

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOARD TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING TO DETERMINE EARLY VOTING SITES, DISCUSS LACK OF AVAILABLE LOCATION IN LELAND

BOLIVIA, NC – The Board of Elections will determine one-stop early voting locations for the 2018 primary at a special meeting at 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2018 in the Commissioners' Chambers in the David R. Sandifer Administration Building, 30 Government Center Drive NE, Bolivia.

The challenge facing the board is determining if early voting will be available in the Leland area. The Town of Leland is denying use of both the Leland Cultural Arts Center and Leland Town Hall for early voting, as used in previous elections, despite repeated requests, including a presentation by Elections Director Sara Knotts to the Leland Town Council.

During early voting for the 2016 primary and general elections, 7,933 votes were cast at the Leland Cultural Arts Center and 8,336 votes were cast at Leland Town Hall; which is more than 26% of the overall one-stop votes cast in 2016. Without access to these two facilities, the board must determine if early voting will be available in the Leland area.

"If we are unable to offer early voting in the northern end of the county, it will have a direct effect on voters and precinct staff on Election Day," said Stuart Smith, Chairman of the Board of Elections. "The lack of early voting will increase voter wait times, lead to longer lines and difficult parking situations, especially at two Leland-area schools that will be in session on election day."

The board will determine hours and locations that will be available during the early voting period of Thursday, April 19, through Saturday, May 5.

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