

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-13 OF THE  
LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGARDING WAYS TO INCREASE CONVENIENCE  
AND HASSLE-FREE ACCESS FOR VOTERS

WHEREAS, Indiana's voter turnout levels continue to be among the worst in the country and whereas numerous impediments exist to great voter participation including the lack of same-day registration, no voting by mail – other than absentee voting - or electronic voting and even the limited hours for voting in our state present challenges, and

WHEREAS, while most of the above-noted changes would have to be adopted at the state level and we encourage our legislators to continue to look at methods that would increase voter participation, and

WHEREAS, turnout in the most recent municipal primary elections remained low with one precinct in Michigan City having just 41 voters participate out of 823 voters registered which amounts to a turnout of just under 5% in that precinct, and

WHEREAS, this body and the La Porte County Election Board can take some steps to ensure that voting – whether it is early voting or voting on Election Day - is as easy and hassle-free as possible, and

WHEREAS, with security now required at schools that are also used as polling places and such required posting of security outside the door of a polling place at schools can be a deterrent to some voters, and

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WHEREAS, having just two Early Voting locations in our county – both located inside the Courthouses - require voters to go through security, potentially even subjecting voters to pat down searches and temporary relinquishment of cell phones, presents an additional “hassle” for those wishing to exercise this most basic and cherished freedom – the right to vote, and

WHEREAS, former State Representative Scott Pelath first suggested additional early vote locations some four years ago and we believe it is time to implement such recommendation similar to the changes adopted by Boone, Hamilton, Tippecanoe and Monroe Counties and others that have established additional early voting locations other than just at their courthouses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LA PORTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT

1. We encourage the La Porte County Election Board to locate polling places in settings other than schools to avoid the unnecessary complication of security issues that attend to school locations and we ask for cooperation from various businesses, governmental entities and nonprofit partners to agree to help replace these school locations by offering their locations as prospective polling sites.
2. We respectfully request the La Porte County Election Board - with funding assistance if needed from the County Council - to authorize and locate additional satellite early voting locations such as at the public libraries or other settings to permit

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easier, hassle-free access for those wishing to cast an early vote.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESOLVED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

Vedya Wore

Guila Matias

Richard Mojishok

Julien Wuski

Attest:

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