



## **Rutherford County Board of Commissioners Resolution Seeking Legislative Support for Local Governments Regarding Voting Machines**

**WHEREAS**, Rutherford County currently uses Direct Record Electronic voting machines (DRE), which utilizes a touch screen with electronic tabulation along with a voter verified paper backup; and

**WHEREAS**, Rutherford County along with 21 other counties in North Carolina will soon have their voting systems decertified for use in future elections in order to remain in compliance with Session Law 2013-281, section 30.8 and 30.9 amended by Session Law 2015-103, which has set December 1, 2019 as the deadline for decertification of this equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, the impending deadline fails to consider serious concerns regarding the lack of availability of certified equipment, current timelines, possible conflicting Federal mandates, and costs to local governments. The State Board of Elections has only certified one system, which is, in Rutherford County's case, a regressive system in comparison to existing and future technology. Newer and more modern and varied technology currently in use by other states has been pending certification by the North Carolina Board of Elections since 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, acquisition of new technology after the 2019 Municipal elections in November and leading to the absentee by-mail requirements in January place an extreme hardship for accurate testing, training, and deployment of new voting machines within this window; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal US House Bill I, having currently passed the US House, will disallow our current system in 2022. This generates concern that if Rutherford County should comply with the existing state requirements to de-certify in 2019, which requires the County to purchase a new system, the pending Federal Bill may require newer restrictions thereby requiring the County Tax Payers to repurchase newer election equipment again in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Rutherford County urges the General Assembly to take the more prudent approach to deferring decertification until 2022 in order to: 1) allow the State Elections Board more time to certify newer, modern and diverse technology, and 2) allow for synchronization with Federal elections regulations reducing the very real risk of duplication of costs within a 4-year window.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the General Assembly vote in support of deferring the de-certification of election voting machines until 2022.

Adopted this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019.

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Chairman, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST"

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Clerk, Board of Commissioners

*County Commissioners*

**Bryan A. King**, *Chairman*

**Alan Toney**, *Vice Chairman*

**Michael Benfield**

**Eddie Holland**

**Greg Lovelace**

**Steve Garrison**, *County Manager*

**Hazel S. Haynes**, *Clerk to the Board*

**Richard Williams**, *County Attorney*