



NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Elections

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

Phone: (919) 733-7173
Fax: (919) 715-0135

KIM WESTBROOK STRACH
Executive Director

NUMBERED MEMO 2016-14

TO: County Boards of Elections
FROM: Kim Strach, Executive Director
RE: **URGENT:** Secure Elections
DATE: September 12, 2016

Ensuring the security of elections is one of our most critical priorities. As we discussed during the recent statewide conference, there is national concern that security breaches could potentially affect election outcomes. It is incumbent upon us all to evaluate every aspect of our operations to ensure we have identified all risks or vulnerabilities and have addressed each and every one.

In advance of early voting, I have accepted an opportunity to partner with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in a joint effort to ensure North Carolina's elections processes remain well-positioned to address evolving threats. On August 15th, senior staff, along with other state election officials, participated in a conference call with DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson to discuss concerns regarding cybersecurity as we approach November. Secretary Johnson offered the assistance and expertise of the DHS' cybersecurity staff to help states assess potential risks. After considering the offer, I am pleased to enlist the expertise of DHS in our mission to administer elections that are both open and secure.

Currently, we are in the process of evaluating all systems and processes that have any relation to the election to ensure that they are secure and sound. To assist us in our evaluation process, please complete a survey through a link that is provided separately by email. Complete your submission no later than COB on Wednesday, September 14th.

We will be working closely with you on this extremely important priority and we are grateful for your commitment to the integrity of the elections process.