

ORANGE COUNTY BUFFER ZONE NOTICE

Durham Municipal Primary

October 5, 2021

PRECINCTS & POLLING PLACES

PCT	NAME	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP
PA	PATTERSON	NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER	4014 WHITFIELD RD	CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514

ALL PRECINCTS ACCOMMODATE A 50 FEET BUFFER ZONE

§ 163-166.4: Limitation on activity in the voting place and in a buffer zone around it.

(a) Buffer Zone. – No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity in the voting place or in a buffer zone which shall be prescribed by the county board of elections around the voting place. In determining the dimensions of that buffer zone for each voting place, the county board of elections shall, where practical, set the limit at 50 feet from the door of entrance to the voting place, measured when that door is closed, but in no event shall it set the limit at more than 50 feet or at less than 25 feet.

(b) Area for Election-Related Activity. – Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the county board of elections shall also provide an area adjacent to the buffer zone for each voting place in which persons or groups of persons may distribute campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in election-related activity.

(c) Special Agreements About Election-Related Activity. – The Executive Director of the State Board may grant special permission for a county board of elections to enter into an agreement with the owners or managers of a nonpublic building to use the building as a voting place on the condition that election-related activity as described in subsection (b) of this section not be permitted on their property adjacent to the buffer zone, if the Executive Director finds all of the following:

(1) That no other suitable voting place can be secured for the precinct.

(2) That the county board will require the chief judge of the precinct to monitor the grounds around the voting place to ensure that the restriction on election-related activity shall apply to all candidates and parties equally.

(3) That the pattern of voting places subject to agreements under this subsection does not disproportionately favor any party, racial or ethnic group, or candidate.

An agreement under this subsection shall be valid for as long as the nonpublic building is used as a voting place.

(d) Notice About Buffer Zone and Area for Election-Related Activity. – No later than 30 days before each election, the county board of elections shall make available to the public the following information concerning each voting place:

(1) The door from which the buffer zone is measured.

(2) The distance the buffer zone extends from that door.

(3) Any available information concerning where political activity, including sign placement, is permitted beyond the buffer zone.

(e) Buffer Zone and Area for Election-Related Activity at One-Stop Sites. – Except as modified in this subsection, the provisions of this section shall apply to one-stop voting sites in G.S. 163A-1300, 163A-1301, 163A-1302, 163A-1303, and 163A-1304.

(1) Subsection (c) of this section shall not apply.

(2) The notice in subsection (d) of this section shall be provided no later than 10 days before the opening of one-stop voting at the site. (2001-460, s. 3; 2003-365, s. 1; 2007-391, s. 13; 2008-187, s. 33(a); 2009-541, s. 22(a); 2017-6, s. 3.)

CURBSIDE VOTING AREA:

Numbered Memo 2016-17

Curbside voting has expanded significantly across the state in recent years, posing logistical challenges for elections administrators working to apply critical elections processes to a curbside context. State law requires that county boards of election, where practical, establish a buffer zone at 50' from the door to the entrance of the voting place, and no less than 25' feet from the door. G.S. § 163-166.4(a). State Board members have repeatedly stressed the need for comparable protections for curbside voters. We understand that certain voting locations may not logistically accommodate a curbside buffer as described in G.S. § 163-166.4(a). The county's effort should be to effectuate the legislature's intent to protect voters from intimidation and campaign activity during the check-in and voting process. Electioneers are not permitted to approach vehicles in the curbside voting areas.