

What we are hearing in Person Co.

Report back from Down Home North Carolina



**AS GROWTH OCCURS, WE
NEED TO MAKE SURE IT
WORKS FOR ALL OF US.**

Listening session attendee

**THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DRIVING THE EDUCATION
AGENDA DON'T EVEN HAVE KIDS IN THE SCHOOL
SYSTEM**

A parent at a listening session

THERE IS NOTHING FOR THE KIDS TO DO AROUND HERE. THEY NEED SOMETHING.

A parent at a listening session

10,000 Conversations

We can't build power unless we know what people want and what people need. That's why Down Home is having 10,000 conversations this year across rural North Carolina, including right here in Johnston County. We've been knocking on doors and asking people about what needs to change to make our towns better for poor and working people like us. These conversations, this information, and people will guide our work here as we grow our new chapter.

Why Person County?

Down Home works to build power with poor and working people in small towns. Why? Because these are the places that matter to us and, because most of our state is rural, matter for North Carolina. Person County is a beautiful place with towns and country places - but sometimes it feels like poor and working people's needs aren't being met. We need to make sure that we have a seat at the table when decisions about our home are being made. We need to come together across race to get policies and wins that our families need to survive.



What we are hearing in Person



Over the spring of 2022, Down Home spoke with Person County residents at street festivals, organized listening sessions, and in front porch conversations. Some common concerns and themes emerged from these conversations.

What worries you?

Several themes emerged when we asked local folks "What keeps you up at night?"

- Housing costs
- Healthcare costs and access
- The quality of and investment in public education

Who is responsible?

We asked participants "Who do you think is responsible for these problems?" The most common responses were:

- The local government
- The state government
- Congress

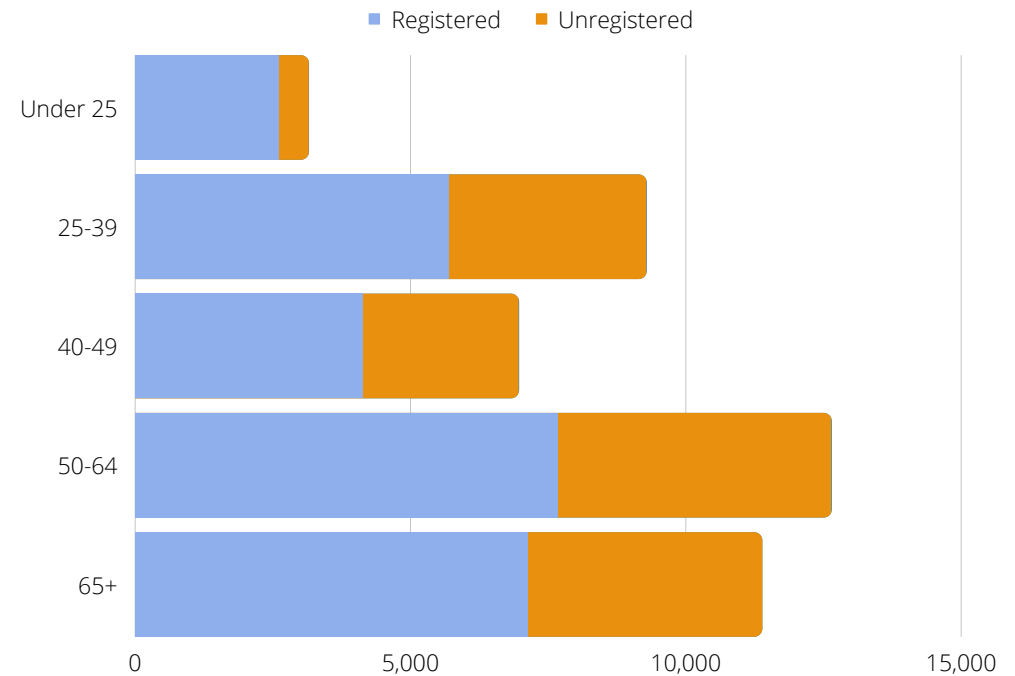
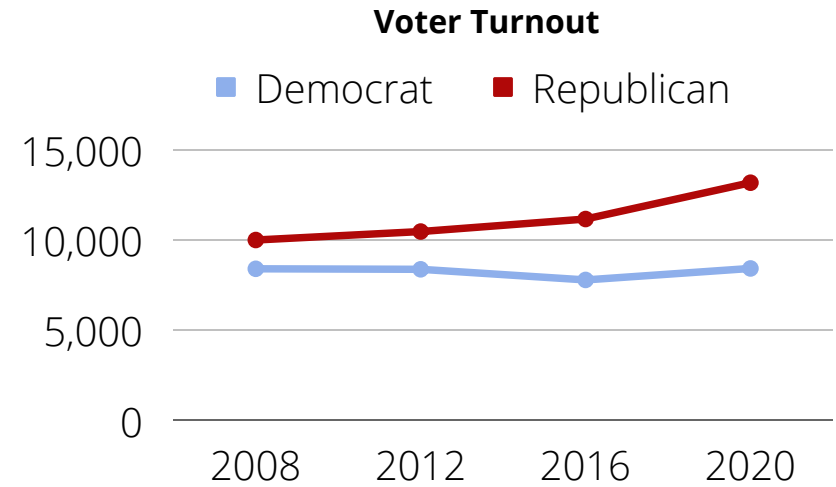
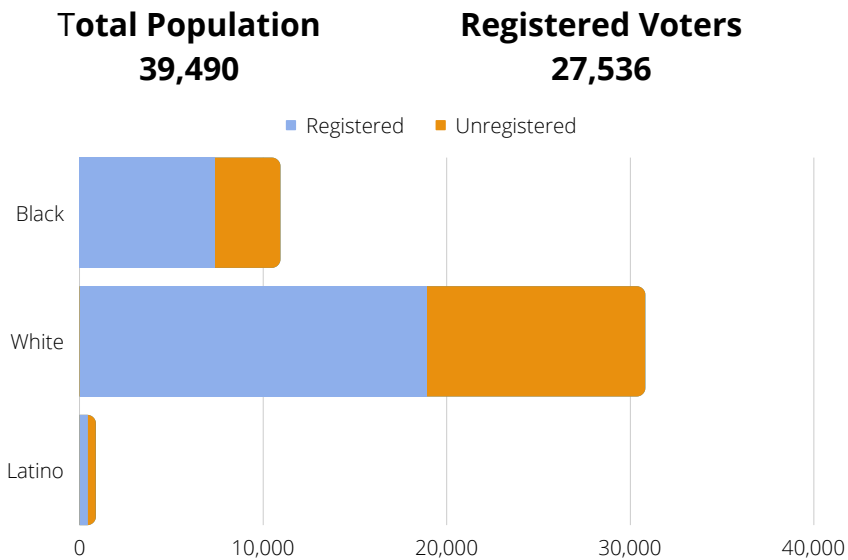
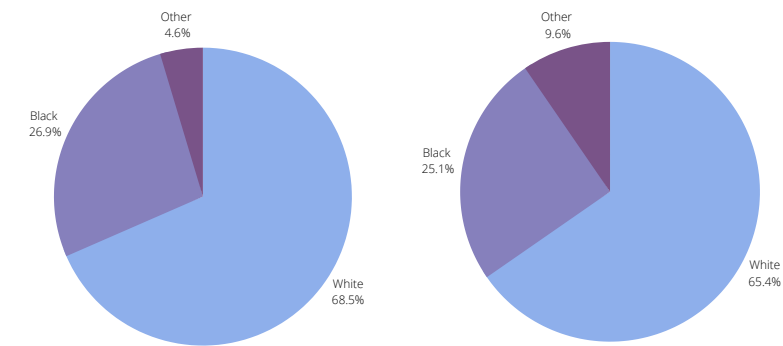
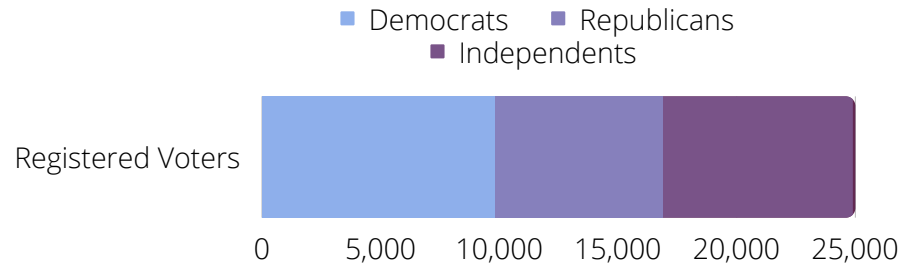
What should we do?

Finally, we asked what they thought we should do about these concerns and two major themes emerged:

- Take community or collective action
- Raise wages
- Fight for better public services
- Tax the rich



The electoral landscape in Person Co.



How do we build power in Person County?



1

We work together. We build a multiracial, working class chapter that rejects dog whistle and divisive politics. We are powerful when we work together, not apart.



2

We endorse candidates. Members research, interview, and vote on who to endorse in elections. Once those endorsements are made, we all throw our work and weight behind them.



3

We turnout voters. We mobilize together to engage poor and working people in our county and make sure they know what is at stake. We work as a collective force to hold those we elected accountable to our needs.



4

We organize. Nothing happens without organizing. We organize around local issues that our neighbors tell us matter to them, helping everyone see our collective power to make change.