## ONE WAKE



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

#### WHO WE ARE

ONE Wake is a strictly non-partisan, multi-racial, multiissue group of 47 dues paying member institutions: religious congregations, associations, and other nonprofits in the Wake County area representing more than 50,000 residents.

We marshal the two universal sources of power, organized people and organized money, so that our members can collaborate with or confront powerful institutions in the governmental and private sectors.

We are non-ideological and pragmatic, building working relationships based on shared interests, across many of the lines that divide individuals and institutions. We are also strictly non-partisan, not favoring or supporting any party, but fiercely favoring and supporting those issues and strategies that bring more dignity and greater opportunity to an every-widening circle of society.

We challenge people to imagine the change they can accomplish, connect individuals and organizations to multiply their power, and organize people by the thousands to make their voices heard. We set high goals, design innovative strategies, and stick with issues until they are fully addressed. Our time frame is not the market cycle or the news cycle or the election cycle, but the generational cycle of families and institutions.

#### MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Antioch Bible Fellowship Baptist Grove Church Beth Shalom

Cary First Christian Church Cary Presbyterian Church

The Carying Place

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Church of the Nativity

Common Thread Church

Covenant Christian Church

**Dorcas Ministries** 

Eastern Wake Ministers Alliance

Ekklesia

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

First UMC Cary

Friendship Chapel Baptist Church

The Fountain of Raleigh Fellowship

Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

Hayes Barton UMC

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Iglesia Fiesta Cristiana

Islamic Association of Raleigh

Juniper Level MBC

Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church

Las Americas R2W Association

Macedonia New Life

Macedonia UMC

Pleasant Grove Church - Cary

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

Raleigh First Baptist Church

Raleigh Mennonite Church

Raleigh Vineyard

Saint Francis UMC

Southeast Raleigh Table

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Tapestry Church

Temple Beth Or

UU Fellowship of Raleigh / Yavneh

Watts Chapel MBC

White Plains UMC





Above: candidates for Cary Town Council (left), and Zebulon Board of Commissioners (right) publicly commit to support community-led solutions developed by ONE Wake leaders

#### 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**137** 

small group conversations
("listening sessions")
organized by ONE Wake
leaders to identify the top
pressures facing families
across Wake County
(March-May)

312

leaders attended an internal assembly and ratified three new priorities for ONE Wake's agenda that reflect the most commonly felt concerns surfaced during our listening campaign (June)

2,000

members of ONE Wake institutions and surrounding communities engaged in a grassroots listening campaign that led to the adoption of our new agenda (March - June)

**55** 

Chatham Estates
residents and ONE Wake
supporters canvassed
over 100 households at
the Chatham Estates
mobile home community
to identify their neighbors
self-interest (July)

30

ONE Wake leaders, elected officials, and key staff from the County Manager's office and the Town of Cary attended a two day long inter-city tour of Nehemiah housing in East Brooklyn (August)

#### 600+

members of ONE Wake
Cary institutions turned
out for the largest Town
Council candidate assembly
in recent history to win
commitments for affordable
housing and assistance for
Chatham Estates residents
(September)

#### **500**

voters contacted in one night by 21 ONE Wake leaders during a nonpartisan phone bank to educate voters impacted by the new Voter ID law (September)

### \$13 MILLION

total value of commitments won by ONE Wake from candidates for Cary Town Council and Zebulon Board of Commissioners (September, October)

#### 100+

leaders attended ONE
Wake's non-partisan
assembly with every
candidate for Zebulon
Board of Commissioners
to win commitments to
continue and expand the
SmartRide microtransit
program (October)

#### 107

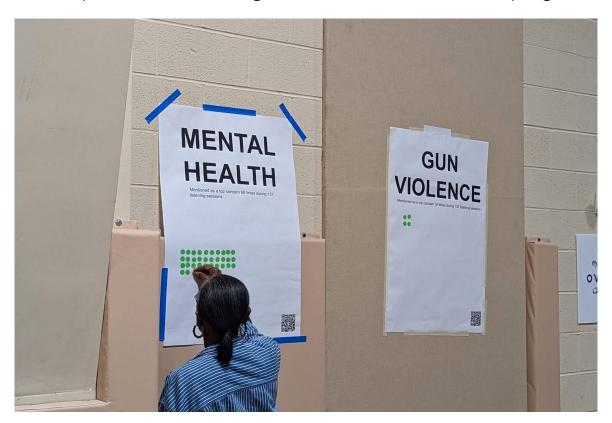
leaders from six ONE
Wake member institutions
met at Watts Chapel
Missionary Baptist Church
to shape a vision to create
generational wealth
through at-scale affordable
home ownership across
Wake County (November)

#### LISTENING CAMPAIGN

On March 9, ONE Wake leaders attended training to lead a grassroots listening campaign with a goal to speak with over 2,000 members of their communities to surface the top pressures facing families across Wake County.

These leaders went on to organize 137 small group conversations, culminating in a June internal assembly attended by 312 ONE Wake leaders who reviewed the results and voted on three new priorities that reflected the most commonly felt concerns: affordable housing, mental health, and public transportation.

Following the June assembly, over 120 volunteer leaders formed six "Research Action Teams" to shape our new, broad priorities into tangible, winnable issue campaigns.



Above: ONE Wake members vote for our new priorities

Right: listening sessions hosted at Pleasant Grove Church in Cary and Baptist Grove

Church in Raleigh

#### ONE WAKE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



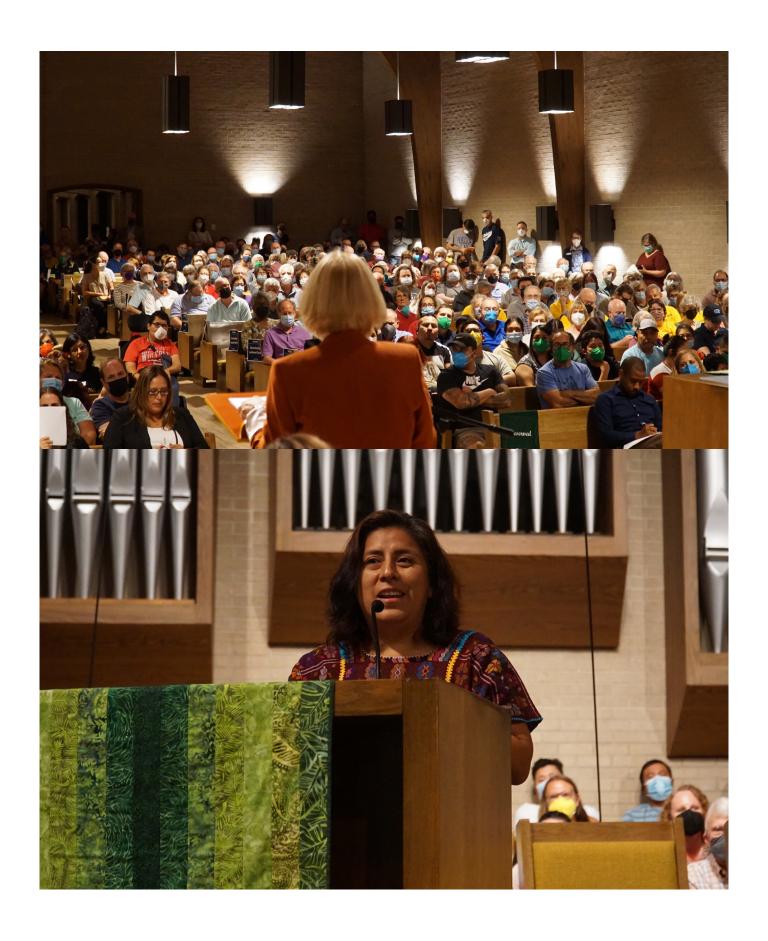
## CARY CANDIDATE ASSEMBLY

On September 18, 600 members of ONE Wake institutions and neighborhoods across Cary turned out for a strictly non-partisan assembly with candidates for Cary Town Council. Together we called on candidates to work with us to address the pending displacement of Chatham Estates mobile home park residents. ONE Wake leaders also asked candidates whether they would support a number of community-led solutions to support the construction of new affordable housing in town.

At the heart of the assembly was the moving testimony and strong leadership from residents of Chatham Estates and business owners at the adjacent Chatham Square shopping center, who delivered 130 members of their community to call on the candidates to work with them to ensure that all displaced households and businesses are fully compensated for their losses due to the pending redevelopment of the property.

All candidates present said YES! and committed to support each community-led solution presented to them during the assembly. This assembly was the culmination of months of listening this spring that engaged hundreds of Cary residents to identify the top problems in their communities, and thorough research over the summer to turn these problems into tangible, winnable issues.

Above right: hundreds of members of ONE Wake institutions in Cary listen to Town Council candidates pledge support for our community-led solutions
Below right: Edith Liborio, Chatham Square business owner, shares testimony about the impact of the pending sale of the community





## ZEBULON CANDIDATE ASSEMBLY

On October 17, over 100 ONE Wake members and Zebulon residents attended a strictly non-partisan assembly at Wakefield Missionary Baptist Church led by leaders of the Eastern Ministerial Alliance (a ONE Wake founding member).

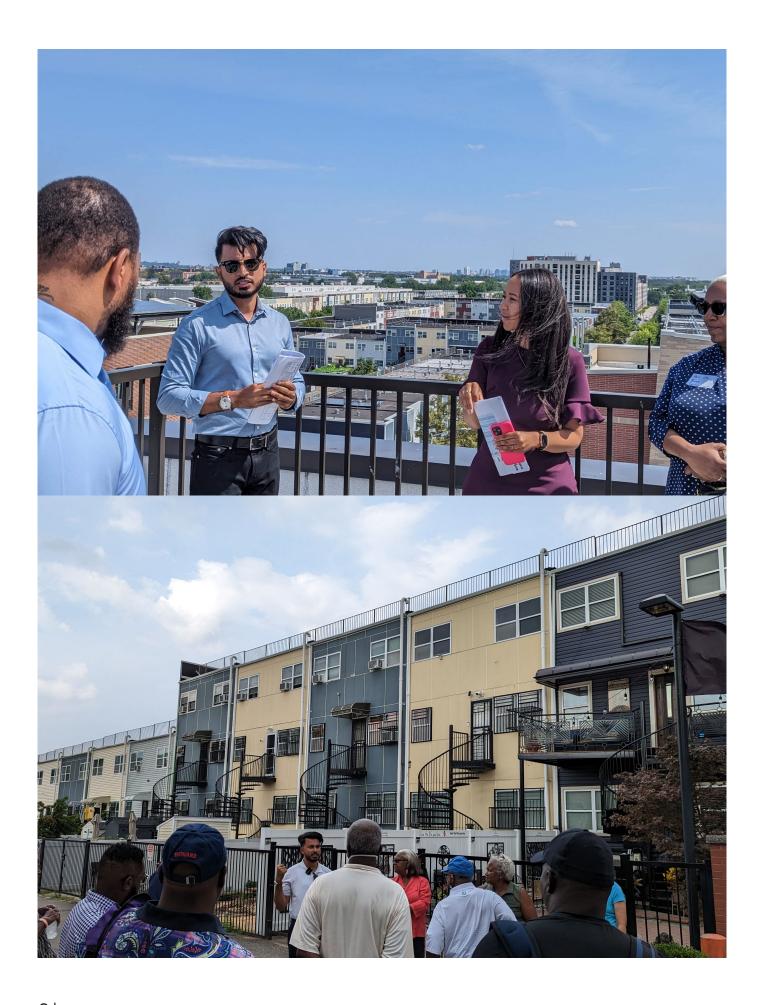
In attendance were all six candidates for the Zebulon Board of Commissioners, as well as District 1 Wake County Commissioner Donald Mial.

At stake was the future of the popular micro-transit SmartRide program that delivered 13,000 rides for low income residents in the last fiscal year (over 7,000 were Zebulon riders), as well as larger questions over how the Wake Transit Plan can more equitably distribute hundreds of millions in funding to under-served communities.

During the assembly, each candidate for Zebulon Board of Commissioners was asked whether they would champion the continuation and expansion of the SmartRide program. Every candidate said YES!

Above left: 100+ Zebulon residents and ONE Wake supporters meet with all candidates for Zebulon Town Board of Commissioners

Below left: Zebulon Board of Commissioner candidates pledge support for community-led solutions



#### INTER-CITY TRIP

In August, over 30 ONE Wake leaders, elected officials, and key staff from the County Manager's office and the Town of Cary attended a two day long tour of Nehemiah housing in Brooklyn: a 40-year long power fight led by our sister organization East Brooklyn Congregations that has created 6,500 affordable homes and generated \$1.5 billion in equity for first time homebuyers.

Our trip included a lengthy walking tour of the Spring Creek neighborhood led by staff from Nehemiah HDFC, the development arm behind this remarkable accomplishment, and visits with homeowners who graciously allowed our group to tour their homes.

Following the tour, ONE Wake leaders strategized with top EBC leaders and organizers on how this vision could shape how we address the urgent crisis of affordable housing and displacement in Wake County.

ONE Wake clergy and lay leaders have continued to meet since the inter-city trip, organizing a series of events that have engaged more than 20 clergy and over 100 lay leaders to shape an ambitious strategy to build affordable homeownership opportunities at-scale across Wake County.

Left: ONE Wake leaders, County Commissioners, and housing staff tour the Nehemiah Spring Creek development in East Brooklyn



Top: neighborhood meeting at the Chatham Estates Mobile Home Community; Bottom: 100+ leaders gather to shape a strategy to build affordable homeownership at scale

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

ONE Wake's power comes from our broad base of member institutions, including churches, mosques, synagogues, non-profits, and neighborhood associations. ONE Wake also regularly partners with non-member groups on issues of shared interest.

Members have committed to:

- 1) send leaders to organizing training;
- 2) form a core team of leaders capable of identifying the top concerns and interests of their membership; and
- 3) initiate public action through ONE Wake to resolve those concerns.

Members have also committed to pay annual dues equivalent to 1% operating budget (Floor: \$2,500, Ceiling: \$15,000).

#### FINANCES

ONE Wake is funded by dues from member institutions, individual donations, and private foundations. ONE Wake does not accept government funds so we can remain autonomous and politically independent.

ONE Wake engages in an annual audit performed by an outside firm. Financials are available for members' review upon request.

