

March 13, 2017

Ms. Kim Westbrook Strach, Executive Director
State Board of Elections
441 N. Harrington Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Ms. Strach,

We write to you as North Carolina citizens who were falsely accused of committing voter fraud in 2016. We urge the State Board of Elections to change the process that allows someone to easily accuse a person of illegally voting, despite having no evidence to back up the charge.

The complaints or “protests” filed against us included no documentation that we did anything wrong. And indeed we did nothing wrong! But by filling out a simple form, someone caused us to become the subject of an official investigation.

We were all shocked to learn we had been accused of a crime. Some of us were told to appear at a meeting of the county board of elections to answer questions. Some of us had our names in media reports about a charge of voter fraud. All of us had our names put in the public record as the target of an allegation that either we voted illegally in two states or we voted illegally while serving a felony sentence.

We understand that many county boards of elections launched investigations, held meetings, and spent precious staff time trying to “get to the bottom” of a complaint that was filed with no actual evidence to examine.

We ask the State Board of Elections to: (1) change the form for filing a protest complaint so it requires a presentation of evidence to support an allegation; and (2) create a process to hold accountable anyone who files a frivolous or negligent complaint or a pattern of repeated false complaints.

Throwing around accusations of voter fraud creates significant harm to innocent voters like us. People who make irresponsible accusations, over and over, affecting many innocent voters, should be held accountable for their actions.

We have asked the voting rights group Democracy North Carolina to deliver this letter on our behalf. Please let their staff know about your progress in making the changes we are requesting.

Respectfully,

Ricky M. Long; Jennifer Hook, Alamance Co.
Joseph D. Golden, Brunswick County
Earl Lordman Sr., Buncombe County
Betty B. Adams, Cumberland County
Timothy Bartlett; John M. Adams, Durham
County
B. R. McCollum, Forsyth County
Bernard Hall, Guilford County
Michael T. Conwell, Harnett County

Johnny L. Benson, Johnston County
James W. Creacy, Lee County
Freddie N. Williams, Mecklenburg County
Anne F. & William J. Hughes; Carol Ann
Turner, Moore County
Carl M. Murphy, New Hanover County
Aysha Nasir, Orange County
Robert L. Chadwick, Wake County
Albert Artis Sr., Wayne County