


crowds are lighter mid-morning, advertise that in advance to the community.

- Encourage relocating polling places from nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and senior living residences, to minimize COVID-19 exposure among older individuals and those with chronic medical conditions.
- Consider additional social distancing and other measures to protect these individuals during voting.

## Preventive actions polling workers can take

- **Stay at home if you have fever, respiratory symptoms, or believe you are sick**
- **Practice hand hygiene frequently:** wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces:** including tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.
- **Disinfect surfaces that may be contaminated with germs after cleaning:** A list of products [with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims](#)  is available. Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against the virus that causes COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, use of personal protective equipment).
- **Clean and disinfect voting-associated equipment (e.g., voting machines, laptops, tablets, keyboards) routinely.** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
  - Consult with the voting machine manufacturer for guidance on appropriate disinfection products for voting machines and associated electronics.
  - Consider use of wipeable covers for electronics.
  - If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or spray containing at least 70% alcohol to clean voting machine buttons and touch screens. Dry surfaces thoroughly to avoid pooling of liquids.

## Preventive action polling stations workers can take for themselves and the general public

Based on available data, the most important measures to prevent transmission of viruses in crowded public areas include careful and consistent cleaning of one's hands. Therefore:

- **Ensure bathrooms at the polling station are supplied adequately with soap, water, and drying materials so visitors and staff can wash their hands..**
- **Provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol** for use before or after using the voting machine or the final step in the voting process. Consider placing the alcohol-based hand sanitizer in visible, frequently used locations such as registration desks and exits.
- **Incorporate social distancing strategies, as feasible.** Social distancing strategies increase the space between individuals and decrease the frequency of contact among individuals to reduce the risk of spreading a disease. Keeping individuals at least 6 feet apart is ideal based on what is known about COVID-19. If this is not feasible, efforts should be made to keep individuals as far apart as is practical. Feasibility of strategies will depend on the space available in the polling station and the number of voters who arrive at one time. Polling station workers can:
  - Increase distance between voting booths.
  - Limit nonessential visitors. For example, poll workers should be encouraged not to bring children, grandchildren, etc. with them as they work the polls.
  - Remind voters upon arrival to try to leave space between themselves and others. Encourage voters to stay 6 feet apart if feasible. Polling places may provide signs to help voters and workers remember this.
  - Discourage voters and workers from greeting others with physical contact (e.g., handshakes). Include this reminder on signs about social distancing.

## Recommendations for processing mail-in ballots

- Workers handling mail in ballots should practice hand hygiene frequently

- No additional precautions are recommended for storage of ballots

## References

- Community Mitigation Guidance for COVID-19 Response in the United States:  
[Nonpharmaceutical Interventions for Community Preparedness and Outbreak Response](#)
- [Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives](#)
- [Protect Yourself & Your Family](#)

Page last reviewed: March 10, 2020

## EXHIBIT 15

The 2014 EAC Election Administration and Voting  
Survey Comprehensive Report (Table 39), published  
by the U.S. Election Assistance Comm'n

# The 2014 EAC Election Administration and Voting Survey Comprehensive Report

A Report to the 114th Congress



## A Summary of Key Findings

**The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993  
on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2013-2014**

**Survey Findings of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens  
Absentee Voting Act**



## 2014 Election Administration and Voting Survey

Table 39. Number and Ages of Poll Workers

State	Election Juris. in Survey	Number of Poll Workers Total	Cases	Under 18		18 to 25		26 to 40		41 to 60		61 to 70		71 and Over		Balance (See Notes)	
				Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.
Alabama	67		0		...		...		...		...		...		...	0	...
Alaska	1	2,716	1		...		...		...		...		...		...	2,716	100.0
Arizona	15	9,203	14	183	2.0	129	1.4	314	3.4	715	7.8	1,983	21.5	2,220	24.1	3,659	39.8
Arkansas	75	8,443	72	0	0.0	28	0.3	112	1.3	429	5.1	755	8.9	851	10.1	6,268	74.2
California	58	81,146	57	9,101	11.2	6,930	8.5	7,743	9.5	20,883	25.7	15,578	19.2	12,266	15.1	8,645	10.7
Colorado	64	3,974	64	99	2.5	69	1.7	180	4.5	798	20.1	1,047	26.3	525	13.2	1,256	31.6
Connecticut	169	4,423	169		...		...		...		...		...		...	4,423	100.0
Delaware	3	4,060	3	481	11.8	168	4.1	199	4.9	1,017	25.0	723	17.8	608	15.0	864	21.3
District of Columbia	1	1,743	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,742	99.9
Florida	67	41,902	67	80	0.2	830	2.0	1,984	4.7	9,079	21.7	10,005	23.9	10,916	26.1	9,008	21.5
Georgia	159	16,379	150	369	2.3	928	5.7	1,432	8.7	4,323	26.4	5,262	32.1	3,730	22.8	335	2.0
Hawaii	4	5,423	4		...		...		...		...		...		...	5,423	100.0
Idaho	44	5,134	44	19	0.4	111	2.2	319	6.2	1,489	29.0	1,824	35.5	1,372	26.7	0	0.0
Illinois	110	44,537	105		...		...		...		...		...		...	44,537	100.0
Indiana	92	18,308	78	233	1.3	384	2.1	749	4.1	2,330	12.7	2,473	13.5	1,946	10.6	10,193	55.7
Iowa	99	8,613	99		...		...		...		...		...		...	8,613	100.0
Kansas	105	7,187	105		...		...		...		...		...		...	7,187	100.0
Kentucky	120	14,940	120		...		...		...		...		...		...	14,940	100.0
Louisiana	64	16,900	64		...		...		...		...		...		...	16,900	100.0
Maine	500	5,082	490	29	0.6	86	1.7	376	7.4	1,497	29.5	1,728	34.0	1,366	26.9	0	0.0
Maryland	24	22,639	24	130	0.6	935	4.1	1,816	8.0	8,444	37.3	7,100	31.4	4,214	18.6	0	0.0
Massachusetts	351	13,164	351		...		...		...		...		...		...	13,164	100.0
Michigan	83	31,546	83	928	2.9	1,445	4.6	2,241	7.1	9,024	28.6	10,234	32.4	7,674	24.3	0	0.0
Minnesota	87	28,665	87		...		...		...		...		...		...	28,665	100.0
Mississippi	82	6,721	56	0	0.0	48	0.7	921	13.7	439	6.5	405	6.0	290	4.3	4,618	68.7
Missouri	116	15,931	114	150	0.9	192	1.2	388	2.4	2,457	15.4	3,536	22.2	3,376	21.2	5,832	36.6
Montana	56	3,809	56	15	0.4	54	1.4	205	5.4	977	25.6	1,462	38.4	1,096	28.8	0	0.0
Nebraska	93	6,976	93	69	1.0	68	1.0	334	4.8	1,543	22.1	2,318	33.2	2,644	37.9	0	0.0
Nevada	17	4,455	17	209	4.7	114	2.6	258	5.8	1,146	25.7	1,209	27.1	965	21.7	554	12.4

## 2014 Election Administration and Voting Survey

Table 39. Number and Ages of Poll Workers (continued)

State	Election Juris. in Survey	Number of Poll Workers Total	Under 18			18 to 25		26 to 40		41 to 60		61 to 70		71 and Over		Balance (See Notes)	
			Cases	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.	Total	Pct.
New Hampshire	320	2,392	320		...		...		...		...		...		...	2,392	100.0
New Jersey	21	21,142	17		...		...		...		...		...		...	21,142	100.0
New Mexico	33	3,550	33		...		...		...		...		...		...	3,550	100.0
New York	62	57,812	62		...		...		...		...		...		...	57,812	100.0
North Carolina	100	19,296	100	239	1.2	403	2.1	1,105	5.7	5,919	30.7	6,927	35.9	4,703	24.4	0	0.0
North Dakota	53	1,910	53		...		...		...		...		...		...	1,910	100.0
Ohio	88	41,524	88	1,524	3.7	1,888	4.5	1,777	4.3	9,825	23.7	10,002	24.1	8,252	19.9	8,256	19.9
Oklahoma	77	6,241	77	0	0.0	36	0.6	108	1.7	922	14.8	2,059	33.0	3,116	49.9	0	0.0
Oregon	36		0		...		...		...		...		...		...	0	...
Pennsylvania	67		0		...		...		...		...		...		...	0	...
Rhode Island	39	3,797	39		...		...		...		...		...		...	3,797	100.0
South Carolina	46	13,489	46	1,153	8.5		...		...		...		...		...	12,336	91.5
South Dakota	66	1,597	28		...	6	0.4	27	1.7	195	12.2	276	17.3	426	26.7	667	41.8
Tennessee	95	15,079	95	136	0.9	411	2.7	691	4.6	3,211	21.3	5,113	33.9	4,508	29.9	1,009	6.7
Texas	254	31,542	231	91	0.3	149	0.5	508	1.6	1,397	4.4	1,988	6.3	1,853	5.9	25,556	81.0
Utah	29	10,974	29		...		...		...		...		...		...	10,974	100.0
Vermont	246	2,678	246	13	0.5	13	0.5	63	2.4	602	22.5	756	28.2	344	12.8	887	33.1
Virginia	133	18,321	130	648	3.5	422	2.3	1,021	5.6	5,042	27.5	5,818	31.8	3,911	21.3	1,459	8.0
Washington	39	235	37	0	0.0	8	3.4	10	4.3	85	36.2	97	41.3	25	10.6	10	4.3
West Virginia	55	9,455	55	0	0.0	168	1.8	569	6.0	1,577	16.7	1,486	15.7	973	10.3	4,682	49.5
Wisconsin	3,589	32,815	3,589	397	1.2	451	1.4	1,450	4.4	6,974	21.3	12,598	38.4	10,733	32.7	212	0.6
Wyoming	23	2,061	23	19	0.9	18	0.9	55	2.7	481	23.3	814	39.5	423	20.5	251	12.2
American Samoa	1	356	1		...		...		...		...		...		...	356	100.0
Guam	1	290	1	0	0.0	76	26.2	79	27.2	98	33.8	33	11.4	4	1.4	0	0.0
Puerto Rico	0		0		...		...		...		...		...		...	0	...
Virgin Islands	1	351	1		...		...		...		...		...		...	351	100.0
Sum of Above	8,200	730,926	7,889	16,315	2.2	16,568	2.3	27,034	3.7	102,918	14.1	115,609	15.8	95,330	13.0	357,151	48.9
States Included				31		31		31		31		31		31		42	
Question		D3		D4a		D4b		D4c		D4d		D4e		D4f		calc	

**TABLE 39. NUMBER AND AGES OF POLL WORKERS**

Questions D3, D4. Number of poll workers used and age category.

**Question D3**

<b>Arizona</b>	Maricopa County also hired 116 citizen board troubleshooters that do not serve as polling place board workers but are assigned several specific polling place locations to assist the board workers at these locations with any issues that come up on Election Day. This quantity of additional workers (116) is NOT reflected in the Maricopa's D3 grand total.	<b>Indiana</b>	One jurisdiction commented that its poll worker total includes Election Day and satellite workers.
<b>California</b>	One county noted that its D3 figure does not include reserve workers and couriers (46 cases). Another county commented that its D3 figure includes poll workers and rover/super rovers.	<b>Minnesota</b>	One county noted that their figure for D3 is an estimate.
<b>DC</b>	The DC Board of Elections tracks the ages of poll workers by percentage, rather than number.	<b>New Hampshire</b>	Minimum required.
<b>Florida</b>	Bay County lost a large number of poll workers midcycle and had to continually recruit additional workers.	<b>Texas</b>	Three jurisdictions reported that their D3 figures included only Election Day workers, while four jurisdictions indicated that their totals included both workers for both Election Day and early voting. One jurisdiction commented that its Election Day workers were the same as its early voting workers. Another jurisdiction noted that its total included workers who were exclusively ballot board, central count, temporary workers, security, or IT. One jurisdiction included both typical and student election workers in its count. One jurisdiction commented that its figure for D3 is an estimate. One jurisdiction commented, "Double the total of D3a if primary, there is never less than three persons at a polling place, if a particular polling place is heavy Hispanic then an interpreter is added, even if there is an interpreter at the main election office."



<b>Vermont</b>	<p>One jurisdiction reported that it held 2-hour shifts for four ballot workers throughout the day, and its total also includes BCA counters. A different jurisdiction noted that its D3 total does not include one individual who came to help count only. Another jurisdiction indicated that its total includes both volunteer and paid vote counters (hand count town). One jurisdiction indicated that its total includes the town clerk and the assistant town clerk, while a different jurisdiction reported that it did not include its town clerk or assistant town clerk in its total. One jurisdiction noted that its total does not include the people who helped count votes.</p>
<b>Wyoming</b>	<p>One jurisdiction indicated that its total for D3 includes polling place workers, absentee board members, test board members, canvass board members, and alternate workers.</p>



**TABLE 39. NUMBER AND AGES OF POLL WORKERS**

Questions D3, D4. Number of poll workers used and age category.

**Question D4**

<b>Arkansas</b>	One jurisdiction commented that most of its election workers are over 40 years old, while another jurisdiction commented that most of its election workers are between 61 and 70 years old.	<b>Indiana</b>	The average age of poll workers in Clay County was 60.58. Another jurisdiction estimated that the average age of its poll workers was between 45 and 70; two other jurisdictions estimated the average age to be between 45 and 60. One jurisdiction commented that it “had a lot more [poll workers] over 71, but they could not work. This includes alternates.” Another jurisdiction reported that its oldest poll worker was 88 years old. Two jurisdictions reported that their average poll worker ages skewed high.
<b>Arizona</b>	Maricopa County implemented a student poll workers program back in 2008. Since its inception, it has realized a steady increase in participation among students. For the 2014 election, of the 3,848 workers in Maricopa County, over 152 of these board workers were students.	<b>Louisiana</b>	Data not available.
<b>California</b>	Thirteen counties indicated that the poll worker data was unavailable for certain groups of poll workers; one county indicated that it did not have age data for any poll workers. One jurisdiction noted that it was entirely vote by mail, so it did not have any poll workers.	<b>Minnesota</b>	Minnesota does not collect age data.
<b>Colorado</b>	Seven jurisdictions commented that poll worker age information was unavailable. One jurisdiction commented that it had 31 student judges, but otherwise, it does not track by age.	<b>New Hampshire</b>	Data not available.

New York	New York does not capture demographic information regarding poll workers.	Vermont	One jurisdiction commented that all of its poll workers appear to be over 40 years old. Another jurisdiction noted that its figures for QD4 were mostly estimates. A fourth jurisdiction indicated that the individual who came in to count was in the 61 to 70 age range category.
South Carolina	Age data not available for poll workers 18 years of age and older.	Washington	One jurisdiction commented that its figures for D4 do not include permanent staff, only temporary staff hired specifically to work at an accessible voting center.
South Dakota	One jurisdiction indicated that it did not have age data for 12 of its poll workers.	West Virginia	One jurisdiction estimated its age breakdown to be 10% for 26–40, 70% for 41–60, and 20% for 61–70. Another jurisdiction indicated that its responses for D4 are approximate totals. Two jurisdictions commented that the majority of its poll workers were between 41 and 60 years of age.
Texas	One jurisdiction reported that it does not collect age data. Another jurisdiction reported that it included age counts for both Election Day and early voting election workers. One jurisdiction indicated that it only had age data available for its student election workers; similarly, another jurisdiction commented, “While no exact figures are readily available, the bulk of election workers are in the older three groupings, with a handful of younger adults and six student clerks.” One jurisdiction reported that most of its poll workers are over 65 years of age. Two jurisdictions reported that their D4 figures were estimates.	Wyoming	One jurisdiction reported that its oldest worker was 84, and its youngest worker was 35. Another jurisdiction commented that “most will be unable to serve in 2 years.” A third jurisdiction reported that it had one student judge, but it does not track the ages of its other poll workers.

## EXHIBIT 16

*Voting Rights and Election Administration in North  
Carolina: Field Hearing Before the Subcomm. on  
Elections of the H. Comm. on House Administration  
(Apr. 18, 2019)*

**Testimony of Tomas Lopez  
Executive Director, Democracy North Carolina**

**Before the Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections,  
U.S. House of Representatives**

**Field Hearing on Voting Rights and Election Administration in North Carolina  
April 18, 2019**

Chair Fudge, Ranking Member Davis, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony for your field hearing on voting rights and election administration in North Carolina, and to share the experiences of this state's voters, who in recent years have been subjected to consistent attacks on voting access and deliberate, extreme racial and partisan gerrymanders. These measures have undermined both the ability for voters to participate in elections and the effectiveness of participation itself—by design. North Carolina's experience underscores the necessity of congressional action to both restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act and establish new standards to facilitate meaningful access to the political process.

My name is Tomas Lopez, and I am the executive director of Democracy North Carolina. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to, among other goals, protect the right to vote in our state. As part of this work, we seek to bring North Carolinians – especially historically underrepresented people of color – into the political process and encourage their participation and leadership through voting, monitoring the election process, and issue advocacy. We also author original research on election administration, help coordinate a statewide nonpartisan poll monitoring and voter assistance network, and advocate for policies and practices that we believe will increase voter access and participation. Prior to this position, I was a voting rights attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where I litigated voting rights cases in the federal courts, contributed to research on election law and administration, and supported election reform efforts in several states.

This submission addresses several issues:

- Repeated efforts to restrict voting access through several means, including strict photo identification requirements and reductions to early voting;
- The voting experience in North Carolina, especially as to voters subjected to dysfunction and intimidation;
- The perpetuation of false narratives regarding voter fraud; and
- Extreme racial and partisan gerrymandering.

Many of these issues are the results of a concerted, years-long effort to limit voter participation and impact for the sake of short-term, perceived political advantage. All damage the vitality of our state and its democracy by harming the public's ability to meaningfully take part in the political process.

the case. As written, the law requires universities, colleges, and community colleges to attest under penalty of perjury as to citizenship verification procedures outside of the scope of their work and within the scope of existing procedures under state and federal law, and imposes other administrative challenges that discouraged North Carolina campuses from complying, such as requiring that school staff take ID photographs themselves and modify their ID documentation.<sup>5</sup> From the passage of the legislation, institutions were given less than three months to determine their ability to comply with these requirements and submit their attestation letters to state officials. As of this submission, 37 community colleges, colleges, and universities out of over 100 eligible institutions submitted documentation to the State Board of Elections in order to have their student ID cards approved for voting use in 2020. Of those, 11 campuses were denied – 10 constituent universities of the University of North Carolina system, including the flagship in Chapel Hill, and one HBCU. The General Assembly is currently considering legislation that would modify these requirements, including by removing the attestation requirement for institutions; that measure passed the North Carolina House, but faces uncertain prospects in the Senate.<sup>6</sup>

We are concerned that, in practice, the ID law will work in much the same way as its predecessor— by imposing both a formal barrier for eligible voters, and an informal one that deters them from casting ballots due to confusion, misinformation, misapplication of the law, or intimidation. Indeed, the introduction of student IDs as another potentially-eligible ID for voting, but one that requires the institution to receive pre-approval by the State Board of Elections, increases the likely impact of both of these barriers on young voters in 2020.

### *Reductions to Early Voting*

Restrictions to early voting have been another hallmark voter suppression tactic since 2013, when H589 cut a week off of North Carolina’s early voting period. North Carolina county boards of elections (BOEs) hold significant power over voting access in this state through their ability to set polling locations, determine early voting schedules, and train poll workers on current law. During the 2014 and 2016 election cycles, these county bodies implemented changes to local election procedures that resulted in reduced access for voters of color:

- In 2014, the Lincoln County Board of Elections passed an early voting plan that reduced voting hours from 2010, a move that was overridden by the State Board of Elections. As a result, hours had to be added to the early voting site in Lincolnton, the county seat – something the BOE chair strongly objected to because “it would have been favorable to the Democratic Party.” Although only 13% of the county population lives in Lincolnton, it is the home of 31% of the county’s African American voters.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2014, over the objections of community members, the Forsyth County Board of Elections adopted an early voting plan that moved early voting sites outside of the urban center of Winston-Salem, where the majority of Black voters live, to whiter, more conservative suburbs. The plan removed an early voting site from Winston Salem State University, a HBCU that had been an early voting location in 2012, 2010, and 2008, and did not replace it with any other sites

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<sup>5</sup> N.C.G.S. § 163A-1145.2.

<sup>6</sup> House Bill 646 (2019).

<sup>7</sup> Sharon McCloskey, “Lincoln County voters fight for hours at early voting sites,” The Progressive Pulse (NC Policy Watch), Oct. 31, 2014, <http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2014/10/31/lincoln-county-voters-fight-for-hours-at-early-voting-sites/>.

in eastern Winston-Salem, although multiple alternatives were suggested. “Our African American community has been hurt,” testified a local Democratic party official before the BOE.<sup>8</sup>

- In 2014 and 2016, the Chavis Heights Community Center precinct in Southeast Raleigh in Wake County demonstrated the effect that having out-of-precinct voting available as an option and its correct implementation by precinct officials can have on access for voters of color. In 2014, when North Carolina did not have out-of-precinct voting in place, our poll monitors counted over 300 voters, mostly African-American, turned away from the poll and sent to other polling locations. In many cases, voters told monitors they would not be able to get to another polling place – one person had used their last money on bus fare to Chavis Heights.<sup>9</sup> In 2016, when out-of-precinct voting was permitted following the Fourth Circuit’s ruling, poll monitors reported that the chief judge at the polling place refused to offer provisional ballots to out-of-precinct voters. When voters demanded an out-of-precinct provisional, as was their right, precinct officials discouraged them from casting a ballot, saying, “it won’t count anyway.”<sup>10</sup>
- In 2016, in an attempt to blunt the impact of the Fourth Circuit’s decision to restore the first week of early voting, many of the Republican-led county BOEs adopted early voting plans with fewer hours and sites during the first restored week. There were dramatic reductions in early voting hours in Guilford (-660), Mecklenburg (-282), Brunswick (-165), Craven (-141), Johnston (-124), Robeson (-121), and Jackson (-113) counties. Of those, Guilford, Craven, and Robeson counties were previously covered under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and Mecklenburg and Johnston have significant Black voting populations, 33% and 16% of all registered voters (as of October 22, 2016) respectively.

A second troubling development is a June 2018 law, S325, which mandates a 12-hour early voting schedule during the week and requires those same hours across all sites.<sup>11</sup> While uniformity may present theoretical benefits, the extended 12-hour day required by S325 has in practice increased the costs of early voting for counties and, in turn, reduced the total availability of early voting, particularly weekend hours.

North Carolina law requires counties to make early voting available at a minimum of one location and permits counties to establish additional early voting locations. In past cycles counties, especially in low-resourced areas, made early voting available at different times across a variety of locations during the early voting window— for instance, by having some sites open only on the weekends, or offering Sunday voting at only one or two locations. The 2018 law makes this impossible by requiring that counties keep any given early voting site open on the same days and same hours as all others. Additionally, the mandatory 12-hour weekday schedule forces counties to staff sites at hours when voters do not typically vote, thus reducing the total number of sites counties can afford to staff without increasing the number of usable voting hours.

This has produced several consequences in practice:<sup>12</sup>

- 43 counties reduced the number of early voting sites in 2018 compared to 2014.

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<sup>8</sup> Meghann Evans, “Forsyth elections board approves early voting plan” Winston-Salem Journal, July 22, 2014, [http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/forsyth-elections-board-approves-early-voting-plan/article\\_7cbf2a6a-11d3-11e4-b1fa-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/forsyth-elections-board-approves-early-voting-plan/article_7cbf2a6a-11d3-11e4-b1fa-001a4bcf6878.html).

<sup>9</sup> Isela Gutierrez and Bob Hall, Democracy North Carolina, *Alarm Bells from Silenced Voters* (June 2015), <https://democracync.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/SilencedVoters.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Isela Gutierrez, Democracy North Carolina, *From the Voter’s View: Lessons from the 2016 Election* (January 2018), [https://democracync.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/PostElectionReport\\_DemNC\\_web.pdf](https://democracync.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/PostElectionReport_DemNC_web.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> S.L. 2018-112. As originally written, the statute removed the final Saturday of early voting beginning in 2018; this was subsequently postponed.

<sup>12</sup> Democracy North Carolina has compiled these figures for use in this submission and in future reporting.

- 51 counties reduced the number of weekend days offered.
- 67 counties – over two-thirds of North Carolina’s 100 counties – reduced the number of weekend hours.
- Of the eight counties where a majority of voters are Black, four reduced sites, seven reduced weekend days, and all eight reduced the number of weekend hours during early voting. None saw increases in sites or weekend options.
- A ProPublica and WRAL analysis of Early Voting sites elimination found that about 1 in 5 rural voters saw the distance to an Early Voting site increase by more than a mile— and in some counties, like Halifax, the average distance between voters and Early Voting sites increased by as much as 6 miles.<sup>13</sup>

Despite these reductions, North Carolina voters turned out in impressive number in last year’s midterm election. But high overall turnout does not necessarily mean widespread or equitable access. Indeed, the three counties where turnout rates (the percentage of registered voters who cast ballots) decreased compared to 2014 are telling. Two were Jones and Pamlico, which received federal assistance after Hurricane Florence. The other was Halifax, the site of this field hearing, which had three Early Voting locations in 2012, 2014, and 2016, but only one in 2018. Halifax also saw the greatest increase in the average distance from voters to Early Voting Sites due to S325.

### *Elimination of the Last Saturday of Early Voting*

Starting in 2019, S325 also eliminates the popular final Saturday of early voting for all future elections. It was traditionally the only weekend voting day offered in all 100 counties, and the turnout numbers bore that out— that day has traditionally been one of the highest turnout days of the entire voting period, despite the fact that many counties keep sites open for shorter periods that day than during the work week. We anticipate that this will result in the majority of North Carolina counties having no weekend Early Voting options, which are crucial for voters who work Monday through Friday. Without the last Saturday in 2018, 63 counties would have had no weekend option for voters to cast their ballots. Or, if weekend hours are offered, they will be offered at a minimal number of sites, which would be especially harmful to rural voters in sprawling counties without public transportation.

And in addition to being hugely popular with voters overall, this last Saturday has been disproportionately used by Black voters in North Carolina at the statewide level and in a sizable majority of the state’s 100 counties in the last five election cycles. In 2018, Black voters made up 22% of registered voters, but 27% of those who cast ballots on the last Saturday of Early Voting.

### **The Voting Experience in North Carolina**

As in many states, election administration challenges affect voting access in North Carolina by making voting a more complicated and intimidating experience than it needs to be. We have observed this in action through our voter protection program; during every major election year, we work closely with partner organizations to recruit, train, and place hundreds of volunteer poll monitors at polling locations across the state. These poll monitors survey voters departing locations, and assist those who report problems by connecting them to a hotline locally staffed by volunteer attorneys. In 2018, the program’s 800 volunteers were present at 279 precincts in 55 counties on Election Day: a total that amounted to 1 in 10 polling places in the state. We use the information they collect to report on the voting experience and inform our policy recommendations.

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<sup>13</sup> Tyler Dukes, “Early voting changes hit NC rural voters hardest. But will it matter in 2018?” WRAL, Nov. 1, 2018, <https://www.wral.com/early-voting-changes-hit-nc-rural-voters-hardest-but-will-it-matter-in-2018-/17959224/>.



## EXHIBIT 17

*Bipartisan Furor as North Carolina Election Law  
Shrinks Early Voting Locations by Almost 20  
Percent* (Sept. 24, 2018), written by  
Blake Peterson and published by ProPublica

NORTH CAROLINA

## **Bipartisan Furor as North Carolina Election Law Shrinks Early Voting Locations by Almost 20 Percent**

Nearly half of the state's counties are shutting down polling places, in part because of a law passed in June.

by Blake Paterson, Sept. 24, 2018, 5 a.m. EDT



*A voter at a polling place in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 2012. County election officials across the state say a new law setting polling hours has hamstrung their ability to best serve voters. (Shawn Rocco/Raleigh News & Observer/MCT via Getty Images)*

In June, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation mandating that all early voting sites in the state remain open for uniform hours on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., a move supporters argued would reduce confusion and ultimately make early voting easier and more accessible.

But with the start of early voting only weeks away, county election officials across the state — who previously had control over setting polling hours in their jurisdictions — say the new law has hamstrung their ability to best serve voters. Some officials in rural counties say they've had to shrink the number of early voting locations to accommodate the law's longer hour requirements and stay within their budgets.

A ProPublica analysis of polling locations shows that North Carolina's 2018 midterm election will have nearly 20 percent fewer early voting locations than there were in 2014. Nearly half of North Carolina's 100 counties are shutting down polling places, in part because of the new law. Poorer rural counties, often strapped for resources to begin with, are having a particularly difficult time adjusting to the new requirement.

The closure of polling locations increases the time it takes for voters to travel to the polls, and it could result in lower turnout, making matters worse for a state already dealing with Hurricane Florence. Early voting in North Carolina begins on Oct. 17.

We interviewed more than two dozen county election officials across North Carolina. None said they were in favor of the new law, and none said they were contacted by state lawmakers for counsel on the legislation. Some referred to the policy as "overkill," a waste of resources and an "unfunded mandate," particularly burdensome for cash-strapped counties.

"We know our county. We know when most people go to vote early. The 12-hour, 7-a.m.-to-7-p.m. requirement just ties our hands when coming up with a catered approach that fits our county best," said Steve Stone, the Republican chair of the Robeson County Board of Elections.

Republican state lawmakers, who championed the new law, argue that the consistency it provides will eliminate uncertainty among voters and expand early voting by increasing hours and allowing those who work full-time jobs to vote before or after work.

"The purpose of the uniformity is to make it easier and more convenient and more accessible for the voter to participate," said David Lewis, a state representative who supported the bill. "I think that access to the polls, access to the ballots in a uniform fashion, is more important than poll worker or election worker convenience."

Lewis says the law has led to an increase in the number of aggregate polling hours across the state. Indeed, polls for early voting will be open 49,696 hours in 2018, a substantial jump from the 25,887 hours offered in 2014, according to a preliminary analysis from the North Carolina State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement.

But according to Robert Stein, a professor of political science at Rice University, aggregate hours are not nearly as important a factor to voter access as the number of early voting locations offered by a county.

"There is a lot of good research to suggest that when it comes to having a positive effect on early voting turnout, the important things are not the hours of operation but the location of the polling place and the distance and travel time it takes a voter to get there," Stein said.

For many counties, the trade-off for more polling hours is fewer early voting locations. Take Gaston County, near Charlotte. In 2014, the county opened one main polling place at 8 a.m. and three additional ones at 10 a.m. According to Adam Ragan, the county's nonpartisan director of elections, there are very few voters in the county eager to cast ballots early in the morning. The county, therefore, typically maximizes its resources by staggering voting hours across multiple locations.

"In elections administration, we have what we consider 'non-usable hours,'" Ragan explained. "There are some locations where people won't come at 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. That's why we've always opened our auxiliary sites at 10 a.m."

The county originally planned to open five early voting locations, but with the new policy it can now only afford to operate three.

While county election officials from both parties have expressed near uniform discontent over the new requirements, state lawmakers were split along partisan lines on the measure, with support coming exclusively from GOP lawmakers.

"It will put a strain on local boards," Democratic Rep. Marcia Morey said on the floor of the North Carolina House of Representatives. "We need local flexibility, not the strong arm of the state for political purposes to suppress the vote."

North Carolina's Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper originally vetoed the bill, writing in a statement that "we should be making it easier for people to vote, not harder," but GOP state lawmakers have veto-proof majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly and handily overrode the veto.

In addition to setting uniform polling hours, the original legislation also eliminated the final Saturday of early voting, a day that historically



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attracts a large number of black voters, opening legislators up to further charges of voter suppression.

Republican lawmakers subsequently backed off on this and restored the popular voting day. Lewis acknowledged the move was a mistake, though he said it had been proposed to give counties more time prepare for Election Day. Still, given the sordid history of voting rights violations in North Carolina, many Democrats remain skeptical of GOP lawmakers' dedication to expanding access to early voting.

"I do not see it as an isolated event, but rather a part of a larger voter suppression effort," said Al Daniels, a Democratic member of the Bladen County Board of Elections, of the uniform-hours law. "I see it as anti-voter, period."

In 2013, the GOP-led General Assembly passed far-reaching legislation in the name of combating voter fraud that cut back on early voting, established a photo ID requirement and did away with pre-registration of high school students, same-day registration and out-of-precinct voting. A federal appeals court struck down the law, labeling it an unconstitutional attempt to "target African Americans with almost surgical precision."

The 2013 law was passed in the wake of the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which weakened a provision of the Voting Rights Act that had required a handful of jurisdictions — including parts of North Carolina — to submit voting law changes to the federal government to determine whether those changes had a discriminatory effect or purpose. Now, laws like North Carolina's uniform-voting legislation don't need to be given preclearance from the federal government before they can take effect.

"Given the context of the GOP legislature, it makes you want to raise your eyebrows that this just wasn't some neutral requirement to have consistent voting hours around the state," said Philip Lehman, the Democratic vice chair of Durham County's Board of Elections and a former member of the state's General Assembly.

Other arguments in favor of the law have only advanced suspicion of lawmakers' motives. State Sen. Ralph Hise, one of a dozen Republican sponsors of the bill, said in an interview with ProPublica that the law was meant, in part, to rein in partisan maneuvering on county election boards. He said that, in previous elections, certain counties would strategically leave specific early voting sites open for longer to "impact the election." When asked to provide an example of such conduct, during the interview and subsequently, however, Hise did not do so.

The new law came as a surprise to many local election officials who had already finalized their budgets. Elections in North Carolina, unlike some other states, are funded entirely at the county level, leaving some

administrators scrambling to figure out how to work within the confines of their budgets while accommodating the new law.

“I’m a full-fledged Republican and a Republican supporter, and I’m just disappointed in the General Assembly for not reaching out to election officials in the state and asking, ‘What do you think would work well for this early voting law?’” said Stone, the chair of the Robeson County Board of Elections.

The law appears to have exacerbated the divide between urban and rural counties, putting a greater strain on poorer, less populous counties, which often have smaller budgets, fewer full-time employees and an older voting population that is less willing to volunteer for what could be a 12-hour poll worker shift.

Take Bladen County. When it approved its operating budget this year, election officials set aside funds for four early voting sites. Though sparsely populated, Bladen County is large — the state’s fourth biggest by area — and local election administrators wanted to provide ample access to voters across the region.

Their plan had precedent. In every statewide election over the past decade, Bladen voters could cast their ballots at one of four early voting locations spread out across the county. Now, with the strict hours requirement, Bladen County can only afford to staff and operate one early voting site.

“We’re a small county and the law has affected us pretty badly,” said Bobby Ludlum, the GOP chair of Bladen County’s Board of Elections.

Wealthier, more populous counties appear to be doing better at weathering the changes. Still, election officials acknowledged that the law may adversely affect their rural counterparts.

“One size does not necessarily fit all,” said Michael Dickerson, the nonpartisan director of elections in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina’s most populous. “I’m very fortunate in this county. I’ve got over a million people living here, so we can find poll workers.”

The legislation has contributed to an already chaotic and uncertain year for election administrators in North Carolina. In addition to the difficulties they will encounter getting elections up and running in a state dealing with a major natural disaster, election officials are still scrambling to deal with man-made crises. A federal court in late August ruled that the state’s congressional maps were unconstitutionally gerrymandered and ordered they be redrawn immediately, sparking widespread confusion among election officials on whether the general election would move forward as planned. The court later clarified that the current maps should be used for the coming election.

A separate series of court battles over ballot language delayed the preparation and printing of election ballots, and the reduced timeline has left little flexibility in case ballots need to be reprinted. Adding to all of this, federal prosecutors in early September issued subpoenas to 44 county election boards asking that millions of voter records be handed over to immigration authorities by the end of the month.

While North Carolina has a handful of consequential congressional races in this fall's election — the Cook Political Report rates four as competitive — most officials who spoke to ProPublica worry about how the early-voting changes and other laws might affect 2020, when the swing state will vote for president, governor and senator.


“It seems that every time we have an election, the rules are different,” said Jake Quinn, a Democratic member of the Buncombe County Board of Elections.

“We’re looking at different district boundaries, or we have to have voter IDs, or you can’t vote out of precinct, or the hours have to be changed. This is a problem. When you change the rules for voting every single election, some people are going to get discouraged by that,” he said. “All of this is very destabilizing.”

**Filed under:** Politics

### **Blake Paterson**

Blake Paterson is the reporting fellow for ProPublica's Electionland project.

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## EXHIBIT 18

### Letter from Yancey County Board of Elections to Karen Brinson Bell



Gary Boone, Chairman  
Julia Tipton, Secretary  
Charles McCurry, Member  
Brenda Wilson, Member  
Joey Miller, Member  
Mary Beth Tipton, Director

## Yancey County Board of Elections

P.O. Box 763 • 30 East US Hwy 19E By-Pass • Burnsville, NC 28714

Phone: (828) 682-3950 • Fax: (828) 682-2209

E-mail: [boe@yanceycountync.gov](mailto:boe@yanceycountync.gov)

Ms. Brinson Bell,

I am writing to request a temporary transfer of voters for the June 23 CD11 Primary. The Board and I want to bring to your attention several reasons for making this request, share our thoughts behind requesting the transfers and explain our game plan for making the June 23 CD11 Primary a successful and safe election for our voters in Yancey County.

First of all, due to the pandemic of COVID 19 and a large number of our poll workers being the high risk age, we do not have enough people to cover all of our normal 11 precincts. Second, our local school board has asked that we not use schools as polling locations. They are preparing and delivering breakfast and lunch for our children during this outbreak and want to keep the risk of contamination down as much as possible. Currently 4 of our polling site are located in schools. Third, our county's budget is under a lot strain due to the unforeseen cost of COVID 19 and there is no way to predict how much cost they will incur before this is over. Fourth, a couple of our polling locations are in small buildings. Green Mountain and Brush Creek could not hold 3 judges and comply with the 6 ft. order. When you add voters to these two places, with all safety measures in place, there is still no way to vote and be in compliance. Last, we do not anticipate a large in person voter turnout. I have attached along with this letter the statics for the past Second Primaries in Yancey County. You will see that the three polling locations will meet our voter's needs.

The minute we received news of a Second Primary we began planning on how we could successfully hold a safe election. It is our main goal to protect our voter's rights and do so while keeping everyone involved in the process as safe as possible. We divided our voters out into three separate parts, West Yancey, Central Yancey and East Yancey. Once we got that division settled our goal was to narrow it down to largest and most central polling location within the three divisions. West Yancey polling location was decided to be in Cane River Precinct. One reason being Prices Creek is located in a school, both Egypt and Ramseytown vote in the same small fire station. When the school system closed down Bee Log Elementary School that was the only place we had for Egypt voters to vote. Cane River voters vote in a new fire station with a 4000 sq. ft. meeting room. Central Yancey was decided to be in Burnsville, but the current Burnsville polling place is in a school. We contacted the Town of Burnsville who is going to allow us to use their recently built Town Center. The Burnsville Town Center is located within the Burnsville precinct, all the Municipal Elections are held there. Each eligible voter in the Burnsville precinct will receive notification of the temporary move. Jacks Creek precinct is located in a school, Green Mountain votes in a small voting house that is a 12' x 14' building and Pensacola is located in a small fire station. The transfer of these voters into Burnsville will make the largest polling location we will have so the 4500 sq. ft. of the Town Center will ensure everyone is safe. East Yancey polling location was our easiest to determine. Crabtree Precinct is located in the middle of both South Toe and Brush Creek voters. Crabtree voters vote in a new fire department that has a 3800 sq. ft meeting room. South Toe is located in a school and Brush Creek vote in a small community center

where space will be an issue. We have really looked at every possible scenario and feel that these three polling locations will best serve our voter's, citizens and poll worker's safety with as little travel time as possible.

Each precinct will be kept separately in the polling locations. Ballots will be printed by precinct and DS200 will be burned to read all precincts into one tabulator. We will be using labels and ATV forms, which will be kept in separate books for each precinct. There will be one OVRD laptop in each polling location to look up the voter and locate their precinct. This will keep all lines moving smoothly and help keep confusion down as well. Once their precinct is located the voter will proceed to the check in station to state their name and verify their information. When the voter signs the ATV form they will go to the ballot station to receive their appropriate ballot. They were some concern from board members about voters getting the wrong ballot, so along with the barcode scanners we will use our 1-Stop workers at the ballot stations in all three polling locations. They are use to handling multiple ballot styles at 1-Stop and will require little to no training.

We are all in this together and want what's best for everyone involved in the election process. The Yancey County Board of Elections feel the temporary transfer of voters will help ease the struggle of finding poll workers, allow for both poll workers and voters to have enough space to be safe, and help with the financial side as well.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tipton, Director

## EXHIBIT 19

### Letter from Madison County Board of Elections to Karen Brinson Bell



**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**5707 US 25-70 HWY P.O. Box 142**

**Marshall, NC 28753**

**Phone: 828-649-3731**

**Email: [madison.boe@madisoncountync.gov](mailto:madison.boe@madisoncountync.gov)**

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April 16, 2020

Karen Brinson Bell, Executive Director  
North Carolina State board of Elections  
430 N Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Executive Director Brinson Bell,

The COVID 19 pandemic and urgent need to protect the public and poll workers from spread of the virus during the June 23, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Republican Primary Election compels the Board of Elections to request voter transfers and changes in precinct polling locations to minimize COVID 19 exposure, reduce the risk of disease transmission during in-person voting, and to assist other county entities with providing much needed COVID 19 related services and facilities needs during this time.

In developing its plan, the Board of Elections consulted with poll workers and other county leadership and departments to gather needed information and consider the challenges that are directly tied to COVID 19 risks and responses. Key points of the discussion and plan development are as follows:

- Of Madison County's 12 precincts, 4 precinct polling sites (Hot Springs, Mars Hill, North Marshall, and Walnut) are located within **schools**. Madison County Schools Superintendent Will Hoffman requested that we obtain other non-essential sites as polling locations if at all possible as 3 of the 5 schools are providing 1,600 meals per day for delivery and pickup for children and sending supplemental food home to family on yellow buses. He continues that all schools are providing remote online learning material for 2,300 students for pick up and drop off and providing Wifi access for students and families in school parking lots. Additionally one school is producing protective masks for county health care providers. He concluded by adding that it is uncertain whether the school year will be extended or remained closed beyond May 15.

5 precinct polling sites (Beech Glen, Ebbs Chapel, Grapevine, Laurel, and Spring Creek) are located within **senior** meal sites, all of which are currently preparing and packing meals for pickup and delivery for senior citizens who otherwise would go without. Polling sites at these locations will require a major disruption to this critical service as sites will need to be cleaned and set up prior to Election Day and deep cleaned and vacated on the day following. Using senior meal sites for polling sites also presents a high risk activity that could result in COVID 19

contamination and transmission among one of our most vulnerable populations. As a result, the Community Services Director is requesting that we obtain other non-essential sites as polling locations if at all possible and is communicating with the County Manager and County Health Director regarding the risks.

Of the 3 remaining precincts Sand Mush and South Marshall Precincts are located in vacant county owned buildings and Revere Rice Cove is a privately organized community center.

The Sandy Mush Precinct Building does not contain sufficient area (approximately 190 square ft) for COVID related social distancing standards and there are no other potential polling sites available in the community thus requiring a temporary precinct transfer of voters and change in polling site. An adjacent precinct transfer is not feasible as both adjacent precincts also are requiring temporary transfer of voters and polling site changes. The only option is to transfer Sandy Mush voters to the nearby North Marshall Precinct and utilize its polling site on Election Day.

The Ebbs Chapel Precinct cannot be transferred to an adjacent precinct as the adjacent precincts (Grapevine and Beech Glen) are senior meal sites and requiring voter transfers and polling site changes. The only option is to transfer the Ebbs Chapel voters to the nearby Mars Hill Precinct and utilize its polling site on Election Day.

The remaining Revere Rice Cove Precinct has only 99 voters that are eligible to vote in this election, and had less than 10 voters cast a ballot in the last comparable second primary election dated June 7, 2016.

Important to note is that aside from the schools and senior meal sites, Madison County Board of Elections has extremely limited options for adequate polling sites even during the best of times, and county entities must coordinate and share its limited facilities and meeting venues, especially during times of crisis.

- No less important is the challenge COVID 19 presents in the county's ability to recruit and train poll workers. Additional training will now be required for poll workers in proper sanitation and social distancing procedures. Finding facilities and venues with enough space to train groups of poll workers will be challenging to say the least and require multiple bookings.

The majority of Madison County poll workers is over the age of 65 and considered high risk for complications if they contract the virus. Even though 90 percent of them currently indicate they will be available to work during the June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election, the reality remains that many of them will choose not to serve as Election Day approaches and COVID 19 is still a threat.

The need to minimize the number of poll workers needed across the county and/or in a given polling site at any given time is paramount to implement social distancing requirements and to reduce the chance of transmission or contamination.

- Madison County is a poor county with very limited resources and capacity to generate income. The response to COVID 19 is draining the county's coffers. County departments have been asked to delay payments, put a hold on ordering supplies, and cancel travel plans, among other directives to help extend the county's capacity to respond to the COVID 19 crisis.
- Finally, the Board of Elections reviewed data and considered the likelihood of a low voter turnout (less than 400 Republican and Unaffiliated voters across the county in the last comparable 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary on June 7, 2016 (See attached report.)

**After much consideration and discussion of the aforementioned information and challenges, the Board of Elections began to look closely at utilizing its 3 early one stop voting sites during this election as a means to provide an adequate number of safe voting environments that minimize the risk of transmission of the virus and staff them with an adequate number of trained and experienced poll workers. It is also noteworthy to add that county level Republican Party leadership has been consulted by Board of Election members and agreed with implementing the following plan to:**

- Establish 3 strategically located, consistent voting sites across the county for both early one stop and Election Day in-person voting that does not interfere with the critical needs of other county services or compromises the health, safety, and wellbeing of our citizens and that provides the greatest opportunity to provide safe, convenient in-person voting for this election. The selected sites have been utilized successfully as municipal election and early one stop voting sites for several years and county voters are familiar with them and their locations;
- Open the 3 voting sites for 14 days of voting including Election Day and spread out the in-person voter traffic over the greatest amount of time thus mitigating the need for large venues on Election Day that are now unavailable in our county due to COVID 19 issues;
- Maintain consistent early one stop voting and Election Day sites to reduce confusion regarding the polling site locations on Election Day;
- Utilize the same trained and experienced judges and poll workers for both early one-stop voting and Election Day, thus providing seamless experiences in all election activities and sanitation procedures across all 3 sites and eliminating the need to recruit and train more poll workers. The judges and poll workers have been identified, contacted, and agreed to staff the plan if approved, contingent upon being provided proper Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] and the implementation of proper sanitation and social distancing procedures;



- Secure and dedicate the polling sites to be used solely as polling sites across both the early one stop and Election Day in-person voting windows, thus reducing the need to deep clean, equip, and prepare additional COVID 19 compliant Election Day sites;
- Implement proper procedures and equipment to minimize the number of voters and poll workers in a given site at a given time so that social distancing and sanitation requirements can be observed. Some of the systems under consideration are barriers/shields at check-in stations, pagers or burner phones for voters that may choose to wait in the car rather than stand in line, floor spacers, line dividers, disposable pens for marking ballots, sanitizing surface areas before each voter, and the use of table spacers between voters and staff;
- Provide 3 judges of election at each site on Election Day and 2 early one stop voting poll workers at each site at all times during early voting.
- Provide sites on Election Day with a ring binder that will contain 30-up labels for the 4 assigned precincts (separated) and one OVRD laptop that will be available for voter lookup and street searches (if needed). Additionally, each site will have one tabulator coded to accept ballots from all 4 of the assigned precincts;
- Notify all affected voters of the temporary precinct transfers and polling site changes for this election through a USPS mailing alert and the local newspaper; and
- Save the county \$8,650.00 (when compared with the cost of 1 early voting one stop site and 12 precincts) in much needed funds for other critical non-election related COVID 19 expenses (see attached budget comparison worksheet).

In closing, the Board of Elections believes this plan will provide the best opportunity to provide highly trained staff, a safe voting environment, and the greatest opportunity for in-person voting during this election, and that it has no other viable options other than sequester buildings and/or disrupt other critically needed county services during the COVID 19 crisis. Further, the plan will maximize the limited resources and funding available to the county for both election and non-election related COVID 19 needs. Any consideration you give the plan is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact the Board of Elections if you have questions or to provide feedback.

Respectfully yours,



Kathy M. Ray, CERA, NCCEA, Ed.D  
Director of Elections

## EXHIBIT 20

### Letter from the Director of the Jackson County Board of Elections to Karen Brinson Bell



JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
876 SKYLAND DR, SUITE 1  
SYLVA, NC 28779  
PHONE 828-586-7538 • FAX 828-586-1951

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04/29/2020

Karen Brinson

State Board of Elections Executive Director

Dear Mrs. Brinson:

The Jackson County Board of Elections is requesting to temporary transfer voters for the 05/23/2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary to ensure safe practices with a sufficient number of precinct workers. No one can predict the health environment in the next several months and each county may have possible fluctuating conditions. The Board feels they can eliminate some of the chances of inadequate staffing on Election Day by combining locations, even if conditions deteriorate only days before Election Day.

The polling locations were also chosen for their open areas inside and immediately outside the voting enclosures that will allow for appropriate social distancing while completing the voting process.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Lovedahl", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Lovedahl

Director

Jackson County

## EXHIBIT 21

### Request by Macon County Board of Elections to Temporarily Transfer Voters to Another Precinct

**MACON COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

5 WEST MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NC 28734  
PHONE: 828-349-2034 FAX: 828-349-2557

Date: April 23, 2020

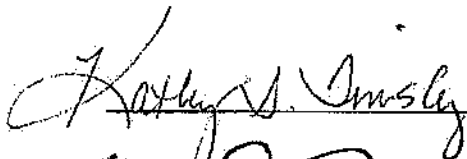
ATTENTION: NCSBOE

SUBJECT: Resolution to combine the Voters from 12 Precincts (North Franklin, South Franklin, East Franklin, Iotla, Union, Millshoal, Ellijay, Sugarfork, Smithbridge, Cartoogechaye, Burningtown and Cowee) into 1 Precinct for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary Election due to the COVID-19 virus

This Resolution states that the Board Members of the Macon County Board of Elections has unanimously voted on this day, Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 to combine North Franklin, South Franklin, East Franklin, Iotla, Union, Millshoal, Ellijay, Sugarfork, Smithbridge, Cartoogechaye, Burningtown and Cowee Precincts, for the Second Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Voters will vote at the Robert Carpenter Building (the Community Building). The Community Building is a central location in Macon County used for the Union Precinct on Election Day in other Elections; it is also used to hold One-Stop Early Voting prior to all Elections. It is located at 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC 28734.

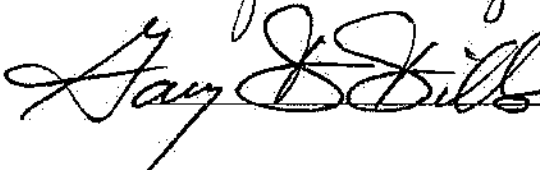
A notice will be given to the Voters in Macon County in our local newspapers and we will also be sending a postcard by mail to all voters that are eligible to vote in the above Election.

Kathy Tinsley



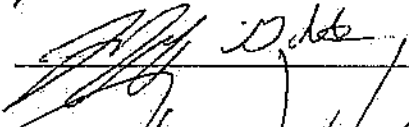
Chairman

Gary Dills



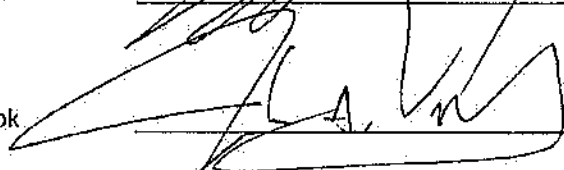
Vice Chairman

Jeffrey Gillette



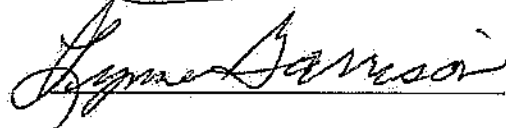
Secretary

John Vanhook



Member

Lynne Garrison



Member



**REQUEST TO TEMPORARILY TRANSFER VOTERS TO ANOTHER PRECINCT  
2020 SECOND PRIMARY**

Complete a separate form for each transfer polling place. Attach a map of all precincts and mark which precinct polling place will be open, and which polling place(s) will be transferred.

NAME OF COUNTY	<i>Macon</i>
NAME OF DIRECTOR	<i>Melanie D. Thibault</i>

Election Date for Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CD 11 6/23/2020
Do you code your ballots by precinct or by ballot style?	<input type="checkbox"/> Precinct <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Style

☒ REQUEST TO TRANSFER VOTERS WITHIN COUNTY (COMPLETE TABLE BELOW)

	PCT 1	PCT 2	PCT 3
Transferring from Enter precinct name	<i>* See the attached</i>		
Transferring to Enter precinct name	<i>Union Precinct</i>		
Number of voters being transferred	<i>14,103</i>		
Number of voters in receiving precinct	<i>1,880</i>		
Is receiving precinct adjacent?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Percentage turnout for the March 2020 Primary	<i>37.49%</i>		
Number of registered Republican voters	<i>9,258</i>		
Number of Unaffiliated voters eligible to vote in second primary	<i>5,863</i>		
Approximate distance from the original polling place to the requested transfer polling place	<i>1 mile closest 9 mile Farthest</i>		
Approximate drive time from original polling place to the requested transfer polling place	<i>5 minutes to 30 minutes</i>		
Approximate square footage of transfer polling place	<i>2200 sq. ft Room</i>		
Approximate number of parking spaces of transfer polling place	<i>200</i>		
Is the transfer polling place ADA compliant?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Approximate number of handicap parking spaces at the transfer polling place	<i>10 - but more can be marked off</i>		

REQUEST TO TEMPORARILY TRANSFER VOTERS TO ANOTHER PRECINCT  
2020 SECOND PRIMARY

In order to receive approval to transfer voters, you must fully complete this form:

Required by GS § 163-128

☒ CBE Resolution was adopted on 4/23/2020

When such a resolution has been adopted by the county board of elections to assign voters from more than one precinct to the same precinct, then the county board of elections shall maintain separate registration and voting records, . . . , so as to properly identify the precinct in which such voters reside.

I will provide separate:

- ☒ ATV labels  
☐ OVRD laptop  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ Ballots will be coded by style and actual precinct will be recorded on ballots  
☐ Ballots will be coded by precinct

The board shall give **45 days'** notice thereof prior to the next primary or election  
(Check to confirm all methods of notice that you will use to comply with this requirement):

- ☒ Notice shall be given by advertisement in a newspaper having general circulation in the county;  
☒ by posting a copy of the resolution at the courthouse door and at the office of the county board of elections;  
☒ and by mailing a copy of the resolution to the chairman of every political party in the county.  
☒ Notice will additionally be made on a radio or television station or both, but such notice shall be in addition to the newspaper and other required notice.  
☐ No later than 30 days prior to the primary or election, the county board of elections shall mail a notice of precinct change to each registered voter who as a result of the change will be assigned to a different voting place.

Required by NCSBE

- ☒ I have provided the SBOE with a copy of the board resolution/agreement. Other supporting information is attached describing why this request is being made.  
☐ I have entered the contest AND all candidates in Election Setup.

County  
Director's  
Signature

Melanie D. Thibault

4/23/2020

Date

APPROVED BY

Karen Brinson Bell  
Karen Brinson Bell  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

5/8/2020

Date



Revised 2020.04



**Macon County Board of Elections**

5 WEST MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NC 28734  
PHONE: 828-349-2034 FAX: 828-349-2557  
EMAIL: [mthibault@maconnc.org](mailto:mthibault@maconnc.org)

May 8, 2020

Ms. Karen Brinson Bell, Executive Director

North Carolina State Board of Elections

430 Salisbury Street - Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

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**REQUEST FOR CONSOLIDATION(S) AND COLLABORATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN  
RESPONSE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

Dear Executive Director Brinson Bell:

Macon County Board of Elections Board Members (approved April 23, 2020), Macon County Manager, Derek Roland, and Board of Elections staff are in agreement that the COVID 19 pandemic causes an emergency plan of action to be initiated for the upcoming Second Primary Election. Our ultimate goal is to ensure voter validation, maintain safe voting environments, and create a cost-effective management process that results in a successful election experience for everyone. We have assessed the data and voting history which is based on the deliberations described below.

- Macon County plans to combine our original fifteen (15) precincts into three (3) for voters on Election Day, June 23, 2020. Many of the current precincts are located in community centers or public buildings of which are closed due to COVID 19. In addition the majority of these smaller community sites have less than 200 square feet of designated voter space, which does not allow standard social distancing requirements.
- **North Franklin Precinct**- is located in the downstairs of the Franklin Town Hall building in a room less than 200 square feet of space, not enough space for the social distancing.

4 of the poll workers out of the 5 that we use on Election Day are in the high risk category and in good contentions we could not allow them to work.

- **South Franklin Precinct**- is located in a small room off of the entrance of the Macon County library; it is less than 200 square feet of space, not enough space for the social distancing. 3 of the poll workers are in the high risk category.
- **East Franklin Precinct**- is located in the Environmental building in Franklin and the building has less than 200 square feet of space, not enough space for social distancing. 2 of the poll workers are in the high risk category.
- **Lotia Precinct**- is located in a small room in the Macon County Airport and has less than 200 square feet of space. 3 of the poll workers are in the high risk category. 2 are willing to work on Election Day if it is held in a larger location.
- **Millshoal Precinct**- is located in a Community Center in Franklin. The facility is over 100 years old. It has less than 200 square feet of space, not enough space for social distancing. All 5 of the poll workers we use on Election Day in this precinct are over the age of 75 and are in the high risk category.
- **Ellijay Precinct**- is located in a small room above the Cullasaja Fire department. The room has less than 200 square feet of space, not enough space for social distancing. 3 of the poll workers are over the age of 75 and are in the high risk category.
- **Sugarfork Precinct**- is located in the old Pine Grove School house. This building is over 100 years old and has less than 100 square feet of space, not enough for social distancing. 2 of the poll workers are over the age of 75.
- **Smithbridge Precinct**- is located in a room above the Otto Fire department; this room is closed due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **Cartoogechaye Precinct**- is located in a room off of the Macon Fire and Rescue; this room is closed due to COVID-19 concerns.

- **Burningtown Precinct-** is located in an old Fire department; this room is closed due to COVID-19 concerns.
- **Cowee Precinct-** is located in a room in the old Cowee School. This room is less than 200 square feet of space, not enough space for social distancing. 4 of the 5 poll workers are over the age of 75 and are at high risk.
- Our plan is to combine North Franklin, South Franklin, and East Franklin, Iotla, Union, Millshoal, Ellijay, Sugarfork, Smithbridge, Cartoogechaye, Burningtown and Cowee communities and set up a central voting location in the Macon County Robert Carpenter Community Center located at 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC. This location is now used for Macon County as an early voting site and is used on Election Day for the Union precinct. The site is approximately 2500 square feet. It has recently been renovated and meets the social distancing requirements, accommodates drive-in voting as needed, and ensures a manageable and safe election operation during this unprecedented COVID 19 pandemic.
- We will combine the Highlands and Flats precincts based on their geographic proximity to vote at the Highlands Civic Center located at 600 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Highlands, NC 28741. These two precincts are approximately nine minutes apart. Based on the 2016 primary voter statistics, these two precincts made up 4.9% of votes. In the 2016 second Primary the Flats precinct had 34 ballots cast on Election Day. The Civic Center site has 1500 square feet which is ample room for social distancing requirements.
- The Nantahala precinct will remain separate as that area is remote and only 565 voters are located in the Nantahala community. The 2016 primary voter statistics shows 3.9% of votes came from Nantahala.
- The Macon County Board of Elections recent research reflects out of our 103 poll workers, 73 are willing to serve only if social distancing protocols and proper PPE supplies are available. The remaining 30 poll workers fall into the high-risk category for virus contraction, and by combining precincts we would have ample workers to cover all

voting sites. These poll workers are already trained in election procedures and would only require minimal COVID 19 sanitation procedure training.

- Operating fifteen (15) precincts creates a burdensome budget issue that affects both the Macon County Board of Elections finances and the county budget as well. Currently our BOE budget that expires June 30, 2020, is at 85-100% of its maximum spending costs due to concurrent expenses as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. In addition we had the expense of the postponement of the Second Primary and cost of ballots that were printed, only to be discarded. Combining the precincts will maximize overall voting operations and eliminate budget shortfalls.
- Macon County consists of a high percentage of retirees who are abiding by the Governor's stay-at-home orders and have not left their homes since the COVID 19 pandemic began. We have had an increase in phone calls in the past few weeks requesting Absentee by Mail ballots. I predict the majority of our voters will use the One-Stop Early Voting or Absentee by mail for this particular election due to the pandemic risks.
- If our plan is approved our staff on Election Day will have separate area books, labels, and machines (M100) for each of the precincts in the two temporary precincts.
- Voters will be notified of precinct changes in the local newspaper's and by a mass post card mailing. Our BOE website and social media announcements will be kept up to date so voters can understand the changes in effect and stay informed of voting details and announcements.

Combining the precincts is a logical solution for several reasons:

- 1) Combining precincts will minimize COVID 19 exposure and ensure maximum safety of voters and workers;
- 2) The plan will utilize facility locations that meet safety standards and social distancing requirements;

- 3) All parties will combine resources and minimize financial burdens to the Board of Elections and Macon County;
- 4) The proposed plan will protect poll workers and cover voting sites with qualified workers who only need minimal training within an urgent timeline;
- 5) All parties agree that this plan meets the NC State Board of Elections Emergency Executive Order requirements.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further justification. I look forward to your approval of our plan to temporarily transfer voters and ensure a safe and efficient election during the June 23, 2020 Second Republican Primary in Macon County.

As we follow social distancing practices during this extraordinary situation across our state and our nation, may we all stay safe and face the future with valuable and historical lessons learned.

Sincerely,

Melanie Thibault

Macon County Board of Elections Director

## EXHIBIT 22

*State Board, DMV Partner to Expand Online Voter  
Registration Service* (Mar. 30, 2020),  
published by the  
N.C. State Board of Elections



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Elections

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Release: IMMEDIATE

Date: 3/30/2020

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[patrick.gannon@ncsbe.gov](mailto:patrick.gannon@ncsbe.gov)

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## State Board, DMV Partner to Expand Online Voter Registration Service

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**Raleigh, N.C.** – The State Board of Elections and N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles have launched a service to allow NCDMV customers to apply to register to vote or update existing voter registration information online.

This is a standalone service that does not require the user to complete a NCDMV transaction, such as a license renewal or duplicate, at the same time.

The free service comes at a time when many county boards of elections have limited access or are closed to the public, and while residents are being asked to stay home because of the spread of COVID-19.

Existing NCDMV customers with a North Carolina driver's license or NCDMV-issued ID may apply to register to vote or update voter address or political party information through the [NCDMV Voter Registration web page](#). The application currently does not allow voters to change their name.

*All voter registration services are free.*

**"We're excited for this new service. It's another way we can help North Carolina voters while we practice social distancing,"** said Karen Brinson Bell, executive director of the State Board of Elections.

**"The NCDMV already offered online voter registration services to customers completing transactions,"** said NCDMV Commissioner Torre Jessup. **"It made sense to collaborate with the State Board of Elections to now offer that same process without requiring a transaction so we could provide a valuable and convenient service for North Carolinians."**



Individuals using the online process will authorize the signature NCDMV has on file for them to be affixed to their voter registration application.

NCDMV's vendor, PayIt, is hosting the service. A link to the voter registration service also is available through the State Board of Elections' website here: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voters/Registering-to-Vote>.

County boards of elections will continue to confirm the eligibility of online registrants through standard procedures, including verification mailings.

Eligible North Carolina residents who are not NCDMV customers must still fill out a paper voter registration form and return it to their county board of elections to register to vote or make changes to their voter registration.

To check your N.C. voter registration, go here: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLookup/>.

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###



## Media Kits

Topic	Link to Portal
Congressional District 9 Hearing	
Link	

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## EXHIBIT 23

*North Carolina's COVID-19 Response for  
Individuals and Families, N.C. Dep't of Health and  
Human Services*



## NCDHHS COVID-19

# Individuals and Families

## Stay Home, Save Lives

North Carolina has moved into a [Safer At Home Phase 2](https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/staying-ahead-curve)

(<https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/staying-ahead-curve>) , as outlined in [Executive Order 141](https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO141-Phase-2.pdf)

(<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO141-Phase-2.pdf>) . Phase 2 lifts the Stay At Home order moving into a Safer At Home recommendation, especially for people at [high risk](/information/individuals-families-communities/individuals-higher-risk) (</information/individuals-families-communities/individuals-higher-risk>) for serious illness. Teleworking is also urged when possible. [Read the FAQs](https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/Phase-2-FAQ.pdf)

(<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/Phase-2-FAQ.pdf>) for more information.

View What Phase 2 Means for NC (<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/Phases-List.pdf>)



## Staying healthy

There are some common sense [measures](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html)

([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html)

[CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html))

everyone can take to protect themselves and others from the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and put distance between yourself and other people.

- Use a cloth face covering when you may not be able to keep 6 feet between yourself and other people.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched. Disinfectants should be used by following label instructions. Don't mix chemicals, wear protective gear, use in a well-ventilated area, and store chemicals out of reach of kids. Increases in chemical exposures from disinfectants have been reported. Learn more ([https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6916e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm6916e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6916e1.htm?s_cid=mm6916e1_w)) .

The CDC has information on steps you can take to prevent illness

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>) . Additionally, review tips to manage your overall health and wellness (/about-covid-19/managing-overall-health) and learn more about caring for pets and animals (/information/individuals-families-communities/pet-owners) during this time.

## Cloth face coverings

Following CDC cloth face coverings

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>)

guidance, Executive Order 138 (<https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO138-Phase-1.pdf>)

recommends that people wear a cloth face covering when they leave their house and may be near (less than six (6) feet from) other people who are not family or household members.

Covering your face is about helping others. By covering your face when you go out for essential reasons, you are being a good neighbor and community member.

It is still recommended that you stay at least 6 feet way from other people (social distancing

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>) ) and frequently wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but it may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This is especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms. The very best evidence on reducing the spread is to maintain social distance and stay at home, in addition to following the prevention measures

([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html))

listed above.

Cloth coverings can play a part in controlling the spread if they are used properly and in combination with other everyday preventive actions

([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fprevention.html))

like washing hands and wiping down surfaces. If used incorrectly, face coverings can expose someone to more germs. Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing or adjusting a face covering and wash hands immediately after removing or adjusting.

The CDC does not recommend medical masks as our supplies of masks need to first go to those who work on the frontlines, including health care workers.

Read the FAQs on Cloth Face Coverings

(<https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/covid-19/FAQs-Cloth-Face-Coverings.pdf>) (Spanish

(<https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/covid-19/FAQs-on-Cloth-Face-Coverings-Spanish.pdf>) ) for more information.

## Household preparedness

The CDC has a checklist

([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/checklist-household-ready.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Findex.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/checklist-household-ready.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Findex.html))

of actions to prepare your household for COVID-19, and guidance is available for preventing the spread (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>) of coronavirus in homes and residential communities.

People should make sure they have daily necessities and medications to last about two weeks, in case they need to isolate. Massive stock piling of supplies is not necessary. Leave some for others, especially those who can't afford to buy a lot of groceries all at once. North Carolinians who need help with needs like food assistance, support for families and other basic needs should call 2-1-1 for assistance.

If you must run essential errands, follow this guidance

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html>) on how to do so in a healthy and safe manner.

For cleaning your home, the CDC provides steps you should take

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has also released a list of cleaning products

(<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>) to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Follow label instructions while cleaning.

## What to do if you feel sick or think you've been exposed?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness with symptoms similar to the flu. Symptoms

([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html?](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fsymptoms.html)

[CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fsymptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fsymptoms.html))

are typically mild to moderate, but there have been cases of severe illness and death due to the virus. The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Learn more about symptoms, testing and the steps you should take (</about-covid-19/symptoms>)



## Frequently Asked Questions



## + Do pregnant women have a higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19?

### According to the CDC

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>) , it is not known if pregnant women have a greater chance of getting sick from COVID-19 nor whether they are more likely to have serious illness as a result. Pregnant women are at higher risk from influenza and other respiratory viruses, so they are encouraged to protect themselves from illnesses. While children are generally at lower risk for severe infection, some studies indicate a higher risk among infants.

## + What are some helpful parent and family resources I can use during this time?

### Talking to Children about the Coronavirus

- The Child Mind Institute (<https://childmind.org/>) provides resources and tips for parenting, including how to talk to kids about COVID-19 (<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>) .
- Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus (<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus%C2%A0>) provides information in a child-friendly comic format.
- Answering Your Child's Questions During the Coronavirus (<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3265-answering-your-young-child-s-questions-about-coronavirus>) from Zero to Three provides age-appropriate responses to common questions from toddlers.
- The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education Center has resources (<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/covid-19-resources-families-help-children-understand-covid-19>) to help children understand COVID-19 and teach children to wash their hands.
- Zero to Three provides tips for families (<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/3210-tips-for-families-coronavirus>) that include age-appropriate responses to common questions, a guide to self-care, and activities for young children experiencing social distancing.

- Supporting Individuals with Autism Through Uncertain Times (<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/supporting-individuals-autism-through-uncertain-times>) is a free UNC toolkit available in multiple languages that includes resources (<https://afirm.fpg.unc.edu/sites/afirm.fpg.unc.edu/files/covid-resources/Supporting%20Individuals%20with%20Autism%20through%20Uncertain%20Times%20Full%20>) for families and caregivers supporting individuals, including young children, with autism spectrum disorder.

## Coping with Stress

- Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from COVID-19 (<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19>) from the National Association of School Psychologists provides tips on helping families adjust to a “new normal.”
- The Parent/Caregiver Guide to Helping Families Cope with the Coronavirus Disease ([https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/outbreak\\_factsheet\\_1.pdf](https://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/resources/fact-sheet/outbreak_factsheet_1.pdf)) from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network includes age-appropriate tips for helping children cope with stress and uncertainty.
- Tips for Parents during Times of Trauma (<https://parentsasteachers.org/news/2020/4/1/tips-for-parents-during-times-of-trauma>) , available from Parents As Teachers, outlines ways caregivers can maintain routines and respond to children’s needs. Parents and caregivers can also search (<https://parentsasteachers.org/program-locator-1>) for a Parents As Teachers program in their area.

## Parenting & Caregiving Courses, Training, & Online Communities

- American Academy of Pediatrics (<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>) has information on children and coronavirus and helpful parenting tips.
- Triple P Online ([https://www.triplep-parenting.com/nc-en/find-help/triple-p-online/toddlers-to-tweens/?itb=d9a5cf487c8317dba2cc8fafcf8a18a8&gclid=CjwKCAjwhOD0BRAQEiwAK7JHmFQLtNt33z0\\_fTnaO2](https://www.triplep-parenting.com/nc-en/find-help/triple-p-online/toddlers-to-tweens/?itb=d9a5cf487c8317dba2cc8fafcf8a18a8&gclid=CjwKCAjwhOD0BRAQEiwAK7JHmFQLtNt33z0_fTnaO2)) is a free parenting course that provides flexible, practical ways to develop skills, strategies and confidence to handle any parenting situation. The course now includes a Parenting During COVID-19 module and tip sheets. Resources are available in English and Spanish.
- Prevent Child Abuse NC provides resources (<https://preventchildabuse.org/coronavirus-resources/>) for staying connected, remaining active and engaged as a family, and managing stress and anxiety.

- The Incredible Years website (<http://www.incredibleyears.com/parents-teachers/articles-for-parents/>) provides resources on topics such as providing calm and supportive parenting and tips for grandparents reaching out to children remotely.
- Parents and caregivers can search for Circle of Parent (<http://circleofparents.org/>) groups that offer a forum for caregivers to exchange ideas, support and information.
- The Children's Bureau Tip Sheets ([https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/tip-sheets/?utm\\_campaign=ncapm20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ncapmlaunch040120](https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/tip-sheets/?utm_campaign=ncapm20&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ncapmlaunch040120)) provide parents and caregivers with easy-to-read, concrete steps to take when dealing with a concern or question.
- MotherToBaby also has evidence-based resources (<https://mothertobaby.org/covid19/>) , and can be reached with questions (<https://mothertobaby.org/contact-expert/>) .

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## + How can family caregivers best support others during COVID-19?

Family caregivers face unique challenges during COVID-19 as they balance the needs of their loved one — whether that is an older adult, a grandchild they are raising, or an adult with a disability. It is important providers consider patient rights (<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2020/05/06/special-bulletin-covid-19-83-title-ii-americans-disabilities-act-ada-and-section-504>) under the American with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act when considering caregiver visitation.

The resources below can help caregivers navigate resources and empower themselves during this complicated time:

- The Office of Civil Rights has issued a bulletin (<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr-bulletin-3-28-20.pdf>) regarding civil rights of individuals during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The CDC has issued guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>) regarding allowing visitors who are essential for the patient's physical or emotional well-being and care. For individuals with a cognitive impairment, their caregiver is an extension of the individual with the impairment, and should be treated as such. Unless it negatively impacts a facility's ability to ensure the safety of other patients or visitors, anyone with a

cognitive impairment should be allowed to have their caregiver with them either in the ambulance or in the hospital.

- The 16 regional area agencies on aging (<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/aging-and-adult-services/adult-day-services/daas-area-agencies-aging>) have a Family Caregiver Resource Specialist available to assist caregivers with resources and services.
- Minimizing caregiver stress and burnout while they are home for long periods of time is vital. The CDC has some helpful tips for reducing stress (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>) .
- Caregivers of individuals with dementia face their own set of challenges. The Alzheimer's Association has developed tips for dementia care ([https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/coronavirus-\(covid-19\)-tips-for-dementia-care](https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/coronavirus-(covid-19)-tips-for-dementia-care)) .
- The CDC has guidance on caring for someone at home with COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html>) .

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+ What are some helpful resources for people with developmental disabilities?

The national Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) has developed an easy-to-read COVID-19 booklet written by and for people with developmental disabilities. The information is current as of March 13, 2020 and is available in English (<https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Plain-Language-Information-on-Coronavirus.pdf>) and Spanish (<https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/resource/plain-language-information-on-covid-19-spanish-version/>) . (Some terminology and links are not specific to North Carolina.)

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+ I have a trip planned. Should I still go?

Cases of COVID-19 have been reported in all 50 states, and some areas are experiencing community spread of the disease. Crowded travel settings, such as airports, might increase your risk of exposure if there are other travelers with COVID-19.

The CDC and NCDHHS recommend that people at higher risk (</information/individuals-families-communities/individuals-higher-risk>) for severe COVID-19 illness, such as adults over age 65, people with serious underlying health conditions (such as heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes) and people with weakened immune systems, avoid travel at this time and stay home to the extent possible to decrease the chance of infection.

Travel recommendations (<https://www.nc.gov/covid-19/covid-19-travel-resources>) are frequently changing. Visit the CDC's website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) , the U.S. Department of State website (<https://www.state.gov/>) .

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## Individuals, Families and Communities

**Individuals and Families** (</information/individuals-families-communities/individuals-and-families>)

Individuals at Higher Risk (</information/individuals-families-communities/individuals-higher-risk>)

Pet Owners (</information/individuals-families-communities/pet-owners>)

Community Events (</information/individuals-families-communities/community-events>)

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