October 30, 2008

MEMORANDUM 2008-25

To: County Boards of Elections

From: Gary O. Bartlett

Subject: One-stop Absentee Voting Hours – November 1, 2008

Due to the extremely heavy voter turnout and long lines at one-stop absentee voting sites, the State Board of Elections unanimously voted at an emergency telephone conference call meeting today at 11:15 am to direct all county boards of elections to call an emergency meeting to discuss the extension of hours for the one-stop absentee voting sites on Saturday, November 1, 2008. Any called meeting must be posted in accordance with the public meetings laws.

Upon any vote by a member of a county board of elections, the hours of operation of all of a county’s one-stop absentee voting sites may be extended to 5:00 pm. The hours of voting will not be extended if the county board votes unanimously not to extend the hours. Notice of the extension of hours should be posted as soon as practicable and notice provided to the State board of Elections, the county party chairs and all media. Any voter standing in line at the close of the one-stop absentee voting site will be allowed to vote or to register and vote in accordance with GS 163.

The 40 counties required to have preclearance from the US Department of Justice are to notify Don Wright [don.wright@ncmail.net] immediately of any extension of one-stop absentee voting hours. The State Board of Elections will submit the request for preclearance for all counties in this matter.