

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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R E S O L U T I O N

TO ESTABLISH A POLLING SITE OUTSIDE OF SANDY MUSH PRECINCT

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Resolution declaring the urgent need to establish an out-of-precinct polling site for Sandy Mush Precinct for the November 3, 2020 General Election only.

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes § 163-130.1 permits the Madison County Board of Elections to establish a voting place for a precinct that is located outside that precinct;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides guidance for polling sites regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that includes providing polling sites that contain adequate square footage for social distancing and healthy environments;

WHEREAS, the current Sandy Mush Precinct polling site located at 10456 NC-63 Hwy, Leicester, NC 28748 contains less than 200 square feet and has no running water or restroom facilities;

WHEREAS, the Sandy Mush Precinct has no other public or private buildings available to serve as the polling site within the precinct;

WHEREAS, the adjoining Madison County South Marshall and Spring Creek Precinct polling sites are both located approximately 12 miles away from the current Sandy Mush Precinct polling site and require 22 minutes travel time along dangerous mountain roads;

WHEREAS, Addison Farms Vineyard event venue located in nearby Buncombe County at 4005 NC-63 Hwy, Leicester, NC 28748 is available as a Sandy Mush polling site;

WHEREAS, queried Sandy Mush Community members and political leaders have been positive regarding the Addison Farms Vineyard event venue as the Sandy Mush Precinct polling site for the November 3, 2020 General election only;

WHEREAS, Addison Farms Vineyard event venue is situated just inside the Buncombe County boundary approximately 2.2 miles and less than 5 minutes travel time along NC-63 Hwy from the current Sandy Mush Precinct polling site;

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Board of Elections has collaborated with Madison County Board of Elections regarding the establishment of a Madison County Sandy Mush Precinct polling site at Addison Farms Vineyard event venue located within Buncombe County;

WHEREAS, Addison Farms Vineyard event venue is located 7.4 miles, and 12 minutes travel time from the nearest Buncombe County precinct polling site located at Leicester Community Center, 2979 NC-63 Hwy, Leicester, NC 28748, thus minimizing interference with the nearest Buncombe County polling site and voters;

WHEREAS, the change of the polling site from the current Sandy Mush Precinct Building to Addison Farms Vineyard event venue will impact all 492 Sandy Mush Precinct voters and will not unfairly favor or disfavor voters with regard to race or party affiliation;

WHEREAS, the Addison Farms Vineyard event venue polling site meets all requirements for polling sites including accessibility for elderly and disabled voters;

WHEREAS, all 492 Sandy Mush registered voters and political party chairs will be notified of the Addison Farms Vineyard event venue polling site as per General Statute 163.128 requirements through individual mailing alerts, the local newspaper, and postings at the courthouse and Board of Elections sites;

WHEREAS, the Addison Farms Vineyard event venue polling site will be secured against fraud through the use of tamper proof security seals and dedicated locks; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Madison County Board of Elections deems it appropriate, necessary, and beneficial that the Sandy Mush Precinct voting site be changed to Addison Farms Vineyard event venue located in Buncombe County at 4005 New Leicester Hwy, Leicester, NC 28748 for the November 3, 2020 General Election only.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION to establish a polling site for the Sandy Mush Precinct at Addison Farms Vineyard event venue for the November 3, 2020 General election only was passed by a unanimous vote at a meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections on this 6th day of July, 2020.

Jerry Wallin, Chair