

**Wilson County Democratic Party**

**PO Box 7034**

**Wilson, NC 27895**

Democratic Party Meeting

October 9, 2021, at 10:00 AM (virtual meeting-ZOOM)

**Minutes**

The virtual meeting was called to order shortly after 10:00, with Chair Hawley welcoming participants. First Vice Chair Joyah Bulluck presented Inspirational Thoughts and led in a Moment of Silence.

After the addition of an item related to updating on the 2021 Whirligig Festival participation, without objection, the proposed agenda (previously distributed by email) and the minutes from the last meeting on September 11, 2021, were adopted.

Officers gave brief reports including the financial report which indicated a current Party account balance of \$10,255.41.

Reports from the auxiliaries included updates on the Democratic Women of Wilson County by Beth Punte, Co-President, and the Young Democrats of Wilson County by President Cathy Leake.

There was general discussion of the upcoming municipal elections in Wilson County, and information shared regarding the early voting schedule.

Chair Hawley then led a discussion regarding the potential effects of redistricting on Wilson County, with specific attention to the details of House District 24, which must be expanded to include more voters. The possible effects of adding additional precincts from our neighboring county of Nash were discussed.

Other business included an update on the plans for the WilsonDems Fall FLING for 2021. The event will be virtual (on ZOOM) and is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, beginning at 7:00 PM. Speakers will include NCDP Chair Bobbie Richardson, NC Attorney General Josh Stein, former Governor Jim Hunt, and others.

Also, the Wilson County Democratic Party will have a booth and presence for the 2021 Whirligig Festival in Wilson, on Saturday, November 6, and Sunday, November 7. A sign-up sheet will be circulated for volunteers who wish to take a two or three hour shift at the booth.

Two candidates in the upcoming municipal elections were participating in the meeting, and each of them brought greetings to the group. These candidates were Yvonne Williams, for Lucama Town Council, and Tawanda Moore, for Elm City Mayor.

There was discussion of the recent news coverage of North Carolina's Lieutenant Governor and his homophobic comments, followed by his doubling down and announcing that he would say it all again. Anyone wishing to respond, or to express an opinion on his conduct and remarks can telephone the Lt. Governor at this number: 919-814-3680.

In further general discussion, we were reminded of Representative Linda Cooper-Suggs's plan to develop a Community Advisory Committee. **Here are the specifics from her recent newsletter.**

*As I am spending more time in Raleigh during the week, I am looking for ways to make sure that I'm staying up to date with all sectors of Wilson County. **That is why I will be starting a Community Council**, which I would love for you to be a part of. My goal is to create a diverse group of experts to offer their perspective on issues that we are tackling in the General Assembly and at home.*

*These individuals will be committed to bettering Wilson County, for everyone who resides in it. Ideally, the Council would meet every so often in Wilson. For now, though, we will plan to host meetings virtually until our COVID-19 numbers go back down.*

***If you are interested in joining the Community Council, please contact my Legislative Assistant ([caroline.enloe@ncleg.gov](mailto:caroline.enloe@ncleg.gov)) for more information.***

After further general discussion and announcements, Beth Punte moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **Attendance summary:**

ZOOM records indicated that there were 35 participants. The meeting duration was about an hour and ten minutes.

## Attachment 1: Updated Wilson County Voter Registration Statistics

Updated: October 6, 2021

<u>Descriptor</u>	<u>Number</u>
<b>Democratic</b>	<b>26,976</b>
<b>Republican</b>	<b>13,612</b>
Green	0
Constitution	0
Libertarian	222
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	<b>14,642</b>
White	26,886
Black	21,913
American Indian	99
Native Hawaiian	0
Other	5,554
Hispanic	1,470
Male	22,836
Female	28,919
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,452</b>

Our statistics make it appear that a Democratic win in Wilson County should be very easy. However, data from our last election, November 2020, reflect that the Democratic candidate for NC House District 24 won by just over 2,000 votes.

The addition of five to seven thousand new voters from a surrounding county may change the outcome dramatically.

Attachment 2: Resources for more information on the redistricting process, from <https://www.allontheline.org/>



The “official” map drawing process began this week at the NC General Assembly. Here’s what you need to know and what you can do right now to stand strong in the fight for Fair Maps.

### **The Setup**

There are 2 rooms (544 and 643) in the Legislative Office Building where map drawing takes place in public view. Each room has 4 stations. Legislative staff trained in the software are working the stations in shifts, so legislators can come in and draw maps any weekday between 9-5. There are live streams of each room and each station that are archived on the [NCGA YouTube Channel](#). For some reason, the archived videos from the first day of map drawing (Wednesday 10/6) are archived in a different place: the [NCGA Redistricting YouTube Channel](#).

The committee chairs have made it clear that they will not police what people bring into the room, so folks are definitely coming in with papers, laptops, etc. So, while maps are technically being drawn in public, there is likely plenty still happening behind closed doors.

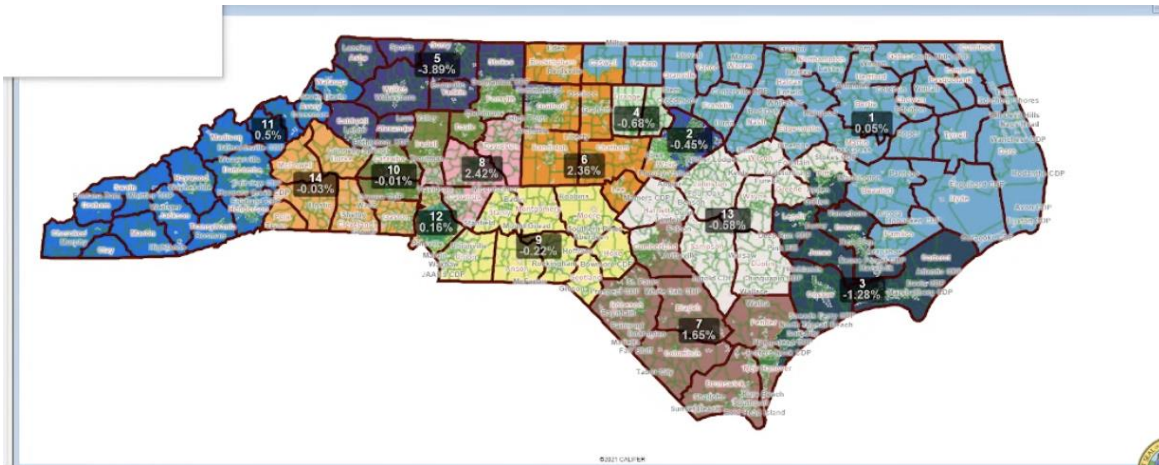
As promised, Team AOTL NC is watching the process closely. [Lekha is live tweeting](#) when anything of note happens, and [Bri is the back-up live tweeter](#) when there are multiple stations going at once. We are also posting daily video recaps on our [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#)!



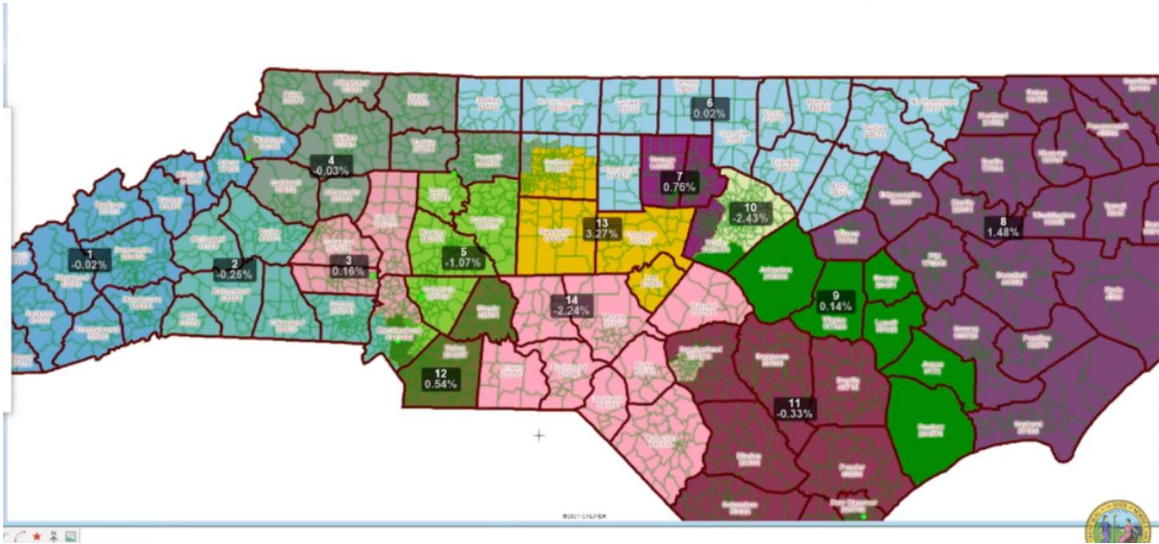
*The Senate map drawing room in the North Carolina Legislative Office Building.*

## The Maps

So far, maps have been drawn almost exclusively by the redistricting committee chairs. Sens. Hise, Newton and Daniel are drawing Senate and Congressional maps, and Rep. Hall is drawing House maps. Some other members have come in to look at their current districts but so far the only other legislator to draw a map is democratic Sen. Ben Clark (his map is not yet complete - when it is, we'll share it). **These are just drafts - they have not been officially proposed.** But they were drawn by powerful politicians and are important indicators of the direction they may be heading.



*Congressional map drawn by Senate Redistricting Committee Co-chair Warren Daniel, who represents Avery, Burke and Warren Counties.*



*Congressional map drawn by Senate Redistricting Committee Co-chair Ralph Hise, who represents Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford and Yancey Counties.*

Obviously, these maps are pretty bananas. Here are some themes Team AOTL NC has noticed from these drafts:

- Mecklenburg and Wake Counties are both split into at least 3 (sometimes 4!) congressional districts. They each only need to be split once for population reasons.
- Both maps create a new seat west of Charlotte - that aligns with the rumors that Republicans are creating a seat for House Speaker Tim Moore to run for Congress.
- Democratic strongholds of Orange, Durham, and part of Wake Counties are packed into the current district 4.
- District 1 (a district that contains many of North Carolina's historically Black rural communities) is radically reshaped in a way that massively changes its demographics
- Forsyth and Guilford are either split or kept whole but divided from each other and grouped with more rural areas.
- Cumberland County and the Sandhills region are split in some way (a slap in the face to the dozens of Sandhills residents who explicitly asked for a congressional district to represent their region during the pre-map public hearings)
- Both maps would result in a minimum of 9 safe GOP seats.

### **What To Do Now**

Make no mistake - these maps are bad. Bad for democracy and bad for the people of North Carolina. But they are not unexpected - or final (they aren't even officially proposed yet). The

NC GOP has shown no interest in drawing maps that will fairly represent the people of our state. They only want to hold onto power at all costs - but we are fighting back. So, stay calm and take action:

**1. Email the redistricting committee and demand more hearings** after draft maps are officially proposed. This was the number one ask at the pre-map hearings, and the public deserves to see and respond to any maps that will be voted on by the legislature. **You can use this tool to email all the members of the redistricting committee at once:**

<https://act.redistrictingaction.org/a/north-carolina-redistricting-hearings>

Pro tip: if you want to let the committee know what you think of their initial drafts, you can use this tool to do that too. Just delete the template and write your own (we always encourage you to customize our templates anyway - they are more effective if they are authentic to the .sender)

**2. Write Letter To The Editor** calling on legislators to hold another round of public hearings after the draft maps are released. This was the number one thing people asked for in pre-map hearings - it came up at every one! Use our LTE tool (this will automatically send your Letter to 5 papers in your area) or write your own using [this template](#) (again, it's best if you customize!): <https://act.newmode.net/action/letpeoplespeak>

**3. Make a [comment in the public portal](#)** about what you think of the direction of their maps so far, and **pledge to testify** if and when they hold more hearings after we have proposed maps: <https://act.redistrictingaction.org/a/nc-hearing-pledge>

## Redistricting News and Resources

[North Carolina redistricting will go from 'legislature to the lawyers,' expert says](#)

WNCN Raleigh | Michael Hyland | October 6, 2021

[With new redistricting maps in place, will NC's 1 million Latinos get more attention?](#)

The Raleigh News & Observer | Will Doran & Laura Brache | October 6, 2021

[Mecklenburg County split into 3 congressional districts in early redistricting map](#)

WUNC | Steve Harrison | October 7, 2021

## Other Useful Resources and Links

### Trainings for Democrats: FROM NCDP

Make sure to sign up for our weekly training sessions and Office Hours in October-- as a reminder, all slide decks for our past training [may be found here](#).

- Weekly Office Hours: Every Friday from 2-4 PM. [Zoom link here](#).
- National Democratic Training Committee [Training Opportunities](#)
  - Tuesday, October 12: [How To Train Your Volunteers in a Virtual World](#) | 7 PM
  - Wednesday, October 13: [How to Build a Political Campaign Fundraising Plan](#) | 1 PM
  - Thursday, October 21: [Why Diverse Campaign Team Win](#) | 1 PM
- Municipal Opportunities: With municipal elections fast approaching, we wanted to make sure you had plenty of time to pull your targets and make your plans for GOTV. (Please share with your municipal candidates)
  - [Click here](#) to watch our Municipal Training Sessions
  - Thursday, October 14: [Voter Registration Training](#) | 2 & 7 PM

## EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE: WILSON COUNTY

### MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

### ONE STOP/EARLY VOTING

PLACE: Wilson County Board of Elections  
112 Douglas St E  
Wilson, N. C. 27893

**DATES:** Monday - Friday  
October 14, - October 29, 2021

**TIME:** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**ONE Saturday only** October 30, 2021

**TIME:** 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM



## WILSON COUNTY MUNICIPAL CONTESTS

- **Black Creek** mayor: Ralph Smith Jr.
- Black Creek Board of Commissioners (five seats): Ellen Dawson, William Godwin, Roland Lucas, Candy Minshew, Larry Price and Lisa Skinner.
  
- **Elm City** mayor: Tawanda Moore and Grady Smith.
- Elm City Board of Commissioners (four seats): Tammie Atkinson, Timothy Bridgers, Dale Childress, Melvin Cooke, David Greene, Cornell Mercer Sr., Amelia Rivera-Speight, Gil Wheeler.
  
- **Sharpsburg** mayor: Randy Weaver and Robert Williams.
- Sharpsburg Board of Commissioners (two seats): Randall Collie, Beverly Davis, Michael Hughes, and Becky Humphrey.
  
- **Sims** Board of Commissioners (three seats): Serenity Hargrove, Danny Howell, and Kaleb Woodard.
  
- **Stantonsburg** Town Council (three seats): Donnie Bass, H. Powell Dew Jr., Jackie Grice, Ben Harper, and Steve Mooring.
  
- **Lucama** Board of Commissioners (three seats): Michael Best, Sonya Bullock, David Johnson, Keely Pate, Helen Torres, and Yvonne Taylor Williams.
  
- **Saratoga** mayor: Charles (Tommy) Hawkins
- Saratoga Board of Commissioners (three seats): Delance Ellis, Elaine Saunders and Tim Shelton.