

You can influence the Early Voting plan in your county

Attend the key meeting of your county board of elections. Look at the list below or at <http://ourncelections.tumblr.com> to get involved where you live.

Upcoming Board of Elections Meetings

Wake:	June 24, 3pm
Gaston:	June 24, 12noon
Beaufort:	July 1, 4pm
Greene:	July 1, 5pm
Vance:	July 1, 5pm
Hertford:	July 3, TBA
New Hanover:	July 7, 10am
Scotland:	July 7, 4pm
Burke:	July 8, 10am
Harnett:	July 8, 4pm
Hoke:	July 8, 5pm
Caswell:	July 8, 5:30pm
Transylvania:	July 11, 10am

What's an Early Voting Plan?

Each election year, all 100 County Boards of Elections develop, debate, and vote on their own Early Voting plans in public meetings. Most county boards are meeting in June and July to decide where and when to open One-Stop, Early Voting locations for the November 4 general election. The Early Voting period begins October 23 and ends November 1.

You can have influence in this process by showing up at the meetings to support strong plan or by contacting county election board members ahead of time to tell them you want a strong plan. A strong plan would include many hours on the first Saturday (Oct. 25), evening hours, good Early Voting locations, and possibly a few hours Sunday afternoon.

You have leverage: Each county must offer as many Early Voting hours in 2014 as it offered in the 2010 election; it must fit all the hours it provided in 17 days into just 10 days. Meeting

that challenge will require more Early Voting sites, more hours, or both. Counties may only decrease their total hours from the 2010 level if all members of the County and State Boards of Elections unanimously agree. This requirement to squeeze 17 days of hours into 10 days gives you leverage to push for a strong Early Voting plan: they've got to find ways to give people many hours of EV opportunity.

All County Elections Boards have two Republicans and one Democrat (by law, the governor's party gets the majority of seats). If the county's Early Voting plan is not approved by all three Board members, any Board member can submit an alternative plan to the State Board, which has the final authority. The power of just one Board member to block a reduction of hours or submit an alternative plan is another point of leverage for you.

What Can I Do?

The most important thing to do is show up at your County Board of Elections meetings. Democracy North Carolina, a member of the HK on J coalition, advocates for strong Early Voting plans that include plenty of weekend voting hours (Saturdays and Sunday), evening hours (for working people), and locations that are convenient for low-income communities. A calendar that lists the times and locations for county board of elections meetings is at <http://ourncelections.tumblr.com> or call Democracy NC at 919-286-6000 ext. 11 for more information.

A guide to advocating a strong plan is at <http://democracy-nc.org/downloads/EVAdvocacy.pdf>

- from Democracy North Carolina, 6/23/2014