

Moral March on Raleigh HKonJ People's Assembly

Why We March

- Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
*President of the NC NAACP
& Convener of the People's Assembly*



We are black, white, Latino, Native American. We are Democrat, Republican, independent. We are people of all faiths, people not of faith, natives and immigrants, business leaders and workers, doctors and the uninsured, gay and straight, students and retirees. We stand here, a quilt of many colors, faiths, and creeds, in witness against our state government's extreme attacks on the most vulnerable.

In 2013, Gov. Pat McCrory, Speaker Thom Tillis, Senate Leader Phil Berger, Budget Director Art Pope and their followers pushed through a swath of morally indefensibly, constitutionally inconsistent and economically insane policies on our state. Today, the Forward Together Movement says to those in power that there are some injustices we will not tolerate in North Carolina.

The idea of this kind of coalition is as old as the fusion politics that tried to wrest the South free from slavery during the First Reconstruction and as recent as the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. In North Carolina, this Forward Together Movement builds on the work of the Historic Thousands on Jones Street People's Assembly (HKonJ), which has gathered thousands of people in front of the state legislature every February since 2007. After an avalanche of cruel policies passed in the General Assembly last session and more than 30 Moral Monday rallies, we return to Raleigh with renewed strength and a sense of urgency.

This year's Moral March makes five fundamental demands: (1) secure pro-labor, anti-poverty policies that insure economic sustainability; (2) provide well-funded, quality public education for all; (3) promote health care for all, including affordable access, the expansion of Medicaid, women's health and environmental justice in every community; (4) address the continuing disparities in the criminal justice system on the basis of race and class; and (5) defend and expand voting rights, women's rights, immigrants' rights, LGBT rights and the fundamental principle of equality under the law for all people.

We believe in the unfettered right to vote, but the extremists have passed dozens of measures to make it harder to cast a ballot. Cutting early voting, outlawing same-day registration and Sunday voting, and making it easier to challenge voters are all intended to create long lines and low turnout.

We believe in strong public schools, and yet our government has fired thousands of teachers; pushed vouchers that drain millions of tax dollars out of our public schools; left us 48th in per

THE STORY OF THE CAROLINA SETBACK,
NOT A CAROLINA COMEBACK

The 'Cost and Loss' of the Bad Policies and Budget Passed in 2013

Information courtesy of NC Justice Center Policy Watch & Budget and Tax Center, the North Carolina Association of Educators, Planned Parenthood NC, Democracy North Carolina, Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Dr. Timothy Tyson, Dr. Jarvis Hall, Ms. Carolyn Coleman, Attorney Irving Joyner, Dr. Gene Nichol and Dr. Charles Van der Horst

Voter Suppression:

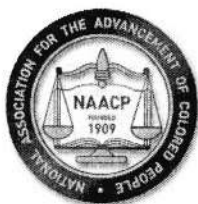
- **Extremists in the General Assembly passed a monster voter suppression law in 2013:**
 - In 2014, early voting was cut by seven days – hurting “Souls to the Polls” efforts by African American churches throughout the state.
 - Same day registration was eliminated.
 - Beginning in 2016, voters at polls must show specific types of government ID; student ID’s and non-North Carolina driver’s licenses are not accepted.
 - Straight ticket and out-of-precinct voting was eliminated.
 - The General Assembly ended all public finance options while increasing contribution limits to \$5,000 per election cycle.

Economic Injustice:

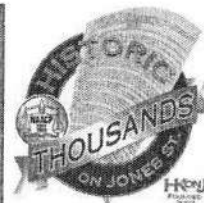
- **The extremists in the NC General Assembly passed sweeping cuts to unemployment benefits.**
 - They reduced the benefits and eligibility for unemployment insurance.
 - They denied federal benefits for 170,000 long-term laid off workers – the first 70,000 on July 1, 2013.
- **The Earned Income Tax Credit was eliminated for 907,000 people**
 - Yet the wealthy (approximately 23 NC families) and profitable corporations received major tax cuts from the 2013 General Assembly.
- There are 1.7 million people living in poverty today in North Carolina.
- **Tax cuts to the wealthy total up to \$683.8 million in lost revenue over the next two years and \$2.8 billion over the next five years.**
- **\$38 million in funding was cut from state aid for economic and community development initiatives**, eliminating crucial dollars from 10 non-profits that promote development in the state’s economically challenged areas.
- **And our children are hurting the most.**
 - Twenty-six percent of North Carolina's children live in poverty, 41 percent of the state's children of color.
 - Two million North Carolinians are hungry--622,000 of whom are children.
 - North Carolina has the second highest rate of food insecurity nationwide, and yet, last year the General Assembly cut the allocation for food banks in half.

Education Inequality:

- **Due to extreme cuts in K-12 education funding, NC is now 48th in the nation for per pupil spending – lower than Mississippi.**



Moral March on Raleigh –
HKonJ People's Assembly Speakers



Opening

Debra Tyler Horton, *Multicultural Outreach for AARP*
Reuben Blackwell, *Rocky Mount Town Councilman*
Rev. Dr. Dumas Harshaw, Jr., *First Baptist Church in Raleigh*
Dr. Timothy Tyson, *NC NAACP Education Chair*

Attack on the Poor and Working Families

Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, *Clinton Tabernacle A.M.E. Zion Church*
Gene Nichol, *UNC-CH Boyd Tinsley Distinguished Professor and Attorney*
Linda Willey, *Moral Monday Arrestee and Vice President of The Willey Insurance Company*

LGBT Rights

Bishop Tanya Rawls, *The Freedom Center for Social Justice and Sacred Souls Community Church*
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, *Campaign for Social Equality*
Chris Srgo, *Executive Director of Equality North Carolina*

Immigrant Rights

Yazmin Garcia Rico, *Student Action with Farmworkers*
Emilio Vicente, *UNC-CH Student Body President Candidate*

Criminal Justice

Dennis Gaddy, *Executive Director of the Community Success Initiative*
Al McSurely, *Attorney, Long-Time Civil Rights Activist and NC NAACP Communications Chair*

Voting Rights (I)

Bob Hall, *Executive Director of Democracy NC*
Dr. Jarvis Hall, *NCCU Professor and Political Scientist*

Environment

Dr. Andrea Emanuel, *Clean Water for NC*
Nick Wood, *Outreach Director for NC WARN*

Marching Orders

Rev. Curtis Gatewood, *HKonJ Coalition Coordinator*

Special Recognition of Movement Elders

Rev. Nancy Petty, *Pullen Memorial Baptist Church*
Rev. Nelson Johnson, *Beloved Community Center*

Rev. Steve Hickle, *President-Elect at NC Council of Churches*

Grand Marshalls

Carolyn Coleman, *Lead Plaintiff in NC NAACP Voting Rights Suit, VP NC NAACP and NAACP National Board Member*

Rosanell Eaton, *Lead Plaintiff in NC NAACP Voting Rights Suit*

Mary Perry, *Lead Plaintiff in NC NAACP Voting Rights Suit and Former NC NAACP President*

—Start of Second Half of Moral March HKonJ People's Assembly Program—

“Why I March”

Rabbi Lucy Dinner, *Betbel Temple Or*

Manzoor Cheema, *Triangle Interfaith Alliance*

“What the Movement Means to Me”

Ivanna Gonzalez, *Recent UNC Graduate and Latina Immigrant*

Q. Wideman, *NC HEAT*

Dominique Penny, *NC NAACP Youth & College Division*

Voting Rights (II)

Irv Joyner, *NCCU Law Professor and Attorney*

Medicaid Expansion

Dr. Charles van der Horst, *UNC School of Medicine*

Leslie Boyd, *Director of WNC Health Advocates*

Nicole Dozier, *Assistant Project Director at the Health Access Coalition*

Labor

MaryBe McMillan, *Secretary Treasurer for the NC AFL-CIO*

Larsene Taylor, *UE 150*

Education

Rich Nixon, *U.S. History Teacher, NCAE and President of Johnston County Association of Educators*

Jessica Holmes, *Attorney with the North Carolina Association of Educators*

Women's Rights

Janet Colm, *President of Planned Parenthood – Central North Carolina*

Erin Byrd, *Executive Director of Blueprint NC*

Holly Jordan, *English Teacher in Durham Public Schools and Moral Monday Arrestee*

Call to Action and Commitment – 11:30 PM

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, *President of NC NAACP and Convener of HKonJ*