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Monday, July 14, 2008

Honorable Senator Larry Shaw
District 21, Cumberland County NC
311 Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury Street Room 311
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Dear Senator Shaw,

Common Cause North Carolina is pleased to be working at Fayetteville State University this fall, encouraging students to register and vote in the November elections. We will especially be emphasizing early voting and same day registration with young voters. All our efforts are non partisan, as we are a 501c-3 organization.

Our research finds FSU students may face greater challenges to early voting than most other students within the 16 campus UNC system. Currently, we understand there will be no early voting precinct located on or in proximity to FSU's campus. Most other schools, including North Carolina Central University and North Carolina A&T State University will have early voting sites on campus or nearby.

The closest early voting precinct for FSU students is located at the downtown board of elections office, more than 2.5 miles away. With freshman prohibited from having vehicles on campus, we are hopeful the university will be able to provide transportation for students. The best solution however would be locating an early voting site either on campus or nearby at Bronco Square of the recreational center.

We appreciate your leadership in securing more funding for early voting sites. We certainly support any efforts made to provide a more convenient early voting site for FSU students. Thank you for your interest in this issue and everything you do to make our state better for all.

Best Regards,

Stevie Lawrence, Campus Outreach Coordinator
Common Cause NC

August 1, 2008

The Cumberland County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office at 2:00 p.m. for a special board meeting.

Present: Carole Goins, Chairman
Dick Earle, Member
Andy McCall, Secretary
Terri Robertson, Director

Staff: Angela Amaro, Joyce Carter, Harvey Raynor, Board Attorney

Guests: John Ramsey, Charles Pennington, Elmer Floyd, Clinton Harris, Ashley Holloway, James Buxton, Matthew Davis, Nickle McDougal, Larry Wright, William McNeill, Jennifer Frye, Charles Evans and Pastor Turner

Chairman Goins called the meeting to order. Turned the meeting over to the speakers.

Larry Wright- Heal the Land Outreach- concerned about only one early voting site opened on a Sunday. He stated that the momentum for Sunday voting could become problematic with only one site. He also stated that 1pm-5pm would be a good time for voting. There would be buses and convoys that could cause a bottleneck with voters only at one site, he wants all 6 sites open for Sunday voting.

William McNeill- Representing Alan McLauchlin- Ministerial Coalition - This election will be a model effort and we will be watched by all of North Carolina. He is requesting more than one site open on Sunday.

Jennifer Frye- Democracy NC - asks to open all sites on Sunday for voting.

Elmer Floyd - Concerned about the 12pm-4pm time on Sunday, he would like 1pm-5pm with all sites open, we could use a number of sheriff officers to help with the traffic. He asks for:

1. Multiple sites for Sunday
2. Changes of time
3. Working with the Sheriff's Dept. for traffic control
4. Voters will respect each other

James Buxton - NAACP - Ask that the Board consider more one stop sites open on Sunday.

Nickle McDougal- Senator Larry Shaw Office - Does not want to see people turned away, wants everyone to have an opportunity to cast their vote, stating there would be a lot of elderly coming to vote. Ask us to consider longer hours and additional sites.

Pastor Turner - Church will transport voters that don't drive, elderly and disabled. He was concerned as the other speakers with us having additional times and sites.

Charles Evans - Made a proposal for Sunday voting on campus at Fayetteville State University so the students would have an opportunity to vote. He spoke with the Chancellor at Fayetteville State University about having voting on Sunday October 26th, and he was excited about the idea. The students are preparing and anticipating about voting. He requested that Fayetteville State University be used on October 26th for Sunday voting.

Charles Pennington - wants a location in a close proximity to Fayetteville State University, with a location either on campus or Smith Recreation Center. That way every student at Fayetteville State has the opportunity to vote.

Terri Robertson - Director- has contacted Fayetteville State University about the possibility of having a one stop site on campus - Peggy Clark - Facilities Manager; Director Robertson stated