



**NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**OFFICE OF REP. ERIN PARÉ**  
**DISTRICT 37 – WAKE COUNTY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Rep. Erin Paré Announces Bipartisan Agreement with Wake County Commissioners on Election Process Change

Today, all seven Democrats on the Wake County Board of Commissioners expressed their full support for a compromise version of **HB 99**, a bill filed by Rep. Erin Paré (Wake, District 37) which would change the election process for Wake County Commissioners to provide stronger representation to local communities.

As it stands now, all seven Wake County Commissioners are elected countywide or “at-large.” This means all Wake County voters are able cast a vote in all Wake County Commissioner races in all districts, not just the district in which they live. *This has resulted in significant underrepresentation of voters in suburban and rural areas.*

Paré’s bill, **HB 99**, would fix the broken Wake County Commissioner election process by requiring that Commissioners be elected in partisan races by only the voters who live in a district, rather than the entire county. The bill does not change any district lines, keeping intact the current lines approved in 2021 by the seven Democrat Board of Commissioners. The bill also includes the addition of two new “at-large” seats on the Board, bringing the number of Wake County Commissioners to nine. Only these two new seats would be elected at-large. Paré’s original legislative proposal from June 2022, and the new compromise version of HB99, will make Wake County’s election process consistent with Mecklenburg, Guilford, Forsyth, and Cumberland counties.

Rep. Erin Paré said, **“Bringing more local representation to the Wake Board of Commissioners has been important to me and to my constituents for a long time. I am very pleased that the Wake County Commissioners came to the table and agreed to district based representation. This is the right thing to do for the people.”**

She continued, **“Wake County is home to 1.2 million residents and is larger in population than eight states. We all know that elected officials are accountable to the people that elect them to office. When 55% of the electorate resides in Raleigh and Cary, the more rural communities in Wake do not have the accountability they deserve in their elected officials, and that’s wrong. I appreciate the give and take this compromise required and look forward to effective representation for the Wake County towns and non-incorporated areas going forward.”**