

**CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ACTIVITY REPORT
AUGUST 2006**

The following report contains the recent activities of the Craven County Board of Elections Office. This report is done to help keep all interested parties up to date on the activities of this office.

Both Respective Political Parties have opened their headquarters for the 2006 Election Season: The Craven County Democratic Party Headquarters is located at 2500 Trent Road (Next to Kitchen on the Trent and the phone number is 636-0305

The Craven County Republican Party Headquarters is located in the Berne Square Shopping Center and the phone number is 672-8671

The Craven County Board of Elections held their Regular Monthly Meeting on July 6th, 2006 in the 1st Floor Conference room of the County Administration Building. The minutes from this meeting will be available on the Board of Elections web site after approval by the Board. Minutes from April 5th, April 18th, April 25th, May 9th and June 14th were approved as written.

The Board of Elections received a packet of petitions from the Town of River Bend. The cover letter requested that the Director review the documents that included the Water-Sewer Initiative Petitions submitted by Mr. William H. Ritchie, Jr. and asked for an opinion on whether the issue was appropriate to take to a referendum to the registered voters of the Town. The Director responded to the Town that it was not the responsibly of the Board of Elections to tender a second legal opinion to a non-election matter. This was a local government budget/finance issue. The petitions were returned to the Town as directed by Mr. Don Wright, General Council to the State Board of Elections. The petitions were resubmitted by the Town of River Bend on July 25th and certified as instructed by Mr. Wright. The office checked 454 signatures, 387 were valid. The total requirement as written in the Town Code is 15% of the registered voters, 415 signatures were required. We are waiting for information from Mr. Wright as to what is the next step for this petition or if it is now closed because of certification.

The Board has been reviewing the Precincts in Craven County. The Board requested this information at an earlier date. The Board has signed a resolution to change the Ernul Precinct polling location to the new Little Swift Creek Fire Department on Hwy 17 and The Board also unanimously voted to return the George Street Polling location to the Senior Citizens Building on George Street. This information has been sent to the State Board of Elections and will now be sent to the US Justice Department for approval. This should all be done in time for the upcoming November 7th, 2006 Election. All voters will be notified by mail of these changes and notices will also be posted and advertised with the local news media.

Tiffney Miller, Director and Leone Lewis, Administrative Assistant attended two days of Election Programs on July 17th & 18th at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. Items covered were Voter registration denials, Agency Voter Registration, SEIMS processes, residency issues, Election Day Challenges, Trails and Tribulations, the history of failsafe voting procedures and case studies and top 10 do's and don't in election administration and campaign finance. We also reviewed the case studies in campaign reporting pertaining to the Phipps committee and RGA and State Capital Media Project. The classes were very informative and will bring Ms. Lewis closer to Certification as a North Carolina Elections Administrator. The Director is required to attend these courses to maintain her Certification.

All Active Candidate Committees have submitted their 2nd Quarter Campaign reports. These reports will be audited by the office as required by the State. All reports were filed on time. There were several reports from the last reporting period that required additional information

from the Committees, this information has also been submitted. The next required Campaign report is due on October 30th; this would be the 3rd Quarter Plus report. 48 Hour reports are due from committees that receive contributions of \$1,000 or more during October 22 – November 7th. We expect information from the State Board of Elections Office, Campaign Reporting on the new legislation passed by the General Assembly. One of the changes that will have a big impact on all Candidates and Committees will be the required Treasurer Training. This will be provided by the State. When the office receives this information all current active committees will be notified of the new requirements.

Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor closed on July 7th at noon. Two seats are open for the 2006 Election year. One candidate has filed for this seat, Mr. Kirby Braxton (incumbent) filed for re-election. This is a non partisan office. There will be a place on the ballot listed under this office allowing voters to write-in candidate choices. A list of the Craven County Candidates for the November 7th General Election has been compiled and is available on the Craven County web site on the Board of Elections page this has been updated with the Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Candidate. A list of all State Candidates is available on the State Board of Elections web site, the address is www.sboe.state.nc.us

North Carolina State Board of Elections will conduct the mandated training for Board Members and Directors on August 14th & 15th in Asheville, NC On Monday the State will conduct the General Session and on Tuesday Core Courses will be offered. The Board Members will attend Core Course #8 on Public Relations and the Director and Administrative Assistant Lisa Bennett will attend Core Course #10 on voting equipment training procedures.

We have been working with the State on the ballot coding for the November Election. There are many things that have to be done to ensure voters receive the proper ballot styles and all printing and programming is done correctly, at this time we are working on the ballot combinations for all precincts. Audio pronunciation of Candidate names must also be submitted for the audio portion of the program for the IVotronic for ADA compliance. We expect to have sample ballots towards the end of August. By law we must start mailing out absentee ballots on Monday, September 18th.

One Stop Voting Sites were selected by the Board of Elections at their Regular Meeting in July. The satellite sites selected were the Public Library in Havelock and the foyer of the Auditorium at West Craven High School. The office must also conduct one stop voting in the Board of Elections office (or an office or room adjacent). We will use the 1st Floor Conference room as the office site. The hours of operation have not been set at this time but will be discussed at the next Regular Board meeting. One Stop Voting begins October 19th and ends November 4th at 1:00 p.m.

The Director met with Mr. Ray Moser, Assistant County Manager and Mr. Steven Creel Maintenance Supervisor to discuss the voting equipment delivery process that took place during the Primary The Maintenance Department did a fantastic job assisting the Election's Office with this important task. Chain of custody and security issues were discussed. Equipment storage was also discussed as there is not enough room in the Administration Building to store and program all equipment. Alternative storage is being investigated by Mr. Moser and Mr. Creel. We need to find a solution for this problem soon as programming for the November Election will begin very soon.

August 9th is the deadline for write-in candidates to file declarations of intent and petitions. The law requires that individuals seeking to be write-in candidates for partisan offices file a declaration of intent and are required to gather petitions from a percentage of registered voters eligible to vote for the office sought by the write-in candidate.

The Governor has proclaimed September as Citizens Voter Registration Awareness Month. 100 county Boards of Elections will conduct the ninth biennial State Voter Registration Drive during the month of September. The Craven County Board of Elections has already started planning for this event.

Voter Registration Activity July 2006

New Voter Registrations 291

Changes in Information 126

Voters Removed 91

Verification Mailings Sent 506

Confirmation Mailings Sent 5

County Statistical

Active voter total: 54,778

Inactive total: 6,923

Total Registered: 61,701

County Statistical by Party

Democrat: 26,999

Republican: 22,170

Unaffiliated: 12,532