

Board of Commissioners

Steve Tyson, Chairman
Lee Kyle Allen, Vice Chairman
Scott C. Dacey
Thomas F. Mark
Theron L. McCabe
Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Jeffrey S. Taylor

Administrative Staff

Jack B. Veit, III, County Manager

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board
Rick Hemphill, Finance Officer
Joan Harrell, Human Resources Director

Craven County



Administration Building
406 Craven Street
New Bern, NC 28560
Fax 252-637-0526
manager@cravencounty.com

Commissioners 252-636-6601
Manager 252-636-6600
Finance 252-636-6603
Human Resources 252-636-6602

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST - TO INTRODUCE A LOCAL BILL REQUIRING VOTER IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO VOTING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Craven County Board of Commissioners is aware of Governor Perdue's veto of legislation requiring voter identification to be presented when voting in local election; and,

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history fair and free elections have been the benchmarks that sets the United States of America apart from nations around the world. Recently, citizens from many of those nations have been witnessed demanding more freedoms and more accountability from their respective governments. Many times elections are arranged to keep dictators in power or to replace one regime with another that is even more brutal; and,

WHEREAS, given the current political climate throughout our nation, many of our communities are anxious to ensure that one of our most basic and fundamental rights will continue to be protected. That right is being further diminished through illegal registrations, votes by convicted felons who have lost their right to vote, multiple votes by the same individual, and those who reside illegally within the United States. Requiring identification from those who are charting our communities' and nation's future is not unreasonable, and giving notice now will provide many months to allow those individuals to secure the required identification; and,

WHEREAS, some have advised this requirement would place an undue hardship on certain individuals in our communities. Currently, individuals cannot open bank accounts, nor can they send or receive money transactions without proper identification. Many pay their monthly bills with money orders purchased through local retail shops (Money Gram, Western Union, etc.). All of these require proper identification by the federal government to prevent illegal activity and retailers going through annual mandatory training to ensure compliance.

WHEREAS, before the introduction of one-stop voting and same day registration, the deadline to register to vote was 25 days prior to election day. This deadline was intended to give the county boards of election time to complete the administrative tasks required to maintain an accurate voter list by mailing out the legally required verification notices (voter cards) to ensure that registrants' addresses were valid.

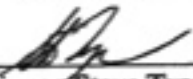


In turn, county boards are required by law to wait one month for any cards to be returned "undeliverable" if the addresses provided are not valid. The advent of one-stop voting and same day registration has rendered the verification process a nullity, as all elections will have been certified by the time the validation process is completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Craven County Board of Commissioners respectively requests that those who represent Craven County in the North Carolina General Assembly to introduce a local bill as soon as possible, with said bill being patterned after House Bill 351, "An Act to Restore Confidence in Government by Requiring that Voters Provide Photo Identification Before Voting", a bill which was adopted by both the Senate and House of Representatives and vetoed by the Governor. This bill would require voter identification in order to participate in future Craven County elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Craven County's legislative delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly, and to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Adopted this the 21st day of November, 2011.



Chairman Steve Tyson
Craven County Board of Commissioners



Jack B. Veit, III.
Deputy Clerk to the Board