



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### North Carolina Election Officials Highlight Operational Challenges of S382

Bolivia, NC – The North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections (NCADE) has sent a letter to all members of the North Carolina General Assembly expressing deep concerns about the operational challenges posed by S382. Recently vetoed by the Governor, this legislation may soon return for consideration of a veto override. NCADE urges legislators to take into account the practical realities of election administration and the unintended consequences this bill may create.

“S382 proposes compressed timelines and additional requirements that do not reflect the practical realities of election administration in North Carolina,” said Sara LaVere, President, on behalf of NCADE. “These changes could jeopardize the accuracy and efficiency of election operations while straining already limited resources at the county level.”

Key concerns include:

- **Provisional Ballot Deadlines:** The bill requires all provisional ballots to be researched and finalized by 5 p.m. on the third day after Election Day. This drastically reduces the current 10-day window needed to verify voter eligibility, resolve discrepancies, and audit findings to ensure compliance with election law. Election officials across the state have emphasized that this timeline is logistically impossible without sacrificing accuracy.
- **Absentee Ballot Processing:** New requirements for absentee ballot counting—including starting extended board meetings on Election Day at 5 p.m.—conflict with other critical responsibilities, such as troubleshooting precinct issues and managing poll closings. These overlapping demands would overextend staff resources and risk procedural errors.

Additionally, NCADE notes that the proposed changes would have significant budgetary impacts, including increased overtime and staffing costs, particularly for smaller counties with limited personnel.

NCADE urges legislators to work closely with election administrators to craft laws that enhance transparency and efficiency while remaining practical and implementable. “Election officials are eager to collaborate on solutions that support fair and accessible elections,” Sara LaVere added.

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