



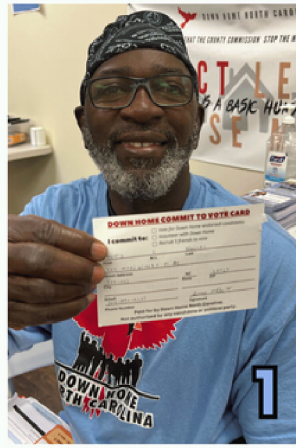
# THE HOLLER

NOVEMBER 2023

## DOWN HOME NORTH CAROLINA

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Get ready for municipal elections!
- Members speak out on elections, schools, and new legislation
- The School Resegregation Crisis
- Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Begins December 1
- Extremists pushing transphobia
- Down Home challenging voter suppression law



1. Cabarrus member Isaac shows off the first commit to vote card he got from door knocking! 2. The Alamance canvassing dream team of Ebony, Adrianna, Suretta, Gerek, Shannon, and Tabatha. 3. CabCo members Mark, Jerome, Mae, Lisa, Isaac, Mariah, and Rebecca get ready to educate voters on working class candidates in Kannapolis. 4. Person County organizer Sam with members Donny, Erik and Antoinetta at Personality Fest in Roxboro. 5. JoCo member Christina surveys folks at Railroad Days in Selma with her friend. 6. Granville members Alexis and Norma with organizer Reeves in Oxford. 7. Alamance member Christine is not clowning around with her canvassing!

## GET READY FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: SHAPE YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY'S FUTURE!

November 7th is just around the corner, and that means Election Day is almost upon us! Did you know that municipal elections have a direct impact on our everyday lives? Our elected officials are the ones who represent us and make decisions on important local issues. That's why it's crucial for each and every one of us to get out there and cast our votes!

When we vote in municipal elections, we are voting for the people that represent our interests and who advocate for our needs. By having a stake in who holds

power, we can shape our community on issues that matter most to us – from community development and infrastructure to affordable housing and recreational centers – and that directly impact us in our daily lives.

On Election Day, it's crucial to remember that you must vote at your assigned polling location. Make a note of your spot, and show up with enthusiasm to make your voice count! Remember that it's through our shared commitment to democracy and our active participation that we create

### Ashe Out Loud!

Members in the mountains have been busy. There was an Ashe Out Loud listening session this month (top photo), the first of many across the state to form our Down Home platform. And members also pressured their County Commission to do something about the housing crisis in the High Country (bottom photo). "We intimidated them," says Ashe County member Jeff Land about their huge turnout at the commissioner meeting, where 23 Down Home members supported our presentation for Minimum Housing Standards. We know the people of the county support safe and secure housing, and our members are fighting for a better life for *everyone* in Ashe.



## [STORY CONTINUED]

positive change.

Transportation is an essential part of getting to the polls. If you have a car, make sure it's fueled up and ready to go. If not, reach out to a neighbor, a friend, or a family member and kindly ask if they wouldn't mind giving you a lift. Every single vote matters, and it's important for your voice to be heard in these municipal elections.

Together, we have the power to create positive change and build a better future for our hometown. Scan the barcode below to locate your polling location and find all the juicy details on voting.

Let's make our voices heard — loud and proud! We've got Super Saturday events happening this weekend to mobilize voters in **Alamance, Cabarrus, and Granville Counties!**

## Member Perspectives: Justin Lewter



*"It is important to note that a robust election communicates to those in elected office not to take our votes for granted. When we don't vote in significant*

*numbers our elected officials don't feel pressured to work on our behalf. When they see the public engaged they are motivated to earn our votes rather than ignore our concerns. Please make your voice heard at the voting booth."*

## School Resegregation: A Crisis Facing North Carolina's Public Education System



Last week and nearly 70 years ago, schools were ordered to desegregate. As we know in North Carolina, this faced strong resistance and took a long time to actualize. But we also know that it made our schools stronger and better for all of us.

Now, there is a push to resegregate our schools, and it's showing up in the form of school vouchers, funding, and "parents rights." That was the topic of discussion at our recent Heal Together NC call.

**READ  
THE  
WHOLE  
STORY!**



**SCAN ME**

## Medicaid expansion enrollment will start December 1st!

Hey folks, we've got some exciting news to share with y'all! After a decade of hard work, Medicaid expansion enrollment will finally begin on December 1st right here in North Carolina. Can you believe it? Thanks to the tireless efforts of countless working people like you, healthcare access will finally become a reality for 600,000 North Carolinians who have been living without coverage for far too long.

Starting on December 1st, so many of us will be able to go to the doctors and receive the care we need for the first time. And here's the best part — many of you

reading this will likely be eligible, too! You see, Down Home is a movement of poor and working people who understand that we are the ones who need to fight for the changes we deserve. So, let's rally together and make sure that every single person who qualifies can get enrolled immediately. If you've been denied Medicaid in the past because you didn't qualify at the time, don't worry. You can apply again after December 1st.

Let's make this huge win for the working class a stepping stone for even greater change. Join us in fighting for Health Justice in our communities. Our Health Justice campaigner, Kate Daley, will be out across rural North Carolina connecting rural working-class folks to Medicaid and organizing alongside them to ensure that when it comes to healthcare, no one is left behind. She'll be looking to spread the word in your community through events and meetings. If this is something you are passionate about, she'd love to hear from you.

**Contact Kate: [kate@downhomenc.org](mailto:kate@downhomenc.org)**

# Want Political Change? Get Involved in Municipals!

The municipal elections in 2023 are examples of how change in North Carolina will come from the bottom up. This year, three Down Home chapters endorsed local candidates for municipal elections: Alamance, Cabarrus, and Granville. Several of the candidates themselves are Down Home members, including **Jayne Williams, Beth Kennett, and Guillermo Nurse**, and all have pledged to work to bring multicultural, working class values to office if elected.

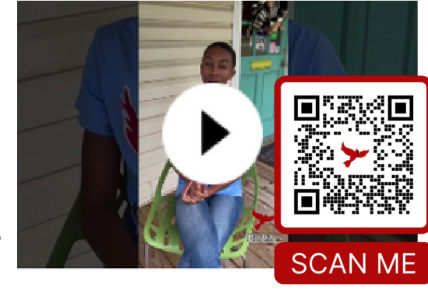
Making endorsements is only the first step! We can't stop there. That's why local members have led the charge running small field programs to turn out the vote for the candidates they endorsed. They have been cutting turf, knocking doors, organizing shifts, tabling and flyering in their communities, hosting events, and committing folks to vote - plus educating people about the new Voter ID requirements and election changes. All this training is developing muscles for even bigger fights to come in 2024.

After an evening of canvassing in Granville County, member Alexis Younger talked about why she has been knocking doors in her community every night. "I'm hoping to see more change come to Oxford," she said. And we're working for that change to come across the state - this year and next.

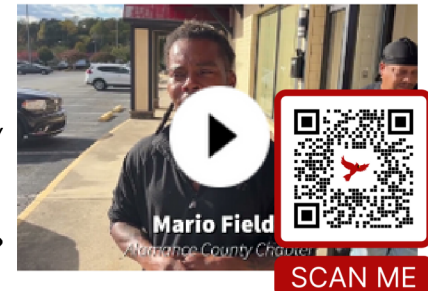
*Video: Granville member Alexis says she's quiet. So why does she like canvassing so much?*



*Video: Cabarrus member Mariah on how canvassing connects her to community.*



*Video: Hesitant to vote? Alamance member Mario on why municipal elections are so important.*



The American public overwhelmingly supports the rights and freedoms of the LGBTQIA+ community, so why all of a sudden are our politics being filled with bigotry and anti-trans rhetoric?

To understand why the far-right is using transphobia, especially around public school issues, to try to mobilize their base, we need to look back at the age-old "divide and conquer" strategy that's been used to split up the vote of the working class.

Read more about this and about Down Home's deep canvassing efforts to reach our neighbors around issues of transphobia on our blog. Just scan the code!



## Lawsuit Filed Down Home Challenges Voter Suppression Law

Six minutes after SB 747 became law, Down Home sued. SB 747 is designed to hurt poor and working-class people living in rural North Carolina and would make it harder, and even sometimes impossible, for us to have our votes count.

No matter where you live or if you are Black, white, or Brown, rural North Carolinians want to be civically engaged and have a say in our government. The right to have your vote count is the most basic form of this engagement. At Down Home, we organize in rural communities where poor and working-class people are committed to participating in their democracy... and we are serious about what we do. That's why we sued.

Read more about the lawsuit on our blog.



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## EVENTS THIS MONTH

Find our events and sign up here:  
[mobilize.us/DownHomeNC](https://mobilize.us/DownHomeNC)

### ALAMANCE COUNTY

Alamance Unfiltered!  
Wednesday, Nov. 29

### ASHE COUNTY

Down Home 101  
Wednesday, Nov. 1

Voter Education Canvass  
Saturday, Nov. 4

Chapter Meeting  
Tuesday, Nov. 14

### CABARRUS COUNTY

Super Saturday: March to the Polls!  
Saturday, Nov. 4

CabCo Out Loud!  
Thursday, Nov. 16

### GRANVILLE COUNTY

Super Saturday Canvassing  
Saturday, Nov. 4

Granville Speaks Up!  
Tuesday, Nov. 28

### JOHNSTON COUNTY

Neighborhood Canvass Day  
Thursday, Nov. 2

JoCo for All  
Tuesday, Nov. 28

### PERSON COUNTY

Community Canvassing  
Saturday, Nov. 18

Person to Person  
Monday, Nov. 27

### PITT COUNTY

Listening Session  
Monday, Nov. 27

### WATAUGA COUNTY

Monthly Chapter Meeting  
Tuesday, Nov. 14

### SCHOOLS

Public School Strong Training  
(online)  
Monday, Nov. 6

Public School Champions & 2024  
Elections! (online)  
Thursday, Nov. 9

HEAL Together: A Conversation on  
School Resegregation (online)  
Thursday, Nov. 16

### TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, and SKILLS

Self, Us, Now: Using Personal Stories  
to Build Movements (online)  
Monday, Nov. 13



Climate change is a result of failed policy and unrestrained corporate greed— but its impacts are arriving on our doorsteps. While the rich and powerful have profited off polluting our communities, poor and working people are most disastrously impacted.

That's why Down Homies across the state are researching the funds coming down from the Inflation Reduction Act to our local communities to determine ways that they can be used to help poor and working people and the places where we live.



Learn more about these funds  
and our emerging work here:

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## Members Leading the Way!

### We need to keep all of our young people safe

Tanya Robinson, a Down Home NC member from Ashe County, addresses her school board about why SB49, an anti-LGBTQ+ curriculum censorship bill, is destructive and wreaks havoc for families and schools in North Carolina. "This bill could create dangerous environments for young people," she says.



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Tanya Robinson  
Ashe County Member

### Why kids need fully funded public schools

Watauga member Lillian Sena addresses the audience at Common Cause's #TownUniteNC Hall event. Lillian talks about her experience as the mother of a special needs child. After years of difficult experiences in a charter school, her family finally found progress and compassion in their neighborhood public school. "They believed in our family and they wanted to help," she says.



SCAN ME



those children

## Got something to say? Say it 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, and opinion pieces!

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