

## **EXHIBIT 2**

### **Press Release and Supporting Documents by Democracy North Carolina**

# Democracy North Carolina

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## **73,500 Extra Hours: More Voters, Needing More Time to Vote, Highlights Need for Strong Early Voting Plans**

New figures released today show that North Carolina voters will need more time to cast ballots this fall, and they'll face longer lines at the polls if action is not taken in the next 10 days by county and state officials.

Democracy North Carolina, a nonpartisan voting rights group, said five indicators point to "a disastrous train wreck at the polls" if county boards of elections do not adopt more expansive early voting schedules than they used in the last presidential election.

Because of a ruling by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, counties are scrambling to adopt new plans for a 17-day early voting period by an August 19 deadline set by the State Board of Elections. County boards of elections had crafted plans for a 10-day period under the old law that the court said was unconstitutional. The old law required counties to provide at least as many hours of early voting opportunity as they did in 2012, but the court's ruling eliminates that hourly minimum.

"Based on what we've seen in Guilford and Wake counties, we're worried that short-sighted or partisan local election officials will not adopt plans that serve the best interests of voters," said Bob Hall, executive director of Democracy North Carolina.

"Fortunately, many county boards have good leaders," he added. "They should all recognize the indicators and conditions that point to the need for investing in strong early voting plans with weekend and evening hours that will relieve the stress on Election Day."

The indicators include:

- **HIGH-TURNOUT SWING STATE.** North Carolina is again a swing state in the presidential race, along with hot US Senate and gubernatorial contests. Overall turnout of registered voters hit 70% and 68% in 2008 and 2012, respectively. It will likely exceed 67% again this year.
- **MORE VOTERS.** North Carolina now has 6.6 million registered voters, a gain of 275,000 over August 2012, and it will have nearly 7 million by November 2016. If just 64% of those additional 275,000 voters show up to vote, and each one takes 8 minutes to cast a ballot, that's an additional 23,500 hours of voting time elections officials need to plan for.
- **NO STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTING.** This is the first presidential election when NC voters cannot use the time-saving procedure of marking one box to choose all the candidates of one party. A surprising 2.5 million voters used straight-ticket voting in 2012, or 56% of all those who voted. Even if just 2 million voters need an extra 90 seconds to mark contests on North Carolina's

notoriously long ballot, the loss of straight-ticket voting will add at least 50,000 hours to the voting time in 2016 over 2012.

- **RELIANCE ON EARLY VOTING.** North Carolina voters love early voting – 56% of those voting in 2012 cast their ballots during the 17-day early voting period, and state election officials expect a similar percent will do the same in 2016 – if counties provide adequate locations and times for them.
- **SUPER-SIZED PRECINCTS.** Because early voting relieves the pressure on Election Day, county officials have not created new precincts with Election Day polling places. As a result, the number of precincts with more than 3,000 voters has steadily grown. Today, 48% of North Carolina’s registered voters live in precincts with more than 3,000 voters – that’s 3.2 million voters.

**“We now have an election system that heavily depends on a very high use of early voting,” said Hall. “If counties don’t offer plenty of weekend and evening hours at accessible sites during early voting, we will see a disastrous train wreck at the polls.”**

Isela Gutierrez, associate research director of Democracy NC, pointed out that counties need to also invest in better trained staff and more equipment. “In 2014 and in the March 2016 primary, we witnessed the serious delays and actual disenfranchisement that result from counties having too few intake stations and poorly prepared poll workers,” she said. “Polling places will need more voting booths and machines this fall because of increased registration and the loss of straight-ticket voting.”

Democracy North Carolina is calling on Governor McCrory to release at least \$2.5 million in emergency funds to help counties finance strong early voting plans, buy more voting equipment, and train and pay for more poll workers.

Gutierrez pointed out that state leaders have spent almost \$5 million of tax money on legal fees to defend the restrictive voting law passed in 2013.

“It’s time for Gov. McCrory to stop wasting money on legal fees and start helping voters,” she said. “We’re running out of time. The State Board of Elections staff is encouraging better early voting, better training, more staff, more investment for the voters. We need county and state officials to step up now and do their part.”

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### Number & Percent of Reg. Voters in Large Precincts, August 2016

COUNTY	# Reg Voters	Total # of Pre-cincts	# Prec with 4,000+ voters	# Voters in 4,000+ Pre-cincts	# Prec with 3,000+ voters	# Voters in 3,000+ Pre-cincts	% Total Voters in 3,000+
<b>STATE</b>	<b>6,648,445</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1,809,974</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>3,214,975</b>	<b>48%</b>
ALAMANCE	96,798	37	3	15,669	13	49,741	51%
ALEXANDER	23,872	11	-	-	2	6,883	29%
ALLEGHANY	7,276	8	-	-	0	-	0%
ANSON	17,158	12	-	-	0	-	0%
ASHE	18,599	18	-	-	1	3,119	17%
AVERY	11,659	20	-	-	0	-	0%
BEAUFORT	32,566	21	-	-	1	3,686	11%
BERTIE	14,123	13	1	4,118	1	4,118	29%
BLADEN	22,516	18	-	-	0	-	0%
BRUNSWICK	91,813	26	10	50,502	15	67,322	73%
BUNCOMBE	191,479	81	5	21,862	17	64,430	34%
BURKE	57,361	34	-	-	2	6,526	11%
CABARRUS	126,951	47	8	40,153	14	61,409	48%
CALDWELL	54,180	21	2	10,214	6	23,949	44%
CAMDEN	7,502	4	-	-	0	-	0%
CARTERET	51,358	29	-	-	5	17,307	34%
CASWELL	15,352	10	-	-	1	3,028	20%
CATAWBA	101,652	40	3	14,956	13	49,476	49%
CHATHAM	49,444	19	5	26,574	6	30,253	61%
CHEROKEE	23,486	17	-	-	0	-	0%
CHOWAN	10,221	7	-	-	1	3,193	31%
CLAY	8,815	10	-	-	0	-	0%
CLEVELAND	61,302	21	5	25,323	7	32,776	53%
COLUMBUS	35,738	27	-	-	3	9,659	27%
CRAVEN	69,766	27	4	23,579	9	40,749	58%
CUMBERLAND	201,864	78	9	39,414	23	88,199	44%
CURRITUCK	18,415	12	1	5,126	3	12,362	67%
DARE	28,802	17	2	10,298	4	16,985	59%
DAVIDSON	102,706	43	4	18,078	11	42,067	41%
DAVIE	28,908	15	-	-	1	3,444	12%
DUPLIN	29,479	20	1	4,355	3	10,486	36%
DURHAM	216,898	58	21	125,712	34	170,558	79%
EDGECOMBE	38,035	22	1	4,573	3	10,819	28%
FORSYTH	243,653	101	9	42,222	23	90,176	37%
FRANKLIN	41,883	18	2	8,434	4	15,065	36%
GASTON	136,293	46	9	42,520	20	80,651	59%
GATES	8,450	7	-	-	0	-	0%
GRAHAM	6,348	5	-	-	0	-	0%
GRANVILLE	37,051	16	3	13,489	4	17,327	47%
GREENE	11,313	11	-	-	0	-	0%
GUILFORD	347,913	166	1	4,390	22	75,442	22%
HALIFAX	38,206	26	-	-	0	-	0%
HARNETT	70,233	14	8	53,494	11	64,950	92%
HAYWOOD	42,933	30	-	-	2	6,784	16%
HENDERSON	79,909	35	1	4,046	7	24,430	31%
HERTFORD	14,884	14	-	-	0	-	0%
HOKE	30,913	15	2	8,357	4	15,770	51%
HYDE	3,458	7	-	-	0	-	0%

COUNTY	# Reg Voters	Total # Precincts	# 4,000+ voters	Voters in 4,000+ Prec	# 3,000+ voters	Voters in 3,000+ Prec	% Voters in 3,000+
IREDELL	113,739	30	12	71,301	17	88,163	78%
JACKSON	26,867	15	1	5,113	2	8,380	31%
JOHNSTON	117,161	37	8	40,768	17	71,992	61%
JONES	7,359	8	-	-	0	-	0%
LEE	33,982	10	2	9,240	7	27,567	81%
LENOIR	38,837	23	1	4,122	3	11,061	28%
LINCOLN	53,647	23	1	4,274	5	17,258	32%
MACON	24,964	15	-	-	0	-	0%
MADISON	16,371	13	-	-	1	3,571	22%
MARTIN	17,075	13	-	-	2	6,077	36%
MCDOWELL	28,450	18	-	-	1	3,366	12%
MECKLENBURG	673,660	196	53	306,697	93	442,474	66%
MITCHELL	11,084	10	1	5,735	1	5,735	52%
MONTGOMERY	15,825	15	-	-	0	-	0%
MOORE	64,075	27	2	8,775	7	26,627	42%
NASH	65,041	24	4	20,840	7	30,693	47%
NEW HANOVER	161,129	44	18	90,752	29	128,748	80%
NORTHAMPTON	14,639	19	-	-	0	-	0%
ONslow	101,564	25	12	71,374	16	85,523	84%
ORANGE	109,895	44	2	9,729	10	36,937	34%
PAMLICO	9,545	11	-	-	0	-	0%
PASQUOTANK	27,736	9	2	8,988	5	19,397	70%
PENDER	38,256	21	-	-	5	16,838	44%
PERQUIMANS	9,962	8	-	-	0	-	0%
PERSON	26,187	11	3	12,843	3	12,843	49%
PITT	116,880	41	7	32,232	17	66,268	57%
POLK	15,672	8	-	-	1	3,171	20%
RANDOLPH	90,460	23	9	51,939	14	70,494	78%
RICHMOND	30,065	17	4	19,333	4	19,333	64%
ROBESON	74,809	40	2	8,751	8	29,372	39%
ROCKINGHAM	59,316	15	5	27,244	12	53,015	89%
ROWAN	92,144	42	1	4,132	7	25,324	27%
RUTHERFORD	44,048	18	2	9,474	5	19,612	45%
SAMPSON	36,943	23	-	-	0	-	0%
SCOTLAND	22,297	11	-	-	3	9,979	45%
STANLY	39,827	23	-	-	0	-	0%
STOKES	30,866	21	-	-	2	6,615	21%
SURRY	44,358	29	-	-	0	-	0%
SWAIN	10,312	6	-	-	1	3,196	31%
TRANSYLVANIA	24,791	15	-	-	0	-	0%
TYRRELL	2,443	7	-	-	0	-	0%
UNION	146,187	52	8	36,540	22	86,110	59%
VANCE	29,659	13	1	4,104	4	14,984	51%
WAKE	676,945	202	59	309,323	100	452,436	67%
WARREN	13,376	15	-	-	0	-	0%
WASHINGTON	8,584	7	-	-	0	-	0%
WATAUGA	43,469	20	1	4,160	7	25,461	59%
WAYNE	74,003	31	1	4,266	8	27,574	37%
WILKES	41,977	29	-	-	2	7,443	18%
WILSON	55,061	25	2	10,467	5	21,560	39%
YADKIN	23,673	13	-	-	1	3,394	14%
YANCEY	13,696	12	-	-	1	3,245	24%