

Dare County, NC
Director of Elections
"Dare to Vote: A Voter
Awareness Program"

“DARE TO VOTE”

GOAL

In November 2004, millions of Americans joined together to make voting history. But a lot of Americans didn't. Each election, we are challenged to promote voter education and to that end the Dare County Board of Elections initiated a program for voter awareness. In anticipation of the Presidential election, we felt this program could make an impact on the voting percentage in the county and also begin to gain voter confidence in the election process.

CHALLENGES

The County of Dare is 130 miles of Barrier Island that arcs into the Atlantic Ocean. At places it is just yards wide from Ocean to Sound. We are the American birthplace on the east coast that is home to millions of visitors each year and twenty three thousand registered voters. Through the “Dare to Vote” program, we tried to reach out to each community and village to promote voter awareness.

OBJECTIVE

- ✓ Promote voter awareness
- ✓ Increase the number of registrations
- ✓ Create the opportunity to inform the citizens of early voting sites

“DARE TO VOTE” PROGRAM

- ✓ A voter registration drive was conducted at several locations
- ✓ Magnetic vehicle ribbons were distributed to county sanitation trucks and the county mail van. The ribbons gave the county web site for information. Smaller car size ribbons were also distributed at registration drives.
- ✓ An ad was placed in the local newspapers and sponsored jointly by Dare County and Currituck County.
- ✓ A power point presentation was run on Channel 20, the local government channel.

SUMMARY

Dare County had the highest voting percentage ever experienced. The “DARE TO VOTE” program was successful in its efforts to register citizens, educate individuals about voting on Election Day and voting early and increased the voting percentage.







COUNTY OF DARE

Department of Public Relations

P.O. Box 1000, Manteo, North Carolina 27954

Photo: Jackie Beasley, Dare County mail support specialist, puts a "Dare to Vote 2004" magnet on the back of her mail van. Beasley and her mail van travel throughout Manteo and as far north as the Baum Center in Kill Devil Hills delivering mail to various Dare County departments and offices.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 17, 2004

Contact: Melva Garrison
Dare County Board of Elections
252-475-5631

"Dare to Vote 2004" now showing on County Vehicles

North Carolina Governor Michael Easley has proclaimed September as "Citizens Voter Registration Awareness Month" and the Dare County Board of Elections is enthusiastically participating in the statewide effort. "Dare to Vote 2004" magnets in the shape of large ribbons are being put on Dare County vehicles including sanitation trucks and the mail van.

The main goal of the Voter Awareness Month is not only to register new voters, but to ensure that voter information is also current (names, addresses, etc.), as well as inform voters on how they can obtain information about voting absentee and what to expect on Election Day. In North Carolina, there are close to one million unregistered eligible voters.

A person may register to vote at the Board of Elections office at 200 Ananias Dare Street in Manteo, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Registration forms are also available at any branch of the Dare County Library or any of the Town Halls during regular business hours.

The deadline for registering or making any changes to your registration must be made by Friday, October 8. This year's general election is Tuesday, November 2.

Questions about registration, absentee ballots, one-stop voting, location of polling places, and other election matters may be answered by calling the Board of Elections office at (252) 475-5631. Registration may also be checked on-line at www.sboe.state.nc.us/voterweb/seimsvot.htm.

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