Making Sense of the Election Results in North Carolina

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Welcome! Some tips for today:

- This event is being recorded
- Please mute yourself
- For the best viewing experience, select “speaker view” in the top right corner of your screen
- There will be time for questions at the end of the 30-minute presentation
- For IT concerns, please message AshLeigh Pienkosz or email AshLeigh@ncjustice.org
Leandro v. State of NC

- Lawsuit filed in 1994 by five low-wealth school districts (Hoke, Halifax, Robeson, Vance and Cumberland)

- Suit claimed that districts did not have enough resources to provide an adequate education to their students

- NC Supreme Court ruled in 1997 and 2004 that the state’s students have a constitutional right to an opportunity for a “sound, basic education” and that the state is not meeting that standard
Leandro v. State of NC

- **November 2021** – Judge Lee Orders Treasurer and Controller to release funding from state reserves to fund years 2 & 3 of Comprehensive Remedial Plan

- **December 2021** – Court of Appeals overturns November ruling and blocks transfer of funds

- **November 2022** – North Carolina Supreme Court overturns Court of Appeals and orders the release of funding for years 2&3 of Leandro Plan
Communities at the Center
Every Child NC

7 Organization, Member-Led Coordinating Committee and 40+ Organization Partners
2022 Midterm Elections: Where Do We Go From Here?

FCCJ
FAIR CHANCE-CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROJECT
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The Fair Chance Criminal Justice Project partners with impacted people, congregations, concerned community members, advocacy organizations, and decision-makers to change local and states policies and practices to make the criminal justice system more fair from arrest to reentry.
Why our work is important:

Our communities are safer and we can prevent further criminal legal system involvement of individuals when everyone has access to the resources and supports needed to thrive.
A Shortlist of our Commitments:

✓ Removing legal and social barriers for individuals with criminal records

✓ Working with coalition partners, advocates and decisionmakers across the state to promote and uphold fair chance policies

✓ Uplifting directly impacted advocates committed to advancing fair policies in our state through our coalition efforts and Fair Chance Fellowship program
Challenges & Opportunities following the 2022 Midterm Elections
Challenges

- Revamping inside strategy on criminal justice in light of current makeup of the legislature
- Increasing visibility and garnering support in an increasingly polarized environment
- Holding the line to keep common sense criminal justice reforms in place
Opportunities

- Forging ahead with criminal record relief for thousands of North Carolinians
- Getting drivers across the state back on the road by addressing debt-based drivers license suspensions
- Building broad-based coalitions committed to fair chance hiring and rebuilding our workforce
Lawmakers across the aisle have demonstrated ongoing commitment to criminal justice reforms.

Broad-based coalitions are building momentum across the state.

Polls show that criminal justice reform is still popular with voters regardless of party affiliation.
Get Involved!

❖ **Participate** in one of our 2023 Advocacy Days

❖ **Join** debrief calls throughout the 2023 long session to stay informed on progress at the GA

❖ **Stay tuned** for future calls to action