



Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

Senate Bill 749, "AN ACT TO REVISE THE STRUCTURES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTIONS, TO REVISE THE EMERGENCY POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, TO MAKE CLARIFYING CHANGES TO SENATE BILL 512 OF THE 2023 REGULAR SESSION, TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AND CLARIFYING CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT PHOTO IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTING, AND TO AMEND THE TIME FOR CANDIDATES AND VACANCY APPOINTEES TO FILE STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS."

The legislative takeover of state and local elections boards could doom our state's elections to gridlock and severely limit early voting. It also creates a grave risk that Republican legislators or courts would be empowered to change the results of an election if they don't like the winner. That's a serious threat to our democracy, particularly after the nation just saw a presidential candidate try to strongarm state officials into reversing his losing election result. Courts have already ruled the ideas in this bill unconstitutional, and voters overwhelmingly said no when the legislature tried to change the constitution.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

Roy Cooper
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina Senate on this the 28th day of September 2023, at 2:40 pm for reconsideration by that body.

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

Date Sep. 28, 2023

Time 2:40 p.m.

Signed Jaral Holland

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