

"Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy."*



you do your part: you will only work if you do your part: Mark a check-off box on your N.C. income-tax form. See Action Item 2 inside.

- ◆ African-American candidates for the
- ◆ Candidates who raise the most win 8 out of 10 races.
- ◆ In N.C., 90% of campaign donations come from less than 1% of the population.
- ◆ Public financing is now available for candidates for some offices in N.C. But the program will only work if you do your part: Mark a check-off box on your N.C. income-tax form. See Action Item 2 inside.

As Dr. King said, our vote means little if we have no one to vote for. The high cost of campaigns pushes out many good candidates and gives wealthy donors too much clout. We need a public financing system so voters "own" elections.

VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS

ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES

- ◆ Many towns have elections in 2009 for local officials – are you ready to make a difference in who wins?
- ◆ More than 1 million African Americans voted in 2008 in N.C. and that made a big difference in who won. A higher percent of Blacks voted than Whites – a first in 10 years, since the Jim Crow-era of violence and disenfranchisement began. N.C.'s new law allowing Same-Day Registration at Early Voting sites helped
- ◆ Even with the big turnout in 2008, almost 1 out of 3 adult citizens in N.C. (of all races) did not vote. Every vote matters. For example, if just 5 voters for Barack Obama in each precinct had not voted, he would have lost in N.C.
- ◆ 188,000 vote who might be excluded – most were youth or people of color.

North Carolinians voted in record numbers in 2008 and showed how the ballot can help change our state and the U.S. "By the power of the vote," said Dr. King, "we will transform" society. Open this brochure for what's next! But remember these facts:

"We must do more than register and more than vote; we shall have to create leaders who embody virtues we respect, who have moral and ethical principles we can applaud."*

"To attempt radical reform without adequate organization is like trying to sail a boat without a rudder."*

ACTION PLAN FOR 2009

Let's build on the success of 2008 by working in coalitions to educate, organize, and advocate for positive change – what Dr. King calls "the art of political alliance" (see inside):



- ◆ Come to Raleigh on Sat., February 14 for **HKonJ3** to celebrate victories and unite around a N.C. "People's Agenda" for real change. See inside or visit HKonJ.com.

election in your community. Contact Democracy NC for a speaker or non-partisan resources for your group. Call toll-free at 1-888-687-8683.

- ◆ For more info on voting rights and advocacy, please contact:
 - ▶ NAACP of NC at 919-682-4700 or toll free 1-866-NC-NAACP or on-line at naacpnc.org and HKonJ.com
 - ▶ Democracy North Carolina at 1-888-687-8683; democracy-nc.org
 - ▶ NC Fair Share at ncfairshare.org or call toll-free 1-866-302-0031

"In the future, we must become intensive political activists."*



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Calls Us to Move from The Dream to the Hard Work of Real Reform

*Quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prepared by Democracy NC, 2009

The Art of Political Alliance, Then & Now



Dr. King (above) and 40 years later, Dr. William J. Barber II (below)



“We shall have to master the art of political alliance. . . . The future of the deep structural changes we seek [is] in new alliances of Negroes, Puerto Ricans [Latinos], labor, liberals, certain church and middle class elements. . . . Necessity will draw us toward the power inherent in the creative use of politics.” - Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967

“In 2007, the North Carolina NAACP and dozens of groups launched a mighty coalition with the Historic Thousands on Jones Street (H K on J) march and rally. We vowed to work together to promote a 14-point People’s Agenda that would address the deep structural changes we urgently need.

“In 2008, we came back with a report card that graded what the General Assembly did, and didn’t do, on our Agenda. We also launched a massive ‘get out the vote’ effort using one of the victories of our movement – same-day registration. By Election Day, millions of voters of all races turned out and altered the political landscape. Now, let us gather on Feb. 14 at H K on J 3 and declare that the changes our progressive alliance seeks must come not only in Washington, but also in Raleigh and all across North Carolina.” - William J. Barber II

Three Action Steps for 2009

1 Come to “H K on J 3” on Feb. 14 in Raleigh.

An exciting political alliance is emerging in North Carolina. It has already achieved important victories and can win more – if you get involved. *Read the message from Dr. William Barber above.* The H K on J coalition is united in support of a 14-point People’s Agenda for better schools and health care, equal justice, affordable housing, worker fairness, voting rights, environmental justice, and more.

The election revealed the power of unified, progressive action in NC. Let’s push forward for real change! H K on J begins with a rally and continues all year.

Come to the H K on J 3 march and rally on February 14 at Chavis Park (505 MLK Jr. Blvd.), Raleigh. Be a part of a vital new movement for change.

For details, go to www.HKonJ.com or call 1-866-NC-NAACP toll free.

2 Say “Yes” for Fair Elections.

Because who gets elected is key, please look hard for this box ►►► on your NC income-tax form.

When you mark “Yes,” it costs you nothing. Your tax or refund is the same. YES shows support for a Public Campaign Fund.

The Fund (1) pays for a Voter Guide to inform us about state candidates and (2) gives those candidates the option of using public campaign funds if they limit spending and refuse big donations.

The Fund is endorsed by John Hope Franklin, Julius Chambers, Henry and Shirley Frye, and other civic leaders. It helps a wider diversity of candidates win who don’t have big-money connections.

3 Follow Dr. King’s Advice to Become A “Political Activist”

Dr. King was speaking less about joining a political party than about using our power as voters and advocates to unite around a reform agenda and “achieve many far-reaching changes.” He said voting is not enough: “Everything we need will not like magic materialize from the use of the ballot.” Get involved with civic groups in your area, help organize a local coalition. The groups listed on the back can help you.

N.C. PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FUND

Mark “Yes” if you want to designate \$3 of taxes to this special Fund for voter education materials and for candidates who accept spending limits. Marking Yes does not change your tax or refund

<u>You</u>	<u>Your Spouse</u>
● Yes ○ No	● Yes ○ No