

# Restore early voting hours on Sunday

By SUSAN FEIT

With growing concern, I watch ongoing actions waged by governmental bodies to limit the number of people eligible to vote in elections. Different reasons are offered as to why new rules and shorter voting periods are needed, but the common thread in these actions is the undeniable result of limiting the number of citizens able to exercise their right to vote. Struggles were waged and lives were lost to include more, not fewer, people as voters, a fundamental privilege and obligation of full participation in the democratic process.

If we strictly followed the country's original constitution, I and thousands of others would not be entitled to vote. In fact, a

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whopping 76 percent of today's registered voters in Guilford County would also not be able to vote. It took constitutional amendments to extend the vote to non-whites, women and people aged 18-21. I am shocked that there is not an uproar as governing bodies try to reverse these gains.

Our nation is set up so we, the citizens, are both the governed and the governors. Historically, our country has come to understand that democracy is strengthened as the maximum number of citizens vote for their representatives and the issues they stand for. Making it more

difficult or nearly impossible for targeted members of our community to vote is not a game or a partisan matter; it is an affront to hard-earned progress in advancing our country's vision and practice of democracy for more than 200 years.

If you agree that creating unnecessary obstacles to vote undermines the fabric of our democracy, please join me in protesting the Guilford County Board of Elections' decision to eliminate early voting on Sundays. Sunday voting — a popular and often sole day citizens with limited access to transportation have been able to vote — should remain available locally.

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