



Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives

TIM MOORE
SPEAKER

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
18 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Governor Cooper,

When selecting appointments to lead public boards and commissions in North Carolina, love for our country, reverence for our flag, and respect for the citizens we serve are baseline expectations. Your appointee to lead the elections board in Bladen County, N.C., egregiously failed to meet these standards.

National media outlets are reporting that your appointee as chair of the Bladen County Board of Elections, Louella Thompson, refused to allow basic demonstrations of patriotism to be part of a public agenda by opposing, voting down, and then refusing to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Even more outrageous, she directed law enforcement to arrest anyone who stands to say the Pledge of Allegiance at the next meeting of the Bladen County Board of Elections. While she has now reversed course, I have since learned that this is not the first demonstration of questionable judgment from this appointee. She was recently brought before the State Board of Elections for partisan social media posts about the President that violate her duty of impartiality. This follows the three consecutive chairmen of the State Board of Elections appointed by you who had to leave the State Board of Elections following allegations of improper behavior.

North Carolinians are right to be angry. As Governor, you repeatedly filed lawsuits demanding additional control over appointments to such local elections boards. With that control comes accountability. Our State, and in particular Bladen County, which is reeling from a re-done election in the Ninth Congressional District, demand better than the quality of appointments you have made to these boards of elections.

You must immediately demand Louella Thompson's resignation, for anything less condones this public disrespect of the United States and its citizens by your appointee in an official capacity. Her actions demean our democracy and its guarantees of freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

North Carolinians deserve far better than to be led by individuals actively demonstrating contemptuous disdain for our great nation and her enduring ideals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M".

Speaker Tim Moore
North Carolina House of Representatives