NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Executive Director Sam Hayes issues comment on recent media report by WRAL

November 6, 2026

Please see the following statement from North Carolina State Board of Elections Executive Director Sam Hayes:

“I want to once again thank the dedicated elections officials, staff, and poll workers across all 100 counties for their outstanding work in administering a successful general election. Their professionalism and commitment to conducting fair, accurate, and secure elections deserve our appreciation.

However, a recent media report concerning the potential outcome of certain races serves as two important reminders that election officials must refrain from speculating about, predicting, or otherwise commenting on election outcomes.

First, election officials are entrusted with administering elections, not influencing public perceptions of their outcomes. With county canvassing scheduled for November 13, results remain unofficial, and our responsibility is to ensure every eligible vote is counted accurately and in accordance with the law.

Second, while we question whether the report by WRAL reflects the context of the remarks attributed to a county official, our expectations remain clear. When we contacted the station about the reporting and asked for the chance to respond to the comments attributed to the director, they declined. This statement thus puts this into the public arena.

In the meantime, maintaining strict impartiality, both in our actions and public statements, is essential to preserving public confidence in North Carolina's elections going forward, and we will always adhere to that principle.”

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