



Friends Protecting & Strengthening Democracy

Actions List

### **Background:**

#### **An Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends**

<https://quakercall.net/>

Since May 2022, the Quaker Call to Action has been inviting Friends into activities to respond to the continuing threats to our democracy. Through a series of open virtual meetings, The Urgent Call has held several virtual gatherings to consider how Quakers may be called into action; over 150 Friends in North Carolina have participated in one or more of these calls. The Steering Committee has identified North Carolina as an important state in the upcoming elections and one where Friends could help protect the electoral process. (The Quaker Call Steering Committee has identified Pennsylvania also as a target for Quaker action.)

Individual Friends and their meetings are invited into prayerful discernment of their leadings on how to become aware, involved, and active in the movement to protect our elections.

Many Friends worked hard during the 2022 mid-terms to protect our elections and rebuild democracy by registering voters, serving as canvassers, and signing on as poll watchers and poll workers. Threats to democracy, including denying election outcomes, voter suppression, gerrymandering electoral districts, intimidation of election workers, continue to cast a shadow on the upcoming elections and our democracy.

Philosopher John Stuart Mill wrote "*Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.*"

This listing offers suggestions for how Friends may become involved in protecting and strengthening our democracy, particularly going into this year's elections.

Visit the [Quaker Call to Action-NC](https://quakercall.net/) website to learn more about how Friends throughout North Carolina are carrying concerns for the strength of our democracy and taking action to protect elections.

## Quaker Call To Action—NC

### Friends Protecting & Strengthening Democracy—Actions List

Many of the organizations listed below have opportunities for volunteers. Explore their websites for more information and to sign up for action alerts. To help in your search here is a list of **Action Categories (loosely) keyed by number to the listed organizations:**

1. Helping with Voter Registration
2. Supporting Election Workers [from baking cookies to researching vulnerabilities]
3. Being a Vote Protector (DemocracyNC); Monitor (Common Cause NC)
4. Being a Poll Observer (with your political party)
5. Working to Get Out The Vote
6. Engaging meaningful conversation / Deep Canvassing
7. Volunteering for a candidate or issue
8. Becoming a Poll Worker in my county; includes volunteer voter assistance
9. Joining a Volunteer Research Team (with Protect our Elections)
10. Preventing Election Violence
11. Work with voters to cure rejected ballots so the votes can be counted
12. Legislative and structural reform - working for longer term change
13. education for voters (including self) re voting rights, processes
14. Admin support, data entry, answering phones, etc
15. Canvass Monitor during post election vote counting
16. Monitor election related county meetings

### **NC Friends Meetings Initiatives**

QCNC invites Friends to take action—and support each other in action—within their own meetings. Here are a couple examples:

**Hold a forum and create a Quaker Call to Action group in your monthly meeting.** Charlotte Friends Meeting held of Forum conversation on Quaker Call to Action and to share concerns about protecting our democracy. Individual Friends shared their own leadings and actions, and found the time together meaningful. An ongoing group was formed—Quaker Call-Charlotte (QC-C)—for Charlotte Friends to meet regularly to support and encourage each other in seeking and speaking truth and taking action as led to protect and strengthen democracy. The new Quaker Call group is held in the spiritual care of CHF Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

**Select an action Friends may participate in collectively in your monthly meeting.** Durham Friends Meeting, with the leadership of the Earth Care Witness and Peace & Social Concerns Committee, is engaged in a postcard writing campaign with [Reclaim Our Vote](#), which focuses on increasing Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) voter turnout through post-carding, texting, and phone banking. DFM invites other meetings to join in their pledge to send 500 postcards or to sponsor their own postcarding event with ROV. Cesanne Berry, DFM, is volunteering to be a resource contact for NC Friends meetings exploring Get Out The Vote actions: [cesberry@gmail.com](mailto:cesberry@gmail.com)

## **Stay Informed- National:**

Many organizations—nationally and in North Carolina—are dedicated to protecting our democracy and elections from the myriad of threats. Exploring these organizations’ websites and signing up for alerts, newsletters, blogposts, etc. is one way of becoming engaged.

### **Protect Our Election [Category 2, 9]**

<https://www.protectourelection.com/>

– Our Mission

- Supporting the election officials who do their job the right way by providing digital tools and resources
- Assessing the risk posed by “election infiltrators” who seek to introduce bias, ignorance, chaos, and anti-democratic sentiment to our electoral process

Sign up for PoE alerts ([link](#))



### **Faiths United to Save Democracy [Category 5]**

<https://www.turnoutsunday.com/>

FUSD is a nonpartisan, multi-racial, multi-faith, and multi-generation 2022-2024 voter protection campaign focused in the states of AL. AZ. FL. GA. MI. NC. OH. PA. TX. WI. It is rooted in the belief that everyone is made in the image of God and deserves the freedom to vote.

The FUSD campaign exists to overcome the recent assault on democracy, making it more difficult for voters who are low-income, black and brown, elderly, students, and disabled to exercise their sacred right to vote. The 2024 election will be a test of our democracy and our faith. Early planning and even more robust strategic engagement by the faith community is critical.

### **VoPro Pros [Category 11, 12,...]**

#### **Voter Protection (VoPro) Pros**

<https://www.vopropros.com/>

VoPro Pros—a community for volunteers who are passionate about voter protection year-round and nationwide!

We are expanding our focus for voter protection to be year-round and not just tied to election campaigns, so that we can also work on reforming laws and structures that enable voter suppression. Our focus areas therefore are:

1. Voter Eligibility and Registration  
Ensuring citizens become eligible and registered voters
2. Ballot Access  
Ensuring voters are empowered to access and cast their ballots

3. Election Administration, Polling, and Certification  
Ensuring voters' votes are protected, counted, and certified
4. Legislative Reform: Voting Laws and Processes  
Ensuring 1-3 above improve for voters and voting rights before the next election cycle
5. Structural Reform: Redistricting and Gerrymandering  
Ensuring longer-term change for reversing decades of voter suppression

## The Union [Category 1]

<https://jointheunion.us/>

THE UNION IS A COALITION OF PRO-DEMOCRACY ORGANIZATIONS.

PAID FOR BY THE LINCOLN PROJECT, [www.lincolnproject.us](http://www.lincolnproject.us).

- pro-democracy coalition of grassroots supporters and organizations dedicated to defending our democracy from the Trumpist authoritarian movement
- Currently texting young voters and writing postcards in NC
- Even an hour helping a local organization register voters or fight misinformation will help save democracy

## Democracy Docket [Category 13]

<https://www.democracymarket.com/>

Democracy Docket is the leading progressive news platform for information, analysis and opinion about voting rights and elections in the courts.



[Category 12]

## Election Reformers Network

<https://www.electionreformers.org/>

Current initiatives include:

- Crafting model bills advancing [better methods](#) for selecting election officials and election boards.
- Passing state constitutional amendments to establish [fully independent redistricting](#).
- Passing state legislation to set [standards of impartiality for election administrators](#).
- Advancing targeted reforms to reduce [partisan involvement in results certification](#).
- Raising awareness of related areas needing reform such as [partisan election of state judges](#).

## Stay Informed- North Carolina:



## **Democracy NC [Categories 1, 13, ...]**

<https://democracync.org/>

Our Mission: To strengthen democratic structures, build power among disenfranchised communities, and inspire confidence in a transformed political process that works for all.

Democracy North Carolina works statewide with staff in Asheville, the Triangle area, Greenville, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Fayetteville. We recruit volunteers year-round for everything from voter registration to data entry!

## **NC Network for Fair, Safe & Secure Elections [Categories 2, 12,...]**

<https://nctrustedelections.org/>

The Network brings North Carolinians together who share a common concern for the future of our state and the mutual desire to build a more healthy democratic republic for all – regardless of political beliefs.

Including the **Commission on the Future of NC Elections**

Cross-partisan leaders finding common ground on fair, safe & secure elections in NC

<https://www.ncelectionsfuture.com/>

## **Become Engaged in Action:**

### **NC State Board of Elections**



**[Category 8]**

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/about-elections/get-involved-elections>

Get Involved:

- [Become an Election Official](#)
- [Become a Student Election Assistant](#)
- [Assistance for Voters in Care Facilities](#)
- [Your Democracy Heroes](#)
- [About Elections](#)

### **Become a paid poll worker in your county [Category 8]**

When a county doesn't have enough poll workers, they may close polling locations.

Complete an application here to get started: [www.powerthepolls.org/signup](http://www.powerthepolls.org/signup)

**NC State Board of Elections**

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/about-elections/get-involved-elections/become-election-official>

**Democracy NC**  **democracy**  
NORTH CAROLINA  
*Of, by and for the people* **[Category 1,3...]**

Become an Election Advocate, be a vote protector, monitor your county Board of Elections, volunteer for the voter hotline, etc.

<https://democracync.org/take-action/>

Participate in a voter registration drive:

<https://democracync.org/resources/vrkit/>



### **Reclaim Our Vote** [Category 5]

Reclaim Our Vote is a grassroots, primarily volunteer-run campaign that focuses on increasing BIPOC voter turnout through post-carding, texting, and phone banking. Working with local, on-the-ground partners and our Democracy Centers, we build effective, respectful, and relevant campaigns that engage BIPOC voters around upcoming elections.

Through our get-out-the-vote work, we provide early voting locations and times, voter registration deadlines, information for free rides to the polls, and phone numbers for county election officials.

<https://www.centerforcommonground.org/reclaim-our-vote>

- Sign-up to write/send postcards-  
<https://www.centerforcommonground.org/postcarding>
- Register to join phone banks for Mecklenburg and Wake counties  
<https://www.centerforcommonground.org/phonebanks>

### **Protect our Election (PoE)** [Category 2]

offers a toolkit: <https://www.protectourelection.com/take-action-support-democracy>

Which includes several ways for you to take action locally:

- [Our lookup tool to help you identify your local election officials](#)
- Social media accounts to follow and amplify within your social circle
- Ideas and inspiration for art projects to honor your local officials
- Recipes for homemade appreciation treats

### **Common Cause-NC** [Category 3,13,...]

A grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of democracy. CC-NC works to create open, honest and accountable government.

<https://www.commoncause.org/north-carolina/our-work/elections/voting/>

- Poll Monitor: Identify issues at the polls, answer voters' questions, and connect those who are denied a ballot to legal resources. PPE will be provided.
- Roving Poll Monitor: Drive or bike between polling places and check on lines, signage, and poll preparation. Report back to HQ on any problems at the polls that need to be solved.
- Social Media Monitor: Search for social media posts that share issues at the polls, connect voters to resources and support, and report election-related mis- and disinformation.
- 866-OUR VOTE Hotline Monitor: \*Must be a law student, attorney, or have a legal background\* Respond and field calls from voters concerning election

deadlines, trouble at the polls, and other issues and track and record information accordingly.

- Voter Contact Volunteer: Use phone banking tools to talk to thousands of voters to give them accurate voting information and support.



[https://www.carolinajewsforjustice.org/cjj\\_west](https://www.carolinajewsforjustice.org/cjj_west)

### **Carolina Jews for Justice: CJJ-WEST**

The CJJ-West chapter is based in the Asheville area, but extends to all 17 counties across the mountains, and we'd love to organize with you!



<https://ppc-nc.org/>

### **North Carolina Poor People's Campaign**

Our state campaign is made up of compassionate, hardworking people from all walks of life who are dedicated to advancing racial, social, and economic justice for their communities. Our Circles are groups that represent the different geographical regions of our state campaign— they provide an opportunity for each person to have a voice and engage with local issues. Learn more about the regional [NCPCC Circles](#) as well as how to join one.

Host showings of the documentary—

[\*\*\*Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy\*\*\*](#)

Join the PPC March on Washington—

[June 29th Mass Assembly and Moral March on Washington](#)



<https://www.breachrepairers.org/religious-affairs>

**Repairers of the Breach** is building a movement rooted in a framework that uplifts our deepest moral and constitutional values to redeem the heart and soul of our country. We are committed to building and supporting moral movements for social change and training a fusion group of people, activists, artists, and interfaith leaders to organize and mobilize around a moral policy agenda that prioritizes love, truth, and justice.

### **ROCK the VOTE**



[Category 13...]

<https://www.rockthevote.org/>

Democracy Class: <https://www.rockthevote.org/programs-and-partner-resources/democracy-class/>

### **YOU CAN VOTE**



[Categories 1, 5...]

<https://www.youcanvote.org/>



YCV is an organized and effective non-partisan campaign to increase voter registration and voter turnout for people facing barriers to full civic participation. It is a campaign without a candidate. This means that You Can Vote does NOT work for a candidate or a party. And it does NOT mobilize around specific issues (e.g. environment, education). You Can Vote is an ongoing, non-partisan effort to increase voter registration and voter turnout.

## VOTERIDERS

[Category 1,5,13,...]

[https://www.voteriders.org/?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.voteriders.org/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

[VoteRiders](#) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization with a mission to ensure that all citizens are able to exercise their freedom to vote. **VoteRiders informs and helps citizens to secure their voter ID** as well as inspires and supports organizations, local volunteers, and communities to sustain voter ID education and assistance efforts.

## **VOTE411.org – League of Women Voters [Category 13]**

<https://www.vote411.org/node/7498>

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the election process:

## **VOTE.ORG [Category 1,5]**

<https://www.vote.org>

Vote.org is the largest 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan voting registration and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) technology platform in America. We aim to increase voting behavior and reach historically underserved voters of color and underrepresented young voters.

## **Volunteer as a poll observer/watcher [Category 4]**

Political parties are allowed to have representation inside polling locations to monitor the process. Shorter time commitment, but important to the election process. You can sign up for this volunteer role through the voter protection team of your political party. More information can be found here: <https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/poll-watchers>

North Carolina Poll Monitoring or Observing:

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/about-elections/election-security/tips-monitoring-or-observing-election-polling-sites>

## **Volunteer as a Canvass Monitor in Key Counties [Category 15]**

**Democracy-NC** deploys hundreds of volunteer “canvass monitors” the “day of canvass” post-election day vote counting by county boards of election.



<https://democracync.org/take-action/canvass-monitoring/>

### League of Women Voters of North Carolina

<https://my.lwv.org/north-carolina-state/article/lwvnc-releases-2022-canvass-guide-encourages-north-carolinians-participate-post-election>

## Join a PoE Volunteer Research Team [Category 2]

Join a Protect Our Election' [Volunteer Research Team](#) to help fill in the blanks and identify potential election deniers. Local election officials across the country remain under attack. Protect Our Election is organizing a nationwide research project to compile a hyperlocal database of the vulnerabilities in our election administration: we're working to identify where local officials need funding and resources, where anti-democratic forces are taking hold, and where disinformation has run rampant through our communities.

Reasons for Concern: **Red Flag Counties.** PoE has identified 31 NC counties for concern:

- At least 29 of the 100 counties have seen turnover in the Election Director position since 2020
- At least 26 of the 100 counties (and likely more) have County BoE members who have a social media presence betraying election denialism
- A handful of counties may have politicized election directors
- Dozens of NC counties have hyper-charged political climates swirling around voting
- Counties:
  - Alamance County, Alexander County, Anson County, Ashe County, Beaufort County, Bertie County, Bladen County, Brunswick County, Burke County, Caldwell County, Catawba County, Columbus County, Craven County, Currituck County, Edgecomb County, Granville County, Halifax County, Henderson County, Iredell County, Jackson County, Mecklenburg County, Montgomery County, Moore County, New Hanover County, Onslow County, Pasquotank County, Richmond County, Rowan County, Rutherford County, Union County

## Democracy NC [Category 16]

Get involved in county election advocacy

<https://democracync.org/take-action/elections-advocacy/>

Learn more about selected counties below.

- [Alamance](#)
- [Brunswick](#)
- [Cabarrus](#)
- [Caldwell](#)
- [Carteret](#)
- [Catawba](#)
- [Chatham](#)
- [Cleveland](#)
- [Columbus](#)
- [Cumberland](#)
- [Duplin](#)
- [Durham](#)
- [Forsyth](#)
- [Gaston](#)
- [Guilford](#)
- [Halifax](#)
- [Hoke](#)
- [Johnston](#)
- [Mecklenburg](#)
- [New Hanover](#)
- [Onslow](#)

- [Pasquotank](#)
- [Pitt](#)
- [Rockingham](#)
- [Rowan](#)
- [Surry](#)
- [Wake](#)
- [Watauga](#)

## **Become a Deep Canvasser – Engage in Meaningful Conversations [Category 6]**

Deep canvassing is a method of political engagement that moves beyond traditional campaign canvassing techniques used by the political parties. Rather than simply promoting a candidate or a specific policy, deep canvassing focuses on engaging our neighbors through empathetic listening and personal storytelling. It aims to uncover shared values and experiences, humanizing each other and the political process.

### **Down Home North Carolina [Category 6, meaningful conversations, cont.]**

<https://downhomenc.org/deep-canvass/>

Rural North Carolina Matters: North Carolina’s small towns and rural communities matter. We work here, we live here, and we are raising our families here. That’s why we, poor and working people, are building power across race to make sure that our elected officials work for us.

### **People’s Action Institute**

[People's Action Institute](#)

PAI and affiliates have fought for reforms that recognize poor and working people’s dignity and make material and political improvement to millions of lives. Information on trainings:

### **Deep Canvass Institute**

[Deep Canvass Institute](#)

Trains on how to listen without judgment, share heartfelt stories that can bind us together, and process conflicts in ways that result in monumental cultural, social, and political shifts.

By practicing compassion, deep listening, and democratic values at a mass interpersonal level, the Deep Canvass Institute will contribute to building institutional cultures where people can sustainably engage across differences.

### **Braver Angels of North Carolina**

<https://nc.braverangels.org/home>

A member of Braver Angels is part of a national community – we are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents of all political persuasions.

We form local alliances and hold local workshops and debates. We discuss our differences with civility and look for common ground. We encourage each other and we organize others do the same. We are a grassroots family fixing our broken politics from the bottom up.

Improve your skills the easy way, by taking a *short free eLearning course*.  
<https://braverangels.org/what-we-do/take-an-ecourse/>

**Doha Debates BETTER CONVERSATIONS** [online modules]

<https://2023.dohadebates.com/course/better-conversations/>

*Better Conversations* provides an in-depth introduction to skills necessary to conduct difficult conversations about potentially sensitive local and global challenges.

## **Preventing Election Violence [Category 10]**

In the peacebuilding field, “election violence” is physical violence, severe psychological violence, or property damage that is either motivated by an election cycle or intended to influence an election cycle. That means it can start many months before an election and continue for some months afterward. The United States is already experiencing some incidents of election violence attached to the 2024 election cycle, and there are a number of risk factors that make additional violence a real possibility.



### **Emily Provance**

<https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/election-violence-prevention/>

**Emily Provance**, Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, New York, offers a 4-part zoom **Start, Learn, Speak, and Connect** are four conversations designed to combine a Quaker spiritual grounding with best practices for election violence prevention (as learned internationally by experts) and skill building in working together for peace across cultural and political differences. The four conversations are best experienced as a series, in order, but you are not required to attend all four in sequence if your schedule prevents you from doing so.



### **Gandhi-King Global Academy**

<https://www.usip.org/academy/catalog/preventing-election-violence-0>

#### **PREVENTING ELECTION VIOLENCE ONLINE COURSE**

This online course introduces how election violence is a threat to peace and democracy. The course provides participants with knowledge and skills to prevent violence more effectively across different electoral and conflict environments. The course identifies risks and opportunities for prevention through the various phases of the election cycle--before, during and after election day--as well as the underutilized time between elections. The course also introduces different types of election violence prevention and reviews their utility.

**[DEPOLARIZING WITHIN eLearning Course](https://storage.googleapis.com/courseware.braverangels.org/depolarizing-within/index.html#/)**

<https://storage.googleapis.com/courseware.braverangels.org/depolarizing-within/index.html#/>

The *Depolarizing Within* Online Course is designed to foster skills to help you lessen the effects of polarization when you encounter them in your political conversations. Note that by "polarization," we are not referring to healthy disagreements over issues or philosophy. We are talking about how we regard and talk about large groups of ordinary people on the other side of the political aisle.