

Majority Plan for Jackson County One Stop Site in Cullowhee

Reason for Change

There is no reason to have 2 voting sites in
Cullowhee

Less than 2 miles apart.

Each site costs the County about \$20,000.00 per
election.

This year if we have a 2nd primary this will be an
additional \$45-60K of unneeded cost to the county.

Plus the past WCU voting site
is not reasonably accessible to the general public.

For these reasons we recommend a single voting
site.

Sites reviewed

- Cullowhee Recreational Center
- Health and Human Sciences Building at WCU

Site Comparisons

- Location of building
Cullowhee Rec Center - Just about everyone knows where it is. WCU students without transportation can call Jackson Transit for a ride.
HHS Building - Most Cullowhee citizens know where it is.
❖ Advantage slightly to Cullowhee Rec Center
- Parking availability
Cullowhee Rec Center - Has 2 easily accessible parking lots - (you can see them when you drive up) Parking is generous and Good.
HHS Building - Has 2 parking lots, one of which (The Upper) is unseen from the drive and hard to get to and usually full, the other, on the bottom is easily seen and is where most folks would realistically park. The upper lot has 2 Do Not Enter Signs at it's entrance.
❖ Advantage Cullowhee Rec Center - much easier to park.
- Ease of ingress, egress
Cullowhee Rec Center - the walk in and out of the building is short (100-150 feet) and level.
HHS Building - the walk in and out is confusing, from the bottom lot it is long (about 800 feet) and contains 28 steps. You cannot see where the potential voting site is and would need many signs for direction from either parking lot. The walk from the upper lot is much shorter but is on a slope. My friends with artificial knees would have a hard time getting in and out.
❖ Advantage Cullowhee Rec Center - much easier ingress and egress to voting site.

- Voting location
Cullowhee Rec Center has 2 locations where voting can be set up, the front location where it has been for many many years (650 square feet), and a larger site in the rear that is larger (972 square feet). The front location is plenty adequate for primaries but the rear site would be better for the large elections. The Cullowhee site does require more space due to the high number of same day registrations.
HHS Building has one large and beautiful room for voting (2700 square feet)
- ❖ Advantage HHS Building
- Required locations for campaigning - electioneering
Cullowhee Rec Center has good location for campaigning right out front and far enough away from the entrance. This is where it has been in the past.
HHS Building does not have a good location for campaigning - electioneering due to the layout of the parking areas.
- ❖ Advantage Cullowhee Rec Center

Conclusion

The Cullowhee Rec Center is much easier to get to, get in and out of, and has adequate voting space. We feel the ease of use is more important than a beautiful large room. We the majority choose the Cullowhee Rec Center.

One Stop Site Review

One Stop Voting Hours

Thursday, February 12, 2026 - Saturday, February 28, 2026

Monday – Friday (12 days)

8:00 AM to 7:30 PM

Total Weekday Hours = 138 hours

Saturdays (2 days - February 21st & 28th)

8:00 AM to 3 PM

Total Saturday Hours = 14 hours

14 days, 152 hours of One Stop Voting / Same Day Register & Vote

Additional Ways to Vote

Election Day

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

6:30 AM – 7:30 PM (13 hours)

13 Community Polling Locations Across Jackson County

Request ballot by mail via votebymail.ncsbe.gov or fill out a request in person (or a near relative may request) at the BOE office. *Exact dates TBA by NCSBE.* Expected to run January 17, 2026-February 24, 2026.

Expectations for One Stop Sites

- Easily accessed by all voters
 - ADA compliant
 - Adequate parking close to voting site
 - Easy to enter building and access voting area
- Fiscally responsible to Jackson County taxpayers
 - No duplication of sites in a community less than 5.0 miles apart
- Secure, dedicated space for the duration of One Stop voting
- Adequate space for legally required campaigning / electioneering area
- “Reusable” for future elections
- Same location as Election Day voting

List of Sites Evaluated (slide 1 of 2)

Current sites that meet ALL criteria for One Stop sites:

- County Board of Elections Office
- Cashiers Rec Center
- Qualla Community Building
- Cullowhee Rec Center

List of Sites Evaluated (slide 2 of 2)

Potential Sites to *Replace* Cullowhee Rec Center:

- WCU – Health & Human Services Building
- WCU – Hinds University Center
- WCU – Ramsey Center Hospitality Room
- Cullowhee Methodist Church

Cullowhee Recreation Center

- Election Day polling location and very well known in the community
- 1.8 miles from Hines University Center
- .9 miles from Ramsey Center
- .1 miles from Highway 107

Cullowhee Recreation Center



Rec Center Parking

2 large lots plus parking in front,
ample easy parking



Front of Cullowhee Rec Center



One of 2 voting rooms (aka “party rooms”), partition in between rooms slides away, 972 square feet



WCU Health & Human Sciences Building

- 1.7 miles from Hines University Center
- 1.7 miles from Ramsey Center
- 1 mile from Highway 107

From this point
(first available
parking place) it is
630 feet to the
bottom of the
stairs going up to
2nd floor to
potential voting
space



28 stairs to 2nd floor



Elevator

Elevator on first floor is at the far end of the building down a long walkway and through several hallways



Elevator on the second floor is at the far end of the building, add 1280 feet of walking to access elevator (both directions)



View at the top of stairs

Building entrance is just around the park bench, distance is 180 feet. Total walking distance from available parking is 800 feet one direction



Voting space

Voting space is large -
2700 square feet



View of the upper parking lot - There is handicapped parking in the upper lot, 180 feet from the entry door but “Do Not Enter” signage in the parking lot can be confusing and parking is very limited



Comparison Cullowhee One Stop Sites

Cullowhee Rec Center

- Election Day polling location
- Easy to park
- Easy to enter
- Adequate voting area
- Good area for campaign tents (single entry point)
- Convenient to all demographics of voters
- Best site for Cullowhee One Stop Voting

WCU – Health & Human Services

- Many people know where the building is.
- Ample parking in bottom lot, upper lot confusing to get to and full most of the time.
- Long, confusing walk with 28 stairs to voting area (1600 feet of walking with stairs, 2880 feet if using the elevator). Too far for older persons.
- Access is difficult and confusing
- Good voting area
- No good place for political party campaign tents (2 parking areas, multiple entry points)