

January 13, 2026

To: North Carolina State Board of Elections

Chair, Francis X. De Luca

Secretary, Stacy “Four” Eggers IV

Member, Jeff Carmon

Member, Siobhan O’Duffy Millen

Member, Robert Rucho

Re: Non-Unanimous One-Stop / Early Voting Plan - Harnett County, March 2026

My name is Betsy McCormick, and I serve as a member of the Harnett County Board of Elections. I submit this letter in connection with the non-unanimous one-stop/early voting plan for the March 2026 primary election. Because the County Board did not adopt a unanimous plan, the matter is now before the State Board for selection.

I respectfully request that the State Board adopt the Minority Plan for Harnett County. My recommendation is based on voter access, equitable geographic coverage, operational feasibility, and consistency in hours.

The only point of disagreement between the two plans is the Majority Plan’s removal of Sunday voting hours. The majority chose this proposal despite the fact that Sunday voting hours have been offered since 2018, the county budget includes funding for those hours, and there is historic reliance by members of our community.

Sunday voting is a critical access option for voters with weekday work constraints, caregivers, and voters who rely on weekend transportation arrangements. The Minority Plan offers Sunday voting at five voting sites for four hours each Sunday, February 15 and 22, 2026. In the 2024 primary we had 31 voters per hour on weekdays, and on Sundays that number increased to 32.5 voters per hour. The hours we are open on Sundays are a good use of taxpayer dollars in that we are having more voters per hour than during the weekdays and it allows voters who can not vote during the week a meaningful opportunity to vote that is not replaced by weekday hours alone.

The proposed Sunday hours in the Minority Plan are offered because Sunday voting has a proven record of success in Harnett County and more and more of our citizens are voting early. Sunday voting ensures that those citizens who are otherwise unable to vote due to work and family commitments are not disenfranchised. Many of our citizens work outside the county and are therefore unable to take advantage of the weekday early voting hours.

Since 2016 Harnett County has had an increase of 25% in the number of registered voters. In 2024 72.2% of all votes cast in the general elections were done via early voting. The growing popularity of early voting along with the increase in the number of registered voters means that we should be increasing our early voting hours rather than decreasing them. In addition, it will lessen voter confusion if we have the same locations and hours for the primary and the general election. By contrast, the Majority Plan removes all Sunday voting for the county, which would decrease voter access and confuse those voters who have relied on early voting on Sundays for years.

For the reasons above, I respectfully request that the State Board adopt the Minority Plan which maintains the customary four hours of Early Voting on Sunday February 15 and Sunday February 22 for Harnett County for the March 2026 election.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy McCormick
Member, Harnett County Board of Elections
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