

**Brunswick Board of Elections**  
**February Regular Meeting – February 19, 2018 and Special Mtg. on Early Voting**  
**Sites, February 20, 2018**  
**Gail Bromley Reporting as Observer**

League members attending: February 19 – Gail Bromley and Barbara Burrell  
February 20 – Gail Bromley

As many by now know, the Leland Cultural Arts Center (LCAC) and the Leland Town Hall are no longer being made available for Early Voting sites in the northern part of the county. The next closest site would be Bolivia. The LCAC and the Town Hall each provide good parking and space for voting and this presented a problem for the Brunswick Board of Elections as alternatives are less than good. Gail Bromley presented her concerns on the part of the League of Women at the December meeting for the Leland Town Council. The Town remained unwilling to open for Early Voting, citing disruption and loss of revenue for their reasons.

In Brunswick County, members should know that the decision for an Early Voting site in the Northern part of Brunswick County is the Belleville Town Hall. This decision was made at the Feb. 20 meeting. Other sites across the county remain pretty much the same and can be found at the BOE website. The Belleville Town Hall was selected only for the primaries as it has very limited parking – about 26 slots in total. The Town of Belleville offered their Town Hall and the BOE decided it was better than the Senior Center because of disruption and parking issues there, along with Meals on Wheels, Meals for Seniors and safety issues.

Our BOE had to submit a plan to the State and that decision was to be finalized on the February 20 special meeting. Public speakers and the Town Manager mentioned other sites but many were considered not appropriate for a variety of reasons, (especially schools) plus some suggested sites had not been asked to host and a decision needed to be made that day.

The problems for the BOE are complicated by the fact that there is no State Board of Elections to help a County Board when issues like this arise. Some residents spoke out for Sunday voting but Gail did not do that, knowing that some on the Board would not allow for that and unless they had unanimous agreement, we could be stuck with ONLY Bolivia as an Early Voting site. It's complicated. Any formal complaint goes to the courts until we have the State Board problem resolved.

Gail spoke at the Special Meeting, voicing her concerns as a voting resident in Leland, and not as a League member. I'm sad about this problem as I believe it could have been solved early if the Town and the Board compromised before a letter the Town sent to the BOE arrived stating that neither the Town Hall nor the LCAC would be available for Early Voting. That statement and letter was jarring to the BOE and to me as a regular observer.

No matter what, a better solution for the Fall election must be found for early voting. Personally, I do not see a good alternative. I wish at least one of the two good sites we had in Leland will once again be available.

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