

Empowering Voters.
Protecting Democracy.

REACHING LWVCM

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Newsletter for October 2023

LWVCM Hard at Work on VOTE411, Candidate Forums, and Voter Registration and Engagement

The VOTE411 online voter guide for the November 7 General Election will be published on October 19 or 20. The League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg will provide a VOTE411 online voter guide for the November 7 general election in the following counties: Mecklenburg, Union, Lincoln, Iredell, Gaston and Cabarrus. This effort extends to approximately 340 candidates. Users who notice missing candidate responses should reach out directly to those candidates and ask them to share their responses (they have all been contacted). Visit our website to learn more about [VOTE411](#).

One-stop, in-person early voting sites and hours for the November 7 elections can be found [here](#). Voters can search for their sample ballot ahead of the election using VOTE411 or by using the Voter Lookup function on the [NCSBE website](#). This will help provide voters with information about the races and referenda on their ballot.

The League is working to support Nonpartisan Political Forums across the county. Our chapter once again cosponsored the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church forums on October 3 and 5. President Suzanne Elsberry moderated the first forum featuring 10 of the 14 candidates for school board. This forum hosted 62 in-person attendees and received coverage in [The Charlotte Observer](#). (See [CMS Board of Education](#) forum here.) LWVCM volunteers also worked to support the second forum covering candidates for

the City of Charlotte races: Mayor, City Council At-Large and Districts 3 and 6. The forum hosted 53 in-person attendees. (See [City of Charlotte candidates](#) here.) Both events have had hundreds of views on Facebook Live. President Elsberry will also moderate the Mint Hill Women's Club Candidate Forum on October 10 from 7-8 PM in the Assembly Room of the Mint Hill Town Hall. A [Livestream](#) of the event is available.



From left: Candidates Claire Covington, Michael Johnson, Clara Kennedy Witherspoon, Lenora Shipp, Tigress Sydney Acute McDaniel, Shamaiye Haynes, Annette Albright, Bill Fountain, Liz Monterrey and Monty Witherspoon and Moderator/LWVCM President Elsberry.

The League's voter registration efforts will continue right up until the last possible day to register which is October 13. In addition to registering voters, our voter registration events aim to provide voters with general election information, details about this year's election law changes (especially regarding the new Voter ID laws), and our "What's on Your Ballot" primer. For more detailed information regarding photo ID requirements click [here](#).

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- Find updates for League action and activities at goleaguego.org

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Have you made your voting plan?

Get the election information you need at VOTE411.org. Make a plan and get prepared to go to the polls.

Coming Events

Coming Up in October, November & December

- Oct. 10, 7pm: [LWVCM + Mint Hill Woman's Club-Mint Hill Municipal Election Forum](#) (Town Hall)
- Oct. 11, 11:30am: [Lunch with the League: Social Justice Poets](#) (MPBC, Conf. Room 250)
- Oct. 12, 10am/6pm: [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training for Board Members/Team Leads: Module 2](#)
- Oct. 14, 10am-1:30pm: [Climate Advocacy Training](#) run by CCL (St. Peter's Episcopal Church)
- Oct. 19: Early voting begins and runs through Nov. 4 at 3pm.
- Oct. 20: [Vote411](#) will go live!
- Oct. 21: [Civics 101 Program Planning Kickoff Meeting](#) (League Office, MPBC, Suite A)
- Oct. 24: *United Nations Day*
- Oct. 26, 7pm: [Mix & Mingle](#) (760 Craft Works, 102 Gilead Road, Huntersville)/Vote Early Day
- Oct. 27: Vote411's 17th Birthday!
- Nov. 1, 10am: Education Action Team Meeting (League Office, MPBC, Suite A)
- Nov. 5, 3pm: [Dr. Joyce Davis Waddell Center for Student Health and Wellbeing naming](#) (UNCC)
- Nov. 6: Election Hero Day
- Nov. 7: General Election
- Nov. 8, 6:30pm: Board Meeting
- Nov. 9, 10am/6pm: [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Training for Board Members/Team Leads: Module 3](#)
- Nov. 11: *Veterans Day*
- Nov. 14, 6:30pm: League Talk (Zoom)
- Nov. 23: *Thanksgiving*
- Nov. 28, 7pm: [LWVCM Book Club](#) (Zoom)/Giving Tuesday
- Dec. 5, 6:30pm: Board Meeting
- Dec. 6, 10am: Education Action Team Meeting (League Office, MPBC, Suite A)
- Dec. 7, 4-7pm: [LWVCM Holiday Party](#) (Olde Mecklenburg Brewing, 4150 Yancey Road)
- Dec. 8: *First Night of Hannukah*
- Dec. 10: 75th Anniversary of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- Dec. 25: *Christmas*
- Dec. 26: *Kwanzaa*
- Dec. 31: *New Year's Eve*

League Announcements

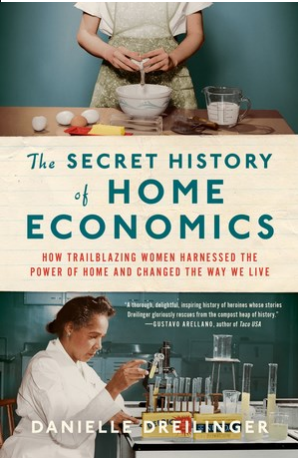
***Coffee, Post Carding and Conversation:** Stay tuned for details on Nov. event at the LWV Office to write league advocacy postcards while sipping coffee with other League members. Postcards and stamps provided.

***New Member "Pre-Party":** The party before the Holiday Party! Want to meet with other new members and attend the Holiday Party together? Meet the new crew at Mary Condon's and then commute five minutes with your new colleagues to the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. Email Mary at membership@goleaguego.org

League Action & Happenings

LWVCM November Book Club to Feature *The Secret History of Home Economics*

On November 28, the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg Book Club will discuss *The Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live* by Danielle Dreilinger.



Goodreads description:

The term “home economics” may conjure traumatic memories of lopsided hand-sewn pillows or sunken muffins. But common conception obscures the story of the revolutionary science of better living. The field exploded opportunities for women in the twentieth century by reducing domestic work and providing jobs as professors, engineers, chemists, and businesspeople. And it has something to teach us today.

In the surprising, often fiercely feminist and always fascinating *The Secret History of Home Economics*, Danielle Dreilinger traces the field’s history from Black colleges to Eleanor Roosevelt to Okinawa, from a Betty Crocker brigade to DIY techies. These women—and they were mostly women—became chemists and marketers, studied nutrition, health, and exercise, tested parachutes, created astronaut food, and took bold steps in childhood development and education.

Home economics followed the currents of American culture even as it shaped them. Dreilinger brings forward the racism within the movement along with the strides taken by women of color who were influential leaders and innovators. She also looks at the personal lives of home economics’ women, as they chose to be single, share lives with other women, or try for egalitarian marriages.



Author Danielle Dreilinger

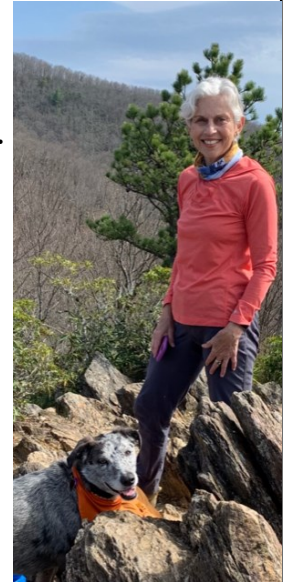
This groundbreaking and engaging history restores a denigrated subject to its rightful importance, as it reminds us that everyone should learn how to cook a meal, balance their account, and fight for a better world.

Members and nonmembers are welcome to join the discussion by registering on our [EVENTS page](#). Read about previous book selections on the [LWVCM Book Club Page](#). Book Club meets on Zoom on the last Tuesday of every other month. The Book Club is registered with Park Road Books (4139 Park Rd. Charlotte, NC 28209). Mention the LWVCM Book Club at checkout to receive 20% off current book club titles.

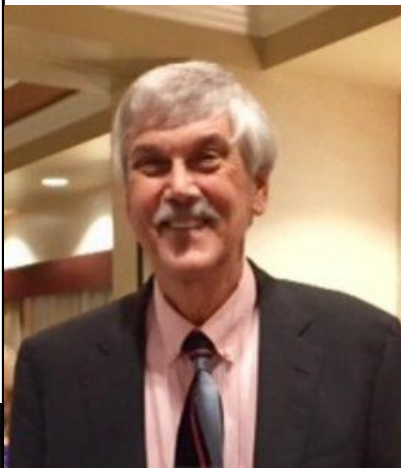
October Lunch with the League to Feature Two North Carolina Social Justice Poets

The October 11 Lunch with the League meeting will feature two North Carolina poets—Barbara Conrad and David Radavich—for selected readings of their poetry focusing on Social Justice.

[Barbara Conrad](#), a League member of the LWV Asheville-Buncombe County chapter, writes poetry, some of which focuses on the “hard truths of social injustice.” In addition to her work as a poet, she teaches workshops, conducts readings, and writes books and articles. Her books are *Wild Plums*, *There Is A Field*, *The Color Of Gravity*, and (as editor) *Waiting for Soup*. Her current book project (in process) is *Never Live Under A Tulip Poplar*.



Barbara Conrad



David Radavich

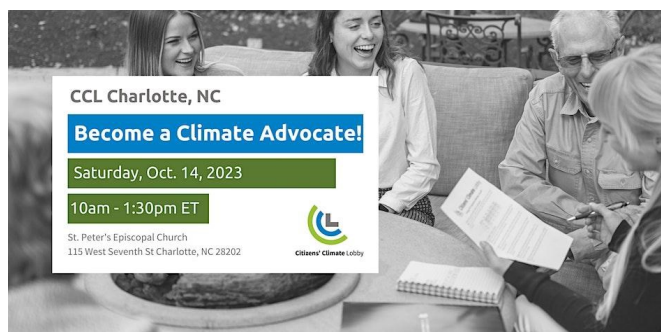
David Radavich is a socially committed poet, playwright and essayist. He has served as president of the Thomas Wolfe Society, the Charlotte Writer’s Club and the North Carolina Poetry Society. David currently administers the Gilbert-Chappell Distinguished Poet Series. His poetry collections include two epics, *America Bound* (2007) and *America Abroad* (2019), *Middle East Mezze* (2011) and *The Countries We Live In* (2014). His latest book is *Unter der Sonne/ Under the Sun: German and English Poems*. (Deutscher Lyrik Verlag, 2021). David and his wife, Anne, live in Charlotte and are members of the League.

Access registration and event details for [Lunch with the League here](#). Invite friends and colleagues to join. This event is open to members and the public alike. Lunch will be held in Conference Room 250 in the Education Building of Myers Park Baptist Church at 11:30 AM. Participants are welcome to order their lunch ahead by sending an email to membership@goleaguego.org or bring their own.

League Action & Happenings

Eye on the Environment

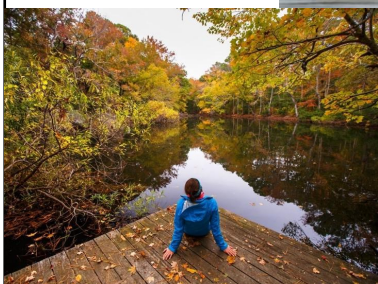
Temperatures are dropping, leaves are falling, and birds are flying south. Autumn weather is perfect for walking outdoors and enjoying nature. Recent studies (described in this [Wash Post Article](#)) suggest that listening to bird songs can be good for mental health. Charlotte's Environmental Groups offer experiences in nature, volunteer and social activities, and a chance to learn how a sustainable planet can be part of our future.



On Saturday, October 14, members of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg will participate in a daylong Climate Advocacy Training run by the Citizen's Climate Lobby. The workshop will take place from 10am to 1:30pm at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church in Uptown Charlotte, 117 West Seventh Street. Admission is free, and parking is available in the parking deck across Seventh Street from the church. Snacks will be provided. Those who still wish to participate may [register here](#).

[Catawba Riverkeeper](#) protects the Catawba-Wateree River through education, advocacy & on-the-ground monitoring and reporting. Check their calendar for Eco-tours and events. [Volunteer opportunities](#) abound.

[Sierra Club](#) and [Nature Conservancy](#) websites offer easy, immediate electronic actions. Send a message to your representatives, declare your commitment to environmental justice, climate action and preserving our natural resources.



Civics 101 Program Kickoff Set for October 21

The Civics 101 Action Team kicks off its 2024 Program planning October 21 at the League office. All are welcome! The meeting will start at 11:30am with lunch (to be provided) and conversation, to be followed by the planning meeting.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the following:

Communications - Ads for social media, local digital and print media; flyers for libraries, colleges and universities, etc.

Support for the weekly sessions - Staffing the registration desk, staffing the Zoom check-in queue, coordinating the Q&A, working the camera, bringing snacks and water, etc.

Logistics and Administrative Tasks - Managing the waiting list and registration process; writing emails to all registrants; monitoring requests from registrants to switch from in-person to Zoom during the program, etc.

Securing speakers and planning the agendas - Sessions will include Board of Elections, Mecklenburg County Government, City of Charlotte, CMS Board of Education, NC Courts, and a Media Panel Discussion.

Register using the [event page link](#) or contacting Jane Hoffmann at Civics101@goleaguego.org or 980-254-7441.

North Carolina Public Education Advocacy Update

As part of an effort to enhance public education advocacy across the state, LWVCM members have met with representatives of Henderson, Buncombe, Madison, and Moore Counties. In these meetings, we are addressing:

- *What are the local issues which are unique to the county and city/town?
- *Who needs to know about these issues in the community?
- *How to connect with the different segments of the county population about these issues?
- *How do we connect with the state legislators representing the counties?
- *How can the LWV be effective in our public education advocacy across the state?
- *How can the LWVNC Education LAT support this effort?

Common themes discussed are teacher shortage and insufficient funding. Impacting the teacher vacancies are low teacher salaries, a lack of professional respect and the few college students choosing education as a major. Concern about insufficient funding is related to low salaries for education professionals, lack of support staff such as teaching assistants, social workers and bus drivers, lack of curriculum supplies and the siphoning off of public education funds to support private school vouchers. Although parents of students are strong supporters of public schools, many other community members are not. We will need to reach out to business leaders, county commissioners, realtors and retired residents on the benefits of a strong public education for the community.

Meetings are scheduled for October with LWV members in Carteret/Onslow and Wake/Granville chapters.

LWVCM President's Perspective



I hope this message finds everyone well and ready to step into the busy months of fall. The touch of autumn in the air is a welcome respite from the long, hot days of summer.

September was a very busy month for the League. Despite the distraction of summertime activities, we remained steadfastly focused and productive throughout, as our volunteers anticipated the upcoming election season. Our volunteers registered and informed voters at various locations—fairs, farmers markets, forums, festivals, etc.—anywhere the public gathers. Please remind everyone you meet of our online voter guide: [VOTE411](#) for comprehensive election information. And encourage candidates to respond.

In April, the LWVCM board authorized a 3-month assessment contract with Executive Services Corps, a non-profit firm specializing in advising nonprofits. With the goal of becoming a stronger and more effective organization, a team of five LWVCM leaders worked diligently with our advisor throughout the summer months to assess, examining and recommending practices across six operational areas critical to our success:

1. Mission/Vision
2. Strategy, Governance, and Leadership
3. Program Delivery
4. Strategic Relationships
5. Resources and Development
6. Internal Operations

The final report, detailing the findings and recommendations, will be presented to the Board at month's end. Our hard-working Education Team, Co-led by Linda Traum and Jeanne Smith is a part of a LWVNC statewide advocacy initiative. The initiative involves visits to various chapters across the state to hold "Listening Sessions" that will determine effective advocacy methods. Meetings have been held with chapters in Henderson and Asheville-Buncombe counties and Moore County. Upcoming meetings are scheduled with the Carteret, Wake and Granville chapters.

League Talk resumed in September with Michael Dickerson (Director of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections.) Michael informed attendees on the new voting laws, especially Voter ID. His talk included an interesting numeric comparison between Early Voting, Absentee and In-person voting in Mecklenburg County.

I invite you to join us for Lunch With the League on October 11 featuring NC poets, David Radavich (Charlotte) and Barbara Conrad (Asheville) reading selections of their social justice themed poetry.

We were again pleased to be a cosponsor with the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church for two political forums: CMS candidates 10/3 and City candidates 10/5. I moderated the CMS candidate's forum and former LWVCM President, Delores Johnson Hurt, served as the timekeeper. The sessions were streamed on FMBC facebook and recorded for later viewing.

I would like to give a personal welcome to our newest LWVCM Board Member, Mary Condon. Mary has accepted the critical and challenging position of Membership Engagement Leader and is already busy planning League activities. I would like to thank our former Membership Chair, Margaret Howe-Soper, for her many years of excellent and devoted service. Margaret will now serve as chapter archivist.

LWVCM Redistricting Co-Lead Harry Taylor spoke at the recent maps hearing in Hickory. Citizens from across the state traveled many miles to speak for a mere two minutes. In his testimony, Harry reminded the hearing's legislative leaders and attendees of a portion in the NC Constitution that reads: "All political power is vested in and derived from the people..." Thanks for your continuing efforts in fighting gerrymandering, Harry!

Here's to a productive, busy and fun fall with an impressive turnout of voters in our elections!

**President, League of Women Voters
of Charlotte Mecklenburg**

League News

Welcome to New League Members

New Members in September

Lindsay Marciano	Michael Filkoff
Arlene Filkoff	Elizabeth Cook
Pam Cox	Artenia Friday-Taylor
Nicole May	

Membership News

The League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg is pleased to introduce **Office Hours!** Members are welcome and encouraged to set up office hours by appointment, at a time that suits you. Experienced, friendly League members are ready to get to know you, your interests, and help you make connections to groups you are curious about. It is also an opportunity to ask questions you may have about the local, state and national League. E-mail membership@goleaguego.org to set up your appointment and Membership Chair Mary Condon will get back to you.

Support the LWVCM with LWV Brand Gifts

The holidays are right around the corner and great LWV brand gifts can be found right now on our CafePress online shop: cafepress.com/lwvcm



LWV Charlotte Mecklenburg Needs YOU!

- *Support League Events: Check-in and hospitality at League Talks, Lunch with the League, Holiday Party
 - *Membership Engagement: Welcome new members; plan social events
 - *Support Community Events: Candidate Forums, Charlotte Pride
 - *Register & Educate Voters
 - *Submit Stories to Our Newsletter, Post on social media
 - *Observer Corps: Attend City Council, County & School Board meetings
 - *Join an Action Team or the LWVCM Board
 - *Help with Fundraising and Grant Writing
- Interested in learning more?
Email: goleaguego@gmail.com.

Member Spotlight: Mary Condon

Welcome Mary Condon, newly appointed Membership Engagement Chair, recently moved to Dilworth from Wilmette, Illinois. Mary was a resident of Chicago and its suburbs for more than 45 years where she served on a variety of not for profit boards, including LWV-Wilmette. Her League involvement in Wilmette was focused on Fair Elections, Student Government Leaders, Voter Registration and Election Judge recruitment/

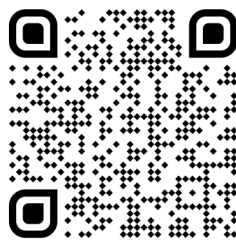


Mary Condon

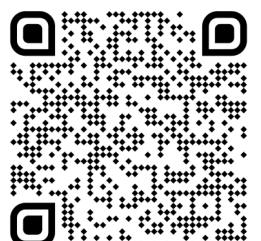
support. Mary is looking for Membership Committee members to help creatively and thoughtfully engage our members in activities, initiatives and education.

League in Action Relational Organizing Is Here

[League in Action](#) is being used by our League to spread our message and provide opportunities large and small for getting involved and supporting the League's mission. The free app can be downloaded wherever people get their apps and there is no



LIA for Apple



LIA for Google

need to be a League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg member to download and follow us on League in Action. Join our local and national league circles. Encourage your networks to join today!



Remember the League of Women Voters This Year on Giving Tuesday!

Mark your calendars for #GivingTuesday which falls on November 28 this year. Our League is able to fund the work of empowering voters and defending democracy in part through generous contributions from supporters who believe in our mission. If you are interested in donating to the Charlotte Mecklenburg League (one time only, recurring amount, Will & Estate Planning, etc.), please visit our website: goleaguego.org.

League Action & Happenings

League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg Offers Full-Throated Support of the School Bond

Over the past year, the Education Action Committee of the League of Women Voters of Charlotte Mecklenburg has been advocating for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)—for school facilities, magnet programs, and student assignments—to have an equitable distribution of projects; add magnet programs across the district; and use the student assignments to increase socioeconomic diversity in schools. Members of the Education Team attended CIP listening sessions and hosted two such meetings with 22 League partners.

The final plan approved by the CMS Board of Education at their February 28 meeting is in part the result of the feedback of so many public education advocates. The plan was reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in a March 4 joint meeting with the Board of Education. On June 1, the BOCC approved putting a \$2.5 billion bond referendum to fund 30 projects on the November ballot. The projects, involving 35 school sites, include school replacements, new schools to address overcrowding, and design and construction projects to renovate outdated, unsafe, or inadequate learning environments.

League members are now working with the [Vote Yes for School Bonds](#) campaign to educate the public about what's included in the referendum and to explain why these projects are so essential to support improvement of student learning.

League volunteers are attending [2023 Bond Information Sessions](#) across the county ahead of the election. At these sessions, CMS representatives will discuss the bond referendum and the projects it will fund. As CMS staff are precluded from directly advocating for the bond, League members will be on hand to encourage attendees to vote yes.

The League has also reached out to its 22 public education advocacy partners to share information about the bond and work to educate the public about the referendum.

Volunteers are needed to cover polling places during early voting and on Election Day. The League will be a vital part of this effort. The bond campaign is working to post volunteers at many of the early voting sites from Oct. 26 (Vote Early Day) through November 4 and at key sites on Election Day. Volunteer at: <https://voteyesforbonds.com/get-involved/>

The League strongly endorses the CMS Bond Referendum as do many business community and civic leaders. League member and former Charlotte Mayor [Jennifer Roberts penned an opinion piece](#) in favor of the bond in *The Charlotte Observer*. The League's position is that public education is the foundation of any successful society. Mecklenburg County residents all benefit from a well-educated population, and improved learning environments contribute to better student outcomes. The League believes that education should not be thought of as a cost, but an investment that will yield dividends far in the future.



League Members Testify During Latest Redistricting Hearings

Last week, the Joint Redistricting Committee of the North Carolina General Assembly held three public comment sessions in Elizabeth City, Hickory, and Raleigh. League Members from across the state were among those who spoke. Our own Harry Taylor traveled to the hearing in Hickory to have his two minutes in front of the legislature. Recordings of the [hearings can be found here](#).

The hearings took place at the same time a letter dated September 25 was sent to leaders of the North Carolina General Assembly, signed by more than 50 groups including LWVNC, calling for redistricting that is open and transparent. "Open and transparent redistricting is not only fundamental to a representative democracy," began the letter, "but it is also crucial to strengthening trust in our elected officials and government. The recent actions (and inactions) of legislative leaders make us deeply concerned that the NCGA will once again fail in its responsibility to create a robust, transparent, and thoughtful process for receiving vital public input to draw new maps." (See entirety of [letter here](#).)



Senator Waddell to Be Honored at UNCC Center for Student Health Ceremony

Senator Joyce Waddell will be celebrated during a naming ceremony for the Dr. Joyce Waddell Center for Student Health and Wellbeing at the University of North Carolina Charlotte on November 5 at 3:00 PM. In addition to being an alumna of the University and endowing the support fund that will bear her name, the senator has devoted herself to championing student health, mental health and wellness throughout her 14-year public service career, first as a school board member and now as a senator.

To attend the ceremony honoring Senator Waddell, please [register using this link](#).





We're counting down to November 7! VOTE411 will go live on October 20. Whether you participate in #EarlyVoting (Oct. 19-Nov. 4) or vote on #ElectionDay visit VOTE411.org to view your personalized voter guide, check your local polling hours & get all the information you need to vote and encourage others to do the same. For more information prior to our "go live" date, visit our [Vote411 webpage](https://Vote411.webpage).

NOTE: We are providing VOTE411.org online voter guides for Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Mecklenburg & Union counties.



1900 Queens Road, Suite A
Charlotte, NC 28207

Dated Material

Forwarding Service Requested