

February 14, 2022

To,

Mr. Mark Finks  
Director of Elections/General Registrar  
City of Harrisonburg Voter Registration  
409 South Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801-7531

Dear Mr. Finks, Electoral Board Chair David Wiens, Vice Chair Sandra Price-Stroble, and Secretary Jane Grant Burner,

I write to you as part of a bipartisan student coalition interested in submitting our position regarding the location of the new precinct 105 voting location. We share in our belief that the Convocation Center was an unsuitable location due to its distance from student housing and its position on the edge of campus, far from typical student walking routes. We recognize that JMU shares its precinct with non-student community members. Therefore, we believe that the new location should be placed in an area commonly visited by students that is also easy to access for non-student community members.

Thus, out of the four possible locations, we endorse both Godwin Hall and Festival. Both of these locations are visible and accessible for students and non-student community members. Both exist along typical student walking routes and provide ample parking for non-student voters. Both would be a vast improvement over the Convocation Center and would make voting easier for students.

The remaining two locations (X-Labs and the Atlantic Union Bank Center) are far from typical walking routes and student housing. Students have extremely busy schedules and cannot afford to set aside the time to vote on the other side of campus. This barrier to student civic engagement should be avoided.

We, as representatives for JMU's largest civic engagement groups, hope that the Electoral Board takes this perspective into account. We encourage the electoral board to set aside X-Labs and the Atlantic Union Bank Center in favor of a location that equitably serves all voters in this precinct, student and non-student alike.

Signed,

JMU College Republicans  
JMU College Democrats  
Marina George (JMU Center for Civic Engagement Democracy Fellow)