

Subject: Formal Opposition to Proposed Rules on “Voter ID Exception Forms”

08 NCAC 17 .0101: Verification of Photo Identification During In-Person Voting: *The proposed amendments to this rule align the deadlines for certain actions in the rule with statutory deadlines, re-order the listing of provisional voting options in the rule, and make a county board of elections decision on an in-person exception affidavit be by majority vote.*

08 NCAC 17 .0109: Photo Identification for Absentee-By-Mail Ballots: *The proposed amendments to this rule align the deadlines for certain actions in the rule with statutory deadlines and make a county board of elections decision on an absentee voter’s exception affidavit be by majority vote.*

Dear Members of the North Carolina State Board of Elections,

I am a registered voter in [County] County and have been voting since [Year]. I care deeply about free and fair elections because [your personal reason].

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed rule change that would lower the threshold for county boards to discard ballots submitted with a voter ID exception form from a unanimous vote to a simple majority.

There is no justification for this change. There are no reported cases of exception forms being wrongfully accepted and no evidence of abuse that would warrant a lower rejection threshold. What we have documented is the opposite problem: county boards second-guessing voters' stated reasons for using the form rather than evaluating whether those reasons are truthful. That is not the standard the law requires. The unanimous vote requirement exists precisely to prevent that kind of partisan interference — ensuring that discarding a legitimate ballot requires genuine bipartisan consensus, not a party-line vote. With all 100 county boards controlled by one party, lowering that threshold to a simple majority removes the only check protecting voters from politically motivated ballot rejection.

The voters most harmed are those the exception form was built to serve — people who lost their ID in a natural disaster, cannot get to a DMV, live with a disability, or face other documented barriers to obtaining a qualifying photo ID. Black voters make up 23% of registered voters in North Carolina but 34% of those without a qualifying ID. In 2024, voter ID was the second most common problem raised by callers to North Carolina's Election Protection Hotline, and roughly 74% of voters who cast provisional ballots for lack of photo ID never returned with documentation and lost their votes entirely. These are not abstractions. They are members of our communities whose voices were silenced — and this rule change will silence more of them.

This change solves a problem that does not exist while creating a very real threat to voters who have no other path to the ballot box. I urge the Board to reject it.

Respectfully submitted,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State, ZIP]

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