

Watauga Election Issues Before State Board

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The drama over the controversy of Boone Polling places takes a trek to Raleigh today, with the State Board of Elections agenda of three items all involving controversy over municipal voting. Dozens of college students will converge on the meeting to watch what occurs in the Montravias King issue, the Pasquotank County college student denied his chance to run for City Council in Elizabeth City for using his campus address. Other students are concerned over student ID's being disallowed for voting identification. Then there are two appeals of one-stop voting plans—Watauga and Pitt Counties—both university communities. That meeting is at 1pm. But the decisions in Raleigh could be moot with the agenda of the Watauga County Board of Elections including the withdrawal of their earlier resolution combining three Boone precincts into one on their agenda for late tomorrow afternoon. The agenda for Wednesday's meeting from board by Secretary Bill Aceto indicates action to reverse that very controversial plan to remove two Boone polling places, creating one of the largest polling places in the state. A barrage of even national criticism has poured in since their August meetings, possibly prompting the about face. The new resolution calls the controversy 'misinformation,' saying "The Watauga County Board of Elections is concerned that the misinformation being distributed regarding this recombination of this precinct will result in voter confusion." The resolution indicates that the board will "study this matter further and allow for all citizens to have accurate and complete information prior to the recombination of this precinct." A second resolution, should the first pass, is for the Boone 2 polling place be moved from the Plemmons Student Union to Legends, citing better handicap-accessibility, the distance from curbside voting, and better parking—but allowing on-campus voting. The meeting is Wednesday at 5.