

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE:

TITLE: Discussion of the 2011 Election Early Voting Option

DEPARTMENT: Town Clerk	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution Providing for “One Stop, No Excuse” Early Voting at Town Hall and Establishing an Early Voting Schedule B. Resolution Not Providing for “One Stop, No Excuse” Early Voting at Town Hall	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Cathy Wilson: 918-7309 Tracy Reams, Director Orange County Board of Elections: 919-245-2351

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is for the Board to discuss the option of “One Stop, No Excuse” Early Voting for the November 2011 Election.

INFORMATION:

Orange County Board of Elections provided the information below to assist in the discussion:

1. **Option of Early Voting Site located in the Town of Carrboro:** The Town of Carrboro must provide the Board of Elections (BOE) with sufficient space to efficiently accommodate voting equipment and supplies, one-stop staff and voters in a secure area that can be reserved exclusively for the BOE during the one-stop early voting period decided upon by the Town of Carrboro. The regular voting location is the Board Room at Town Hall. It is very important to note that if early voting is selected, no other meetings (including Board of Aldermen meetings) can take place in the Board Room during the entirety of time that early voting is scheduled.
2. **Early Voting Schedule:** The Orange County BOE has requested that Town of Carrboro provide them with their recommendation as to if the Town of Carrboro wants early voting within the Town of Carrboro and if so, their recommendation for the early voting schedule.

The BOE in Hillsborough is required to be open for early voting beginning on Thursday, October 20th, 2011 and end on Saturday, November 5th, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. The BOE regular office hours are 8:00am – 5:00pm. Additional voting sites, such as the one that may be established in the Town of Carrboro, are not required to be open on any given day or end on any given day. The Town of Carrboro can set their desired early voting schedule as long as it does not begin before October 20th, 2011 and ends by November 5th, 2011. The Town may elect to schedule early voting for the entire time or may elect

to allow early voting for a segment of that time, e.g. only the first week or only the last week leading up to the election. The BOE will make every effort to conduct early voting as directed by the Town of Carrboro.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staffing cost is dependent upon the days and hours one-stop voting is to be conducted. The chief official is paid \$16.00 per hour and all other seasoned one-stop workers are paid \$14.00 per hour. The estimated total amount to conduct early voting during the entire one-stop voting period at Town Hall is approximately \$9,000.00. The cost for conducting the 2009 election was \$9,600.00. Total estimated cost with no early voting at Town Hall is \$12,781.59 but the Town of Carrboro would only be charged half of this cost due to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro School Board election being held at the same time. The Town of Carrboro does not pay any portion of the cost of early voting at the BOE office.

RECOMMENDATION:

Town Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider adopting one of the resolutions provided as Attachment A or Attachment B. Town Staff also request that Board of Aldermen consider the impact of the early voting schedule on any pre-scheduled Board of Aldermen meetings as well as any other meetings of Town Advisory Boards and/or Committees.