

Kurt Hodgen

From: Sandra Price-Stroble [pricesf@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 10:02 PM
To: Richard Baugh; Jones Chris; Ted Byrd; Abe Shearer; Kurt Hodgen; Kai Degner
Cc: glcoffman@hotmail.com; Ney Bill; billney331@gmail.com
Subject: Electoral Board Recommendation re JMU Precinct

Gentlemen,

As Secretary of the Harrisonburg Electoral Board I am sharing our actions at today's meeting with you at the request of our Board members. I apologize if you have already heard this from the news media or on social media, but at our Electoral Board meeting today we did vote to make the recommendation to Council that a new precinct be located on the JMU campus.

Background Notes:

Registrar Deborah Logan gave a report to the Electoral Board at the June 17, 2015 meeting regarding establishing a Campus Precinct. Mrs. Logan was concerned about costs to Citizens of Harrisonburg for establishing a new precinct without justification of numbers of student voter participation. She also expressed that at the current time the number of voters in each of seven precincts is well balanced.

Having heard from Registrar Logan at our last meeting, the Electoral Board requested at that meeting that we invite representatives from JMU to meet with the Electoral Board to address questions we had. We also asked that City Manager Hodgins or a Representative of City Council be invited to participate. Mr. Hodgins notified Mrs. Logan there was not a need for his participation or a representative to attend at this time as the Electoral Board had been asked for a recommendation.

Today Mr. Charles King, Senior Vice- President of Administration and Finance at JMU and Towana Hickman-Moore, Assistant Vice President for Business Services met with the Electoral Board and answered a number of question regarding what JMU would be willing to provide if a Precinct would be established on campus.

When asked about the number of students living in on-Campus housing, Mr. King stated there are approximately 6500 students living on campus. JMU would commit to paying the approximate start up cost of \$20,000 for the establishment of a new Precinct and the approximate \$2,000 cost per year to operate that Precinct. The Board was also given assurance that JMU would work with the Board in areas of location and security. Mr. King recommended the Convocation Center be considered as a location for the Campus Precinct.

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 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.

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.

Therefore we are submitting to you, after a 2 to 1 vote, the recommendation 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.

Thank you for requesting our participation and recommendation on this matter.

Sandra Price-Stroble, Secretary
Harrisonburg Electoral Board

Sent from my iPad