

NC VOTER EDUCATION

2024 ELECTION TOOLKIT

B2F BLACK TO
THE FUTURE
ACTION FUND

Black
Futures
Lab



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Digital Action Toolkit for Political Education in North Carolina! This toolkit aims to empower NC residents with essential knowledge about local and state politics, fostering informed civic engagement.

Why is This Important ?

Learning about politics helps people within our communities to become stronger and have more power, especially for Black people who want to vote in North Carolina. When you understand how politics work in your area and state, you can make better choices and be part of making rules that affect Black communities. When Black voters know what's going on, they can speak up and make sure their ideas are listened to. They can ask for rules that are fair for everyone, like treating people of different races equally, making sure everyone has a chance to earn money fairly, and improving neighborhoods. This toolkit is a start to making politics fairer and including everyone, especially those who haven't always had a say, to make North Carolina a better place.

Who is Black Futures Lab and Black to the Future Action Fund?



Black Futures Lab is an innovation and experimentation lab focused on new ways of engaging Black communities civically and building our capacity to be influential in politics. We close the gap between our communities and the necessary power-building tools.



The **Black to the Future Action Fund** is a 501(c)(4) that works to transform Black communities into constituencies that build Black political power in cities and states. We work to enact policy that improves Black people's lives and elect Black legislators with progressive values who move progressive policies. Together, we work to ensure that Black people have what all people deserve—dignity, safety, and power.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2024 election is one of the most critical elections of our lifetime. So much is at stake for Black voters across North Carolina. Decisions are constantly made for our communities by people who do not have our best interests at heart.

Our Democracy: Democracy means that the people have power in our government. We get this power through fair and free elections. It's about treating everyone equally, letting most people decide, and protecting each person's rights.

Why should Black voters care? Black voters should care because our voices and votes are crucial for shaping policies that affect our lives. By voting, Black voters can choose leaders who will listen to their concerns and work towards making things better for everyone, including our Black communities.

Right now, the North Carolina General Assembly is controlled by Republicans. The Republican has changed our state's voting maps through gerrymandering. What is gerrymandering? It's when lawmakers draw voting maps to help their own political party. This can make it harder for Black voters' voices to be heard and their votes to count.

Gerrymandering shows why it's so important to have a fair and clear voting system. Black voters need to make sure their voices are heard and that our government represents all of us.

The current NC Republican Party also known as the Grand Ole Party (GOP) Supermajority in both Chambers (House/ Senate)

What does supermajority mean? A supermajority in the State Legislature means that the republican party has more than a simple majority of votes or support. It means that any legislation that the Democratic Governor Roy Cooper wants to implement will not get passed, or the republican party will overturn it.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Education

Across the country, we are seeing education constantly attacked. We are seeing state legislatures whitewashing Black History and banning books written by black authors. NC Legislature passed the Parental Bill of Rights. We have also witnessed the NC Legislature's lack of investment in our public schools. The State Legislature has continued to underfund public schools while taking public dollars to fund charter and private schools across the state.

Health Care

After ten-plus years of fighting to expand Medicare to nearly 600,000, the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor finally passed the law to go into effect last year. The current Lt. Gov and other Republicans in the state legislature are campaigning to repeal this law, leaving hundreds of thousands without life-saving access to healthcare.

Reproductive Freedom is on the line. The NC Legislature has limited access to a woman's right to decide what is best for her body.

Key Election Dates:



September 6, 2024:

Absentee Ballot can be requested for the General Election.



October 11, 2024:

Last Day to Register for the General Election.



October 17th –

November 2nd:

Early Voting Period for the General Election begins.

* Voters may register to vote and update their registration during the 17 days of Early voting.



November 5th, 2024:

Election Day!

Polls will be open from 6:30 am – 7:30 pm.

*** Don't forget your ID***

UNDERSTANDING THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND WHY IT MATTERS

The Council of State is a group of ten people who are elected to help run North Carolina's government. They are part of the executive branch, which means they help make sure our state works well.



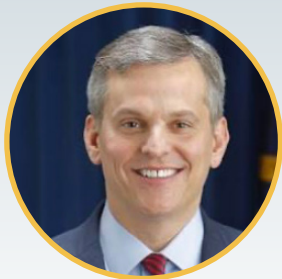
WHY SHOULD BLACK PEOPLE CARE?

Black voters should care about these Council of State elections because they impact our lives directly. Voting for the right leaders can help make our communities stronger, fairer, and safer for everyone.

KNOW THE CANDIDATES

Governor*

The Governor of North Carolina is the leader of our state. They make big decisions about our money, schools, healthcare, and safety. Whoever becomes Governor can affect how well our schools are funded, how many jobs we have, and how safe our communities feel. This is important for Black voters because these decisions can impact our lives and future.



Democratic Gubernatorial Nominee

[Josh Stein](#)



Republican Gubernatorial Nominee

[Mark Robinson](#)

Lt. Governor*

The Lieutenant Governor is the second-highest leader in our state. They help make decisions in the state Senate and can step in as Governor when needed. The Lt. Governor also has other important jobs related to jobs, schools, and more. Paying attention to this race is important because the Lt. Governor can help make laws that affect our families and our communities.



Democratic Nominee

[Sen. Rachel Hunt](#)



Republican Nominee

[Hal Weatherman](#)

**An "open seat" in politics occurs when a government job becomes available because the incumbent is not seeking reelection.*

KNOW THE CANDIDATES

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State manages important records and helps with elections. They make sure things are fair and open in our state government. This matters for Black voters because fair elections and transparent government are crucial for our voices to be heard.



Current Democratic Secretary of State

[Elaine Marshall](#)
(Incumbent)



Republican Nominee

[Chad Brown](#)

Attorney General*

The Attorney General is like our state's top lawyer. They protect our rights and help with legal issues. This person also oversees the Department of Justice, which handles legal matters and protects consumers. This race matters because the Attorney General can fight for justice and fairness for everyone, including Black communities.



Democratic Nominee

[Congressman Jeff Jackson](#)



Republican Nominee

[Congressman Dan Bishop](#)

**An "open seat" in politics occurs when a government job becomes available because the incumbent is not seeking reelection.*

KNOW THE CANDIDATES

Commissioner of Agriculture

This person looks after our state’s farms and food safety. They also support farmers and help our economy. Paying attention to this race is important because it affects our food, jobs, and economy.



Democratic Nominee

[Dr. Sarah Leehr](#)



Republican Nominee

[Steve Troxler](#)
(Incumbent)

Commissioner of Labor*

The Commissioner of Labor makes sure workplaces are safe and workers are treated fairly. They enforce labor laws to protect workers. This race matters because fair treatment at work is important for Black workers and families.



Democratic Nominee

[Braxton Winston](#)



Republican Nominee

[Luke Fairley](#)

**An “open seat” in politics occurs when a government job becomes available because the incumbent is not seeking reelection.*



KNOW THE CANDIDATES

Commissioner of Insurance

The Commissioner of Insurance helps with everything related to insurance in our state. They make sure companies follow the rules, solve people’s insurance problems, and teach about insurance. They also check and approve insurance rates, ensure companies stay strong, and help make good insurance rules to keep everyone safe.



Democratic Nominee

[Natasha Marcus](#)



Republican Nominee

[Mike Causey](#)
(Incumbent)

KNOW THE CANDIDATES

State Auditor

The NC Auditor is responsible for how the government spends your tax dollars to make sure it's done correctly. They help keep things honest and fair with taxpayer dollars. This race matters because it ensures our money is used wisely and fairly.



Democratic Nominee

[Jessica Holmes](#)
(Incumbent)



Republican Nominee

[Dave Boliek](#)

State Treasurer*

The Treasurer manages our state's money and financial programs. This includes pensions and health plans. Who becomes Treasurer can impact our state's financial health and stability.



Democratic Nominee

[Dr. Welsey Harris](#)



Republican Nominee

[Brad Briner](#)

**An "open seat" in politics occurs when a government job becomes available because the incumbent is not seeking reelection.*



KNOW THE CANDIDATES

Superintendent of Public Instruction*

The Superintendent oversees our NC public schools and education system. They make decisions about what kids learn and how schools are run. This race matters because it affects the quality of education for Black children and the future of our schools.



Democratic Nominee

[Maurice "Mo" Green](#)



Republican Nominee

[Michele Morrow](#)

**An "open seat" in politics occurs when a government job becomes available because the incumbent is not seeking reelection.*



KNOW THE CANDIDATES

The NC Supreme Court

The NC Supreme Court affects all of us, including Black voters. They make decisions that can impact our rights, like voting rights and fairness in the justice system. It's important to pay attention and vote for justices who understand and care about our community's needs and rights.

- ✓ **Protecting Rights:** The Supreme Court decides if laws are fair and follow our state's rules. They protect our rights and ensure fair treatment under the law.
- ✓ **Making Big Decisions:** The Supreme Court's rulings can change how things work in our state, including education, voting, and fairness.

Why Black Voters Should Care?

The NC Supreme Court plays a crucial role in ensuring fair laws and protecting our rights. Black voters should care because their decisions directly affect our lives and community well-being. Stay informed and vote for justices who stand up for justice and equality for everyone.

North Carolina Supreme Court



Democratic Nominee

[Justice Allision Riggs](#)
(Incumbent)



Republican Nominee

[Judge Jefferson Griffins](#)



KNOW THE CANDIDATES

The NC Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is a special group of judges who listen to people's arguments and decide if laws were followed correctly. They have important jobs because they help make sure everyone is treated fairly under the law.

Fairness and Justice: The decisions made by the NC Court of Appeals affect everyone, including Black voters. They help protect our rights and make sure laws are applied fairly to everyone.

Important Cases: The Court of Appeals hears cases about many important things, like civil rights, family matters, and criminal justice. These cases can impact our communities and our lives.

Representation: It's important to have judges who understand and care about the challenges faced by Black communities. By paying attention to who gets appointed to the Court of Appeals, we can make sure our voices and concerns are considered in important legal decisions.

The NC Court of Appeals is important for Black voters because it helps ensure fairness and justice under the law. By paying attention to this court and the judges who serve on it, we can work towards a legal system that represents and protects all of us.

KNOW THE CANDIDATES

The NC Court of Appeals

[Judge Carolyn
Thompson](#)
(Incumbent)



[Thomas
Murray](#)



[Ed
Eldred](#)



[Judge Valerie
Johnson Zachery](#)




[Martin
Moore](#)



[Christopher
Freeman](#)





NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The North Carolina General Assembly is a group that makes rules and decisions for our state. It has two parts: **the North Carolina House of Representatives** and **the North Carolina Senate**.

The NC General Assembly is a group that makes important decisions for our state, and it's crucial for Black voters to pay attention because these decisions directly affect our schools, healthcare, and overall well-being.

What They Do:

- ✓ The NC General Assembly creates new laws, changes old ones, and decides which laws should stay or go.
- ✓ They decide how to spend the state's money, including money for schools, healthcare, and fixing roads.
- ✓ The NC General Assembly can also check on the governor and other state agencies to make sure they are doing their jobs correctly.

How Members Are Chosen:

There are 120 members in the NC House of Representatives and 50 members in the NC Senate.

People from different parts of North Carolina vote to choose who will represent them in these groups every two years.

Why You Should Care:

Their Decisions Affect You: The choices made by the NC General Assembly impact things like how good our schools are, whether everyone can see a doctor when they need to, and how safe our roads are.

Representation: It's important that the people we choose to represent us in the NC General Assembly understand our needs and concerns. Black voters should pay attention because these decisions can have a big impact on our communities and our lives. We want lawmakers who will listen to us and make fair choices for everyone.



Scan QR Code to find your representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly or visit <https://ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators>



LOCAL ELECTIONS MATTER

Local Elections: Understanding City Council, Mayors, County Commissioners, and School Board Races

City Council: The City Council is like the boss group for our city. They make rules (laws) that help our city run smoothly. We vote for the City Council to speak up for our community. They decide how money is spent on things like keeping us safe, helping with housing, and fixing roads.

Mayors: The Mayor is like the head leader of our city. They show leadership and represent our city at important events. The Mayor suggests ideas to make our city better and works with the City Council to make these ideas happen.

Why You Should Pay Attention:

Local Impact: What the City Council and Mayor decide directly affects our daily lives. It can make our neighborhoods safer, improve our schools, and keep our city running well.

Community Representation: The City Council and Mayor are supposed to listen to what we need and want. We must understand their jobs and vote for those who will represent us well.

County Commissioners: County Commissioners make choices that affect our whole county. They manage money for things like roads and safety services (like police). They also speak up for what people in the county want and need.

School Board Races: The School Board members make big decisions about our schools. They choose what we learn, how schools are run, and how money is spent on education. They are important because they shape our education experience.

Why You Should Pay Attention:

Education Quality: School Board decisions affect how well we learn and what opportunities we have in school. It's important to vote for people who care about making our schools great.

Local elections for City Council, Mayor, County Commissioners, and School Board are really important for Black voters. These leaders make decisions that directly impact our neighborhoods, schools, and overall quality of life. By paying attention and voting, we can ensure our voices are heard and our communities are represented well.

Key Election Dates:

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October 11, 2024: Last day to register for the General Election.

October 17 – November 2, 2024: Early Voting for the General Election begins. Voters may register to vote and update their registration during the 17 days of Early Voting.

November 5, 2024: Election Day! Polls are open 6:30 am – 7:30 pm.

What IDs Can You Use to Vote?

Must Not Be Expired (or expired for one year or less):

- ✓ **North Carolina Driver's License**
- ✓ **Non-driver's ID from the NC DMV**
You can get this for free with a birth certificate and other documents.
- ✓ **U.S. Passport or Passport Card**
- ✓ **Driver's License or Non-driver ID from another state**
Only if you registered in North Carolina within 90 days of the election.
- ✓ **College Student ID**
Must be approved by the NC State Board of Elections (NCSBE).
- ✓ **Employee ID from State, Local Government, or Charter School**
Must be approved by the NCSBE.
- ✓ **NC Voter Photo ID Card**
Free from the county board of elections with your name, date of birth, last four digits of your Social Security number, and a photo taken.

May Be Expired or Have No Expiration Date:

- ✓ **Tribal Enrollment Card**
Issued by a tribe recognized by NC or the federal government.
- ✓ **Military or Veteran ID Card**
Issued by the U.S. government.
- ✓ **Public Assistance Program ID Card**
Issued by the U.S. or North Carolina government.

Important Things to Know

For Voters 65 or Older:

If your ID was valid when you turned 65, you can still use it – even if it's expired.

Address:

The address on your ID doesn't matter for voting; the ID is only to prove who you are, not where you live.

For more information visit <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id/faq-voter-id>



MAKE YOUR PLAN AND BE SURE YOU VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION THIS FALL!

Bad politicians get elected when you stay home!
Share this information with your friends and
family and encourage them to join you in
building a better North Carolina.

For more information, please contact:
ty@blackfutureslab.org



Scan the QR code for
more information

VOLUNTEER WITH US

As the elections approach, your voice and involvement matter more than ever. Join us as a volunteer and actively participate in shaping a better future for North Carolina. This is a unique opportunity to make a tangible impact on the direction of your city and state. Whether you're passionate about talking to Black voters, organizing voter education events, or contributing in other ways, your involvement is crucial.

Together, let's amplify our voices, engage in meaningful conversations, and work towards building a North Carolina that truly represents our dreams and aspirations.

Ready to make a difference?

Contact us to volunteer and be a catalyst for positive change.

For more information, please visit:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/KqfRUwnp6UCJ49IH7X2Zsg2>



Scan the QR code for more information



