

Happy New Year!

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NAACP targets voter ID again

Voters cautioned to be informed of provisions in new law

BY WENDY POTEAT FOR THE CHRONICLE

The new Voter ID law on the midterm election ballot, presented as a constitutional amendment, passed in the state of North Carolina with 55 percent of voters approving the measure. A similar law was passed in 2013, but was dismissed in 2016 by federal judges that were quoted as saying the policy "targeted African-Americans with almost surgical precision." This ruling speaks to the history of voter suppression experienced in many southern states.

Senate Bill 824, sponsored by Forsyth County Senator Joyce Krawiec, was introduced as legislation to implement the new Voter ID law. Governor Roy Cooper vetoed Senate Bill 824, stating that the bill is "a solution in search of a problem," and said that asking voters to show a photo ID is meant to confuse and discourage voters. "The fundamental flaw in the bill is its sinister and cynical origins," Cooper said in his veto. "It was designed to suppress the rights of minority, poor and elderly voters." Inevitably, the veto was overridden by the current Republican-controlled state legislature with a 72-40 vote.

When the veto was nullified, the new photo ID requirements were challenged and a lawsuit was filed in Wake County Superior Court. The lawsuit also calls for a stay of rule implementation while the lawsuit is in progress. The full complaint and the motion for preliminary injunction can be viewed



at <https://www.southerncoalition.org/voterid/>.

While the lawsuit is being fought in the court system, there should be intentional and proactive focus placed on preparations to ensure the ability of voters to participate in upcoming elections.

The North Carolina NAACP has also filed suit in federal court contending that the law contains the same discriminatory aspects of the 2013 Voter ID law that was dismissed by federal judges in 2016. The local NAACP chapter in Winston-Salem is named as a plaintiff in the lawsuit along with several local chapters. "We do not believe in the fairness of the law," the Rev. Alvin Carlisle, the president of the Winston-Salem NAACP, said Thursday. "We feel it disproportionately affects minorities."

While the lawsuit is being fought in the court system,

there should be intentional and proactive focus placed on preparations to ensure the ability of voters to participate in upcoming elections.

One provision to understand in the law is how registered voters can obtain free voter photo identification cards. The county board of elections are required to provide the ID that will contain a photograph of the registered voter, the name of the registered voter, and the voter registration number for that registered voter. You must provide your name, date of birth, and the last four digits of your Social Security number to obtain the free ID.

As voters, we must be informed on everything the new law outlines. There should be a clear understanding of what photo ID will be accepted at polling locations. Voters must arm themselves with information in order to work to protect their rights at the polls.

To become informed on all the provisions outlined in the new Voter ID Law, the entire session law can be reviewed by going to <https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2017/Bills/Senate/PDF/S824v7.pdf>.

Wendy Poteat is a graduate of Guilford College with a BS in Policy Studies & Criminal Justice and a Master's in Public Administration. She was previously the Director of Government Affairs for the Winston-Salem Chamber where she was a registered lobbyist. Wendy is a motivational speaker, community organizer, and certified life coach.



Wooten, Burton join Team Kimbrough at the Forsyth County Sheriff's office.

Photo By Tevin Stinson

Wooten, Burton join Team Kimbrough, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

Earlier this month we all witnessed history when Sheriff Bobby Kimbrough was officially sworn in as the first African-American elected to serve in Forsyth County. While neighboring counties struggle to find suitable representation to fill positions, just a few weeks on the job Kimbrough has already started putting together a team of individuals to help him lead the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office into the future.

Shortly after he was sworn in, Kimbrough appointed Tim Wooten as Deputy Sheriff and Dr. Tony Burton as Sr. Human Resource Officer.

Kimbrough said he wanted a team of people with strong will and integrity.

"... I didn't want any Yes-Men or Yes-Women, I wanted people around me who would tell me when I'm wrong," he said.

Although they competed against each other in the primary election, Kimbrough said he knew Wooten was the man for the job. Kimbrough said his relationship with Wooten dates back to the 80s.

"I knew he had worked here previously but that didn't matter to me. If he needs to, I know he will tell me we

See Sheriff on A2

Word of Mouth Teen Experience draws diverse crowd

BY TEVIN STINSON THE CHRONICLE

Arts For Arts Sake was the place to be last Saturday night as more than 50 people from all walks of life came together to witness the creativity, artistic prowess, and courage of several teens during the first-ever Word of Mouth Teen Experience (WOMTE).

The brainchild of well-known spoken word artist and activist Larry "LB The Poet" Barron, WOMTE is a spinoff of Word of Mouth Wednesday, a monthly showcase of local spoken word artists and performers. A 2008 graduate of Carver High School, Barron said after connecting with students at Main Street Academy and Winston-Salem Preparatory

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Photo By Tevin Stinson

Larry "LB The Poet" Barron and Zoe Anderson host the Word of Mouth Teen Experience on Saturday, Dec. 22 at Arts for Arts Sake.

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