

# Black, Hispanic and Independent voters on the rise in N.C.

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A recent analysis conducted by Democracy North Carolina shows a wide variation in the make-up of voters across the state's 100 counties by race, party and growth patterns.

Using data from the State Board of Elections, the watchdog group found that the overall number of registered voters actually declined from November 2008 to November 2013 in 36 counties, but even in these counties, some segments of the electorate are growing.

In Guilford County, for example, there are 6,500 fewer voters on the rolls, but 9,300 more who are unaffiliated with any party, 6,500 more African Americans and 2,400 more Latino voters. Meanwhile, the number of Democrats, Republicans and whites registered in the county has fallen by 5 percent or more since 2008.

The group also found that in 44 of the 100 counties, unaffiliated voters already outnumber either the Democrats or Republicans. For example, independent or unaffiliated voters outnumber Republicans in Durham, Wake, Buncombe, Orange, Mecklenburg, Cumberland, Pasquotank, Robeson, Chatham, Dare, Jackson, Halifax and Bladen counties, among others. They outnumber Democrats in Henderson, Currituck, Mitchell, Randolph, Avery, Davie, Carteret, Moore and several other counties.

While the once-dominant Democratic Party is seeing its statewide share of the electorate fall, Republicans have lost



share, too, and an even larger share than Democrats in 13 counties since Nov. 2008, when the two parties hit their peak membership. The 13 counties include the state's seven largest: Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, Forsyth, Durham, Cumberland and Buncombe.

The only other feature every county shares is a net gain in Latino voters since 2008 — from 5 added in Northampton and 6 in Hyde to 6,800 added in Wake and 8,400 in Mecklenburg. The total number of self-identified Latino voters has nearly doubled in five years to 116,500. Democracy North Carolina says the real number is likely over 140,000 because the State Board of Elections only began asking voters their ethnicity in 2002.

White voters have declined slightly since 2008 (down 1,300 to 4.6 million voters or 71 percent of all voters), African-American voters increased by 99,200 to 1.45 million or 23 percent of the electorate, according to the analysis of statewide changes

released by Democracy North Carolina earlier this month. The remaining 6 percent are American Indians, Asians, other racial groups, and individuals who choose "two or more races" or make no designation.

## RAMS DO 'BATTLE'



Photo by Garrett Garris

The Red Sea of Sound of Winston-Salem State University take the field Saturday at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta for the 2014 Honda Battle of the Bands. Led by director Dr. Michael Magruder, the band delivered an energetic set that brought the crowd of thousands to its feet. It was the fifth year WSSU has been invited to the prestigious showcase, which also featured the Blue and Gold Marching Machine of North Carolina A&T State University. Fans, via text message votes, declared the Aggies the best of the best at this year's Battle.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# Transformation Nation Triad



## TNT IS BACK!

Sign up on Saturday, February 1

What is standing between you and the version of yourself you want to be? Now is the time to transform yourself both inside and out with the support and motivation to become a healthier you. Transformation Nation Triad (TNT) includes free group training at the YMCA from personal trainers and wellness coaches, support from a team all working toward personal wellness goals, and expert information from nutritional and motivational speakers. The program includes:

- FREE 8-week weight loss program for people with a BMI greater than 30
- Participants may have attended one past session (but cannot have attend both past sessions)
- Weekly group workouts at the YMCA and weekly weigh-ins
- Boot Camp style class; participants must be able to get down and up off of the floor unassisted
- Led by personal trainers and wellness coaches
- Daily exercise schedule and motivation from Y coaches
- Nutritional advice and health resources provided by Novant Health or a staff nutritionist
- Childcare provided during normal childcare operating hours
- Free t-shirt if you complete the program
- Classes begin the week of February 10
- Final celebration on April 12

Registration is on Saturday, February 1 ONLY. Limited spots available at each branch. Stop by your local Y to register or visit [ymcanwnc.org/tnt](http://ymcanwnc.org/tnt) for more information, including program times and description.

### Dean

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extraordinary list of contributions, but his greatest legacy will be his unwavering commitment to developing passionate, ethical business leaders driven to achieve results with integrity. Our students, faculty, staff and alumni have benefited greatly from his values-based approach to business education."

Some of his major accomplishments include integrating Wake Forest's undergraduate and graduate business programs, which recently united under one roof in Farrell Hall. The \$55 million, 130,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building, designed to optimize student, faculty and staff interaction and collaboration, opened for classes in July 2013.

During his tenure, Wake Forest enhanced all of its business programs to provide a multitude of educational experiences that foster hands-on collaboration and teamwork, enable students to explore their passions and find meaningful employment, and develop students into authentic leaders committed to their profession and society.

"I came to an outstanding university in 2008 and thanks to the dedication and commitment of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents and friends of the School,

we have made the unified Wake Forest School of Business truly a world-class institution," said Reinemund. "Our vision of achieving excellence in education at Wake Forest and providing an exceptional experience for our students and alumni has been, and will continue to be, a primary focus."

Reinemund also spearheaded a significant investment in the career development resources dedicated to undergraduate business majors, led the evolution and growth of the School's one-year Masters of Arts in Management program, oversaw significant growth in the Master of Science in Accountancy program and grew the MBA program for working professionals. The 2012 opening of the Wake Forest Charlotte Center in Uptown Charlotte — which is not only home to Saturday and Evening MBA programs, but also hosts University-wide events and programs — marked a major milestone in the School's history. In addition, he recently initiated a program redesign effort for the full-time MBA program that will position it for the rapidly changing business landscape and evolve it into one of the most innovative in the nation.

A national search for the next dean will begin soon.



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