

Voting Decision Upheld; Local Board Scolded

Written by Steve Frank

Wednesday, 04 September 2013 06:19

In a 4-1 vote, the state board of elections late yesterday brushed aside an attempt to overturn a Watauga County elections board decision to close an early-voting site on the Appalachian State University campus for the coming municipal election. But at the same time, the chair of the Watauga Board was outlining a new plan to have campus voting at Legends—a plan that may get voted on locally this afternoon. The decisions came as the local rulings made national news. Lone Democrat on the Watauga board, Kathleen Campbell, reiterated her assertions before the state board that the newly appointed Republicans had violated open meetings law and gathered without her to discuss new policies and procedures, and, according to her, were part of a statewide effort to suppress a bloc of voters younger than 30. She told the board, “I’m coming to you for help,” and said, “I think we need help.” But state board members scolded the local board for the dispute. Joshua Malcolm, one of two Democrats on the state board, said, “Y’all are all in this together, and we don’t want to see you guys on YouTube again.” The Watauga issue before the state board Tuesday was limited to the decision to close the early voting site on the Appalachian State University campus for the municipal elections this fall. That plan, though, was put back on the agenda for the Watauga board for more consideration this afternoon in the local board meeting, set for 5pm.

Video stills: WSOC-TV News