

March 19, 2018

Ms. Kim Westbrook Strach  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement  
Post Office Box 27255  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7255

**RE: CANDIDATE APPLICATION  
UNAFFILIATED BOARD MEMBER**

Ms. Strach,

**N.C. GEN. STAT. §163A-2** requires that the eight (8) newly appointed members of the bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement meet within fourteen (14) days of their appointment and nominate two individuals for the ninth member. Currently, this initial meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2018. This same statute limits Board action at this initial meeting to selecting these two nominees, and it is imperative that this process be conducted in as an efficient and thorough manner as possible. Furthermore, in light of the extensive litigation that has arisen concerning the make-up and manner of appointment of Board members, it is vital that the eight (8) appointed members act in a manner that will restore any lost confidence in the electoral process to the citizens of North Carolina.

To this end, I, and the below named appointed members, would like to propose and request that the staff of the North Carolina State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement create, distribute and advertise a member application so that citizens of this State, interested in being nominated as the ninth board member, can make themselves known to the existing members. Each of the eight (8) recently appointed members were vetted by their respective political parties prior to nomination, were subject to nearly a full calendar year of public scrutiny following nomination, and were vetted once more prior to appointment by the Governor. I believe that having a "pool" of qualified candidates from which to select is in the best interest of the citizens of this great State. I would suggest that the prepared application gather, in addition to the basic information regarding statutory eligibility, information concerning the applicant's educational and professional background, biographical information and a statement of interest for why they want to serve on the board.

**N.C. GEN. STAT. §163A-2** does not specify the manner in which the nomination process must be conducted; however, I believe that it should be conducted in a swift, yet deliberative manner so that the Board can begin its work as soon as possible with the most qualified members. I believe that this process could be approved by the current eight (8) members during its initial meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, and the Board could recess the initial meeting until Thursday, March 29, 2018 to allow the staff to collect the submitted applications.

It is our opinion that the above described process will allow the current Board members to reach a bipartisan consensus and to quickly identify, vet and nominate two (2) highly qualified members within the time frame prescribed by statute.

Sincerely,

*John M. Lewis*

John M. Lewis

Joined in by:

Stacy "Four" Eggers, IV  
Ken Raymond