

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hayesville, NC –30 September 2018
Murphy, NC
Blairsville, GA
Hiawassee, GA

Knowledge is Power: Becoming an Informed Voter

I should vote. It's my duty as a citizen of a democracy; it's my duty as a North Carolinian—or Georgian—concerned about the public good; and it's my duty to myself to support candidates who will act wisely on my behalf. Of course I must go to the polls—that's the easy part—but getting reliable information about the candidates is not always so easy. There's either too much information or not enough.

The Public Policy Network of Western NC and North GA wants to help solve this problem by offering a special forum on preparing for the November elections. This forum, "Knowledge is Power: Becoming an Informed Voter," will be held on Sunday, 7th October, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm, at the Hinton Center in Hayesville, NC; the forum, followed by discussion and a how-to session on advocacy, is free and open to the public and will give area residents the tools that they need to become informed voters and go to the polls with confidence.

The forum will highlight four key areas of interest: the environment, health care, financial security, and the proposed constitutional amendments. Dr. Steven Harvey will summarize and compare candidate positions on environmental issues. The author of a memoir, *The Book of Knowledge and Wonder* and three collections of personal essays, Dr. Harvey is a Senior Editor at *River Teeth* magazine and the creator of The Humble Essayist website. Alexandria Douglas-Bartolone will present the candidate positions on health care and financial security. After more than 40 years of public service at both the state and local levels, Ms. Douglas-Bartolone retired to Murphy, NC, in 2013. She has worked as an Assistant Commissioner in the New York State Division of Children and Family Services and with a variety of non-profits. Mr. Luis Toledo will share his analysis of the NC constitutional amendments. A U.S. military veteran and a former Assistant NC State Auditor, Mr. Toledo is a public policy analyst for the North Carolina Justice Center – a statewide nonprofit committed to economic justice.

PPN's mission is to encourage citizen participation in the democratic process through education, action, and advocacy. A volunteer civic organization, PPN monitors state and national policy proposals that affect individuals and our communities. We provide data, information, and resources to enable the citizens of western North Carolina and North Georgia to make informed decisions about policies that affect them.

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