RESOLUTION TO RE-COMBINE BOONE PRECINCTS

Whereas, the Watauga County Board of Elections is an administrative and quasi-judicial board established pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-30; and

Whereas, the Watauga County Board of Elections is authorized by N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-128(a) to establish, alter, discontinue, or create such new voting places as it may deem expedient; and

Whereas, the original boarders of the Town of Boone, as established by the Session laws of the General Assembly form the Boone Township, which consists of roughly one square mile; and

Whereas, prior to the enactment of early voting in the State of North Carolina, Boone Township was divided into three separate precincts; and

Whereas, the Watauga County Board of Elections office is located within Boone Township and as such Boone Township is and shall remain the situs of a 'one-stop' early voting site as required by N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-227.2; and

Whereas, since the enactment of one-stop voting, Election Day turnout at the Boone 3 and Boone 1 precincts have historically been the lowest percentage turnout of any precincts in Watauga County; and

Whereas, due to the abundance of precincts in this small area the Watauga County Board of Elections has been forced to open a Transfer precinct at Boone 2 due to voter confusion over where they need to go to vote; and

Whereas, the Watauga County Board of Elections is mindful that schools and university campuses are concerned regarding security and unauthorized persons on campus and locating election precincts on educational property complicates the work of law enforcement and campus security to coordinate their efforts with election officials; and

Whereas, the recombination of these precincts would allow the Watauga County Board of Elections to better utilize its resources and funds to establish additional 'one-stop' sites and for other election activities; and

Whereas, the recombination of these precincts would not result in any changes to the apportionment of county commissioners, or the tallying of votes for any elected office; and

Whereas, the Watauga County Board of Elections is of the opinion that the county board would have the current capability of complying with N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-132.1B(a2) in reporting returns by voter tabulation districts; and

Whereas, the proposed new boundary of the Boone Precinct would consist solely of contiguous territory; and

Whereas, the current locations of voting sites for these precincts are as follows: Boone 1: Watauga County Commissioners Board Room; Boone 2: ASU Plemmons Student Union; Boone 3: Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center; and

Whereas, the Watauga County Board of Elections finds that the Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center has ample space, ample parking, easy access to machine and equipment storage, and is in full compliance with the requirements for polling places as set forth by the General Statutes, HAVA, the ADA, and state regulations; and

Whereas, the Watauga County Board of Elections proposes that the voting location for the Boone Precinct shall be at the Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center; and

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Watauga County Board of Elections:

1. Subject to review and approval by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections as set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-132.3, the Watauga County Board of Elections hereby resolves that the precincts of Boone 1, Boone 2, and Boone 3 shall be re-combined and known as the Boone Precinct.

2. The Director for the Watauga County Board of Elections shall forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Executive Director for the State Board of Elections for her review and approval, along with all additional documents, including but not limited to the appropriate maps and written descriptions, and in such format as may be required by the State Executive Director pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-132.3.

3. This proposed change shall not be effective until approved by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §163-132.3(b). Upon receipt of approval by the Watauga County Board of Elections Director, the Watauga County Board of Elections Director shall take all steps appropriate and necessary to advertise this change in accordance with State law.

4. Upon approval by the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections of this change, the voting location for the Boone Precinct shall be the Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center, 252 Poplar Grove Road; Boone, North Carolina.

Resolved, Passed, and Adopted at its scheduled board meeting this the ____ day of August, 2013.

_____

Chairman, Watauga County Board of Elections

Approved:_____

Kim Westbrook Strach, Executive Director