



THE HOLLER

OCTOBER 2023

**DOWN HOME
NORTH CAROLINA**

IN THIS ISSUE

- Medicaid Enrollment Starts Dec. 1!
- Parents Across the State Say "Enough is Enough"
- Raise Up! Down Home's First-Ever Statewide Convention
- Chapter Updates
- Voter Information
- Stories Move Movements
- Chapters Endorse Municipal Candidates
- Nominate Someone You Know for Office!



MEDICAID ENROLLMENT STARTS DECEMBER 1.

(BROUGHT TO YOU BY WORKING CLASS ORGANIZING)

For ten long years, working people met with their legislators, wrote opinion pieces and letters, organized with one another, and held rallies—anything to keep the pressure on—to pass Medicaid expansion. And now, thanks to their efforts, healthcare access will become a reality for 600,000 North Carolinians who have been living in the coverage gap this whole time.

On December 1st, all of these people will become eligible that very day. They will be able to go to the doctors, y'all.

PARENTS ACROSS THE STATE SAY "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH"

All across the state, parents, grandparents, and supporters of public education turned out at their local school board meetings last month for September Surge! Teams in 37 North Carolina counties now turn out at their school board meetings wearing their Public School Strong shirts and speaking up for their schools!

In the face of increasing attacks on public education from the statehouse to local extremist groups, Public School Strong, a project of the HEAL Together NC coalition that Down Home helps anchor, has emerged as a formidable force in North Carolina with parents from over half of our state's counties now involved. Each local team is dedicated to safeguarding the future of our public schools by advocating for fair funding, equitable policies, and more. Hundreds of North Carolinian parents and supporters mobilized during last month's "September Surge for Public Schools" campaign.

The September Surge showcased the overwhelming wave of support for our children, teachers, and schools. These passionate individuals expressed their opposition to the NCGA's supermajority legislative attacks, such as the recent passage of a voucher bill that will steal millions of dollars from public schools and divert them to private education for the wealthy. The overwhelming response to our Public School Strong work shows that North Carolinians have had enough of the manufactured controversies that distract us from addressing the real issues that affect our children and schools.

What's next for this growing movement? Parents say they are ready to galvanize a powerful movement to counter the attacks on public education here in North Carolina into 2024, at the ballot box, and beyond.



RAISE UP! DOWN HOME'S FIRST-EVER CONVENTION

Down Home held its first-ever convention in September in Raleigh! Members came from across the state to build power together during. Our partners HEAL Together, Siembra NC, Carolina Federation, and People's Action were with us all the way! Here, Down Home member Lillian Sena (pictured below) from the Watauga Chapter shares her take-aways.



By Lillian Sena, Watauga chapter member

My experience at Roots of Power was incredible, invaluable, and important! I met amazing people who were ready to stand up and get to work. We have a long road ahead of us, North Carolina, and my heart is so bolstered by the power and joy I felt as we all sang, laughed, and cried together. I felt myself growing as a leader and a community member through discussion and collaboration. The Down Home theory of change has filled me not only with hope for the future, but the fire to believe that North Carolina is worth it. Watauga County is worth it. I am worth it.

The world we want to leave to our children is achievable. While I looked around the room at the many diverse faces who took the time out of their working class lives to spend a weekend talking about their shared experiences and concerns, I reflected on the person I was a little over a year ago, attending a Down Home event for the first time. That person was strong, but this one is stronger; that person was brave, but this one is braver. The connections, literal and figurative, I have made while being involved with Down Home are precious to me, and Roots of Power was an experience I wouldn't trade. **Rural power, y'all!**

CHAPTER UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE STATE

High Country Chapters

Watauga members are working on accessing federal funds for clean energy projects that would benefit working people and launching a new mutual aid working group. They are also co-sponsoring a town hall event in Boone with Common Cause on Oct. 12. Contact ben@downhomenc.org to get involved!

Ashe members are focused on turnout for the "Ashe Out Loud" listening session on Oct. 17, which will connect the unheard voices of working people with creating a future vision for our county. Members will also be progressing their housing campaign by publicly holding the Commission to task for their inaction. Contact dolly@downhomenc.org to get involved!

Piedmont Chapters

Cabarrus members have begun knocking on doors for municipal elections and focusing on getting member Jayne Williams elected in Kannapolis. She has real working class experience and would bring a MUCH NEEDED perspective to city council. The housing working group is building on the win of their campaign for emergency assistance for renters facing eviction. Contact jasmine@downhomenc.org to get involved!

Alamance has already knocked over 300 doors for their locally endorsed candidates, which includes local member Beth Kennett. Members endorsed candidates who consider ALL people of the county, especially multicultural and working class folks who haven't had a seat at the table in Alamance. Members are pressuring the county about mold issues in the school and pushing for the Board of Education to fill a vacant seat with the next highest vote getter from the last election, who is member Seneca Rogers. Contact bryant@downhomenc.org to get involved!

Our members in Person County just had a huge block party, with a great turnout! Local residents are really excited and ready to build rural power, including developing committees to grow the chapter membership and hold local government accountable to the needs of working people. Contact samantha@downhomenc.org to get involved!



Eastern Chapters

The newly formed Pitt County chapter just had its first Down Home 101 session, which shows folks how we're organizing a multicultural and working class movement locally. Turnout was fantastic! They're just kicking it off, but already have six members! Contact carlos@downhomenc.org to get involved!

Johnston is kicking off a campaign rallying around getting grant money for housing improvements for working people. Members are canvassing, researching, and surveying the community to connect housing needs with the environmental justice issues across the county. Contact liz@downhomenc.org to get involved!

Granville is celebrating! The Oxford City Commissioners voted unanimously to fund the chapter's proposal for Granville Street Park's basketball and picnic renovations. Construction begins in 45 days. We did that! The chapter is also set to begin knocking doors for their endorsed municipal candidates working for working people, which include members Guillermo Nurse and Stuart Powell. Contact reeves@downhomenc.org to get involved!

Stories Move Movements

Storytelling holds sacred space in our movement. Stories can help us find shared values; they galvanize us into action; they can teach us lessons.

Join us to learn more about how you can use stories to propel your work at Down Home forward. We have two upcoming online workshops:

The Battle of Big Ideas!

Wednesday, Oct 18 at 7 PM

The big stories we hear – the ones about welfare and capitalism and pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps– we all know those stories for a reason. Learn about how dominant narratives are created, and how we can flip the script to win the battle of big ideas. [RSVP online!](#)

Story of Self, Us, Now

Monday, Nov 13 at 7 PM

Your story matters. Come learn how to use your personal story as part of OUR collective story and make it into a true call to action to get others involved. [RSVP online!](#)



DOWN HOME NORTH CAROLINA

NEW PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT FOR VOTING

- The new North Carolina voter ID laws require voters to show a photo ID when voting.
- Acceptable forms of ID include a North Carolina driver's license, state ID from the NCDMV, a driver's license or non-driver ID from another state if the voter registered in North Carolina within 90 days of the election, a U.S. Passport or Passport card, and more.
- If you do not have an acceptable photo ID, you can get a free voter photo ID from your county board of elections or a free non-driver's ID card from the NCDMV.

POLLING LOCATIONS AND CHECKING YOUR REGISTRATION

- Verify your voter registration status to ensure you are ready to vote.
- If you have recently moved or changed your name, update your registration before the deadlines.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS MATTER

- Municipal elections impact our local communities directly.
- These elections decide who represents us in local government.
- Your vote holds the power to shape important decisions on issues like schools, infrastructure, and community development.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Hey y'all! If you're lookin' to cast your ballot on Election Day for the upcoming municipal elections in November, don't forget to mark down this important date: **October 13 at 5 p.m.** That's the registration deadline for the November 7 elections. We wanna make sure you exercise your right to vote and have your say in your community. So mark that deadline on your calendar and let's make our voices heard together!



SCAN ME

STAY UPDATED

Use this QR code to stay updated on the new voter registration laws, photo ID requirements, and where to vote to ensure your voice is heard in the upcoming municipal elections.

ENDORSED BY DOWN HOME'S ALAMANCE CHAPTER!

VOTE YOUR VALUES

WORKING FOR N.C.'S RURAL WORKING PEOPLE!



Burlington Mayor
Beth Kennett ✓



Burlington City Council
Dejuana Bigelow ✓



Elon Town Council
Quinn Ray ✓



Gibsonville Board of Aldermen
Tangela Mitchell ✓

DOWNHOMENC.ORG



Alamance Chapter Endorsements

CHAPTERS ENDORSE MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES

Building multiracial working class power means getting working class people a seat at the table when decisions are made. That's why Down Home's Alamance, Cabarrus, and Granville chapters have endorsed a multiracial, working class slate of municipal candidates this year and will be knocking doors and working to get these candidates elected.

Local members went through a thorough process of research, conversations, and deliberations to determine who they felt would fight for working-class families once elected.

Alamance members endorsed longtime Down Home member Beth Kennett for Burlington Mayor; Dejuana Bigelow for Burlington City Council; Quinn Ray for Elon Town Council; and Tangela Mitchell for Gibsonville Board of Aldermen. In a county known for divisive politics and right wing extremism, these candidates would bring working-class values and functional pragmatism to office.

Dejuana wants to make the polluters [GE] pay for their mess and not the taxpayers.
- Tanya Kline, Alamance member

Cabarrus members endorsed four candidates across party lines including beloved member Jayne Williams for Kannapolis City Council. A working mother, Jayne was a powerful advocate for families facing eviction during our campaign for emergency funds to prevent evictions, and she has been a strong voice for the underrepresented Black and Brown people in this rapidly growing county.

Jayne has her finger on the pulse of the community. She's a leader and very involved in organizations that serve the youth and the elderly. She's very connected, and has the background and lived experience to make her savvy and do well when she's elected.

- Mae Mack, Cabarrus member

Seeing an opportunity to transform the City of Oxford, Granville endorsed three candidates to make local politics more inclusive and in touch with working people, especially Black people who make up almost half the population but have very few voices in city government. Endorsed candidates include member Guillermo Nurse for Oxford Mayor, member Stuart Powell for Oxford Town Commissioner, and Curtis McRae for Oxford Town Commissioner.

We know that endorsements are just the start, now its time to put our boots to the ground. Down Homies are knocking doors and canvassing neighborhoods to make sure their neighbors know about the election and how we can solve local issues through power building! Municipal races can be decided by much smaller margins than general elections, and so are more accessible for working class candidates. A few dozen or a few hundred votes can mean victory, and we can begin to create a government that steps up for us and meets our needs. This municipal election, we can elect local representatives who will work for the working class and help us shift power.

We need a mayor friendlier towards our community, for when we have things like the park project and need allies.

- Chelsea Mitchell, Granville member

ENDORSED BY DOWN HOME'S CABARRUS MEMBERS!

VOTE YOUR VALUES

WORKING FOR N.C.'S RURAL WORKING PEOPLE!



Concord City Council
Andy Langford ✓



Concord City Council
Jack Lambert ✓



Kannapolis City Council
Ryan Dayvault ✓



Kannapolis City Council
Jayne Williams ✓

DOWNHOMENC.ORG



Cabarrus Chapter Endorsements

ENDORSED BY DOWN HOME'S GRANVILLE CHAPTER!

VOTE YOUR VALUES

WORKING FOR N.C.'S RURAL WORKING PEOPLE!



Oxford Mayor
Guillermo Nurse ✓



Oxford Town Commissioner
Stuart Powell ✓



Oxford Town Commissioner
Curtis McRae ✓

DOWNHOMENC.ORG

Granville Chapter Endorsements

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Find our events and sign up here:
mobilize.us/DownHomeNC

ALAMANCE COUNTY

Monthly Chapter Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 19

ASHE COUNTY

Ashe Out Loud Listening Session
Tuesday, Oct. 17

CABARRUS COUNTY

Monthly Chapter Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 12

GRANVILLE COUNTY

Monthly Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 25

JOHNSTON COUNTY

Monthly Chapter Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 26

PERSON COUNTY

Monthly Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 24

PITT COUNTY

Community Event
Tuesday, Oct. 24

WATAUGA COUNTY

#UniteNC Town Hall in Boone
Thursday, Oct. 12

SCHOOLS

Public School Strong Training
Saturday, Oct. 7

HEAL Together NC Statewide call
Thursday, Oct. 26

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND SKILLS

Persuade with Power! Writing an Op-Ed
Monday, Oct. 9

Campaigning with Letters to the Editor
Monday, Oct. 16

Using Visual Identities For the Movement!
Monday, Oct. 23

Canva 101: Design with Impact
Monday, Oct. 30

Narrative Workshop: Battle of Big Ideas
Wednesday, Oct. 18

Speak up in The Holler!

The Holler is the monthly newsletter showcasing the work being done by Down Homies across the state! Send us your updates about your chapter, photos, their opinion pieces about your campaigns and your community!

Gwen Frisbie-Fulton, gwen@downhomenc.org
(336) 253-4649

Harry Turfle, harry@downhomenc.org
(347) 572-5788



NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE!

At Down Home, we have a saying: It's gonna have to be us. We know to get the change we need, it's going to need to be poor and working-class folks showing up to be that change. Let's face it, the good ol' boy network isn't going to do it for us.

That's why we want YOU to nominate someone you know to run for office! Who in your community is already a leader? Who volunteers their time in dedication to their community? Who knows everyone and their grandma, too? That's the person to nominate.

Scan QR code or go to
dhnc.info/nominate
to lift up a leader!



SCAN ME

Get daily DHNC updates at:

DownHome_NC

DownHomeNC

downhomenc3575