

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11 BOARDS OF ELECTIONS

c/o Kathy Ray, Madison County Board of Elections

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April 27, 2020

Dear General Assembly Leaders, Election Committee Members, and Western NC Legislators,

We write as Republican and Democratic members of the county boards of elections in Congressional District 11 with an urgent request.

As we prepare to administer the runoff election (Second Primary) on June 23, we are learning that many of our regular poll workers are reluctant to serve. A large percent of them are elderly and are genuinely concerned about their health. In addition, some of our polling places are now being used by other agencies for emergency purposes. If we must change or combine polling places because of a poll worker shortage or a need for alternative locations, we must place a public notice in the media by May 9th and must mail notices to all affected voters by May 23rd.

Under current law, a majority of poll workers must reside in the precinct where they serve on Election Day. State Board of Elections Director Karen Brinson Bell has requested a change in state law to allow county boards to recruit and train poll workers from across the county. This change would significantly help us staff polling places in these challenging times. Because we must make decisions very soon, we encourage you to include this change in the actions you take when you reconvene next week.

We are committed to administering secure and fair elections, and we would be happy to provide our insights about other changes that may be needed in the future. Our county directors are also valuable resources for conducting safe and secure elections at the county level. The State Board of Elections has provided a number of suggestions that address important issues at the state level, and many of them are also time sensitive, including matching state funds to release federal dollars for enhanced security and COVID-19 related election expenses.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Board of Elections Members in Congressional District 11 (alphabetical order of signers)

Pat Ackerman, Cherokee County

Eddie Adams, Cherokee County

Craig Allen, Cherokee County

Jerry Anderson, Clay County

Brian Ball, Madison County

Gary Boone, Yancey County

Sara Champion, Transylvania County
Juanita Colvard, Graham County
Lowell Crisp, Graham County
Gail Criss, Clay County
William Cutler, Henderson County
Pamela Dashiell, Transylvania County
Danny Davis, Haywood County
Gary Dills, Macon County
Billy Ditmore, Graham County
Teresa Eller, Graham County
Lynne Garrison, Macon County
Jeff Gillette, Macon County
Gary Kilpatrick, Cherokee County
Ray Lewis, Madison County
Frances Lockwood, Rutherford County
Pat Margo, Clay County
Charles McCurry, Yancey County
Rusty McLean, Haywood County
Lee McMinn, Transylvania County
Charles Medd, Henderson County
Joey Miller, Yancey County
David Morrow, Transylvania County
Elizabeth Norris, Haywood County
June Ray, Haywood County
Keith Rogers, Graham County
Paul Rohs, Clay County
Dyatt Smathers, Madison County
Linda Smith, Rutherford County
Sandy Solsbee, Cherokee County
Howard Sorrells, Haywood County
Christian Stolz, Henderson County
Kathy Tinsley, Macon County
Julia Tipton, Yancey County
Sandra Tolley, Madison County
John Vanhook, Macon County
Michael Wainwright, Transylvania County
Jerry Wallin, Madison County
Brenda Wilson, Yancey County
Keyla Youngblood-Stillwell, Clay County