



Contact The Durham County Board of Elections
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ELECTION DAY IN DURHAM COUNTY

Complaints of long waits

Durham, NC, March 22, 2016- It was reported in multiple media outlets that voters faced longer than usual wait times to cast a ballot in Durham County at some precincts this past Tuesday, March 15th. While there were isolated precincts that faced wait times in excess of 1 hour between 5:00 pm and 7:30pm, this was not the result of any systemic failure of the elections process in Durham County. There were adequate numbers of poll workers, voting materials and laptop computers available at each precinct sufficient to accommodate the 79,404 voters who voted on Election Day. What we saw at a few isolated locations that led to occasions of extended waits, were voters requiring additional services beyond simply voting their ballot. The longest waits were at polling places used during early voting. Many voters voted in these locations instead of their assigned precincts, requiring poll workers to take the additional time required to shepherd the voter through the provisional voting process. Additionally, many voters were confused as to the nature of a partisan primary and requested ballots outside their registered party preference. This again, created demands for provisional voting options. Finally, many voters required name and address changes from what their registration records indicated. Each of these actions takes several additional minutes to complete and diverts resources away from the normal voting process. Taking the time of poll workers and their laptop computers to do things on Election Day that could have been easily done in the months and weeks prior to an election, will create backups that are especially confounding during peak evening hours.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of the convenience of early voting. For voters that prefer the excitement of voting on Election Day, please be sure to arrive early and at your correct precinct in order to avoid long lines. We are here to help you update your voter registration and provide you with information on your precinct's location, the time and location of early voting sites in Durham County and information about absentee voting.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact The Durham County Board of Elections at (919) 560-0700 or email at elections@dconc.gov.