

ACTIVITY: Voting Rights Struggles Continue



Tuscarora Chief Howard Brooks led a 100-mile protest march, which began in Pembroke and ended at the State Capitol on April 8, 1973. The march raised awareness on the issues of recognition of the Tuscarora as an autonomous band, better employment opportunities, and school voting rights. N&O negative collection 4.8.1973.005, State Archives of N.C.



Janie Maynor Locklear, c. 1980,
courtesy Kevin Locklear

By the 1960s **Robeson County** had six school systems—five town systems, attended by Whites and Blacks, and a county system, attended mainly by Indians and Blacks. Under the county's "double-voting" arrangement, residents of the towns could vote for both the town and the county school boards, but county residents could vote only for the county school board. For the 1972–73 school year, the county school system had 80% non-White enrollment, but the 12-member school board was 75% White. After Lumbee leaders were unable to change the situation through appeals to the state legislature, they sued under the Voting Rights Act in federal court. In 1975, *Janie Maynor Locklear v. North Carolina State Board of Elections*, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court's decision, saying that town residents could no longer vote for county school board members .



Reflect and Respond

By the 1970s, the proliferation of media types left behind a wider variety of primary sources for historians to analyze than ever before. Review oral histories (with links your teacher provides) and newspaper articles about the double-voting issue and the Tuscarora protest march. *Choose 2 of the below questions or prompts and write a paragraph in response to each.*

Oral Histories:

- Janie Maynor Locklear, November 1972, University of Florida history department.
- Barry Nakell, October 2003, UNC Southern Oral History Program collection.
- Robert Lee Mangum, November 2003, UNC Southern Oral History Program collection. Scroll to [00:11:55 - 00:16:42] or [00:16:43 - 00:27:42] and listen and/or follow the transcript.
- Carnell Locklear, February 2004, UNC Southern Oral History Program Collection. Scroll to [00:12:24 – 00:17:41]

Newspaper Articles:

- “School Control Sought,” *News & Observer*, March 2, 1973
- Dave Bradley and Chris Sherman, “Governor Dismisses Protest,” *Raleigh Times*, April 16, 1973
- “Indian Leader Urges Robeson Voter Drive,” *News & Observer*, April 24, 1973

How does this case bring a different perspective to voting rights?	Write to the governor convincing him double voting is unconstitutional. Include supporting points from the state constitution and voting rights.
What surrounding events may have influenced this case? What events were happening either in North Carolina or in the nation?	Take what you learned in the background sheet about the need for a new state constitution in 1971. How was the need for state reform similar or different with the Robeson County voting rights struggle?
Compare the tactics American Indians used to tactics other Civil Rights activists used.	Predict how Governor Holshouser of North Carolina would respond to these protests.
Imagine you are the governor in 1973 and construct a response that addresses American Indian concerns and proposes a solution.	After reading, “Governor Dismisses Protest,” evaluate Governor Holshouser’s response. How did it compare to your prediction?