



**TEMPORARY ELIMINATION OF IN-PERSON PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE DURHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

The Durham County Board of Elections finds the following:

1. The Durham County Board of Elections realizes the public health challenges precipitated by COVID-19 and its official recognition by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a global pandemic.
2. In recent weeks, the President of the United States and the Governor of North Carolina have declared emergencies in response to the rapid spread of COVID-19. These declarations require various actions by government officials and the general public to limit person-to-person contact in order to facilitate the elimination of this pandemic.
3. On March 14, 2020, the Durham County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This declaration was initiated to delegate authority to the County Manager and Public Health Director in responding as appropriate to curb the spread of COVID-19.
4. Responsive to the BOCC State of Emergency Declaration, County Manager Wendell Davis, has informed the Board of Elections that all county departments, excluding Public Health, the Department of Social Services, and the Register of Deeds, will be closing to the general public.
5. The Durham County Board of Elections affirms the seriousness of this pandemic and the necessity of implementing policies under its purview to support the county's emergency action plan in response to the spread of COVID-19.

Based upon the aforementioned findings, and consistent with N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-33.2(1), the Durham County Board of Elections hereby orders the Executive Director to ensure the following:

1. The temporary elimination of in-person public access to the Durham County Board of Elections office consistent with the County Manager's directive as applied to other departments in the County.
2. The temporary elimination of in-person public access to the Durham County Board of Elections office shall remain intact until public access is reinstated by the County Manager or until further order by the Durham County Board of Elections.
3. The public maintains the ability to contact the Durham County Board of Elections by telephone at a generally distributed line during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). This number must be clearly displayed on the exterior of the public entry door to the Durham County Board of Elections office. Alternatively, the public shall be permitted to email the Durham County Board of Elections at [elections@dconc.gov](mailto:elections@dconc.gov).

4. The public shall be provided a clear and secure means to drop-off election materials at a location in close proximity to the public entry door of the Durham County Board of Elections office.
5. The Durham County Board of Elections staff continue to execute election administration functions via means approved by the Executive Director and in conjunction with county administration.

This the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2020.



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Philip A. Lehman  
Chairman, Durham County Board of Elections