For Immediate Release: Thursday, October 20, 2022
For Planning Purposes: Saturday, October 22, 2022 @11am
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****Media Advisory: Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 11am ****

North Carolina Voting Rights Groups to Hold Rally and *Souls to the Polls* Event at Raleigh's Historic Chavis Heights Park this Saturday

As early voting commences in NC, statewide advocacy groups continue their push to reach the 56,000+ North Carolinians with prior felony convictions who have had their voting rights restored under a historic lawsuit.

RALEIGH, N.C. – This Saturday, reentry and voting rights advocacy groups will gather in southeast Raleigh for a *GOTV Souls to the Polls* march and rally. Lead by the North Carolina Second Chance Alliance, Justice Served NC, Community Success Initiative, Forward Justice, and Repairers of the Breach, the event will feature speakers, a live DJ, free food, and voter information and resources, before attendees march to the local polling place to cast their ballots during early voting. Speakers will share information on documents needed to register for the first time, what to do if you experience intimidation at the polls, and what this election means for the future of our Democracy.

Event organizer and **Executive Director of the local advocacy group Justice Served for NC, Diana Powell says,** "Holding events and spaces like this right now is critically important because so much is at stake in this upcoming election. Our goal is to bring people together to make sure they know their rights, are aware that their votes have been unlocked, and ensure they have the resources and information they need to feel empowered to make their voices heard at the ballot box. Our communities won't be silenced anymore."

Who: Daryl Atkinson and Caitlin Swain- Forward Justice
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II- Repairers of the Breach and Poor People's Campaign
Rev. Erica Williams- Set It Off Movement
Diana Powell- Justice Served NC
Dennis Gaddy- Community Success Initiative
Kristie Pickett Williams- ACLU of NC
Shakita Norman- Individual plaintiff in the lawsuit
Newly enfranchised community members

When: Saturday, October 22, 2022 @ 11am

Where: John Chavis Memorial Park- 505 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Raleigh, NC
The event will also be livestreamed here

More information: For the last 14 weeks, NC voting rights and social justice groups have been conducting a statewide effort to reach and mobilize the 56,000 NC citizens with prior felony convictions who were re-enfranchised in July. As a part of the *'Unlock Our Vote NC'* campaign, the group has deployed more than 15 paid phone bankers who have been working daily to contact each of those 56k individuals to ensure they're aware of their new eligibility and have the information they need to successfully register and vote. As of October 14th, organizers have contacted 56k by phone, Sent the entire list of 56k a piece of direct mail encouraging them to

vote, sent multiple text blasts to the entire list, and hosted over 8 in-person voter registration and information events around the state.

Unlock Our Vote Freedom Summer Tour coalition partners Include: Advance NC, Black Voters Matter, Community Success Initiative, Emancipate Votes, Forward Justice, Forward Justice Action Network, Justice Served NC, ACLU of NC, NC Community Bail Fund of Durham, NC Justice Center, NC NAACP, NC Second Chance Alliance, Poor People's Campaign, Repairers of the Breach, Wash Away Unemployment, You Can Vote, and YUP ENC

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