

JMU PRECINCT INFORMATION

~ E-mail containing list of questions asked by City Council

~ Minutes of meetings where this issue was discussed

1. Pros Associated with Establishing Precinct

Cons Associated with Establishing Precinct

- a) Distance to Polling Location
- b) VA Voter Registration Application Form and Registration Procedure Information
- c) Off Site Registration Locations

2. Estimated Costs

3. On Campus Precinct Info/ JMU Voter Turnout Rates/Enrollment Figures *(Attempted but no info available regarding turnout rates or residency changes of students in other VA localities)*

4. Options *(No other options offered)*

5. Electoral Board's Recommendation

6. JMU Confirmation of Funding Precinct

~ Precinct map without & with JMU precinct

E-MAIL

QUESTIONS

Donna Wimer

From: Greg Coffman [glcoffman@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 3:27 PM
To: Kurt Hodgen
Cc: 'Sandra Price-Stroble'; 'Ney William J.'; Deborah Logan; Erica Kann; Anne Lewis; Chris Brown; 'Chris Jones'; Kai Degner; Richard Baugh; Shearer.abe@gmail.com; Ted Byrd
Subject: RE: mtg.

Kurt –

This does make it more clear. Thanks.

Greg

From: Kurt Hodgen [mailto:Kurt.Hodgen@harrisonburgva.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2015 9:46 AM
To: Greg Coffman
Cc: 'Sandra Price-Stroble'; 'Ney William J.'; Deborah Logan; Erica Kann; Anne Lewis; Chris Brown; Chris Jones (cjoneshburg@gmail.com); Kai Degner; Richard Baugh; Shearer.abe@gmail.com; Ted Byrd
Subject: RE: mtg.

Greg: Give the change in date of the public hearing, we will need your information no later than Monday, August 17.

In addition to copies of previous Electoral Board meeting minutes for any meetings during which this issue was discussed, the following is requested:

- 1) A list of pros and cons associated with establishing a JMU precinct. (while a majority of the Board has indicated their preference for establishing the precinct, there are still going to be pros and cons associated with doing so)
- 2) Estimates on the costs associated with making the change;
- 3) Information on other localities that have on campus precincts. What are their practices? (i.e. students only? students and community members?) What has been their experience in terms of voter turnout rates for the on-campus precincts?

It was noted at the July 11 Council meeting that there are over 6000 potential voters on campus at JMU. A certain percentage of those are out-of-state students and of course, a majority of the in-state students are from out of town. What have the other localities that have established on-campus precincts seen in terms of the number of on-campus students who change their residency to that of the "host" locality?

- 4) One or more options for Council to consider; and
- 5) The Board's recommendation to City Council.
- 6) Confirmation in writing from JMU that they will provide the funding to establish and maintain/sustain the on-campus voting precinct.

Hope this helps.

Kurt

From: Greg Coffman [<mailto:glcoffman@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 8:05 PM
To: Kurt Hodgen
Cc: 'Sandra Price-Stroble'; 'Ney William J.'; Deborah Logan
Subject: RE: mtg.

Kurt –

I'm assuming there is no need for us to provide our data by July 31, which would require a called meeting for us. Our next scheduled meeting is on Aug. 12. At that meeting we've scheduled to put together the list of pros and cons. In the meantime, we'll be glad to provide minutes of our previous meetings now, and Council already has our Registrar's report from their previous meeting. Please let Debbie Logan know Thurs. morning, tomorrow, if there is any problem.

Thanks.

Greg

From: Kurt Hodgen [<mailto:Kurt.Hodgen@harrisonburgva.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 10:09 AM
To: Greg Coffman
Cc: Sandra Price-Stroble; Ney William J.; Deborah Logan; Chris Jones; Richard Baugh; Ted Byrd; Kai Degner; Abe Shearer; Chris Brown
Subject: Re: mtg.

Greg: I have spoken with all Council members about your request. It is acceptable to defer the public hearing until the August 25 City Council meeting.

Kurt

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 21, 2015, at 7:42 PM, Greg Coffman <glcoffman@hotmail.com> wrote:

Kurt –

Please advise at your earliest convenience whether the public hearing is going to be postponed until the 2nd meeting so we can have our Registrar available. Not having her present will have a limiting effect on our ability to answer some questions.

Thank you, and thanks for your time this morning on such short notice.

Greg

1. ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting
August 6, 2015**

In Attendance:

Greg Coffman, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary; Deborah Logan, Registrar; Diane Nardi, Assistant Registrar; Donna Wimer, Assistant Registrar.

Guests Present: Deb Stevens-Fitzgerald, HDC Chair; Mac Nichols, HRC Chair; Josh Humphries, Chairman of JMU SGA Legislative Committee.

Chairman Coffman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Visitors were welcomed.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 8, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment Period: No comments from the public.

Business Meeting

Registrar Debbie Logan distributed the redrawn maps for the proposed on campus precinct at JMU. Chairman Coffman shared with the Board members that after review by the City Attorney, Chris Brown and GIS Department, it is necessary to move the voters in the Hillcrest neighborhood from the Spotswood Precinct to the proposed new JMU Precinct. As Mr. Brown had commented at the last Council meeting, when redrawing lines for voting precincts there are factors that have to be considered such as natural lines such as railroads, whether or not any neighborhood would be “orphaned” by the establishment of the new precinct and the precinct would have to be contiguous. When considering these factors, the new Precinct would need to include the approximately 200 voters in the Hillcrest neighborhood area in addition to the on-campus students with an 800 South Main Street address.

Mr. Coffman asked Mrs. Price-Stroble if she would withdraw her previous motion that was passed at the last meeting in order that a new motion could be made that would be aligned with the guidelines for establishing this new precinct. After discussion and Mrs. Price-Stroble expressing her concerns that this would not change the time line for the ordinance preparation and public hearing, Mrs. Price-Stroble withdrew the previous motion and made another motion that would be in keeping with the recommendations of the City Attorney and the GIS Department.

Mrs. Price-Stroble made the following comments and motion:

Based on the information received from GIS and the City Attorney, the Electoral Board withdraws the previous recommendation regarding the proposed JMU Precinct that was submitted to Council.

The Board replaces that recommendation with the revised recommendation as follows:

The Harrisonburg Electoral Board recommends to City Council that a voting precinct be established on the campus of JMU that would include students with the 800 South Main Street address and including the Hillcrest neighborhood bordering South Main Street, Port Republic Road and the JMU Campus

The motion was seconded by Bill Ney and the motion was passed 2 to 1.
(Yes – Ney & Price-Stroble No-Coffman).

Registrar's Report

Debbie Logan reported that the new voting machines are ready to be delivered whenever we move to the new office. The old machines have been returned. The next steps are to receive the equipment, perform acceptance testing and train Board, Technicians and Office Personnel.

The Board decided by consensus to order ballots this year from Print Elect instead of Ben Franklin. We have purchased the new machine from Print Elect and would feel more comfortable ordering the ballots from them as well since this is our first year using the new machines. The Board also agreed to have the Registrar order enough ballots for 75% of the total active voters.

Debbie reported that Myron Mclees from ELECT would like to talk with the Board at some time regarding the offer to finance the cost of the new Precinct if approved by Council. As this is a new procedure, Myron would like to review the procedure to be followed. It was suggested that Myron speak with Chris Brown, City Attorney, as well.

The packet of materials presented from the Registrar and Electoral Board members will be uploaded to the City Website and available for the public to review on August 17 prior to the public hearing at the August 25 City Council meeting.

Mr. Coffman thanked the staff and the Board for their diligence in preparing these materials in a timely manner at the Council's request.

The Registrar reviewed the Confirmation process with the Board members.

Pros and Cons Reports Regarding Proposed JMU Precinct

Mr. Ney and Mrs. Price-Stroble presented their thoughts regarding the pros of establishing a Precinct on campus. Mr. Coffman presented a list of Cons. These reports are included with the minutes as Attachments One and Two.

The Public meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. to go into closed session.

Closed Session: 2:50 p.m.

The motion was made by Bill Ney, seconded by Sandra Price-Stroble and approved to adjourn the Public Session and convene in Closed Executive Session according to the authority 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) of the Code of Virginia.

Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session. A Roll Call vote was taken as required by 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to Certify that during the Closed Session only business as allowed according to the authority of 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) was discussed.

Coffman-yes, Ney-yes, Price-Stroble-yes.

Future Meeting

The next regularly scheduled monthly meetings will be held on the First Thursday and the Third Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. The next meeting will be on August 19, 2015 and will be a work session to review the JMU Precinct information submitted to Council and to prepare for the November General Election.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary

Attachment # 1 for Draft Minutes 8/6/15

Points in Favor of Establishing a Precinct on JMU Campus

- The Electoral Board should be encouraging increased voter participation. Adding a precinct to the campus of JMU will provide easier accessibility to the on-campus students. The potential pool of on campus housing voters is approximately 6000 according to the administration of JMU.
- Harrisonburg has a low percent voter turnout. Easing accessibility to the polling location could help to increase the student participation in voting and help the overall percentage of voter turnout for the City.
- Typically the majority of students living in on-campus housing are freshman and new to their community. There are hurdles unique to freshman college students who are just becoming familiar with the geography of their new community. Students can become more aware and feel more ownership of local laws and practices if they become more engaged in their community by voting.
- At the present time we do not have any data to give a realistic picture of what increase in student voter participation could take place if a precinct is located on campus. The only way we will know the impact of having an on-campus precinct is to establish the precinct and then compare data to the current turnout data.
- There is often confusion for students when registering to vote. This can result in students finding they are not on the pollbook. When this happens, students are asked to step aside and a Chief Officer has to be available to offer a Provisional Ballot. There tends to be more backup and waiting when there is more need to cast a Provisional Ballot. Having a larger number of first time voters at the same on-campus precinct could help the situation for other voters at the current Spotswood Precinct to avoid delays. At the present time a number of the Provisional Ballots cast are from students.
- JMU is willing to reimburse the City for costs related to establishing a new precinct on campus and for the yearly costs therefore this precinct could be established without cost to the city and its taxpayers.
- In 2011 over 3200 students registered to vote. Less than 200 voted. There should be an increase in the voter participation by having a precinct on campus.
- Hopefully by helping to educate and facilitate the vote by young people impacted by adding a conveniently located more accessible Precinct on campus, we can begin a process that they will carry with them in the future. In supporting JMU's Civic Engagement Initiative, we are encouraging the students to become voting citizens in Harrisonburg where they will also engage with pride and eagerness in their community and become more aware of the local government processes.

Attachment #2 for Draft Minutes 8/6/15

Points Against Establishing a Voter Precinct on JMU Campus

- The issue is not about “voter rights” but “voter privilege”. JMU students are already voting in the city at the Spotswood Elementary School precinct.
- Establishing a distinct and separate precinct on JMU campus sets an outstanding precedent, i.e. if you can pay for it the city will do it. Objections to consider:
 - Could a neighborhood request their own precinct if they agreed to pay for it?
 - Could another institution, VMRC perhaps, request a precinct if they agreed to pay for it?
 - Instead of fostering JMU’s intended plan to interface more with the community, this request actually provides more exclusion and separation for the JMU community.
 - We are providing more convenience for JMU students than we provide for our own registered voters.
 - Other registered voters will view this as another accommodation to JMU rather than an action based on what is most appropriate for the city voters.
- The impression has been given that most state colleges\universities have their own polling place on campus exclusively for students, the reality is that only one state-owned college\university does: VPI. Liberty University, which is a private university, also has its own precinct exclusively for students. Two other state universities, UVA and George Mason, have an on-campus precinct but they are for students and local residents, not just students.
- While some registered voters in our precincts have to travel from 1.2-3.0 miles to get to their respective polling place, JMU students from the farthest point on campus have to travel only 0.8 miles. In fact, on-campus students are closer to their current precinct than the majority of city voters are to theirs.
- With a precinct selectively placed on JMU’s campus for its students, the impact on an election in which a JMU professor or employee is running for local office has the potential of wresting the control of City Council from the local registered voters to the JMU students. Additionally, a JMU student could win a seat on City Council based on JMU votes entirely.
-

Attachment #2-Continued

- Based on past voting records, the request would not have merited the Electoral Board's investigation.
 - In 2014, 173 of 2240 (8%) registered on-campus students voted.
 - In 2013, 263 of 2250 (12%) registered on-campus students voted.
 - In 2012, 883 of 2320 (38%) registered on-campus students voted in the Presidential Election

- Currently, city precincts are established for a maximum of 5000 registered voters. In 2014, there were 2240 on-campus registered voters at JMU. Removing that many from the polls at Spotswood would necessitate a redistricting of all the polls in the city. Since this will probably need to be repeated after the 2020 census, the question arises as to why it should be done twice in 4 years.

- The impact on local elections from the JMU campus is significant. While past voting records indicate only a yearly average of 330 on-campus students voting, many local elections have been shifted by less than 150 votes.

- Instead of the time and expense of a separate precinct on JMU's campus, busing can be provided for the students to their polling station, Spotswood Elementary School, at no expense to the students.

Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting
July 8, 2015

In Attendance:

Greg Coffman, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary; Deborah Logan, Registrar; Diane Nardi, Assistant Registrar

Guests Present From JMU: Mr. Charles King, Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance; Towana Moore, Associate Vice President for Business Services; Kristen Muncy, Associate Director of Student Activities and Involvement; Josh Humphries, Chairman of SGA Legislative Committee

Chairman Coffman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Visitors were welcomed.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 17, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment Period:

Phyllis Coulter and Jerry Coulter individually commented on the Electoral Board's consideration of establishing a precinct on the JMU campus. Both Mr. and Mrs. Coulter expressed they did not believe there is a need for this precinct to be established.

Chairman Coffman thanked the Coulters for their attendance.

Business Meeting

Chairman Coffman welcomed the representatives from James Madison University and thanked them for attending the meeting the today, at the Electoral Board's request, to address questions we have regarding the establishment of a voting precinct on the JMU campus.

Prior to the meeting, the Electoral Board submitted the following questions to JMU regarding their offer to share responsibilities if a precinct would be established on campus:

1. How many students live at 800 South Main Street?
2. There would be a cost estimated between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00 to start a new precinct. What part of this cost would JMU be willing to provide?
3. A voting precinct needs to be a secure facility with handicap access and adequate parking. We would need control over it from 6:00PM. on the eve of the election until 12:00AM. after the election. This facility must be available for all national, state, and local elections and primaries. Is there a facility available on campus?
4. Is it possible for the Registrar's Office to have an office on campus each fall to help students with the Voter Registration process and Absentee Voting?
5. Would JMU be willing to share the voting precinct with voters who live in the nearby community?
6. What is the possibility of JMU supplying buses to transport students to the present voting precincts?

The members of the Electoral Board asked the representatives from JMU these questions and other follow-up questions.

In summary:

1. Mr. Charles King responded that there are approximately 6000 students living on campus. (The new Grace Street complex would add an additional 500 students, however this location would be in another voting precinct according to the current precinct lines.)
2. JMU would be willing to reimburse the City for the start-up costs of a precinct on campus and the yearly operational costs.
3. JMU could provide a secured, handicapped accessible location on campus with ample parking that would meet the required hours needed prior to and during the election period.
4. It would be possible to provide a location for a satellite office during the 45 day period prior to the election.
5. JMU would be supportive of sharing the precinct with voters from neighborhoods surrounding the campus.
6. This question was not discussed at the meeting.

Josh Humphries from the SGA at JMU shared that establishing the voting precinct on campus would be in keeping with the JMU Strategic Plan which has an emphasis on Student Civic Engagement in the community.

After this question/answer period, Chairman Greg Coffman expressed his concerns as to why he did not consider this a good idea to establish a new Precinct on Campus. Mr. Ney expressed the number of potential voters was significant at 6500 in on-campus housing. Mrs. Price-Stroble shared with Mr. Coffman that the other Board members had as yet refrained from expressing an opinion in this matter. She stated that it appeared to her that this was moving into more of a debate period and discussion of the pros and cons of establishing the precinct rather than just a gathering of information and she wished to offer a motion and then have opportunity to continue that discussion/debate period.

As a preface to making a motion, Mrs. Price-Stroble said she did not agree at this time with moving voters in neighborhood communities from their voting precinct in order to balance out numbers. She expressed that redistricting would be done again after the next census and we could consider that option at that time and determine whether having a precinct on campus had improved the student participation level in elections in Harrisonburg. Price-Stroble did not think we have adequate information under the current voting locations to determine how the student participation might be impacted if the voting precinct was on campus.

Board Member Price-Stroble made the motion that the Electoral Board recommend to City Council that a new Precinct be established on the Campus of JMU for all students living in On-Campus Housing who are registered voters in the City of Harrisonburg. Board Member Ney seconded the motion. The vote was 2 in favor and 1

opposed. Mr. Ney and Mrs. Price-Stroble voted in support of the motion and Mr. Coffman voted against the motion. The motion was passed.

Closed Session:

The motion was made by Bill Ney, seconded by Sandra Price-Stroble and approved to adjourn the Public Session and convene in Closed Executive Session according to the authority 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) of the Code of Virginia.

Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session. A Roll Call vote was taken as required by 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to Certify that during the Closed Session only business as allowed according to the authority of 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) was discussed.

Coffman-yes, Ney-yes, Price-Stroble-yes.

Future Meeting

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on August 19, 2015 unless otherwise announced.

Respectfully Submitted.

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary

The following are the questions that were sent to Ms. Towana Moore from the Electoral Board and answers (in bold print) to them:

1. How many students live at 800 S. Main St.? **6,000**
2. There would be a cost estimated between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to start a new precinct. What part of this cost would JMU be willing to provide? **JMU is willing to absorb this cost.**
3. A voting precinct needs to be a secure facility with handicapped access and adequate parking. We would need control over it from 6:00pm on the eve of the election until 12:00am after the election. This facility must be available for all national, state and local elections and primaries. Is there a facility available? **Yes, in the Convocation Center.**
4. Is it possible for the Registrar's office to have an office on campus each fall to help students with voter registration and absentee voting? **Yes**
5. Would JMU be willing to share the voting precinct with voters who live in the nearby community? **Yes**
6. What is the possibility of JMU supplying buses to transport students to the present voting precincts? **(Question wasn't asked)**

DNRonline.com

HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

ARCHIVES EASY PRINTING

THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

The article you requested is displayed below.

Board To Talk Precinct With JMU Officials

Author(s): AMELIA BRUST Date: June 18, 2015 Section:
News (Local)

HARRISONBURG - The Harrisonburg Electoral Board has input from the Voter Registrar on the merit of a new precinct for James Madison University students. But members are not ready to make a recommendation to City Council. On Wednesday, the board voted to meet with city officials and JMU representatives by its July meeting about creating a precinct either exclusively for on-campus students or one that also encompasses surrounding neighborhoods.

The next meeting date has not been set, board member Sandra Price-Stroble said.

Last month, City Council asked the board to make a recommendation on the proposal, but the elections panel decided to wait until it could talk with more stakeholders.

"One of the things that has bothered me from the very beginning with this is the lack of actual involvement by the university," board Chairman Greg Coffman said.

He said that he did not consider the board's communication with student Josh Humphries and the JMU Student Government Association as university involvement.

Humphries originally submitted the request on behalf of SGA in March, and the board has treated the issue as an ongoing agenda item.

In a report to the board Wednesday, Registrar Deborah Logan said a new precinct for on-campus students is not justified given historically low student-voter turnout and the current equity of Harrisonburg's seven precincts for all city voters.

JMU students living on campus can register to vote in the Spotswood precinct, which is geographically the smallest in the city.

"Basically, you're talking about my very smallest precinct and splitting it in half," Logan said.

Each of the seven precincts saw voter turnout of 1,800 to 2,300 during the 2012 presidential election and between 800 and 1,100 for the 2014 gubernatorial election. Precincts are designed for a maximum of 5,000 voters, and in last year's election, only 173 of 2,240 voters registered on JMU's campus went to the polls, Logan said.

She added that those registered on campus are mostly inactive because they have since moved off campus and not updated their information.

Humphries cited accessibility as the reason to establish an on-campus polling place for students, but Logan said Wednesday that the distance from JMU to Spotswood Elementary School is less than a mile.

By comparison, she said, in the other precincts, voters must travel as far as 1.2 to three miles.

On-campus students at Eastern Mennonite University and residents of Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, for example, both travel farther to vote in Harrisonburg than JMU students.

"I'm just trying to look at all citizens the same," Logan said. "Take away where they are, take away what they do, all citizens have equal access to getting to the polling places."

She asked that instead of a new precinct, the city make a greater investment in educating students on campus about their voting options, including absentee ballots.

In a March 31 letter to the Electoral Board from Maggie Burkhart Evans, executive assistant to JMU President Jonathan Alger, the administration gives its support for the creation an on-campus precinct for students.

"Understanding that expenses may be incurred in this process, James Madison University is willing to partner with the City to explore a plan for sharing potential costs," the letter says.

Logan told the board that it would cost approximately \$20,000 in startup costs and about \$4,000 annually to establish a new voting precinct.

"Should the measure pass City Council, the administration will gladly meet with members of the Electoral Board and City staff to discuss plans for an on-campus voting location," Burkhart Evans writes.

Humphries, 21, said after the board's meeting Wednesday that he was pleased with the progress on the issue.

"As far as the numbers go, I mean ... they could be better," he said of the student turnout. "But I think we need to be deciding that if we're getting a precinct on campus, I believe that that would inherently turn out more students to vote."

Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting
June 17, 2015

In Attendance:

Greg Coffman, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary
Deborah Logan, Registrar.

Chairman Coffman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 26, 2015 meeting were approved as corrected.

Public Comment Period:

Chaz Evans-Haywood, Clerk of the Circuit Court, addressed the Board regarding the need to educate college students that registering to vote in Harrisonburg also means they could be summoned for jury duty. Mr. Evans-Haywood expressed concern that students often do not receive their notice for jury duty because they have not updated their address or if it is received they sometimes disregard it. He is concerned that this goes on their record as breaking the law if they do not report for duty.

Board member Ney asked if this was also applicable to students registering who registered in other areas. Board member Price-Stroble asked if the same concerns would not also apply to any other registered voter and commented we needed to be cautious that we did not single out any particular voter group. Also she expressed concern that in educating the student voter regarding the possibility of being summoned for jury duty we do not influence the voter's decision as to whether they want to register to vote in Harrisonburg or to vote absentee where they reside when not attending college.

Chairman Coffman thanked Clerk Evans-Haywood for addressing the Board.

Monthly Report from Registrar

Registrar Debbie Logan reported that 9 new voting machines have been purchased. The funds to purchase are from the 2014-2015 fiscal year and the fiscal year 2015-2016. Delivery should be the end of July. Mrs. Logan purchased the Gold Level agreement for training, setup and support. The \$1800 cost includes set-up in exchange for our old machines.

The Registrar reported information to the Board regarding possible location of a voting precinct on the JMU Campus. After questions to Mrs. Logan and Board discussion, Board Member Ney made the motion that the Electoral Board request a meeting with a representative from JMU and invite a representative from City Council to attend. The motion was seconded by Board Member Price-Stroble and passed. Mrs. Logan was asked to make the contact with JMU and the City Manager and set up a meeting.

Registrar Logan suggested we talk with a representative from JMU regarding a possible satellite office location on campus during the registration period prior to elections to the November General Election.

Closed Session:

The motion was made by Bill Ney, seconded by Sandra Price-Stroble and approved to adjourn the Public Session and convene in Closed Executive Session according to the authority 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) of the Code of Virginia.

Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session. A Roll Call vote was taken as required by 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to Certify that during the Closed Session only business as allowed according to the authority of 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) was discussed.

Coffman-yes, Ney-yes, Price-Stroble-yes.

Future Meeting

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on July 8, 2015 unless otherwise announced.

Respectfully Submitted.

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary

precincts?

From: Moore, Towana Hickman - mooreth [<mailto:mooreth@jmu.edu>]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 4:23 PM
To: Deborah Logan
Subject: RE: EB meeting

I'll be there. Thank you. Towana.

From: Deborah Logan [<mailto:Deborah.Logan@harrisonburgva.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 4:05 PM
To: Moore, Towana Hickman - mooreth
Subject: EB meeting

Ms. Moore,

Thank you so much for agreeing to come to the electoral board meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2015. The Electoral Board would like for you to come at 1:30 and hopefully it will only take 30 - 45 minutes. We appreciate your willingness to represent James Madison University in this matter.

Debbie Logan, Registrar
City of Harrisonburg
345 S. Main St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Phone (540) 432 – 7707
Fax (540) 432 – 7784

E-mail: Deborah.Logan@harrisonburgva.gov



Deborah Logan

From: Deborah Logan
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 8:14 AM
To: 'Moore, Towana Hickman - mooreth'
Cc: 'Greg Coffman'; 'William J. Ney'; 'Sandra Price-Stroble'
Subject: RE: EB meeting

Ms. Moore,

The electoral Board sent these questions for you. This is what they will be asking you at the meeting. Thanks again for your participation.

> 1. How many students live at 800 South Main Street?

> 2.

There would be a cost estimated between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00 to

> start a

new precinct. What part of this cost would JMU be willing to

> provide.

> 3.

A voting precinct needs to be a secure facility with handicap access and

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adequate parking. We would need control over it from 6:00PM. on the eve of

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the election until 12:00AM. after the election. This facility must be

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available for all national, state, and local elections and primaries. Is

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there a facility available?

> 4. Is it possible for the Registrar Office to have an office on campus each

> fall to help students with voter registration and absentee voting?

> 5. Would JMU be willing to share the voting precinct with voters who live

> in the nearby community?

> 6. What are the possibility

of JMU supplying buses to transport students to

> the present voting

Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting
May 26, 2015

In Attendance:

Greg Coffman, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary
Deborah Logan, Registrar.

Chairman Coffman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

Public Comment Period: none

Agenda Item IV-Discussion of School Board Election Options

Per request of City Council, the Electoral Board discussed options for conducting election of School Board members.

After consideration of options, the following motion was made, ^{By Bill Ney} seconded and passed unanimously:

"In response to the request from City Council that the Electoral Board make recommendations for election of School Board members beginning in 2016, the motion was made that the Electoral Board suggests to City Council that beginning in 2016, the School Board Members be elected by the same method as used for City Council elections. This method currently being that candidates run at-large and every voter can vote on all of the at large candidates.

The Electoral Board would also encourage the City Council to consider other methods for elections that would encourage more equal neighborhood representation in the future."

Board Secretary, Sandra Price-Stroble, will send this information to Chris Brown, City Attorney; Kurt Hodgens, City Manager; and all City Councilmen.

Agenda Item VII-JMU On Campus Precinct

* Board Member Ney asked to withdraw his proposal submitted at the last meeting regarding establishing a Precinct on the JMU Campus. The motion was made by Board Member Ney to add this to the agenda in June. Board Member Coffman seconded the motion and it was passed.

*Note minutes
meeting 5/13/2015
P.2*

Closed Session:

The motion was made by Bill Ney, seconded by Sandra Price-Stroble and approved to adjourn the Public Session and convene in Closed Executive Session according to the authority 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) of the Code of Virginia.

Open Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session. A Roll Call vote was taken as required by 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to Certify that during the Closed Session only business as allowed according to the authority of 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) was discussed.

Coffman-yes, Ney-yes, Price-Stroble-yes.

Bill Ney made the motion that Deborah Logan be reappointed for a four year term beginning on July 1, 2015. This was seconded by Sandra Price-Stroble and unanimously approved.

Department of Elections Training

Board members Ney and Price-Stroble along with Deborah Logan Registrar will be attending the ELECT Training in Richmond in July. Board Member Ney will attend the special training session for new Electoral Board members. Board member Coffman is unable to attend due to a previously scheduled commitment. Only one Board member is required to attend.

Future Meetings

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on June 17, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. (Note this is the third week of the month instead of the second Wednesday)

Respectfully Submitted.

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary

Report from Registrar 6-17-15 Fil Corp

The city of Harrisonburg is currently divided into 7 precincts established after the last census

These 7 precincts are equitable in size and centrally located for voters

Looking at our largest election (Presidential 2012) – voter turnout was between 1800 and 2300 voters in each precinct.

Our second largest election (Gubernatorial 2014) – voter turnout was between 800 and 1100

These numbers are well below the 5000 voter limit that calls for a new precinct.

Our small precincts have made the city elections very efficient with no more than a 15 minute wait time during our last presidential. All citizens of Harrisonburg are being treated equally.

As Registrar I have been asked to comment on the possibility of adding a new city precinct on the JMU campus for on campus student voting only.

This would cost the taxpayers of Harrisonburg \$20,000 in start up costs and a significant annual cost (about \$4000 per election) to maintain and staff each election.

The numbers just don't support creating a precinct for campus voters. In 2014 of the 2240 registered voters on campus only 173 voted. Most of the 2240 voters are labeled inactive meaning they have moved from that location. This population is transient and the numbers change every year as the majority of the students move off campus after their freshman year.

The argument that on campus residents have limited access to transportation does not hold up – bus transportation provided by the city is available and additional scheduled buses can be added for Election Day. These voters are much closer to their precinct than the majority of the citizens of Harrisonburg.

Students do have the option of voting absentee. In fact it is the first and most widely used reason on the absentee application. The ballot is mailed directly to the student who votes it and places it back in the mail without ever having to leave campus.

JMU has expressed a strong desire to become involved citizens in the city of Harrisonburg. Why would you want to isolate them in the voting process rather than engage them in community by participating and voting alongside community members?

In my professional opinion and as a steward of the taxpayer's money for the city of Harrisonburg, I feel that the current voting precincts serve all our citizens equally and fairly.



* VIRGINIA *
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

Attention: MEMBERS OF ELECTORAL BOARDS

Regarding: APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL REGISTRARS

The term of the registrar in office expires on June 30, 2011. The electoral boards must meet in either May or June to appoint the locality's general registrar for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2011. Some electoral boards will choose to reappoint the current registrar and some will be appointing a new registrar.

§ 24.2-109 and §24.2-110 addresses appointment, qualifications and term of the general registrar as well as vacancies and certain prohibitions (see below). Please refer to this section of the code as well as Chapter 3 of the General Registrar and Electoral Board Handbook (GREBook) when appointing the general registrar for your locality.

§ 24.2-110. Appointment, qualifications, and term of general registrar; vacancies; certain prohibitions.

Each electoral board shall meet in the month of May or June in 2007, and every four years thereafter, and shall appoint a general registrar, who shall be a qualified voter of the county or city for which he is appointed. However, in the case of a city that is wholly contained within one county, the city electoral board may appoint a qualified voter of that county to serve as city general registrar. General registrars shall serve four-year terms beginning July 1, 2007, and each fourth year thereafter, and continue in office until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

The electoral board shall fill any vacancy in the office of general registrar for the unexpired term. The electoral board shall declare vacant and fill the office of the general registrar if the appointee fails to qualify and deliver a copy of his oath to the secretary of the electoral board within 30 days after he has been notified of his appointment.

No general registrar shall hold any other office, by election or appointment, while serving as general registrar; however, with the consent of the electoral board, he may undertake other duties which do not conflict with his duties as general registrar. General registrars shall not serve as officers of election. The election or appointment of a general registrar to any other office shall vacate the office of the general registrar.

No general registrar shall be eligible to offer for or hold an office to be filled by election in whole or in part by the qualified voters of his jurisdiction at any election held during the time he serves as general registrar or for the six months thereafter.

The electoral board shall not appoint to the office of general registrar any person who is the spouse of an electoral board member or any person, or the spouse of any person, who is the parent, grandparent, sibling, child, or grandchild of an electoral board member.

No general registrar shall serve as the chairman of a political party or other officer of a state, local or district level political party committee. No general registrar shall serve as a paid or volunteer worker in the campaign of a candidate for nomination or election to an office filled by election in whole or in part by the qualified voters of his jurisdiction. The restrictions of this paragraph shall apply to paid assistant registrars but shall not apply to unpaid assistant registrars.

Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting

MAY 13, 2015

1:30 pm.

In Attendance:

Greg Coffman, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary
Deborah Logan, Registrar.

DNR?
WHSV?

Chairman Coffman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Closed Session:

The motion was made by Bill Ney, seconded by Sandra Price-Stroble and approved to adjourn the Public Session and convene in Closed Executive Session according to the authority 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) of the Code of Virginia.

The Closed Session convened at 1:03 p.m. and adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session. A Roll Call vote was taken as required by 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to Certify that during the Closed Session only business as allowed according to the authority of 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) was discussed. (Ney-Y, Coffman-Y, Price-Stroble-Y)

City Attorney Report

Chris Brown, Attorney for City of Harrisonburg, met with the Electoral Board to review the request from the City Council that the Electoral Board offer input on the possible ordinance change regarding election of City School Board members. Mr. Brown reviewed the various options and provided information that has been received from the Department of Elections. He stated the current method of election is very unusual and not in keeping with most other localities in Virginia. The Council will be discussing this at their first meeting in June and the Electoral Board will meet prior to that time to consider the various options for election methods for School Board.

As for the special election to fill the rest of the term for the West Seat vacated by Danny Fleming, the existing ordinance will stand for that election. The filing deadline will be the same as for the General Election.

Mr. Brown also addressed a few questions related to FOIA.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

Public Comment Period: none

Report from Administrative Building Project Manager

Mr. Andy Banks updated the Electoral Board on the status of the new Administrative Office Building and projected move timeline. Phase I should be completed by the end of

July. Staying in the old building is not an option after the completion of Phase I. Registrar Logan asked to be put on priority list with IT because we must be online with VERIS to be operating for the election period. The Registrar's office should be ready to operate in the new election cycle for the November General and Special Elections. Also discussed were needs for CAP Precinct location during the 45 day absentee voting period and election day.

Agenda Item VII-JMU On Campus Precinct

→ Mr. Bill Ney presented a proposal regarding the location of a voting precinct on the JMU Campus. This proposal was reviewed. It was decided by consensus that individual Board members will submit their proposals or ideas for further discussion.

Electoral Board Press Contact

It was decided by consensus that Chairman Greg Coffman would serve as the media contact and official spokesperson for the Electoral Board. Individual members may talk with the media if contacted. In all cases members should clarify if they are speaking on behalf of the Board or speaking as an individual. Best practice would be to not offer personal opinions and each Board member should be careful not to address anything that could be considered personnel issues.

Closed Session:

The motion was made by Bill Ney, seconded by Sandra Price-Stroble and approved to adjourn the Public Session and convene in Closed Executive Session according to the authority 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) of the Code of Virginia.

The Closed Session convened at 3:55 p.m. and adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m. A Roll Call vote was taken as required by 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to Certify that during the Closed Session only business as allowed according to the authority of 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) was discussed.

Coffman-yes, Ney-yes, Price-Stroble-yes.

Future Meetings

A special work session meeting will be held on May 26 at 1:00 p.m. to further discuss the recommendations for election of School Board members and to further discuss the proposal of a Precinct located on JMU Campus. Other business will be discussed if necessary.

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on June 17, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. (Note this is the third week of the month instead of the second Wednesday)

Respectfully Submitted.

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary

Draft - (Not sent)

Maggie Burkhardt Evans

Executive Assistant to the President

James Madison University

Dear Ms. Evans

In response to your letter, the Harrisonburg City Electoral Board also agrees that having an on-campus voting precinct would benefit the civic engagement of the students. Statistics show that if there is a precinct on campus that there would be a likely voter increase of 15%. But, this would not be enough to justify a voting precinct solely for the JMU students living in the campus dormitories. It is of our opinion that the voting precinct should also include the residential areas of Hillcrest, Forrest Hills, and Purcell Park along with the JMU Dormitories. This would insure a higher voter turn-out for all elections.

A voting precinct has to be a secure facility with handicap access and parking. We would need to have control over it from 6:00 PM. on the eve of the election until 12:00 AM after the election. As you know that there are elections on the first Tuesday of November every year. There are also primaries and special elections that may be held at any time. If there is an on-campus precinct, it must be available for every election. We also hope that JMU would be able to help offset some of the approximately \$7,500.00 cost of having an additional voting precinct.

The electoral board and the registrar's office strive to make it easier for everyone to pursue their right to vote. We would like to have an office on campus during the beginning of the Fall Semester to be able to

Proposal
from Bill Ney
presented
to EB at
May 13, 2015
meeting.

withdrawn by
Mr. Ney at May 26
meeting.

register new students and also help students who are already registered in other localities in Virginia to apply for absentee ballots. Students have the right to vote in Harrisonburg; but they must choose themselves whether to vote here or in their hometowns.

If JMU agrees to these conditions, The Harrisonburg Electoral Board would recommend to the City Council that they realign the voting precincts and add a new precinct on the JMU campus.

Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting
April 8, 2015

In Attendance:

Greg Coffman, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary
Deborah Logan, Registrar.

Chairman Coffman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The minutes of the March 12, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

Public Comment Period: none

Presentation:

Mr. Josh Humphries, Chair of the JMU Student Government Legislative Action Committee, addressed the Board and presented a Resolution from the SGA requesting support from the Electoral Board for a Voting Precinct to be located on the JMU Campus. Mr. Humphries shared information as to the reasons this resolution was approved by the SGA. He also presented a letter of support from the Maggie Burkhardt Evans, Executive Assistant to the President of James Madison University. The letter stated that the administration of JMU is supportive of the establishment of an on-campus voting precinct for their students. It also stated that should the measure pass City Council, the administration is willing to partner with the City to explore a plan for sharing potential costs and would gladly meet with members of the Electoral Board and City staff to discuss plans for on-campus precinct.

The members of the Board asked several questions of Mr. Humphries and thanked him for attending the meeting. After some discussion Mr. Ney made the motion that the Board review the information presented to us and ask the Registrar to research the possible impact of having a Precinct located on the JMU Campus and present this information to the Board at a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Price-Stroble and passed.

Registrar's Report

Registrar Logan presented her report.

1. ELECT (The Dept. of Elections) Annual Training Conference will be held July 27-29th at the Koger Center in Richmond. Mrs. Logan has reserved rooms for those attending from our Board and Registrar's Office.
2. ELECT is in the process of developing in house software for use with Electronic Pollbooks.
3. Ms. Logan reported that the School Board will be accepting applications to fill the vacancy until the special election is held. The Voter Registrar's Office will assist with the verification as far as the voter registration and residency issue.

Old Business

Ms. Logan reported that 72 people have completed the Oath of Office to serve as Officers of Election for the 2015-2018 term. The Board members received an updated list and as required a copy will be posted at a visible location in the Office.

After a brief discussion it was agree that the matter of Spokesperson for the Electoral Board will be decided at a future meeting.

New Business

Registrar Logan gave the Board a calendar of important dates in the timeline of preparations for the November 3, 2015 General Election.

The Board requested that Chris Brown, City Attorney, or someone from his office attend a future meeting to review FOIA requirements with the Board.

Closed Session:

The motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the Public Session and convene in Closed Executive Session according to the authority 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) of the Code of Virginia.

The Closed Session convened at 3:05 p.m. and adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session. A Roll Call vote was taken as required by 2.2-3712-D of the Code of Virginia to Certify that during the Closed Session only business as allowed according to the authority of 2.2-371-A1 (Personnel) \was discussed.

Coffman-yes, Ney-yes, Price-Stroble-yes.

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on May 14, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary



March 31, 2015

Harrisonburg City Electoral Board
Harrisonburg City Municipal Building
345 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Members of the Harrisonburg City Electoral Board:

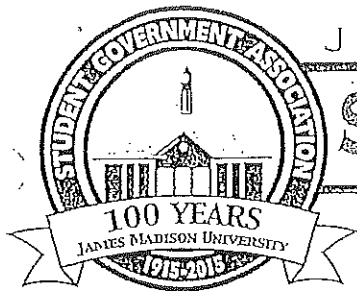
The administration of James Madison University is supportive of the establishment of an on-campus voting precinct for our students. We believe that reducing the barriers to enhance participation in the democratic process is directly in line with the mission and vision of the University. Enabling students to exercise their right to vote in a convenient and reasonable location is a clear demonstration of JMU's commitment to civic engagement. Understanding that expenses may be incurred in this process, James Madison University is willing to partner with the City to explore a plan for sharing potential costs. Should the measure pass City Council, the administration will gladly meet with members of the Electoral Board and City staff to discuss plans for an on-campus voting location.

Sincerely,

Maggie Burkhart Evans
Executive Assistant to the President
James Madison University

MBE/pal

cc: Charles King
Mark Warner



JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA@JMU.EDU

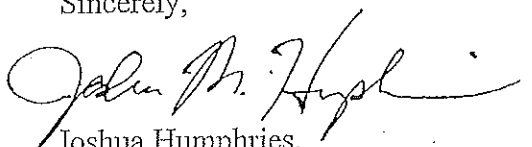
TAYLOR HALL 203

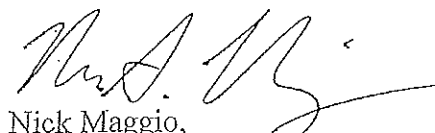
James Madison University
800 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

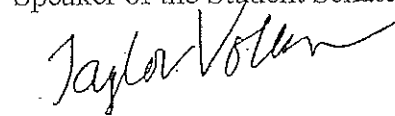
City of Harrisonburg Electoral Board,

Please accept this resolution on behalf of the Student Government Association in support of adding a precinct to the campus of James Madison University for students residing on campus. The Student Government Association represents the entirety of the 20,000 students attending James Madison and we have received positive feedback regarding this proposal from many of our constituents. As noted in the resolution, there is also broad support from other student civic advocacy groups such as the College Democrats, College Republicans and Virginia-21. We believe in reducing any and all institutional barriers, which would prohibit students from efficiently getting to the polls. The Student Government Association also commits to working with the Voter Registrar and the Electoral Board to ensure healthy communication and collaboration. As students of James Madison, we also support the proposal in an effort to be good stewards of the ability we have to take part in the democratic process. We hope that you will support this proposal and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,


Joshua Humphries,
Chair, Legislative Action Committee


Nick Maggio,
Speaker of the Student Senate


Taylor Vollman,
President of the Student Body

March 3, 2014

Dear Harrisonburg Electoral Board,

Over the last several months, I've been gathering information and soliciting feedback regarding the establishment of a voting precinct on James Madison University. This precinct would only be for those students living on campus in a dormitory; not off campus students. This is primarily due to concerns over how we would decide which off campus complexes to include in the precinct as well as not wanting to remove community members from their existing polling locations.

In asking for this precinct, we are not going into uncharted waters. Other colleges and universities within the Commonwealth of Virginia also have on campus voting precincts, including; University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, George Mason University and Liberty University.

This initiative also is supported by the JMU administration. JMU is a university that is "committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives," as well as seeking to "be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with the world and ideas." The establishment of a voting precinct is directly in line with those statements. We are working to be sure that students are aware of the civic process and are informed about the decisions they're making. According to the Campus Election Engagement Project, simply adding a precinct to a campus will increase turnout by 17 percent.

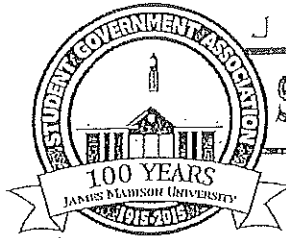
One thing this initiative is not about is partisan politics. Throughout this process, the main criticism is the fear that the "highly liberal" campus of James Madison will sway elections in Harrisonburg. This simply is not true. According to the Office of Institutional Research, the entering freshman class identified themselves as 36% Moderate, 33% Conservative, and 31% Liberal. I believe in enfranchising more people, and reducing the barriers for civic participation, regardless of political affiliation. This is a great way to get more citizens involved in the civic process at a minimal cost.

Finally, the students who are living on campus are the newest and most vulnerable members of this community. It is unlikely that these students, new to this area, are likely to go off campus during their first year as a student. We are trying to remove as many of the logistical barriers to participating in the democratic process as possible. Please feel free to contact me at humphrjm@dukes.jmu.edu with any questions.

After deliberating, should the Electoral Board find this to be a favorable proposal, I would like to ask that the Electoral Board make a recommendation to City Council. After speaking with members of council that seems to be the best course of action to take at the present time. I would be more than willing to make the same proposal to the City Council that I will be making to the Electoral Board.

Sincerely,

Josh Humphries



JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA.JMU.EDU | SGA@JMU.EDU | MADISON UNION 331

S. Res. 62

To provide support for an on campus voting precinct

IN THE STUDENT SENATE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

SENATOR JOSHUA HUMPHRIES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Legislative Action.

A RESOLUTION

Supporting the establishment of an on campus voting precinct

WHEREAS the mission and vision of James Madison University seek to promote active and enlightened citizens included with the desire to be "the national model for the engaged university" AND

WHEREAS the addition of an on campus voting precinct for those students residing on campus would allow those students to vote with greater efficiency, AND

WHEREAS this additional precinct would only be for students who claim residency in a dormitory on the campus of James Madison University, AND

WHEREAS students living on campus are largely first year students who have little exposure or means by which to efficiently navigate Harrisonburg City, AND

WHEREAS according to the Campus Vote Project, simply adding a voting precinct to a college campus will increase voter turnout by seventeen percent, AND

WHEREAS comparable sister institutions such as, George Mason, Virginia Tech, Liberty and the University of Virginia all possess on campus voting precincts for their students, AND

WHEREAS the College Democrats, College Republicans and Virginia 21, all student advocacy and civic engagement organizations, support this effort, AND

WHEREAS voting is a fundamental right possessed by all citizens and it should be a goal for all to reduce any and all institutional barriers, which may prohibit participation in the democratic process,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Student Government Association strongly supports this effort to increase voter participation among the students of James Madison University

Harrisonburg Electoral Board Meeting
March 12, 2015

In Attendance:

Greg Coffman, Chairman; Bill Ney, Vice Chairman; Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary
Deborah Logan, Registrar

Visitors Present:

Deb Fitzgerald, HDC Chairperson, Joe Fitzgerald, Member HDC

Chairman Coffman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The minutes of the March 7, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed.

Options for future meeting dates and times were discussed. It was agreed by consensus that the Electoral Board will schedule a regular monthly meeting date to be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. Other meetings will be called as needed, especially in preparation for elections. Consideration will be given to occasionally holding an evening meeting that might allow more opportunity for the general public to attend.

The format of meetings was discussed. A public comment period will be held during the meetings with three minutes allowed per individual and five minutes for an organization being represented. It was decided that visitors would be asked to sign in and especially if they desire to address the Board during the public comment period.

Closed meetings would be held when appropriate as allowed under FOIA particularly when issues related to personnel or election security is discussed. When feasible the Closed Session part of a meeting would be held toward the end of the agenda in consideration of members of the general public who may be in attendance.

Roles and responsibilities of Board members were discussed. The Vice-Chairman, Bill Ney, will be the Board contact to work with the Equipment/Election Coordinator, Bill Blessing. Sandra Price-Stroble will update the Officer of Election Training Program. The designation of a spokesperson was deferred to a later time.

The Board addressed the need to recruit Officers of Elections. Each Board member will assist with recruitment. Efforts will be made to contact civic organizations and local colleges regarding the ongoing need for Officers. A list of the currently approved officers who have accepted appointment will be posted in the Registrar's Office.

The Equipment Security Verification Form has been updated in January 2015 by the previous Board. New equipment requests have been included in the 2015 budget. Two new Accuvote Scanners will be purchased prior to July 1, 2015 as approved in the 2014 budget. If the 2015 budget is approved, seven more Accuvote Scanners will be purchased. Any new equipment purchased will need to be reported in the Security Plan when updated.

Deborah Logan, Registrar, reviewed some legislative changes in the Election Code. Absentee Ballot responsibility is now back in the hands of the Registrar. ID legislation

*add
of votes
not
appear
2 will
not be
purchased*

passed by the General Assembly included a requirement that Photo ID is required for persons voting absentee. VRAB has basically opposed this legislation and it is possible it will be vetoed by the Governor.

The Registrar and Board discussed the status of the new Administrative Building and office space for the Registrar's Office. We will continue to advocate for rotated seasonal sharing of the office joining the Commissioner of Revenue and Registrar's Offices and revisit the concerns again with City Staff when the move to the new building is closer at hand.

The Registrar's Review for Reappointment will need to be completed this year. The Board will go into Closed Session during the April meeting to begin the personnel review process.

Sandra Price-Stroble referred to the letter the Board members received from Josh Humphries, who represents the JMU Student Government. In his letter he requests that the EB members study the feasibility of a voting precinct being located on the JMU Campus and consider making a recommendation to the Harrisonburg City Council. After review of the Resolution on a different issue that Mr. Humphries presented to the previous Board in November, Sandra made the motion that Mr. Humphries be invited to attend the April Board meeting to make a presentation to the Board regarding locating a Voting Precinct on the JMU campus. The motion was seconded by Bill Ney and passed.

Chairman Coffman asked if there was any New Business to be brought before the Board. Mr. Ney noted that an issue had been reported to the Registrar who in turn brought it to the attention of the Electoral Board. The issue reported involved a question regarding the eligibility of a current School Board member to serve the District to which he/she was elected in 2012. The question of eligibility is in regard to residency issues. Mr. Ney stated that at the direction of the Electoral Board, the Registrar has referred to the matter to the City Attorney. The City Attorney has referred the matter to the School Board attorney. Should the Electoral Board be asked for a statement it will be the position of the Board or its individual members to state that this matter was referred to the City Attorney and no longer up to us to take any further action at this time. The Board members also agreed that we would not confirm or deny any School Board Member's name associated with this report.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary

City of Harrisonburg Electoral Board
Meeting of February 18, 2015

Present: Sandra Price-Stroble, Jim Gilchrist, Penny Imeson, GR Debbie Logan.
Guest: Bill Ney

Sandra called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Jim moved to approve the minutes of January 22nd as presented. Bill Ney noted misspelling and Penny corrected. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Debbie Logan presented the GR Report:

1. State Budget for voting equipment did not pass, but Debbie submitted 2015-16 budget line of \$70,000 per Dominion's higher quote. With no state funding there will be no vendor mandate. Debbie provided PrintElect quote of \$50,540, a significant savings. EB discussed situation and recommended that Debbie advise City that costs for new machines dropped. Jim emphasized critical need for new machines should be clarified to City.
2. Staff has reviewed files/documents per Document Retention schedule. Everything is up-to-date with expired paperwork ready to be picked up for destruction.
3. Only 52 of 143 OEs responded to call for renewal. GR office sent email reminder last week. Jim expressed concern that OE roll is an inadequate pool for 2016 election year. Debbie recommended that Debbie see opportunities to speak to clubs and civic groups. EB confirmed that the list sent to Party chairs was the approved list. The ELECT deadline to identify OE list was met when EB gave GR approval to send letter in January. Diane Nardi suggested placing a notice in City employee newsletter. Jim suggested creating a formal recruitment plan. Debbie is frustrated by lack of support from political parties. Penny suggested requesting an announcement at First Friday lunches. Bill asked if the information is on the website (yes). Sandra suggested a notice at the public library.
4. EB discussed response to inquiry from Chris Kent, a reporter for The Breeze (JMU newspaper). Both Sandra and Penny deferred his questions to Debbie at different times. Debbie did speak with him. His questions were mostly hypothetical regarding a potential JMU-only precinct. Debbie referred him to City Council as the body with power to create precincts and to Richmond as the power to change legislation regarding where voters vote. After speaking with Chris, Debbie wants education on campus.
5. Otherwise, quiet in office. Judy is in Florida in February. Greta works one day per week filing.
6. EB reviewed EB Annual Meeting plans and reservations at the Homestead. Bill and Sandra confirmed they are attending.
7. Debbie asked Ande Banks about accessibility in New City Hall and during the conversation, Ande stated that Council Chambers would NOT be available for Elections due to the 45 day rule, but said GR/EB could use closet. Richard Baugh and Bill Ney appeared after Ande left. When Debbie filled them in, Richard stated that Council could do without the chambers for that time period.

New Business:

Penny revisited formal plan of OE recruiting, specifically the educational outreach to groups. Bill suggested split days might encourage more recruits. Debbie reported that most localities try to avoid split shifts to minimize negative scenarios.

Penny moved to enter closed session pursuant to VA Code section 2.2-3711 for discussion of Personnel. EB ended closed meeting and certified only personnel issues were discussed by roll call: Sandra- yes, Jim- yes, Penny – yes.

Sandra adjourned the meeting at 4:34 pm..

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 4th, at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Penny Imeson

City of Harrisonburg Electoral Board
Meeting of January 22, 2015

Present: Sandra Price-Stroble, Jim Gilchrist, Penny Imeson, GR Debbie Logan.
Guests: Bill Ney, Joshua (Josh) Humphries, JMU SGA Legislative Action Committee

Sandra called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

Jim moved to approve the amended minutes of December 11th, 2014. Sandra seconded and the motion carried.

Joshua Humphries presented a JMU SGA Resolution to work with EB and ELECT and Student Senate to clarify election lay, especially with regards to online and paper registrations. Joshua is working internally at JMU to be sure on-campus registrations will have dorm names and is also looking into P.O. boxes to correlate to dorms. EB stated it is happy to receive communication on and support such efforts. (NOTE: According to Josh, 911 calls go to dorm,. Not physical address.)

Josh is also working on a new precinct for on-campus students only. According to Josh, on-campus P.O. boxes are only for students paying room and board. Josh working to get USPS address change form provided to students when they finish their first year.

Debbie is considering a satellite GR office on JMU campus based on Radford model. Jim asked about reasons for on-campus precinct. Josh responded the precinct (which would most likely be at the Convocation Center) would 1.) increase student turnout by 17%; 2.) make it simple for students to know where to vote; 3.) bring JMU in line with the other VA Big Four; 4) would make Dems busing unnecessary.

With regards to TurboVote: JMU is always looking for ways to make it easier for students to vote. Josh spoke with TurboVote about problems with the system, for example the misleading "Congratulations" message seen in 2014. Debbie then reported that eight (8) TurboVote absentee votes for the November 2014 election arrived in December 2014.

Debbie presented NVRA Purge list with copies for local Party Chairs. 578 people were removed from local lists. Discussion ensued. GR reported that all requests for oaths and information were mailed to 143 OEs, but there were few responses. Debbie is surprised by the number of "no" responses. Debbie reported legislative initiative tyo return AB duties to GRs where tasks are now carried out, in most instances.

EB reminded of State Board Training: July 27-28-19, location tbd. At present, EB/GR anticipate November election, although there are rumors of primary.

Debbie submitted budget to City by January 30 deadline. There were no major changes, except \$70,000 to purchase seven (7) new voting machines. We now use PrintElect. Debbie saw Dominion machines which don't work with AccuVotes. Since State is leaning toward one vendor, Debbie used the more expensive Dominion costs in her budget.

New City Hall: According to plans, office will move in September. Debbie stated she will NOT move if date is ^{past} past the 45-day rule. Sandra wondered about talking to new Mayor Chris Jones about the new City Hall floor plans. Penny recommended waiting until hard hat tours.

Penny moved to enter closed session pursuant to VA Code section 2.2-3711 for discussion of Personnel. EB ended closed meeting and certified only personnel issues were discussed by roll call: Sandra- yes, Jim- yes, Penny – yes.

Sandra adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.
Next meeting: Wednesday, February 18th, at 3 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Penny Imeson

City of Harrisonburg Electoral Board
Meeting of December 11, 2014

for meg Mulvaney

Present: Sandra Price-Stroble, Jim Gilchrist, Penny Imeson, GR Debbie Logan.

for mr. mark Warner

Sandra called the meeting to order at 9:18 am.

Penny moved to approve the minutes of November 19th as corrected. Sandra seconded.

Sandra reported on two meetings she attended at JMU with members of the Young Democrats, Young Republicans, Virginia 21, a Professor of Civic Engagement, the VP of Student Affairs, and others. In the meetings she attempted to make clear the issues that occurred through the use of TurboVote in November and encourage support for OE volunteers to fulfill civic involvement. She also heard discussion of a JMU precinct. She anticipates the meetings and discussions will continue.

EB entered closed session for the purpose of OE reviews. After closed session, EB certified that no other business but OE reviews was discussed by roll call: Jim, yes; Penny, yes; Sandra, yes.

GR office will send letters in January to OE to reappoint for another 3-year term, beginning in March 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Penny Imeson

1. PROS & CONS

Attachment # 1 for Draft Minutes 8/6/15

Points in Favor of Establishing a Precinct on JMU Campus

- The Electoral Board should be encouraging increased voter participation. Adding a precinct to the campus of JMU will provide easier accessibility to the on-campus students. The potential pool of on campus housing voters is approximately 6000 according to the administration of JMU.
- Harrisonburg has a low percent voter turnout. Easing accessibility to the polling location could help to increase the student participation in voting and help the overall percentage of voter turnout for the City.
- Typically the majority of students living in on-campus housing are freshman and new to their community. There are hurdles unique to freshman college students who are just becoming familiar with the geography of their new community. Students can become more aware and feel more ownership of local laws and practices if they become more engaged in their community by voting.
- At the present time we do not have any data to give a realistic picture of what increase in student voter participation could take place if a precinct is located on campus. The only way we will know the impact of having an on-campus precinct is to establish the precinct and then compare data to the current turnout data.
- There is often confusion for students when registering to vote. This can result in students finding they are not on the pollbook. When this happens, students are asked to step aside and a Chief Officer has to be available to offer a Provisional Ballot. There tends to be more backup and waiting when there is more need to cast a Provisional Ballot. Having a larger number of first time voters at the same on-campus precinct could help the situation for other voters at the current Spotswood Precinct to avoid delays. At the present time a number of the Provisional Ballots cast are from students.
- JMU is willing to reimburse the City for costs related to establishing a new precinct on campus and for the yearly costs therefore this precinct could be established without cost to the city and its taxpayers.
- In 2011 over 3200 students registered to vote. Less than 200 voted. There should be an increase in the voter participation by having a precinct on campus.
- Hopefully by helping to educate and facilitate the vote by young people impacted by adding a conveniently located more accessible Precinct on campus, we can begin a process that they will carry with them in the future. In supporting JMU's Civic Engagement Initiative, we are encouraging the students to become voting citizens in Harrisonburg where they will also engage with pride and eagerness in their community and become more aware of the local government processes.

Points Against Establishing a Voter Precinct on JMU Campus

- The issue is not about “voter rights” but “voter privilege”. JMU students are already voting in the city at the Spotswood Elementary School precinct.
- Establishing a distinct and separate precinct on JMU campus sets an outstanding precedent, i.e. if you can pay for it the city will do it. Objections to consider:
 - Could a neighborhood request their own precinct if they agreed to pay for it?
 - Could another institution, VMRC perhaps, request a precinct if they agreed to pay for it?
 - Instead of fostering JMU’s intended plan to interface more with the community, this request actually provides more exclusion and separation for the JMU community.
 - We are providing more convenience for JMU students than we provide for our own registered voters.
 - Other registered voters will view this as another accommodation to JMU rather than an action based on what is most appropriate for the city voters.
- The impression has been given that most state colleges\universities have their own polling place on campus exclusively for students, the reality is that only one state-owned college\university does: VPI. Liberty University, which is a private university, also has its own precinct exclusively for students. Two other state universities, UVA and George Mason, have an on-campus precinct but they are for students and local residents, not just students.
- While some registered voters in our precincts have to travel from 1.2-3.0 miles to get to their respective polling place, JMU students from the farthest point on campus have to travel only 0.8 miles. In fact, on-campus students are closer to their current precinct than the majority of city voters are to theirs.
- With a precinct selectively placed on JMU’s campus for its students, the impact on an election in which a JMU professor or employee is running for local office has the potential of wresting the control of City Council from the local registered voters to the JMU students. Additionally, a JMU student could win a seat on City Council based on JMU votes entirely.

- Based on past voting records, the request would not have merited the Electoral Board's investigation.
 - In 2014, 173 of 2240 (8%) registered on-campus students voted.
 - In 2013, 263 of 2250 (12%) registered on-campus students voted.
 - In 2012, 883 of 2320 (38%) registered on-campus students voted in the Presidential Election

- Currently, city precincts are established for a maximum of 5000 registered voters. In 2014, there were 2240 on-campus registered voters at JMU. Removing that many from the polls at Spotswood would necessitate a redistricting of all the polls in the city. Since this will probably need to be repeated after the 2020 census, the question arises as to why it should be done twice in 4 years.

- The impact on local elections from the JMU campus is significant. While past voting records indicate only a yearly average of 330 on-campus students voting, many local elections have been shifted by less than 150 votes.

- Instead of the time and expense of a separate precinct on JMU's campus, busing can be provided for the students to their polling station, Spotswood Elementary School, at no expense to the students.

Distance to Polling Location

This is to show the longest traveling distance within each voting precinct.

Simms 1.2 miles

Spotswood 1.2 miles

Stone Spring 2.6 miles

Smithland 2.5 miles

Waterman 2.3 miles

Keister 3.0 miles

Thom Harrison 2.4 miles

JMU to Spotswood .8 miles

Registrar's Office - Off site registration

Harrisonburg High School

International Fair

JMU Student Activity Fair

New Citizen Naturalization Ceremonies

2. ESTIMATED COSTS

ESTIMATED PHYSICAL COSTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW VOTING PRECINCT

Digital Scan Machine and Ballot Box	\$8000.00
Automark ADA Compliant Machine	\$4000.00
Electronic Poll Books and Software	\$2100.00
Officers of Election (Variable)	\$1500.00
Privacy Booths	\$525.00
Signage	\$150.00
Memory Cards for Machines	\$500.00
Supplies	\$500.00
Programming Machines	\$450.00
Yearly Maintenance Agreement -2 Machines	\$380.00 (Digital Scanner)
	\$75.00 (Automark)
Additional Set Up Work-Techs & Transportation	\$200.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS **\$18,380.00**

ESTIMATED COST OF PREPARATION\DATA ENTRY TO ESTABLISH A NEW VOTING PRECINCT

Entering Data into VERIS	\$1760.00
Collaborate with other State/Local Offices	\$176.00
Print, Fold, and Stuff Voter Notices for 3000	\$494.00
Mailing Notices	\$1470.00
Processing Undeliverable Mail Through VERIS	\$186.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS **\$4086.00**

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS FOR THE FIRST YEAR **\$ 22485.00**

3. CAMPUS PRECINCTS
TURNOUT RATES
ENROLLMENT FIGURES

NO PRECINCT ON CAMPUS	ON CAMPUS PRECINCT - STUDENT ONLY	ON CAMPUS PRECINCT - STUDENT & CITIZENS
VCU	Liberty University	UVA
JMU	Virginia Tech	George Mason University
University of Mary Washington		
Hampton University		
VMI		
Radford		
College of William & Mary		
University of Richmond		
Washington & Lee		
Longwood University		
Hamppden-Sydney		
EMU		
Virginia State University		
Christopher Newport University		
Marymount University		
Lynchburg College		
Roanoke College		
Virginia Union University		
ODU		

2011

PRECINCT	TOTAL REGISTERED	TOTAL TURNOUT	JMU ON CAMPUS	TURNOUT %
101 SIMMS	3000	553		18%
102 SPOTSWOOD	2863	366	3	13%
103 STONE SPRING	2993	394		13%
104 SMITHLAND	2522	462		18%
201 WATERMAN	3195	645		20%
202 KEISTER	3085	671		22%
203 THMS	2775	546		20%

2012

PRECINCT	TOTAL REGISTERED	TOTAL TURNOUT	JMU ON CAMPUS	TURNOUT %
101 SIMMS	3420	2149		63%
102 SPOTSWOOD	4035	2342	883	58%
103 STONE SPRING	3874	2134		55%
104 SMITHLAND	3392	2084		61%
201 WATERMAN	3431	1947		57%
202 KEISTER	3371	2013		60%
203 THMS	3027	1819		60%

2013

PRECINCT	TOTAL REGISTERED	TOTAL TURNOUT	JMU ON CAMPUS	TURNOUT %
101 SIMMS	3357	1148		34%
102 SPOTSWOOD	4587	1104	263	24%
103 STONE SPRING	3969	995		25%
104 SMITHLAND	3508	919		26%
201 WATERMAN	3369	1220		36%
202 KEISTER	3299	1244		38%
203 THMS	2874	1083		38%

2014

PRECINCT	TOTAL REGISTERED	TOTAL TURNOUT	JMU ON CAMPUS	TURNOUT %
101 SIMMS	3414	1155		34%
102 SPOTSWOOD	4452	894	173	20%
103 STONE SPRING	3971	905		23%
104 SMITHLAND	3548	849		24%
201 WATERMAN	3417	1157		34%
202 KEISTER	3337	1172		35%
203 THMS	2901	1062		37%

James Madison University

Total Enrollment 20,855

In-State 74%

Out-of-State: 26%

4. NO OTHER OPTIONS OFFERED

5. ELECTORAL BOARD'S
RECOMMENDATION

Based on the information received from GIS and the City Attorney, the Electoral Board withdraws the previous recommendation submitted to Council.

The new recommendation is as follows:

A precinct be established on the campus of JMU that would include students with 800 South Main Street addresses and including the "Hillcrest neighborhood" bordering South Main Street, Port Republic Road and the JMU Campus.

6. JMU CONFIRMATION OF FUNDING



July 30, 2015

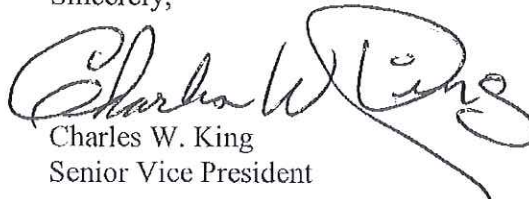
Mr. Greg L. Coffman
Chairman
Harrisonburg City Electoral Board
345 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Mr. Coffman:

James Madison University is prepared to reimburse the City of Harrisonburg for the initial costs of establishing a voter precinct on the University campus. The University is also prepared to pay the annual costs for this precinct. We understand the actual costs may be more or less than the estimates you have provided in your letter dated July 27, 2015.

We appreciate the Electoral Board and the City of Harrisonburg considering this potential new precinct on the JMU campus.

Sincerely,



Charles W. King
Senior Vice President

CWK/pjm

c: Mark Warner, Senior VP, Student Affairs and University Planning
Towana Moore, AVP, Business Services

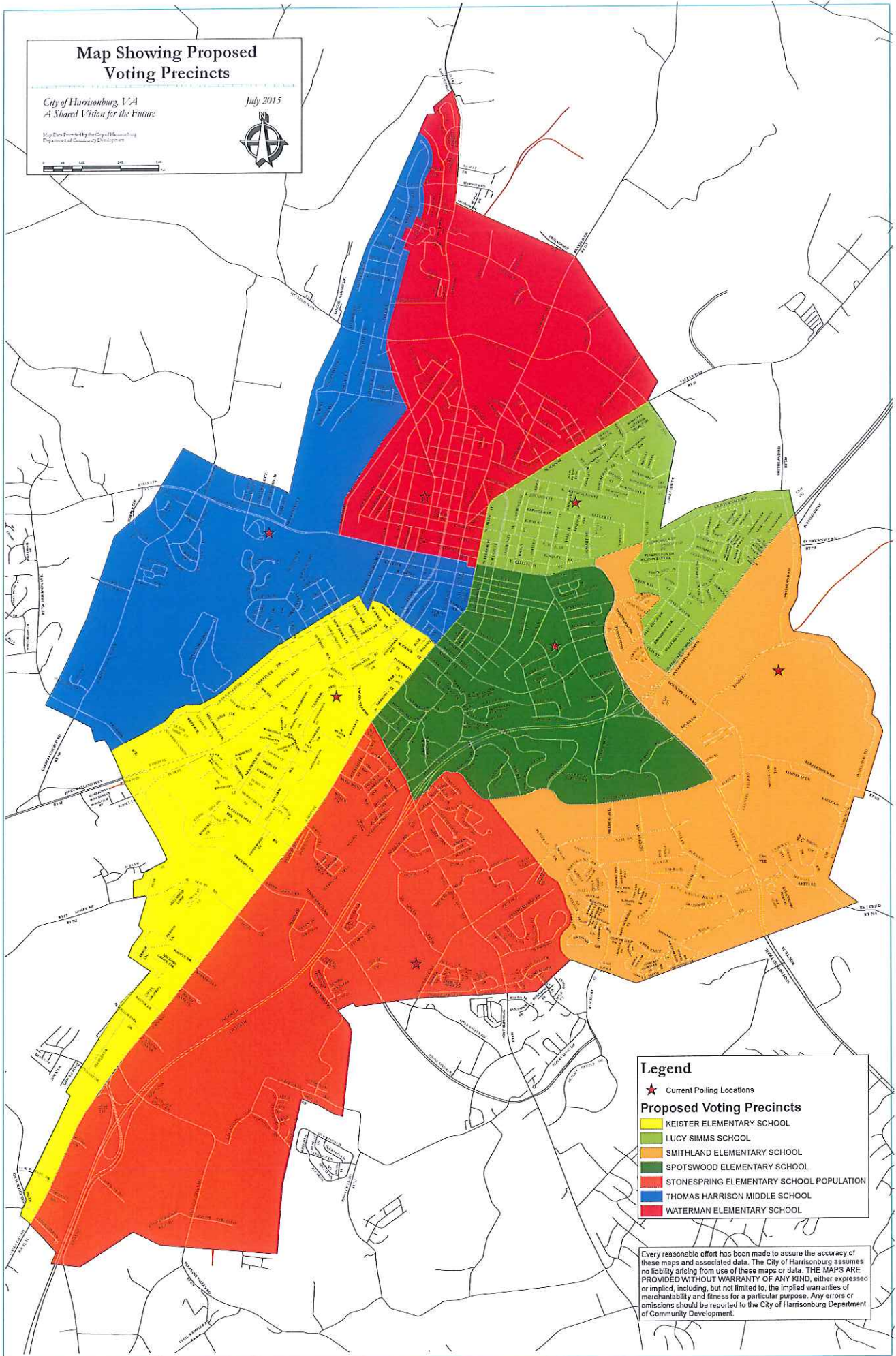
PRECINCT MAPS

Map Showing Proposed Voting Precincts

City of Harrisonburg VA
A Shared Vision for the Future

July 2015

Map Created by the City of Harrisonburg
Department of Community Development



Legend

- ★ Current Polling Locations
- Yellow Proposed Voting Precincts: KEISTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- Light Green Proposed Voting Precincts: LUCY SIMMS SCHOOL
- Orange Proposed Voting Precincts: SMITHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- Dark Green Proposed Voting Precincts: SPOTSWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- Red Proposed Voting Precincts: STONESPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POPULATION
- Blue Proposed Voting Precincts: THOMAS HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Dark Red Proposed Voting Precincts: WATERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

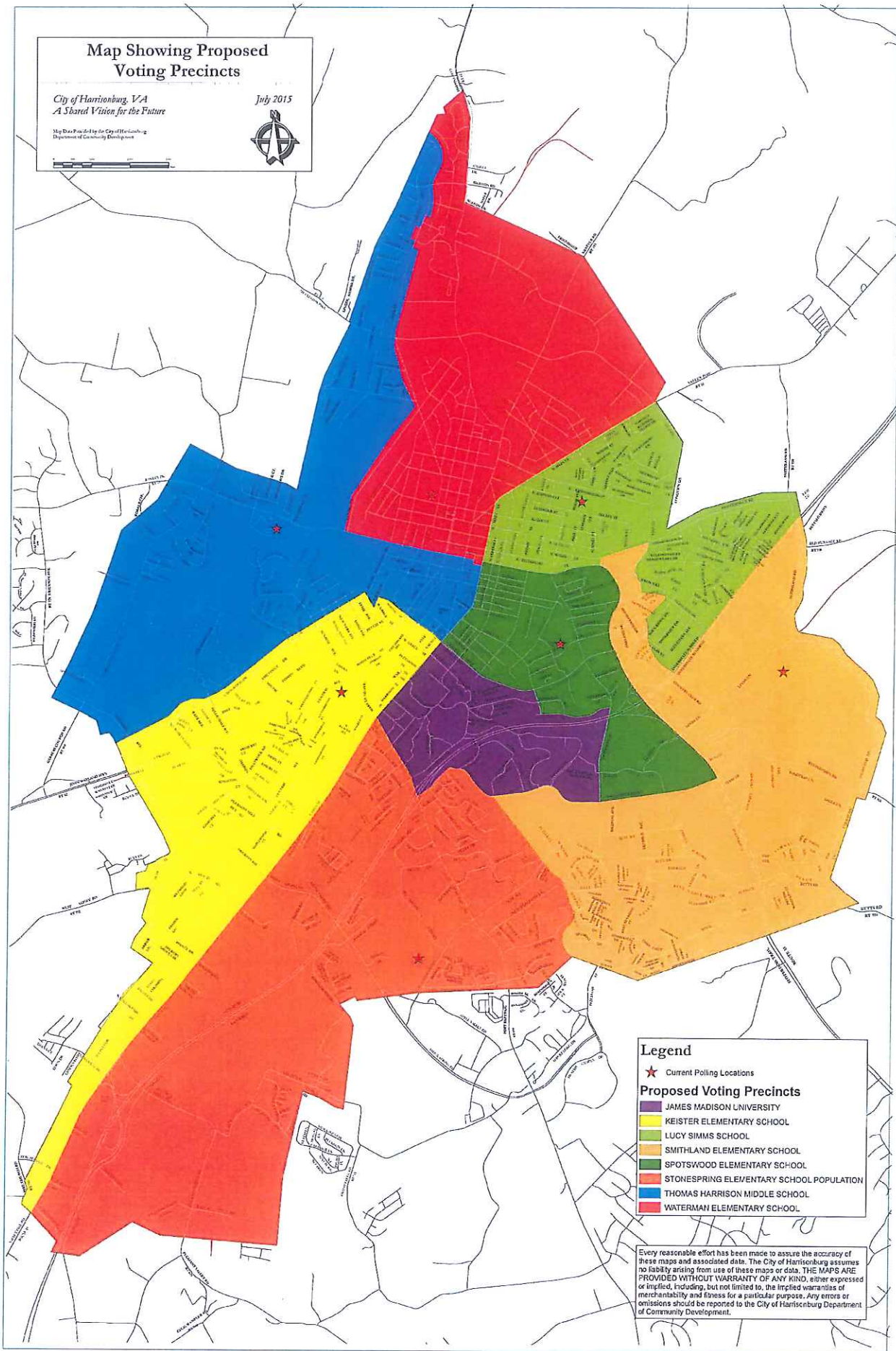
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Map Showing Proposed Voting Precincts

City of Harrisonburg, VA
A Shared Vision for the Future

July 2015

Map Data Provided by the City of Harrisonburg
 Department of Community Development



Legend

- ★ Current Polling Locations

Proposed Voting Precincts

- JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
- KEISTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- LUCY SIMMS SCHOOL
- SMITHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- SPOTSWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- STONESPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POPULATION
- THOMAS HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
- WATERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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