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March 31, 2022

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MCSO Partners with You Can Vote Organization to Register Residents to Vote

(CHARLOTTE, NC) – The Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office recently partnered with the non-profit organization You Can Vote to educate residents housed inside Mecklenburg County Detention Center Central about their rights to vote. Over the course of three days, You Can Vote volunteers visited the detention center to distribute educational materials and to answer any questions residents might have about the voting process while in custody.

Sheriff McFadden said, “The men and women in our custody and care have a right to voice what they want to see in their community once they return. Voting is a critical piece to equipping residents with the tools they need to succeed once they are released. This is an initiative I have been passionate about since taking office and will continue to support.”

The volunteers successfully registered 187 residents to vote and another 149 residents received absentee ballot forms.

“Almost all of the young women and men in our jail facilities will return to society,” said Kate Fellman, You Can Vote Executive Director. “When they are released, we want them to be active members of their community and to use their voice to make our communities healthier; and they are entitled to use their right to vote, their rights as American citizens, while they are incarcerated. It’s our job to make sure they have easy access to the ballot.”

A resident awaiting trial or serving a misdemeanor can vote if the resident is registered to vote and 18-years-old by or on election day and if the resident has lived in North Carolina for 30 days as of Election Day. A resident serving a felony sentence must complete their time, including probation and parole to be eligible to vote in North Carolina. The resident will need to re-register once all terms of the sentence are completed.

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