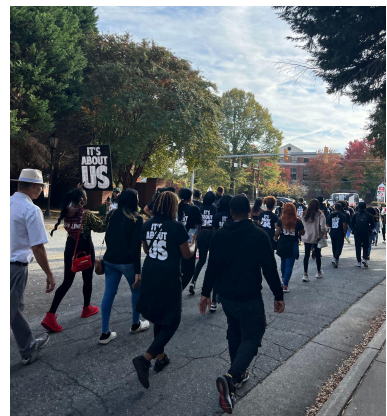


Youth Voter Engagement Program Summary

North Carolina is a state briddled in equal forces of political opportunity, and legislative controversy as voters approach an extremely consequential race for the leadership of the state and nation. For the past 14 years, through race-baiting, fear-mongering, and political theater, the NC GOP, after a hiatus from leadership in the state for over a century, returned to play for keeps as they preyed upon the racial anonymous in the aftermath of the historic 2008 election of the first Black president. Their campaign of hate included swift changes to the policies that made North Carolina a great place to learn, heal, and grow for residents and undermined the strong relationship between government, business, and community. What was once a state in revival during the early 2000s is now a state of upheaval as Republicans use their last grasp of power to enforce more strict and exclusive provisions beyond the constitutional mandate for voting.

The culmination of this power grab has resulted in the arrival of voter ID as an additional requirement for voting, decreases in funding for elections amidst an ever-growing population, and just in case that is not subversive enough, the general assembly approved a bill that will bring more partisan poll observers, with unprecedented access inside polling sites across the state to cast doubts on the procedures and eventual outcome of the election if it is not in their favor.

Then there are the people, the rising tide of young voters across the state, engaged through protests against law enforcement, mass shootings, funding for education, women's rights, and environmental issues, all of which are direct assaults on their rights as citizens. Cycle after cycle has proven that engaging these voters helps to fight back against the forces of opposition that seek to regress our state and nation. The challenges of voter racist voter intimidation and election subversion hinge on our ability to rally and support these constituencies along with rural working-class Black and white voters across eastern North Carolina.



Empowering Youth Voters: A Decade of Civic Engagement on HBCU Campuses

On 12 campuses, we seek to educate, encourage, and protect voters, many of whom are voting for the first time. For the past 10 years, we have led activities on the 10 Historically Black College and University campuses. Over that time, we have trained hundreds of campus leaders, moved thousands of voters to the polls, and hosted dozens of activities annually to challenge and charge students with the understanding of their power and tools to maneuver inside the political arena.



Our work has been critical in helping students win early voting polling sites on their campus by engaging with local boards of elections and engendering support with campus faculty and staff to ensure the entire campus is committed to increasing voter turnout. With your support, we can expand to serve the state's two additional majority minority-serving institutions and reach **8,500 additional students** who will make a difference in this election.

Through our youth voter engagement efforts, focused on 4-year and 2-year campuses, we have a long-term goal of better equipping North Carolina's emerging workforce in these committees with the training and resources needed to introduce civic participation as an anchor of stability just as vital as their educational attainment. We aim to move the needle and increase voter participation among a younger, politically engaged, electorally unenthusiastic, and essential base of swing voters who can make a difference in 2024.

Expanding Our Impact: Phase I and Phase II

As we look to the future, our mission to empower and engage young voters in North Carolina takes on an even broader scope. In **Phase I** of our expansion, we are excited to include Chowan University and UNC-Pembroke in our efforts. Chowan University, traditionally a predominantly white institution (PWI), has transformed into a predominantly Black institution (PBI) serving approximately 900 students. It is a private liberal arts college located in a rural community in northeastern North Carolina.

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) stands out as a minority-serving institution (MSI) due to its significant minority enrollment and is uniquely recognized as a historically

minority-serving institution (HMSI) and a Native American-Serving Nontribal Institution (NASNTI). As the only state-designated historically American Indian university in North Carolina, UNCP's inclusion is a significant step in reaching diverse student populations. UNCP is a community of over 7,660 students.

In **Phase II**, we plan to extend our reach to 10 county community colleges, broadening our impact and ensuring that even more young voices are heard. By targeting these institutions, we aim to engage an additional 10,000 students, preparing them to be active participants in the electoral process and equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective civic engagement.



However, to successfully execute this ambitious expansion, we recognize the critical need for additional staffing to increase our capacity. Expanding our team with dedicated, passionate individuals will allow us to provide the necessary support and resources to new campuses and community colleges. These additional staff members will be instrumental in training campus leaders, organizing voter engagement activities, and ensuring the smooth implementation of our initiatives across the state.

Ultimately, our vision includes a comprehensive C4 expansion of youth voter engagement, delving deeper into education that will directly affect their daily well-being. Through this long-term commitment, we strive to embed civic participation as a cornerstone of stability, as essential as their academic achievements. Together, we can cultivate a generation of informed, empowered voters ready to shape the future of our state and nation.

