## Living Solutions: North Carolina

Throughout the 20th century, voter turnout ranked consistently in the bottom 15 states. By the 2008 elections, voter turnout reached almost 70%, the highest in 40 years. Art Pope and his far-right network campaigned for 27 races and 21 of candidates won - for the first time since 1870, Republicans gained full control. In 2013 the GOP-controlled government passed anti-democracy laws, proven to reduce voter turnout.

### BUT!

After a 5-year battle, reformers passed same-day registration in 2007, allowing more than 100,000 people to vote.

### THEN

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### DESPITE ALL THIS

- The Moral Mondays Movement arose, growing from NC NAACP, including 200+ organizations and 2M+ members.
- In 2016 a federal appeals court struck down parts of the NC anti-democracy laws, targeting African American voters.
- Because of democracy activists, Gov. McCrory was defeated in 2016.

### Ways To Be a Democracy Champion:

- **Stay up to date:** Following groups like the Brennan Center, Democracy Initiative, Common Cause, and Represent.Us on Twitter is a great way to stay tuned in.
- **Learn together:** join the informal nitty-gritty of organizing, self-education, and producing new narratives that fight despair and enable Americans to see possibility.
- **Experience the “thrill of democracy”:** choose civil courage, bond with strangers in common action, and realize your power as a citizen lobbyist.
- **Enter the Race:** Find your democratic voice by connecting with a candidate that reflects your values, or run yourself!

### Take one step. There is a big difference between one and zero.

Check out Daring Democracy by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen and the Field Guide to the Democracy Movement for ways to get involved!