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## Making an LGBT impact on the elections

*N.C. Stonewall Democrat Rep shares insight*

by David Moore  
Q-Notes staff

Since the presidential elections in 2004, many LGBT voters in both the Republican and Democratic parties have been particularly apathetic. Over the course of time, however, we've seen a resounding bounce back from gays and lesbians, as they've become more politically active in both states.

Actions from S.C. LGBT activists are at an all-time high (see S.C. News Notes on pg. 12) as gay and lesbian residents and their supporters prepare to battle a discriminatory anti-gay marriage bill.

In Charlotte, gay and lesbian residents recently experienced a decided victory when the Mecklenburg County Commission overwhelmingly supported adding a sexual orientation non-discrimination clause to the county's employment policy.

Clearly, energies are running high and

motivation is in the air. Think it's time for you to get involved?

"One of the most important things is to get active in your precinct," says N.C. Stonewall Democrats Representative Rebecca Braswell. "When I went to my precinct I brought two proposals — one was a proposal about appealing DOMA and another was about hate crimes legislation. It was an hour or two out of my evening, but those two proposals were sent to Durham county and passed. If a small number of gay people show up at their precinct, then we can pass these things. That's where the resolutions start and I think that's the most important place for us to start."

According to Braswell, by motivating a substantial gay presence to your neighborhood precinct — it makes it much easier to appoint an LGBT delegate to go to the county convention — where you elect your state executive committee.

And it can't be said enough — if you're not registered to vote — it's time to do so.

Although it may be too late to vote in area primaries, it's not too late to register to vote in the November elections.

If you're already registered, volunteer to help register those that aren't.

"You can run your own voter registration right in your neighborhood," says Braswell.

Places like retail stores and shopping centers — wherever large numbers congregate — are often advantageous. "As long as the property owner is agreeable to it," adds Braswell.

"You can get a North Carolina Voter Registration Guide at the N.C. Democratic Party site," Braswell explains, and learn how to register potential voters. The website address is [www.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org).



**N.C. Stonewall Democrat Rep. Rebecca Braswell**

### Election Dates

Charlotte primary elections are Sept. 27, general election follows Nov. 8

Raleigh General election Nov. 8

Chapel Hill general election Nov. 8

Durham general election Nov. 8

If your town or city is not included here contact your local voter registrar's office.

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