**People's Alliance stands solidly against the aggressively unconstitutional and transphobic House Bill 2**

Make no mistake: HB2 was a deliberate election year strategy, completely consistent with a history of using fear tactics to energize conservative voters, deceiving them into believing that this is only about bathrooms. But we know it is more than that. It not only demonizes our transgender brothers and sisters, it limits the self determination of local governments and makes it harder for everyone to find justice in our legal system. Senate Democratic leader Dan Blue, rightly called the bill “a direct affront to equality, civil rights, and local autonomy.”

**Durham is not this.** This, however, is no isolated event. It is the latest in a long line of actions taken by those who seek to preserve their power and privilege, and believe that the only way to do so is by limiting access to a few, mostly white, mostly wealthy, mostly male, mostly heterosexual.

It is no accident that in this state and this country, progressives in Durham find ourselves fighting along a number of fronts:

* Demanding racial equity in policing and acting against the continued drug war that results in mass incarceration;
* Working to ensure everyone has the ability to vote;
* Standing against ICE raids on our children;
* Dismantling education practices, including discipline policies, that feed the school to prison pipeline;
* Protesting systemic racism that expresses itself in a wide range of government policies – e.g., rezoning decisions that fail to adequately invest in affordable housing and tax policies that promote gentrification – where all of Durham’s elected officials are not looking out for the most vulnerable among us;
* Joining together in the streets in the fight for a living wage;
* Fighting for equal access to health care, especially for the poorest of our neighbors;
* Calling out advantageous public funding for newcomer Moogfest at the expense of the Durham-grown Art of Cool Festival.

Take heart, Durham: there is a solution! Upcoming elections in June and November give us an opportunity to change the path of our future. But we won’t win if we don’t work for it. There are things we can all do now that change the power dynamic in our city and our state.

* We can vote in both June and November of this year but that’s not enough. We need to register voters. There are 300,000 unregistered voters in the Triangle. Compare this to President Obama’s 2008 NC margin of victory – 14,177. Four years later, in 2012, Pat McCrory beat Beverly Perdue by 145,000 votes. Registering voters in the Triangle can make the difference.
* During early voting and on Election Day we can help to get out the vote, drive voters to the polls, and work for candidates who have a progressive vision for change.
* If you are interested, please visit the People’s Alliance Fund’s You Can Vote project at <http://www.youcanvote.org/>.

People’s Alliance believes that a community can be more than a place where people live. It can be a place where people live well. We strive for a **Durham that IS this**: a community where all basic needs are met and each individual has the opportunity for a life of accomplishment, dignity and pride. [Join PA](https://durhampa.nationbuilder.com/donate) as we work toward this vision.