college grad/non-college grad. Age=18-49/50+. Religion=weekly+ religious service attenders/less often.
Source: Survey conducted June 8-18 and June 27-July 9, 2017.

“Two decades ago, the average partisan differences on these items were only somewhat wider than differences by religious attendance or educational attainment and about as wide as the differences between blacks and whites (14 points, on average). Today, the party divide is much wider than any of these demographic differences.”

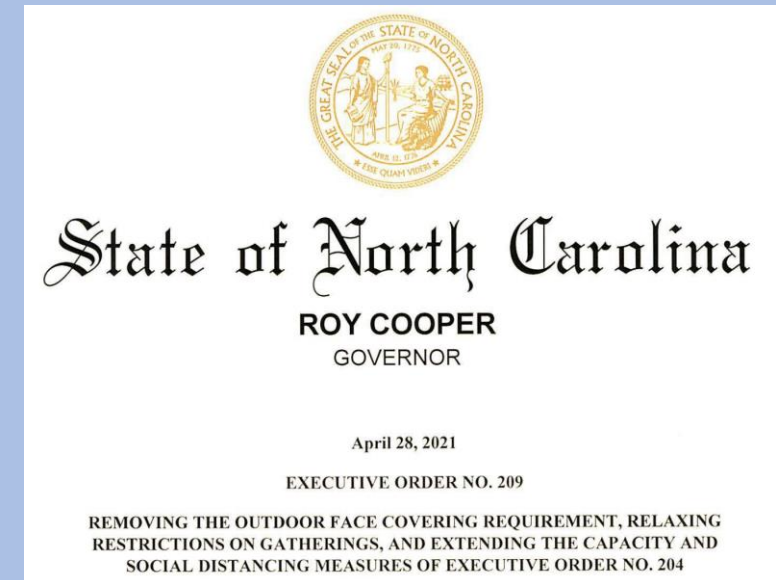
Pew Research Center. "Partisan Divide on Political Values Grows Ever Wider." (October 2017). <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/10/05162647/10-05-2017-Political-landscape-release.pdf>.

How did we get here?

1. Changing demographics: Foreign-born population in NC grew from 1.7% in 1990 to 8.2% in 2021 (870,000); urbanization
2. Closed media ecosystems
3. Rising income inequality
4. Growing awareness of racial inequality
5. Declining trust in institutions
6. Politically-homogeneous communities
7. Group status downgrade

NC Issues Driving Polarization

1. School policies: Masks, CRT, LGBTQ
2. Re-districting / gerrymandering
3. NCGA – Governor power struggle
4. Misinformation / social media
5. Racial injustice
6. Urban-rural divide



Support for Political Violence is Rising



1 of 8 | Armed participants walk at a Proud Boys rally with other right-wing demonstrators on Sept. 26 in Portland. The group got a boost in interest after President Donald Trump called the group out by name in Tuesday's presidential debate. (John Locher / AP)

- 36 percent of Americans agree with the statement: “The traditional American way of life is disappearing so fast that we may have to use force to save it.”
- Among Republican respondents, 55 percent agree

Cox, Daniel A. "After the ballots are counted: Conspiracies, political violence, and American exceptionalism." (February 11, 2021).

<https://www.americansurveycenter.org/research/after-the-ballots-are-counted-conspiracies-political-violence-and-american-exceptionalism/>.

Photo: Proud Boys in Portland, John Locher AP

Princeton Bridging Divides Initiative



Top scoring counties in North Carolina (Dec. 2022)

# ↕	County ↕	State ↕	Index Score ↓	Change in Index Score ↕	Polarization and Social Trust ↕	Mobilization ↕	History of Violence ↕	Political Relevance ↕
27	Wake County	North Carolina	5.18	+0.01	1.85	1.05	2.03	0.25
33	Guilford County	North Carolina	5.02	-0.06	2.06	0.99	1.47	0.5
64	Mecklenburg County	North Carolina	4.59	-0.05	1.52	0.99	1.83	0.25
92	Alamance County	North Carolina	4.36	-0.16	1.28	0.62	1.96	0.5
97	New Hanover County	North Carolina	4.33	-0.08	1.92	0.6	1.31	0.5
111	Durham County	North Carolina	4.24	-0.03	1.53	1.09	1.36	0.25
112	Buncombe County	North Carolina	4.23	0	1.47	1.15	1.36	0.25
116	Cumberland County	North Carolina	4.19	-0.05	1.37	0.99	1.33	0.5
204	Pitt County	North Carolina	3.59	-0.05	1.31	1.05	0.49	0.75
244	Forsyth County	North Carolina	3.46	+0.01	1.6	0.55	0.81	0.5
250	Gaston County	North Carolina	3.42	-0.09	1.25	0.89	0.78	0.5
268	Henderson County	North Carolina	3.32	-0.03	1.75	0.5	0.82	0.25
341	Orange County	North Carolina	3.1	+0.04	1.38	0.71	0.76	0.25
356	Iredell County	North Carolina	3.06	-0.12	1.26	0.4	1.16	0.25
421	Wayne County	North Carolina	2.91	-0.09	1.9	0.26	0	0.75

Princeton Bridging Divides Rankings:

Data Sets:

- Polarization and Social Trust
- Mobilization
- Potential for Violence
- Political Relevance



Photo: George
Floyd Protests,
Charlotte

Credit: Jennifer Roberts

National rankings for NC Counties (out of 3,143)

- Wake – 27
- Guilford - 33
- Mecklenburg – 64
- Alamance – 92
- New Hanover – 97
- Durham – 111
- Buncombe – 112
- *Only CA and FL have more*

Carter Center Engagement

“None of us today need feel any urge, in the name of goodwill, to downplay our differences. On the contrary, in a certain sense we can be proud of our differences, because they arise from good will itself – from love of country; for concern for the challenges of our time; from respect for, and yes, even outright enjoyment of, the democratic processes of disagreement and debate. Indeed, from the time of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, frank debate has been a part of the tradition of the Republic. Today, our very differences attest to the greatness of our nation. For I can think of no other country on earth where two political leaders could disagree so widely yet come together in mutual respect. To paraphrase Mr. Jefferson: We are all Democrats, we are all Republicans, because we are all Americans.”



Place: West Bank, Palestine

Date: Jan. 25, 2006

Credit: The Carter Center

Quote by

President Reagan, at
the dedication of the Carter
Center 1986

The Task:

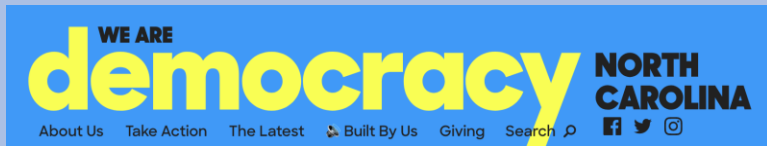
Support Fair, Safe and Secure Elections in 4 target states:

- Arizona, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina

The NC Strategy:

1. Build a bi-partisan leadership team to organize the work
2. Build a network of cross partisan leaders across the state
3. Grow support from organizations and grass roots
4. Grow list of endorsers of Candidate Election Principles
5. Hold Town Halls across the state to restore trust in elections
6. Form a cross partisan Election Commission to research best practices

Outreach Groups in NC



Candidate Election Principles

As a candidate, I am guided by the following principles:

Honest Process

Cooperate with election officials, adhere to rules and regulations, and refrain from knowingly propagating falsehoods about the electoral process.

Civil Campaign

Encourage a peaceful election atmosphere during the pre-election, polling, counting, and post-election periods. Denounce any attempt to intimidate, harass, threaten or incite violence against opponents, their supporters, and election workers.

Secure Voting

Respect voters' freedom to exercise their lawful rights to register and vote, free from interference, obstruction, or intimidation.

Fair Oversight

Encourage political parties and others to train poll-watchers on the election process and appropriate roles and behaviors, responsibilities, and obligations.

Trusted Outcomes

Make claims of election irregularities in accordance with the law and acknowledge the legitimacy of the outcomes after the results have been certified and all contestations decided.

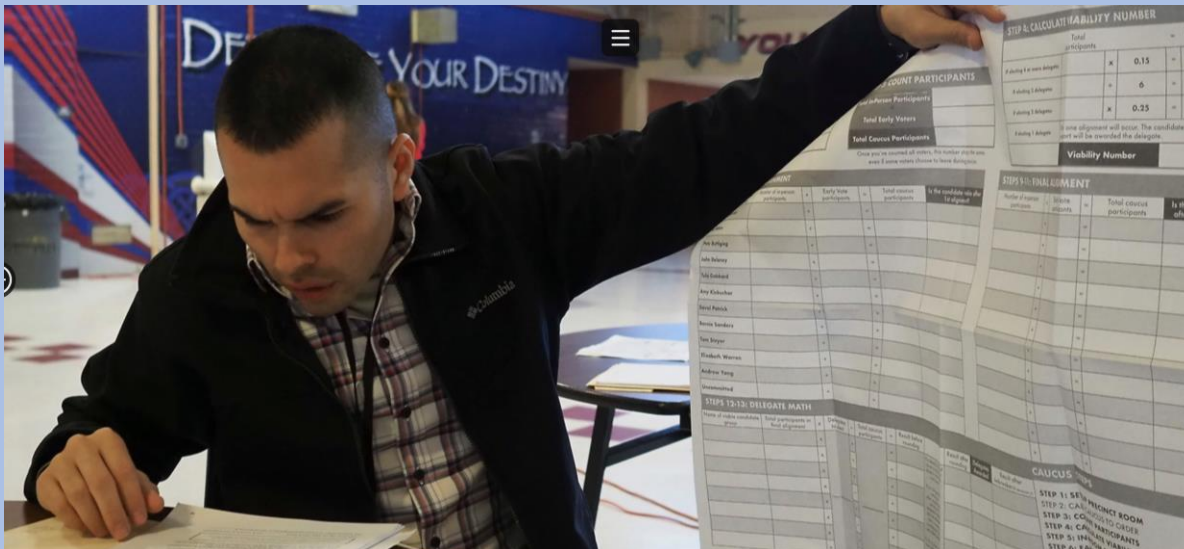
14-District Road Show to grow trust in elections



Our transport ?



- NC-1: Edenton
- NC-2: Wake Forest
- NC-3: New Bern
- NC-4: Hillsborough
- NC-5: Wilkesboro
- NC-6: Greensboro
- NC-7: Wilmington
- NC-8: Albemarle
- NC-9: Southern Pines
- NC-10: Hickory
- NC-11: Asheville
- NC-12: Charlotte: UNCC
- NC-13: Smithfield
- NC-14: Belmont



Photos: Documenting Democracy Sue Dorfman

Our Elections Panel Today:



Jennifer Roberts,
NC Trusted
Elections Co-Lead



Torry Crass, State
Chief Risk Officer,
NC Dept of
Information
Technology



Paul Cox, General
Counsel, NCSBE



Angela Hawkins,
Wake BOE Secretary



Bob Orr, NC Trusted
Elections Co-Lead

BREAK : Part 2 at 1:30 pm

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THE CARTER CENTER

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HEALTH PROGRAMS

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