

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS RELATED TO VOTING AND
COVID-19**

- WHEREAS,** Thanks to earlier action taken by the Durham Board of Elections, the Durham County Board of Commissioners are fully aware of concerns regarding voting in the upcoming 2020 General Election in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** our nation, state and local communities have been mostly shutdown in an effort to “flatten the curve” of increasing cases of COVID-19, and without the availability of a vaccine to treat the pandemic in the near term, it is unknown just how citizens will be able to safely participate in the November elections; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners are aware of mitigation efforts introduced by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Governor of North Carolina to curb the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to social distancing; and
- WHEREAS,** now is the time to create and implement alternative methods of voting to empower participation rather than to discourage voters from exercising their right to vote; and
- WHEREAS,** the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections, in concert with a task force of election officials in the State of North Carolina, has shared substantive legislative recommendations to the General Assembly, the goal of which is to create/and or modify laws to ensure alternative and safe voting options are made available in advance of the 2020 General Election; and
- WHEREAS,** the Durham Board of County Commissioners are supportive of collaborative efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the voting process, and will support our Durham Board of Elections as it works to ensure all elections are administered in a safe and secure manner.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Durham Board of County Commissioners enthusiastically supports the legislative recommendations recently submitted by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections to the General Assembly. Implementing these changes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will be crucial to ensuring that the 2020 Election in North Carolina and Durham County is successful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we ask the Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to invite all counties to join this effort by developing similar resolutions and sharing with their General Assembly delegations, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the General Assembly leadership.

This the 27th day of April 2020

Wendy Jacobs, Chair

James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

Heidi Carter

Brenda A. Howerton

Ellen W. Reckhow