

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)**

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?

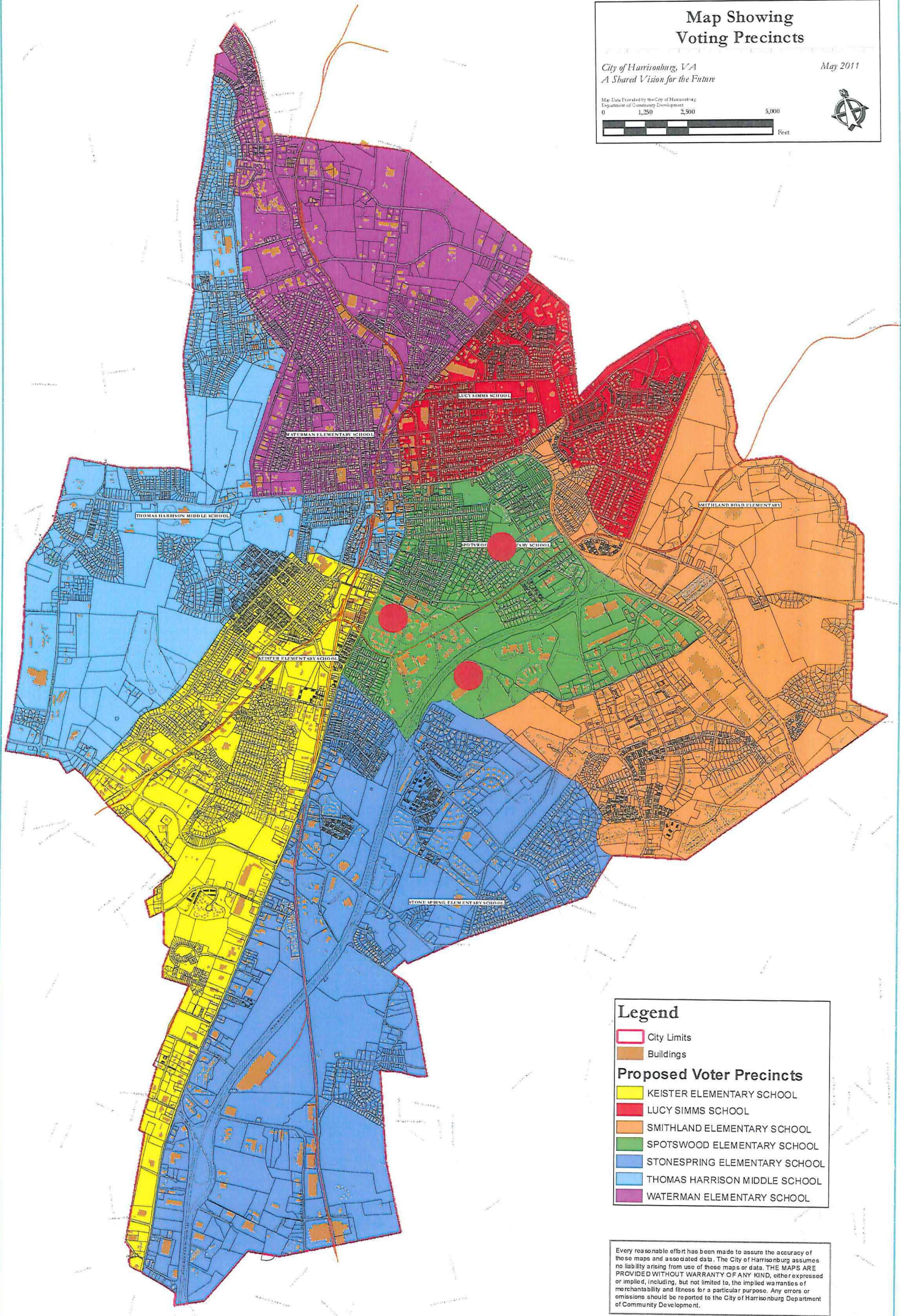
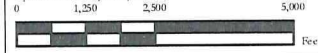
In my professional opinion and as a steward of the taxpayer's money for the city of Harrisonburg, I feel that the current voting precincts serve all our citizens equally and fairly.

Map Showing Voting Precincts

City of Harrisonburg, VA
A Shared Vision for the Future

May 2011

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



Legend

- City Limits
- Buildings
- KEISTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- LUCY SIMMS SCHOOL
- SMITHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- SPOTSWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- STONESPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- THOMAS HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
- WATERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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