

Don't forget to



See Opinion/Forum pages on A8&9

See Sports on page B1

THE CHRONICLE

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ANALYSIS

Why many believe whoever wins N.C., wins presidency



BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

Clinton are so tight going into the Nov. 8 general election, that it is considered a bellwether for the rest of the nation.

"North Carolina is a very purple state," N.C. U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC-District 2) told CNN. "I know sometimes it gets lumped into the category of 'red state' but it really isn't. It's very diverse, and the population and the demographics are changing."

The state is home to 40 percent registered Democrats, 30 percent registered Republicans and 30 percent registered unaffiliated voters.

No matter which newspaper you read, or news cable channel you listen to, the consensus seems to be the same — whoever wins North Carolina in next Tuesday's hotly contested presidential election, wins the presidency.

The Tar Heel state is considered such a crucial battleground because it has rewarded both Democrats and Republicans each a presidential victory since 2008, and the most recent statewide polls between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary

Church offering rides to the polls

Hanes Memorial C.M.E. Church, at 819 Highland Ave., is offering transportation to East Winston voters to early voting locations on Thursday, today, Nov. 3, and Friday, Nov. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Transportation on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, during polling hours is also available from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In addition to providing roundtrip transportation to the polls, Hanes Memorial will also provide a hot meal for any person who has an "I Voted" sticker during polling hours. Proof of early voting will also be honored. Call 336-724-7151 with your inquiries and ride requests.

Also a Pre-Go-To-Vote Rally will be held on the church grounds on Saturday, Nov. 5, from noon to 6 p.m. Food, refreshments, voter education information and music for all will be available.

ated voters. It is home to hot controversies like the House Bill 2 law, which many see as denying trans-

gender citizens their civil rights, controversial police shootings, and the overturning of the state's voter

suppression law, which the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals recently dismantled, saying that the Republican-led law targeted African-American voters with "surgical precision."

Indeed, the Tar Heel state is home to much of the liberal versus conservative public policy battles that seem to embody the larger controversies in the nation today.

There's no question the Clinton and Trump campaigns see North Carolina as a much sought-after 15-electoral-vote jewel. Hardly a week has gone by

since September when there hasn't been either a Clinton or Trump surrogate, if not the candidates themselves, campaigning from one end of the state to the other. Just Wednesday of this week, President Obama made his third campaign visit to stump for his former secretary of state. Last week, his wife, first lady Michelle Obama, made an electrifying joint appearance with Clinton in Winston-Salem.

"It's a must-win," Eric Trump, the GOP candidate's son, told a Charlotte television station in August. "It's a place we're

See N.C. on A2



Historic marker gives Winston Mutual Building status

A resident takes a photo of the historic marker outside the Winston Mutual Building on East Fifth Street.

BY TEVIN STINSON FOR THE CHRONICLE

City officials preserved a piece of history when they unveiled a historic marker outside the Winston Mutual Building on East Fifth Street last weekend.

The four-story building was originally built in 1969 to serve as the headquarters of Winston Mutual Life Insurance Co., which provided health and accident insurance for blacks in the area who worked in the tobacco industry. Retired Winston Mutual manager William Fulton said their mission statement was "Strengthening the weak without weakening the strong."

While reflecting on his time spent with the company, Fulton said Winston Mutual financed some of the homes in East Winston during a time buyers in the community couldn't get loans anywhere else. He said, "We would take the nickels, dimes and quarters that no one else would take."

"Winston Mutual had a tremendous economic and social impact," he said. "We were all about building wealth in our own communities and that's what we strived for each day we walked in that building."

After the insurance company was sold to Gold State

See Marker on A7

Democrats rally behind Clinton and against Trump

BY TODD LUCK FOR THE CHRONICLE

First lady Michelle Obama and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton campaigned at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Thursday, Oct. 27.

Many Democrats spoke before Obama and Clinton took to the stage. A group of black Democratic representatives from several states were joined on the stage by the Rev. Jesse Jackson as North Carolina's Rep. Alma Adams and Rep. G. K. Butterfield both voiced their support for Clinton.

Adams, who represents the 12th District that contains Mecklenburg County, praised Clinton for how she handled the Charlotte riots that were triggered by a police shooting earlier this year. She said Clinton didn't just speak when she came to the city, she also listened to those who felt they had been marginalized.

"I know we can trust Hillary to listen to our community," said Adams.

Debra Ross, who is challenging Sen. Richard Burr, criticized her opponent's support of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. The crowd cheered as Ross called on "nasty women" to organize, a callback to what Trump called Clinton in the final debate. "He forgot that nasty women vote," she said. Ross said Burr calls her "radical" but that her positions on things like equal pay for women, raising the minimum wage, increasing pell grants and refinancing student loans are in keeping with what voters want.

Kay Hagan, a former senator, said that Clinton will do great things for the state. She compared Clinton's plan to invest in infrastructure to the creation of the transcontinental railroad and United States highway system.

Linda Coleman, who is running to unseat Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, hit her opponent on both his support of Trump and

See Democrats on A4



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