

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 3, 2011

TITLE: Continued Discussion of the 2011 Election Early Voting Option

DEPARTMENT: N/A	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution For “One Stop, No Excuse” Early Voting at Town Hall and Establishing an Early Voting Schedule B. Resolution Against “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 continue discussion of “One Stop, No Excuse” Early Voting option for the November 2011 Election. The Board first discussed this item on March 15, 2011 and referred to staff for additional information regarding the relocation of the October 25th and November 1st Board Meetings.

INFORMATION:

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

- 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.
- 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 Town of Carrboro’s early voting schedule may begin on October 20th, 2011 and continue through November 5th, 2011 at 1:00pm. However, the Town may elect to schedule early voting for a segment of that time: e.g. only the first week or last week leading up to the election. The BOE will make every effort to conduct early voting as directed by the Town of Carrboro.

3. **October 25th and November 1st Board Meeting Relocation:**

As a follow up from the March 15, 2011 Board meeting, staff contacted the Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County and OWASA to discuss scheduling of Board meetings for October 25th and November 1st at those locations. Technology quotes were provided by Velasquez Digital Media Communications, LLC. The summary information is below:

Chapel Hill Town Hall

Available: October 25th

Technology Available: Full Audio and Video Broadcast on Carrboro's Channel 18

Technology Cost: \$300.00 per 4-hour meeting

Note: When reserving Chapel Hill Council Chambers, Chapel Hill's Mayor, Manager, and Council have the first priority. Carrboro's reservation may be unavailable if Chapel Hill requires the use of Chambers.

Orange County Human Services Center

Available: October 25th and November 1st

Technology Available: Capability limited. Live broadcast unavailable.

Technology Cost: \$590.00 per 4-hour meeting *or* \$940.00 if a camera is included

Note: Velasquez Digital Media Communications, LLC will set up microphones, speaker staff lecterns, and operate remote cameras. The video system is already in place but will not produce professional quality if the Board of Commissioner's dais is not used. If they bring an additional camera, there will be an added cost of \$350. The camera's purpose would ensure quality pictures of the speakers.

OWASA Community Room

Available: October 25th and November 1st

Technology Available: Capability limited. Live broadcast unavailable.

Technology Cost: \$1,500 or \$675.00 per 4 hour meeting

OPTION 1-\$1,500

Full audio and multi-camera videotaping will be provided on location.

OPTION 2- \$675.00

Full audio operation with one video camera.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Election staffing cost is dependent upon the days and hours that 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. Cost estimates are shown below:

"One Stop, No Excuse" Early Voting Cost	November 8th Regular Election Day Costs	Total Election Cost (Including Early Voting)
\$9,000	\$6,400	\$15,500

A cost estimate for the 2011 Election, including costs of early voting and technology provision for two Board meetings, is between \$16,400 and \$18,500.

RECOMMENDATION:

Town Staff recommend that the Board of Aldermen consider adopting one of the resolutions provided as Attachment A or Attachment B.