

Steven Hewett  
PO Box 2069  
King, North Carolina, 27021

May 8, 2017

Stokes Co. Board of Elections  
Mr. Jason Perry, Director  
PO Box 34  
Danbury, NC 27016

Ref: Moving Polling Station from American Legion Post 290

Mr. Perry,

I am expressing my concerns about holding future elections at American Legion Post 290 located in King, NC. As you are aware, a uniformed American Legion member Mr. Shouse purposely, willfully and maliciously ran his truck into a crowd of voters and pollsters on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> targeting me and hitting me with his truck. I was peacefully holding my political sign and handing out fliers for candidates. At the time Mr. Shouse was acting in his official capacity as an American Legion member.

On November 16, 2016, Amanda Dobson of Stokes News published an article concerning the events of November 8<sup>th</sup> and quoted American Legion Post 290 Commander Don Holland as saying, "Hewett's sign and actions didn't reflect the views of the legion." Commander Holland further stated to Ms Dobson, "He has every right in the world to display what he wants, but in front of an American Legion building with a sign like "Veterans against Trump" doesn't belong there."

Commander Holland's comments are deeply disturbing, since the Board of Elections rents the Legion's building as a designated voting location. Commander Holland has made a political statement representing the American Legion in that their position as one of supporting the Republican Party when in fact owners of properties being used as a voting location should be neutral their positions concerning political party or candidates. It is also disturbing that Commander Holland did not condemn the violent actions of one of his Post's members in endangering the lives of men, women and children who were present.

David Dalton, Chairman, Stokes County Democratic Party wrote a letter expressing the concern over the incident and comments made by Commander Holland to the Election Board. Mr. Dalton requested, "that a new polling place be found." My understanding is that a motion was brought up during the Boards meeting to move the location, but was not acted upon due to the lack of a second. I concur with Mr. Dalton's assessment of that, "no voter of any party should be required to enter such a hostile environment to exercise the right to vote or to express completely reasonable political views with words or signs."

I further notify the Board that I will be filing for a position on the King City Council for this upcoming election and since the American Legion has seen fit to expel me from the post and prohibit me from entering the property I will not be able to solicit votes at this location limiting my constitutional rights.

I am advising the Stokes Co. Board of Election that it will need to move the voting station to a more neutral location so that I may be able to post my political signs as well as solicit votes for myself and other candidates as I see fit. Not moving the location would interfere with my ability to garner votes as a candidate for political office.

Please respond in writing to the above address what actions if any the Stokes County Board of Elections will be taking to ensure a fair election for all candidates, voters and pollsters.

Sincerely,

*Steven R. Hewett*

Steven Hewett

Attachments:

Letter, Stokes County Democratic Party  
News Article Election Day Confrontation