

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 819**

Short Title: Campaigning Outside Polls. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Miller, Ellis (Primary Sponsors); Barnhart, Blackwood, Blust, Bowie, Capps, Culp, Frye, Gorman, Gulley, Hilton, Holmes, Howard, Hunter, L. Johnson, Justice, Justus, Kiser, LaRoque, Lewis, Luebke, McGee, McHenry, Michaux, Moore, Munford, Pate, Preston, Ray, Setzer, Sexton, Stam, Walend, Walker, West, K. Williams, C. Wilson, and G. Wilson.

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Referred to: Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform.

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April 1, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE COUNTY  
3 BOARDS OF ELECTIONS MUST PROVIDE BEYOND THE BUFFER ZONE  
4 AROUND THE VOTING PLACE A SPACE WHERE CAMPAIGNING AND  
5 OTHER ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITY CAN BE CONDUCTED.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-166.4 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 163-166.4. Limitation on activity in the voting place and in a buffer zone**  
9 **around it.**

10 No person or group of persons shall hinder access, harass others, distribute campaign  
11 literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in  
12 election-related activity in the voting place or in a buffer zone which shall be prescribed  
13 by the county board of elections around the voting place. In determining the dimensions  
14 of that buffer zone for each voting place, the county board of elections shall, where  
15 practical, set the limit at 50 feet from the door of entrance to the voting place, measured  
16 when that door is closed, but in no event shall it set the limit at less than 25 feet. The  
17 county board of elections shall ~~also, where practical,~~ also provide an area adjacent to the  
18 buffer zone for each voting place in which persons or groups of persons may distribute  
19 campaign literature, place political advertising, solicit votes, or otherwise engage in  
20 election-related activity. No later than 30 days before each election, the county board of  
21 elections shall make available to the public the following information concerning each  
22 voting place:

23 (1) The door from which the buffer zone is measured.

24 (2) The distance the buffer zone extends from that door.

1           (3) Any available information concerning where political activity,  
2           including sign placement, ~~that~~ is permitted beyond the buffer zone."  
3           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.