# League of Women Voters of Dare County

## *Welcome!*

January 2019

# The League of Women Voters

- The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan** political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government

- It influences public policy through **education** and **advocacy**

- Over 100 years of grassroots activism

- We believe in
  - respect for individuals
  - the value of diversity
  - the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities

- We will
  - act with trust, integrity and professionalism
  - operate in an open and effective manner
  - take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership
  - acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future

# The League of *North Carolina*

- 1,900 members
- 18 Chapters

- League Action Teams
  - Education Issues and Public Education Reform
  - Environment
  - Equal Rights Amendment
  - Fair Elections
  - Health Care
  - Immigration

# History Highlights



"ARTICLE ———.

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."



- 1920 Founded

  19th Amendment to the Constitution

- 1924 Organized in 80% of congressional districts

- 1930s Focus shifted to local organization

- 1940s Formal roles in the World Bank, IMF, and UN

- 1950s Established LWV Education program

- 1960s Apportionment

- 1970s ERA, support for popular elections, presidential debates

- 1980s Voting Rights Act of 1986, Tax Reform Act of 1986, 1988 Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty

- 1990s National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), known as "motor-voter"

- 2000s Help America Vote Act of 2002 and the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002

- 2010s Lawsuits challenging gerrymandering



The Oregonian

Spirited crossfire over foreign, defense policies marks 2nd Ford-Carter debate

Demo criticizes boycott handling

Ford says he'll name



VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED
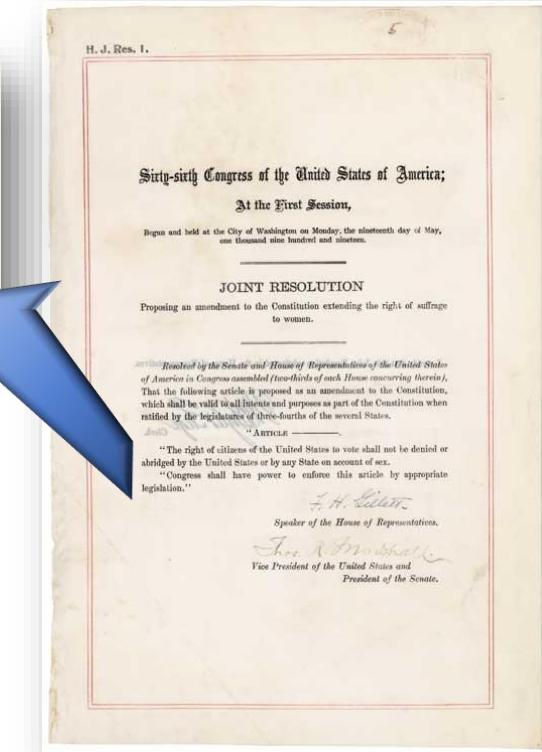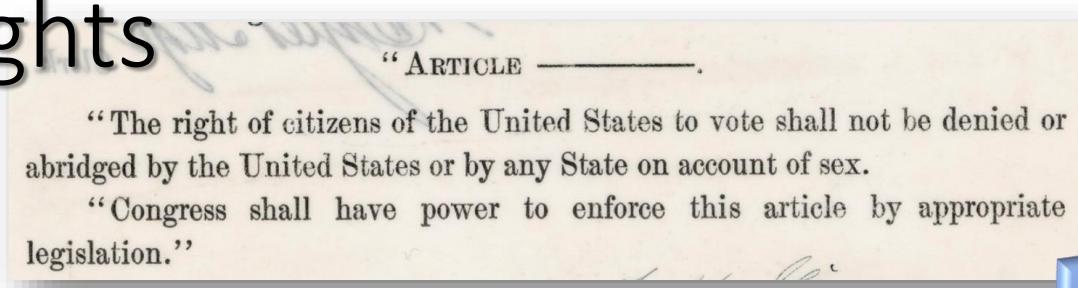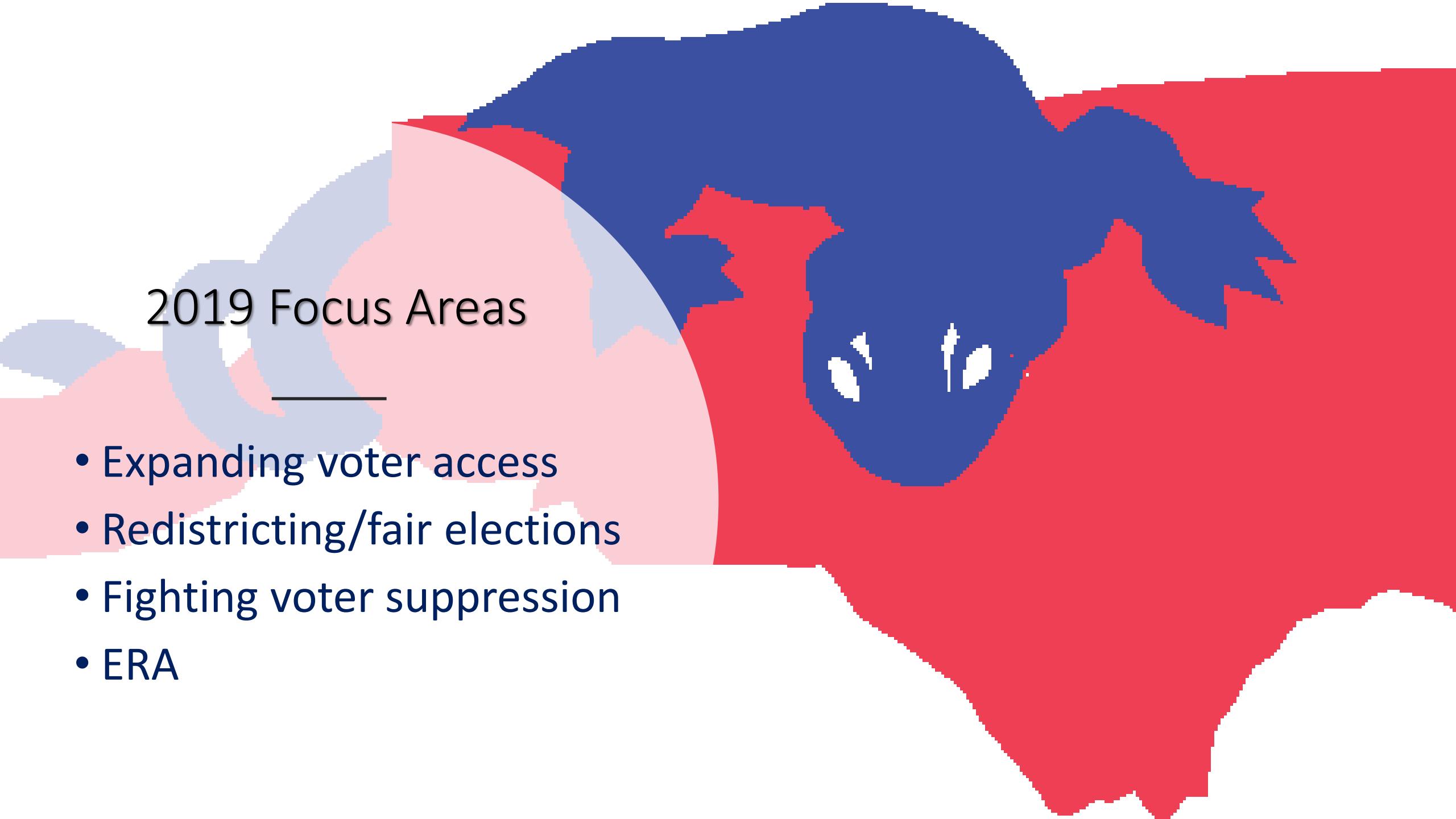
# 2019 Focus Areas

___

- Expanding voter access
- Redistricting/fair elections
- Fighting voter suppression
- ERA

# Expanding Voter Access

- Voter registration drives

- Encouraging absentee (mail-in) voting

- Expanding early voting

## Why it matters

Every eligible voter should have a fair and equal opportunity to register to vote and to cast their ballot. Millions of Americans miss the opportunity to vote because they don't know how to register or they miss their state's deadline to register.

### WHAT WE'RE DOING

Our volunteers register hundreds of thousands of voters and host community voter registration drives across the country each year. We concentrate our registration drives at locations that reach large numbers of unregistered voters, including high schools and community colleges, transit hubs and naturalization ceremonies. Each year, we also help tens of thousands of Americans register online at VOTE411.org.

# Redistricting/Fair Elections



- North Carolina: ground-zero for gerrymandering since at least 2010

  - *I propose that we draw the maps to give a partisan advantage to 10 Republicans and three Democrats because I do not believe it's possible to draw a map with 11 Republicans and two Democrats.*

    State Rep. David Lewis (R)
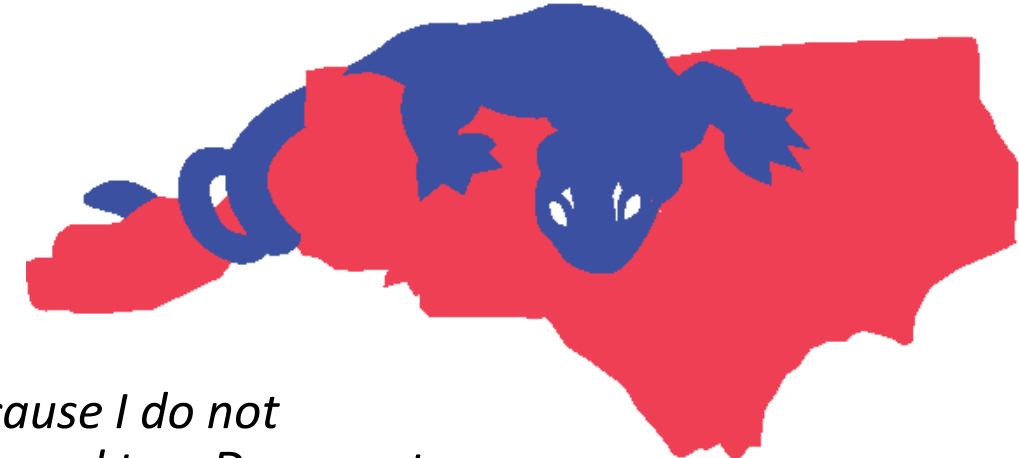
  - *In response to claims that intentional racial discrimination animated its action, the State offered only meager justifications. Although the new provisions target African Americans with almost surgical precision, they constitute inapt remedies for the problems assertedly justifying them and, in fact, impose cures for problems that did not exist.*

    United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Opinion No. 16-1468

- Every legislation district formed following the 2010 census has been challenged in court and found to be unconstitutional

- What next?
  - Is partisan gerrymandering unconstitutional?
  - How do we prevent it from happening again in 2021?



The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Politics • Analysis

**Why North Carolina's House district lines have been upended — again**

By Armand Emamdjomeh, Ann Gerhart and Tim Meko  Updated Aug. 31, 2018

North Carolina's 10.3 million people are represented in the House of Representatives by 10 Republicans and three Democrats — although only a small majority of votes cast in 2016 were for Republican candidates. That lopsided result came courtesy of Republican gerrymandering, and on Aug. 27, a panel of federal judges declared that the GOP map-making is unconstitutional. They said new districts were needed, throwing the midterm elections into chaos, but the plaintiffs now have asked the court not to order new maps by Nov. 6.

# Fighting Voter Suppression

- We're also ground zero for racially-targeted voter suppression

- 2013 "Monster" anti-voter law – ruled unconstitutional

- 2018 Voter photo ID amendment passed
  - Photo ID prevents voter fraud: a 0.000020% rate of occurrence in 2016.
    ➜ the real purpose is to prevent minorities, poor, and disabled citizens from voting
    - An aide to the NC House speaker asked the Board of Elections for "a breakdown, by race, of those registered voters in your database that do not have a driver's license number."
  - Somewhat less onerous than the 2013 version, but still problematic

- 2018 voting "issues"
  - The 9th Congressional District Vote Harvesting in Bladen County
  - Irregularities in Robeson and Columbus Counties
  - Issues going back as far as 2010!

**VOTER SUPPRESSION**

Since 2011, 17 states have limited the right to vote.

# Equal Rights Amendment

- Just one more state is needed for ratification!

- Bills will drop in NC Senate and House on March 5, 2019

- Grassroots effort underway:  advocates in all 100 NC counties persuading their representatives to support, co-sponsor and vote FOR ratification



EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL Y'ALL



ERA TALLY: 37 Purple States Approved ERA. 1 More Needed!
- 35 States Ratified ERA Before 1982
- 2 States Ratified ERA After 1982
- 13 States Have Not Ratified ERA
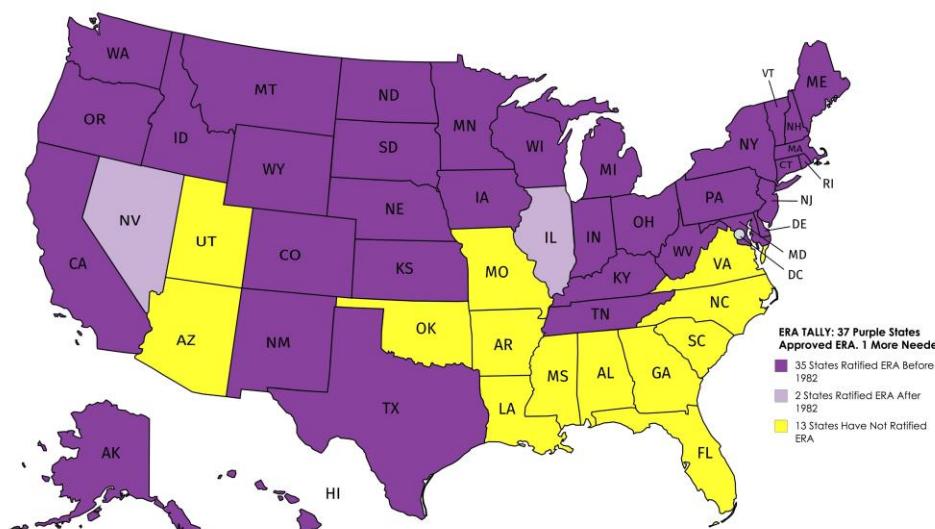
Created with mapchart.net ©



EQUALITY OF RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW SHALL NOT BE DENIED OR ABRIDGED BY THE UNITED STATES OR BY ANY STATE ON ACCOUNT OF SEX
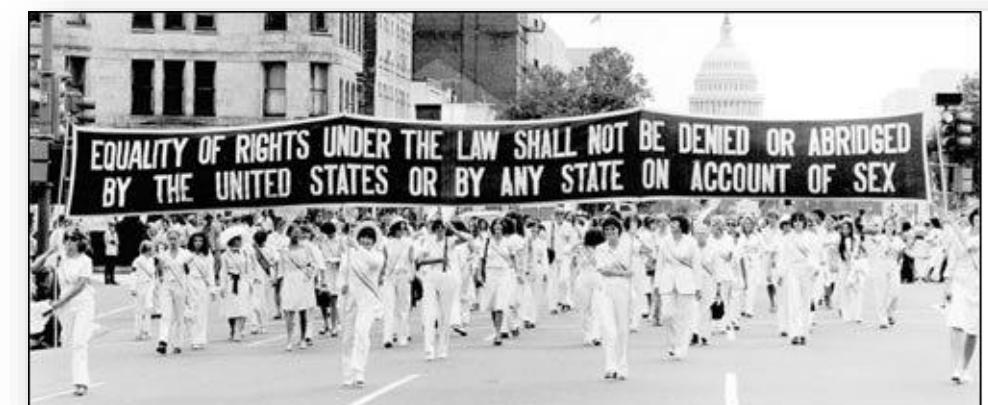
# Thank you for joining the LWV of Dare County

## Dare County Board of Directors

| | |
|---|---|
| Co-President | Fran Kapinos (2017-19) |
| Co-President | Judy Lotas (interim) |
| Vice President | [vacant] |
| Secretary | Glenda Keel (2017-19) |
| Treasurer | Nancy Birindelli (2018-20) |
| **Elected Directors:** | |
| Carol Butscher (2017-19) | Mary Jane Slesinski (2017-19) |
| Marion Midgett (2018-20) | Susan Merrill (2018-20) |
| | Andrea Schollaert (2018-20) |

## Dare County
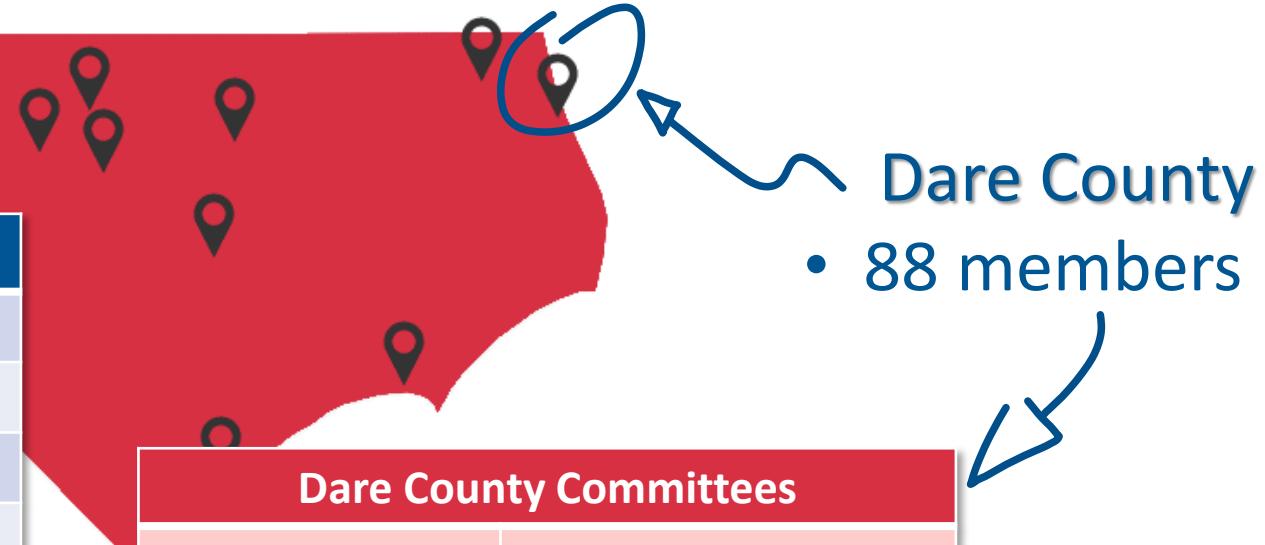
- 88 members

## Dare County Committees

| | |
|---|---|
| Citizens Guide | Newsletter |
| Education | Nominating |
| ERA | Observer Corps |
| First Friday | Publicity |
| Fundraising | Social Media |
| Health Care | Voter Services |
| Membership | Vote411 |
| Natural Resources | Website Administration |

- *We have important volunteer opportunities to match your interests and available time.*