

*L.H. Kirksey, Chairman  
Sandi C. Walker, Secretary  
Beverly Carlton, Member  
Anthony S. Iovino, Member  
Linda C. Walker, Member  
Debbie K. Mace, Director*



## **BURKE COUNTY, NC BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Burke County Board of Elections Ensures Continued Fair and Safe Elections During Director's Absence**

Morganton, NC - October 18, 2023 - The Burke County Board of Elections announces that Director Debbie Mace will be temporarily absent due to a health condition. We understand the concern this may raise in our community, but we want to assure you that our office is fully committed to managing fair and safe elections during this time.

In light of Director Mace's absence, we are pleased to introduce Kenny Rhyne as the Interim Director. Mr. Rhyne has been an invaluable member of the Burke County Board of Elections since February 2021, holding the position of Election Specialist 2. Prior to joining us, he served Lincoln County Board of Elections for three years. Mr. Rhyne assumed the role of Interim Director on October 18th, 2023, and has already gained the trust and support of the Board. We stand united in endorsing Mr. Rhyne and will be available to assist him as needed throughout this interim period.

We want to assure the public that there will be no disruption to the upcoming early voting period scheduled to run from October 19th to November 4th. Under Mr. Rhyne's capable leadership, these operations will continue to function smoothly, ensuring that citizens have the opportunity to cast their votes conveniently and securely.

Furthermore, it is crucial to remind the community that Election Day is on November 7th. This year being a municipal election year, only polling sites with open positions will be accessible. It is essential to note that voters will be required to present a valid photo ID at the polls this year. Please ensure that you bring the necessary identification to exercise your right to vote effectively.

Local officials play a vital role in shaping our daily lives, and every vote can have a significant impact on the outcome of local elections. Your voice matters, so we encourage all eligible citizens to participate in this important democratic process.

For any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming elections or Director Mace's absence, please direct your inquiries to L.H. Kirksey, the Chairperson of the Burke County Board of Elections. Mr. Kirksey is available to address any issues you may have, and his contact information is provided below.

Contact:

L.H. Kirksey

Chairperson, Burke County Board of Elections

Phone: 828-764-9010 Email: [lonnieHK1949@gmail.com](mailto:lonnieHK1949@gmail.com)

The Burke County Board of Elections remains dedicated to conducting transparent, impartial, and secure elections. We appreciate your understanding and support during this period and vow to uphold the integrity of our democracy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L.H. Kirksey".

L.H. Kirksey

Board Chairperson

Burke County Board of Elections

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