

# Pro-Union City Council Members Elected, Sweeping Change across NC!

The November municipal elections helped shift power towards city workers. Across the state of NC pro-worker, pro-union and anti-racist progressive candidates got elected onto city councils. This provides a huge opportunity for our union to expand our rights and win changes. **But, it will take organization and involvement by rank-n-file worker members of the union to make real change happen. No matter who is in office, we have to be organized to hold them accountable to workers and working-class communities.**

## CHARLOTTE

**Braxton Winston**, who is a union activist and member of IATSE local in Charlotte was a very strong, pro-worker, pro-union candidate who was on the front lines of the Charlotte Uprising won the election.

The new **Mayor Vi Lyles** is supposed to be more worker friendly and supportive than Jennifer Roberts. She was the first person from City Hall that came down to the sanitation yard after we had CLC Candidate forum where was asked about Anthony Milledge's death due to heat stroke. She helped get issues addressed immediately (while still no written policy yet). She is the first Black woman Mayor ever of Charlotte.

**Matt Newton** also won at-large seat. Matt has been active in the movement for years. We first met him when we were organizing Charlotte City workers when the DNC and Obama were in Charlotte in 2012. His brother had been murdered by the police. He had a strong response to our union survey.

## GREENSBORO

The two white males, both pro-corporate and anti-union, were both voted off council. There are now no white males on city council in Greensboro. 8 of 9 positions on city council are all women.

**Michelle Kennedy** being added to city council is the best win we had in Greensboro. Michelle is the director of the IRC that houses the Workers Center that gives us a free place to meet, and serves hundreds of homeless people meals and showering. She wore a UE150 Greensboro City Workers Union shirt on election night to her parties! She is a major advocate and will likely be our best asset on council. Our allies - **Sharon Hightower**, and **Yvonne Johnson** also won re-election.

## RALEIGH

**Mayor McFarlane** won over **Charles Francis** for the Mayor race in a disappointment to many in the Black community. **Nicole Stewart** an environmental activist that we have known for a few years won election and has already met with us to hear our concerns. We also won re-election of UE150 ally, councilor **David Cox**.



Newly-elected Charlotte City Council member **Braxton Winston** (pictured above with fist up) on evening of police murder of Keith Scott.



Newly-elected Greensboro City Council member **Michelle Kennedy** wears a UE150 shirt on election night at her victory party!

## DURHAM

Durham was possibly the best outcomes in support of our union where we now have a strong majority on council in support of about anything we could push for, and the election of Mayor **Steve Schewel**, who has had many positive meetings with our union in the past.

**DeDreana Freeman** is a strong, Black working class woman that comes out of community organizing. She answered 100% on our candidate survey.

**Vernetta Alston** is a movement person that comes out of the UNC law school and LGBTQ activism that we have known for a few years and has done good work. She had some of the strongest pro-worker statements at the candidate forum that we organized.