

GO Item #2
October 1, 2015

Discussion

MEMORANDUM

September 29, 2015

TO: Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee
FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*
SUBJECT: **Discussion:** Early voting site locations

The following are expected to attend today's worksession:

- Jim Shalleck, President, Board of Elections
- Nahid Khozemieh, Vice President
- Mary Ann Keefe, Secretary
- Alexander Vincent, Board Member
- David Naimon, Board Member
- Jackie Phillips, Substitute Board Member
- Graciela Riveria-Oven, Substitute Board Member
- Kevin Karpinski, Board Attorney

Background

On September 21, the County Board of Elections announced that the early voting sites for the 2016 election cycle would be the following (©1):

- Activity Center at Bohrer Park (Gaithersburg)
- Damascus Community Recreation Center (Damascus)
- Executive Office Building (Rockville)
- Germantown Community Center (Germantown)
- *Longwood Community Recreation Center (Brookeville)*
- Mid-County Community Recreation Center (Silver Spring)
- *Potomac Community Recreation Center (Potomac)*
- Silver Spring Civic Building (Silver Spring)
- Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad (Wheaton)

Of these 9 early voting sites, Longwood Community Recreation Center and Potomac Community Recreation Center (italicized in the above list) are new early voting sites. The following 2 sites, which were used during the 2014 election cycle were not selected to be early voting sites: Marilyn J. Praisner Community Center (Burtonsville) and Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center (Chevy Chase). All Councilmembers and many others, including Congressman Chris Van Hollen have expressed concerns about the change in these 2 voting sites (see press releases beginning on ©24-31; see also newspaper articles on ©32-36). It is particularly puzzling that the Praisner Center was not chosen because as Councilmembers know, it was the second most utilized early voting site in the 2014 General Election (see early voting turnout chart on ©2).

Discussion

Maryland regulations include several criteria for early voting centers (see ©8). These include whether the site:

- will allow the local board to install the required telecommunication needs;
- is of sufficient size and layout to conduct early voting;
- is accessible or can be made accessible for voters with disabilities;
- is located in the County such that 80% of the registered voters live within 5 miles of an early voting center;
- has the ability to store equipment and supplies in a secure location;
- can accommodate long lines of voters, including protecting voters against inclement weather;
- is served by public transportation and roads;¹
- has sufficient heating and air conditioning;
- has sufficient parking facilities; and
- can accommodate a no electioneering zone.

A chart summarizing the proposed early voting centers and the whether these criteria are met for each proposed center is on ©3-4. Questions have been raised regarding whether the Longwood Community Recreation Center meets the criteria that an early voting center be “served by public transportation”. Council staff understands that the only bus that is near this Center is Ride On Route 53, which runs only in the morning and evening (see brochure on ©12-13). There is not a bus stop directly at the Center; the nearest stops are 0.2-0.3 miles from the Center. Further, according to the brochure, Route 53 runs only Monday through Friday. Early voting for the 2016 elections is Thursday, April 14 through Thursday, April 21 and Thursday, October 27 through Thursday, November 3.

Questions Committee members may wish to discuss with Board members include:

- What was the Board’s rationale for not choosing the Praisner Center or the Lawton Center as early voting sites? Did the Board consider that the Praisner Center was a high performing site during the 2014 elections before deciding not to include it as a site for the 2016 elections? Why move a high performing site? Why did the Board select the Potomac Community Recreation Center and the Longwood Community Recreation Center?
- Does the Board feel that the Potomac Community Recreation Center and the Longwood Community Recreation Center meet the criteria listed in Maryland Regulations? Do they have

¹ The Council is also on record supporting placing early voting sites as locations that are easily accessible by public transportation. See Action paragraph 4 of Council Resolution 17-867 on ©15.

adequate parking available? Even more specific, is the Longwood Community Recreation Center “served by public transportation” given its very limited access by bus and no access by rail?

Next Steps

The early voting sites proposed by the County Board of Elections must still be approved by the State Board of Election. The State Board is scheduled to discuss early voting sites at its October 15 meeting. **Committee members may wish to discuss whether the Committee – or Council – should send a letter to the State Board expressing its concerns about the removal of the Praisner and Lawton Centers as early voting sites.**

In addition to contacting the State Board, Committee members may wish to discuss whether the Council should request changes in State laws or regulations. Options that could be considered include:

- State legislation requiring that the Lawton and/or Praisner Centers be used for the 2016 elections. Committee members may wish to discuss with the Board whether, if the General Assembly enacted a law requiring these Centers be used, the Board could get the Centers operational before the primary in April since the General Assembly does not convene until January.
- Should state regulations require local Boards to take into account a site’s prior history as an early voting center when selecting sites?
- Should there be additional population criteria? Current regulations note 80% of the registered voters live within 5 miles of an early voting center. Should this be increased to 90%? A different number? Should 80% of the population live within 3 miles? A different number? As Councilmembers can see from the map on ©7, the 5 mile buffer geographically covers much of the County. However, using this criteria allows multiple centers in areas that are not very densely populated.
- Should State regulations more clearly define what is meant by “served by public transportation”?

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Montgomery County Board of Elections
Early Voting Sites for 2016 Presidential Primary and General Elections

At its meeting on September 21, 2015, the Montgomery County Board of Elections designated the following nine early voting locations for the 2016 Presidential Primary and General Elections:

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
Social Hall
506 S. Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Mid-County Community Recreation Center
Social Hall
2004 Queensguard Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Damascus Community Recreation Center
Social Hall
25520 Oak Drive
Damascus, MD 20872

Potomac Community Recreation Center
Social Hall
11315 Falls Road
Potomac, MD 20854

Executive Office Building
Auditorium
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Silver Spring Civic Building
Great Hall
One Veterans Place
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Germantown Community
Recreation Center
Social Hall
18905 Kingsview Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad
Ballroom
2400 Arcola Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

Longwood Community Recreation Center
Social Hall
19300 Georgia Avenue
Brookeville, MD 20833

This is a final list of sites, pending approval by the Maryland State Board of Elections. Early voting for the Primary Election will occur from April 14 to April 21, 2016, and early voting for the General Election will occur from October 27 to November 3, 2016.

Questions should be directed to Margie Roher, Public Information Officer, at (240) 777-8625.

Early Voting Turnout in Montgomery County by Location, 2010-2014

EV#	Location	2010 Primary	2010 General	2012 Primary	2012 General	2014 Primary	% of EV turnout	2014 General	% of EV turnout
EV1	Aspen Hill (Bauer/Mid-County*)	2,004*	6,601*	2,722*	15,622*	1,220	6.5%	2,485	7.0%
EV2	Rockville (Executive Office Building)	1,389	4,656	1,649	13,452	2,506	13.3%	4,406	12.4%
EV3	Germantown	1,287	5,309	2,193	18,261	1,901	10.1%	4,549	12.8%
EV4	Burtonsville (Praisner)	1,083	3,951	1,446	13,384	2,324	12.3%	4,988	14.1%
EV5	Silver Spring	1,822	6,190	2,027	17,220	3,961	21.0%	5,740	16.2%
EV6	Gaithersburg (Bohrer Park)	--	--	--	--	2,032	10.8%	4,456	12.6%
EV7	Damascus	--	--	--	--	518	2.7%	1,468	4.1%
EV8	Bethesda/Chevy Chase (Lawton)	--	--	--	--	2,187	11.6%	3,355	9.5%
EV9	Wheaton	--	--	--	--	2,222	11.8%	3,997	11.3%
	Total	7,585	26,707	10,037	77,939	18,871		35,444	

* indicates elections when the Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center was used -- EV1 was relocated to the Mid-County Recreation Center in 2014.

Potential 2016 Early Voting Sites (Alphabetical Order)

WORKING DRAFT

To view pictures of sites, select the site name below.
Para ver imágenes de sitios, seleccione el nombre del sitio

NAME & ADDRESS	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS	ROOM	SQ. FEET	BUS ROUTE/PUB. TRANSPORTATION	PARKING	ADA COMPLIANT	SECURITY	ELECTIONEERING	SHELTER FROM WEATHER	MAJOR ARTERIES & ACCESS	UTILITIES	PHONE
Bauer Dr. Comm. Rec. Center 14625 Bauer Drive Rockville, MD 20853	6	SOCIAL HALL	2,646	RideOn Rt. 48	92 + Overflow	YES	YES	YES	YES	Norbeck Rd. Rte. 28	YES	YES
Bethesda Regional Services 4805 Edgemoor Lane Bethesda, MD 20814	8	A, B & C	2,800+ 3rd Floor	RideOn Rt. 29 Metro Station	Pkg. Garage	YES 3rd Floor	YES	YES	LIMITED	Wisconsin Ave. Old Georgetown Rd.	YES	YES
Bohrer Park & Activity Center 506 S. Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 20877	6	SOCIAL HALL A, B & C	3,000+	RideOn Rt. 55	147	YES	YES	YES	YES	Rte. 355	YES	Request to appear on lease
Damascus Comm. Rec Center 25520 Oak Drive Damascus, MD 20872	8	SOCIAL HALL	3,000+	RideOn Rt. 90	157	YES	YES	YES	YES	Ridge Rd. Rte. 27	YES	YES
Executive Office Building 101 Monroe Street Rockville, MD 20850	8	AUDITORIUM	2,480	RideOn Rt. 56 Metro Station	COB Pkg. Garage 179	YES	YES	YES	YES	Rte. 355 Rte. 28	YES	YES
Germantown Comm. Rec. Center 18905 Kingsview Road Germantown, MD 20874	6	SOCIAL HALL	2,926	RideOn Rt. 98 MARC	200	YES	YES	YES	YES	Clopper Rd. Rte. 117	YES	YES
Jane Lawton Comm. Rec. Center 4301 Willow Lane Chevy Chase, MD 20815	8	SOCIAL HALL	2,500+	Bethesda Circulator-- Free Metro Station	80 + Overflow	YES	YES	YES	YES	Wisconsin Ave. Rte. 355	YES	YES
Long Branch Comm. Rec. Ctr. 8700 Piney Branch Road Silver Spring, MD 20901	8	SOCIAL HALL	3,534	RideOn Rt. 14	75	YES	YES	YES	YES	Piney Branch Rd. near Univ. Blvd.	YES	YES
Longwood Comm. Rec. Center 18300 Georgia Avenue Brookeville, MD 20833	3	SOCIAL HALL	2,500+	Ride-On Rt. 53 AM & PM Only	50 + Overflow	YES	YES	YES	YES	Georgia Ave. Rte. 97	YES	YES

Potential 2016 Early Voting Sites (Alphabetical Order)

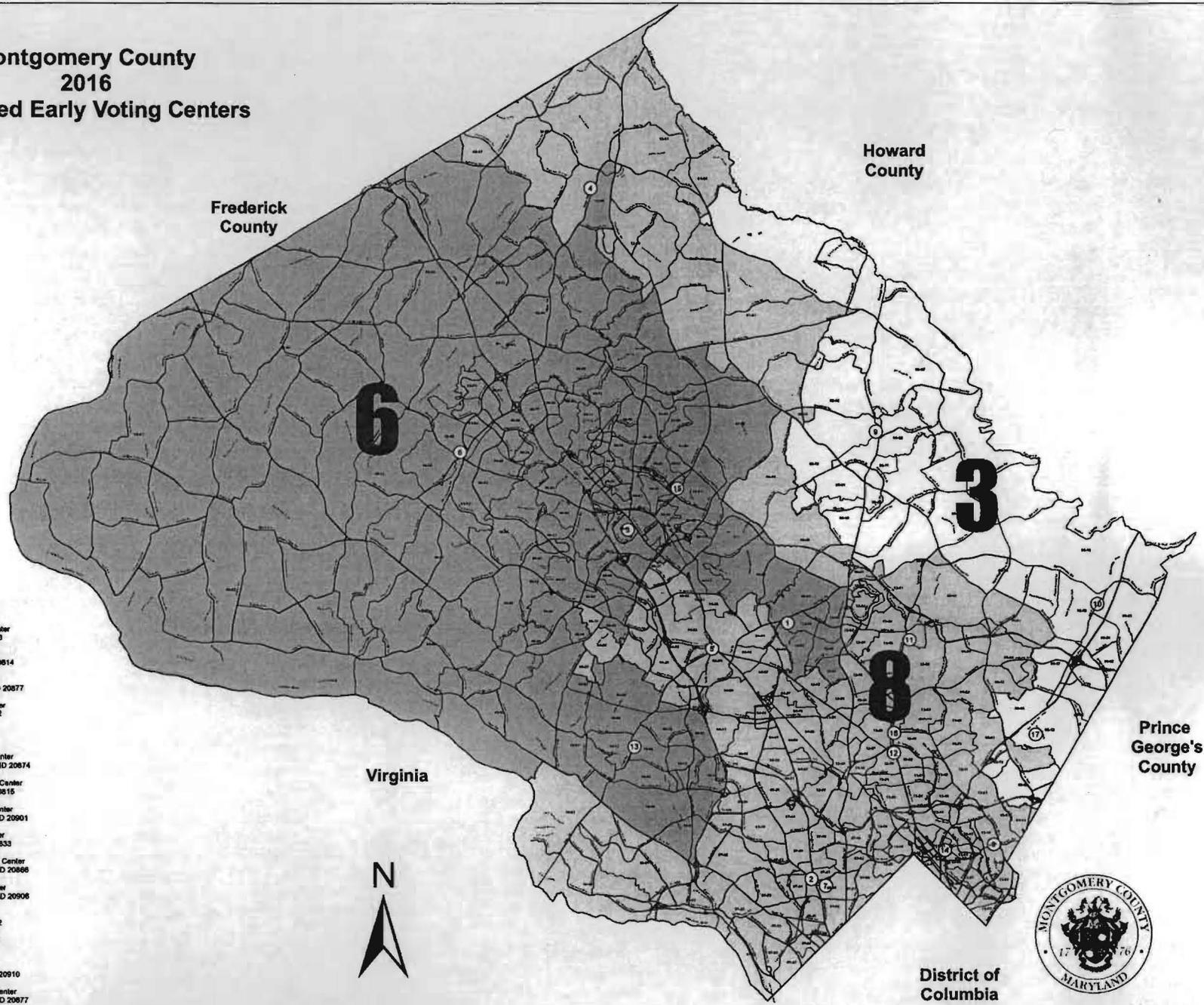
WORKING DRAFT

To view pictures of sites, select the site name below.
Para ver imágenes de sitios, seleccione el nombre del sitio

NAME & ADDRESS	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS	ROOM	SQ. FEET	BUS ROUTE/PUB. TRANSPORTATION	PARKING	ADA COMPLIANT	SECURITY	ELECTIONEERING	SHELTER FROM WEATHER	MAJOR ARTERIES & ACCESS	UTILITIES	PHONE
Marilyn Praisner Comm. Center 14906 Old Columbia Pike Burtonsville, MD 20866	3	SOCIAL HALL	3,113	Metro Transit Rt. Z6, Z9	151 + Overflow	YES	YES	YES	YES	Old Columbia Pike	YES	YES
MidCounty Comm. Rec. Center 2004 Queensguard Road Silver Spring, MD 20906	8	SOCIAL HALL	4,400	RideOn Rt. 26	102	YES	YES	YES	YES	Layhill Rd. Rte. 182	YES	YES
Potomac Community Rec. Center 11315 Falls Road Potomac, MD 20854	6	SOCIAL HALL	2552	RideOn Rt. 37 Metro Transit Rt. T2	100+	YES	YES	YES	YES	Falls Rd. Rte. 189	YES	YES
Silver Spring Civic Building 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910	8	GREAT HALL	5,056	VanGo--Free Metro Station	Pkg. Garage	YES	YES	YES	YES	Colesville Rd. Georgia Ave.	YES	YES
Upper County Comm. Rec. Ctr. 8201 Emory Grove Road Gaithersburg, MD 20877	6	SOCIAL HALL	2,581	RideOn Rt. 64	36 + Overflow	YES	YES	YES	YES	Washington Grove Ln. near Midcounty Hwy.	YES	YES
Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad 2400 Arcola Ave. Wheaton, MD 20902	8	BALL ROOM	3,840 2nd Floor	RideOn 31,33 Metro Transit Rt. Y7	70	YES	YES	DIFFICULT	LIMITED	Georgia Ave. Arcola Ave.	YES	YES
White Oak Comm. Rec Center 1700 April Lane Silver Spring, MD 20910	3	SOCIAL HALL	3,000+	RideOn Rt. 10	111	YES	YES	YES	YES	Stewart Ln. Rte. 29 & 650	YES	YES

(f)

Montgomery County 2016 Proposed Early Voting Centers



Proposed Early Voting Centers

- ① Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center
14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville, MD 20853
- ② Bethesda Regional Services Center
4806 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814
- ③ Bohrer Park and Activity Center
506 S. Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- ④ Damascus Community Recreation Center
25620 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20872
- ⑤ Executive Office Building
101 Monroe St, Rockville, MD 20850
- ⑥ Germantown Community Recreation Center
18906 Kingsview Road, Germantown, MD 20874
- ⑦ Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center
4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- ⑧ Long Branch Community Recreation Center
8700 Piney Branch Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20901
- ⑨ Longwood Community Recreation Center
19300 Georgia Ave, Brooksville, MD 20833
- ⑩ Marilyn Pralauer Community Recreation Center
14906 Old Columbia Pt, Burtonsville, MD 20866
- ⑪ MidCounty Community Recreation Center
2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906
- ⑫ MidCounty Regional Services Center
2424 Reidle Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902
- ⑬ Potomac Community Recreation Center
11315 Falls Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
- ⑭ Silver Spring Civic Building
One Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910
- ⑮ Upper County Community Recreation Center
8201 Emory Grove Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- ⑯ Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad
2400 Arcola Ave, Wheaton, MD 20902
- ⑰ White Oak Community Recreation Center
1700 April Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910
- ★ Montgomery County Board of Elections
18763 N. Frederick Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879



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Miles

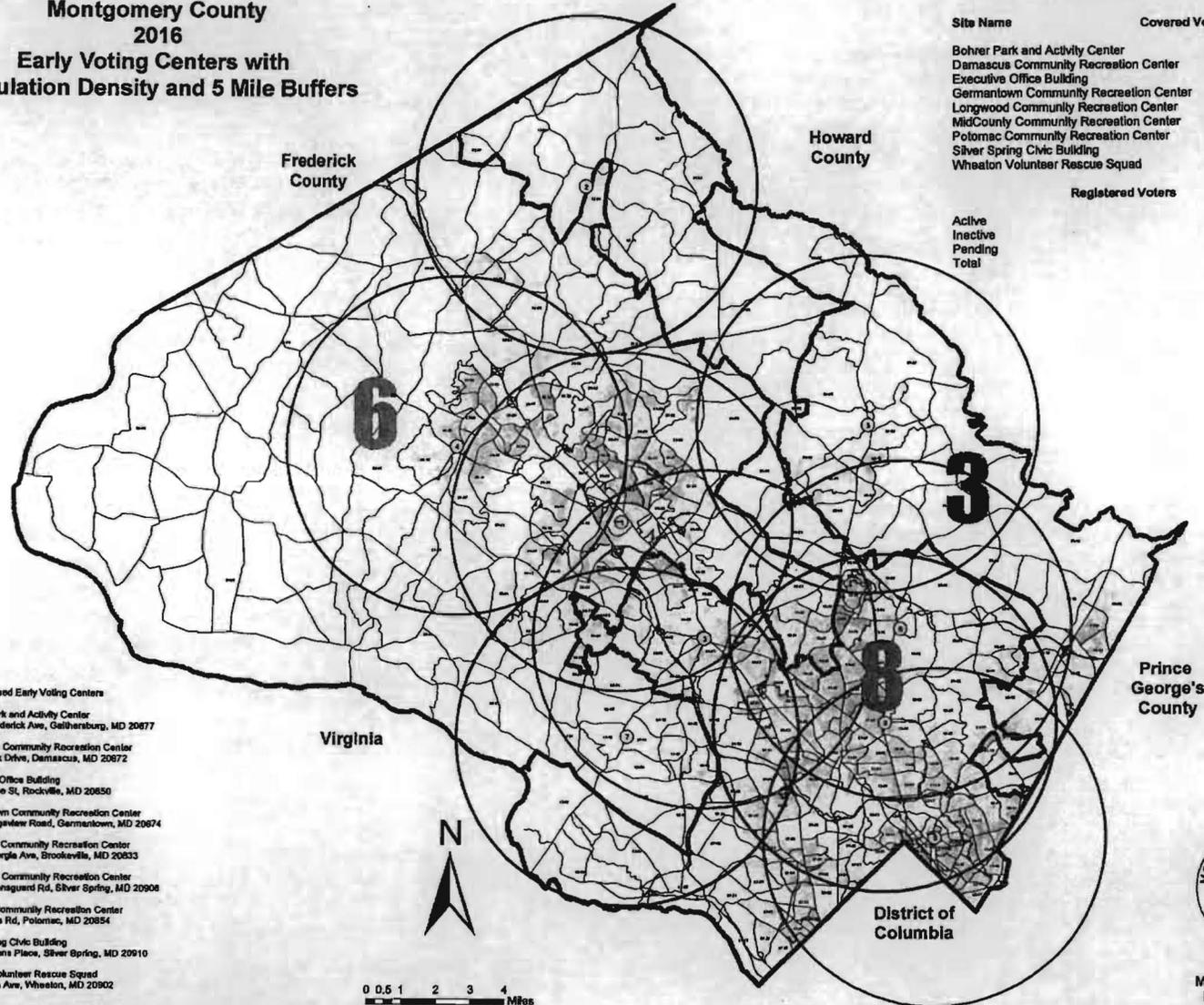


District of
Columbia

Montgomery County
Board of Elections

UTV

**Montgomery County
2016
Early Voting Centers with
Population Density and 5 Mile Buffers**



Estimated Voter Coverage by Early Voting Center Site

Site Name	Covered Voters
Bohrer Park and Activity Center	158082
Damascus Community Recreation Center	28168
Executive Office Building	180445
Germentown Community Recreation Center	94616
Longwood Community Recreation Center	49378
MidCounty Community Recreation Center	174578
Polomac Community Recreation Center	128617
Silver Spring Civic Building	173852
Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad	242101
Registered Voters	
Active	623384
Inactive	54289
Pending	1374
Total	679047

- Proposed Early Voting Centers**
- ① Bohrner Park and Activity Center
508 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877
 - ② Damascus Community Recreation Center
25520 Oak Drive, Damascus, MD 20972
 - ③ Executive Office Building
101 Monroe St, Rockville, MD 20850
 - ④ Germentown Community Recreation Center
18905 Kingsview Road, Germantown, MD 20674
 - ⑤ Longwood Community Recreation Center
16300 George Ave, Brookeville, MD 20833
 - ⑥ MidCounty Community Recreation Center
2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20906
 - ⑦ Polomac Community Recreation Center
11315 Falls Rd, Polomac, MD 20854
 - ⑧ Silver Spring Civic Building
One Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910
 - ⑨ Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad
2400 Arcadia Ave, Wheaton, MD 20902
- ★ Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879



Montgomery County
Board of Elections

7

Code of Maryland Regulations
Title 33. State Board of Elections
Subtitle 17. Early Voting
Chapter 02. Early Voting Centers (Refs & Annos)

COMAR 33.17.02.02

.02. Selecting Early Voting Centers.

Currentness

A. Form for Proposed Early Voting Center.

(1) The State Board shall:

- (a) Prescribe a form for a local board to use to provide information about a proposed early voting center; and
- (b) Provide each local board with the form at least 1 year before a primary election.

(2) Form Submission for Early Voting Center.

- (a) At least 7 months before a primary election, a local board shall submit a form for each proposed early voting center.
- (b) If a local board is required to have more than one early voting center, the local board shall:
 - (i) Complete a form for each proposed early voting center; and
 - (ii) Submit the forms for each proposed early voting centers at the same time.

B. Contents of Form. The form shall include whether the proposed early voting center:

- (1) Will allow a local board to install the required telecommunication needs;
- (2) Is of sufficient size and layout to conduct early voting, including adequate access to electricity;
- (3) Is accessible or can be made accessible for voters with disabilities;
- (4) Is located in the county such that:

- (a) In the case of a county that is assigned one early voting center, 50 percent of the registered voters in the county live within 10 miles of the proposed early voting center; or
- (b) In the case of a county that is assigned three or five early voting centers, along with the other early voting centers in the county, 80 percent of the registered voters live within 5 miles of one of the early voting centers;
- (5) Has the ability to store voting equipment and supplies in a secure location during non-early voting hours;
- (6) Can accommodate long lines of voters, including how voters waiting in line are protected against inclement weather;
- (7) Is served by public transportation and roads;
- (8) Has sufficient and reliable heating and air-conditioning capabilities;
- (9) Has parking facilities sufficient for early voting taking into consideration the normal business activities of the proposed early voting center; and
- (10) Can accommodate a no electioneering zone as required by Election Law Article, §16-206, Annotated Code of Maryland, exit polling as required by COMAR 33.07.08, and electioneering outside of the no electioneering zone.

C. Additional Information. For each proposed early voting center, a local board shall submit with the form required in §A of this regulation:

- (1) A diagram of the facility, including the proposed layout of the voting equipment and electrical and telecommunications connections in the voting area and the proposed locations of the election judges;
- (2) The State of Maryland's Accessibility Survey form; and
- (3) Digital photographs of the outside of and entrance to the proposed early voting center.

D. Inability to Identify Proposed Early Voting Center. If the proposed early voting center does not meet all of the criteria listed on the form required in §A of this regulation, a local board shall provide on the form:

- (1) A list of other facilities that were considered, and why those facilities are not being proposed as early voting centers; and

(2) A description of the factors that mitigate the fact that the proposed early voting center does not meet all of the criteria listed on the form required in §A of this regulation.

E. Use of Local Board Office. If a local board proposes to use the offices of the local board as an early voting center, the local board shall:

(1) Have a clearly marked space for early voting that is distinct and separate from absentee voting that occurs at the office; and

(2) Post signs and include in all election-specific materials the business hours of the local board and the early voting hours.

F. Approval of Early Voting Centers.

(1) Upon receipt of a form for a proposed early voting center, the State Administrator shall review and make a recommendation to the State Board as to whether to accept or reject the proposed early voting center.

(2) The State Board shall:

(a) Vote on a local board's proposed early voting center within 30 days of receipt of the form required in §A of this regulation;

(b) Give deference to a proposed early voting center for which a local board can make the acknowledgments required in §B of this regulation; and

(c) Within 2 days after its vote on a proposed early voting center, notify the local board of this outcome of the State Board's vote.

(3) Upon approval by the State Board, a local board shall include in its disaster recovery plan the name, address, and contact information for the early voting center.

G. Alternate Early Voting Centers.

(1) A local board shall identify an alternate early voting center for use if an approved early voting center becomes unavailable.

(2) A local board shall give preference to the offices of the local board or a government facility when considering the location of an alternate early voting center.

(3) A local board shall identify:

(a) One alternate early voting center if the local board is required to establish one or three early voting centers; or

(b) Two alternate early voting centers if the local board is required to establish five early voting centers.

(4) A local board shall:

(a) At least 3 months before a primary election, complete and submit to the State Administrator the form required by §A of this regulation for each proposed alternate early voting center; and

(b) Upon approval by the State Administrator of the alternate early voting center:

(i) Submit the form to the appropriate local government agencies; and

(ii) Include in its disaster recovery plan the name, address, and contact information for each alternate early voting center, a plan for notifying the public if the alternate center is needed, and a plan for transitioning operations to an alternate center.

Complete through Maryland Register Vol. 42, Issue 17, dated August 21, 2015.

COMAR 33.17.02.02, MD ADC 33.17.02.02

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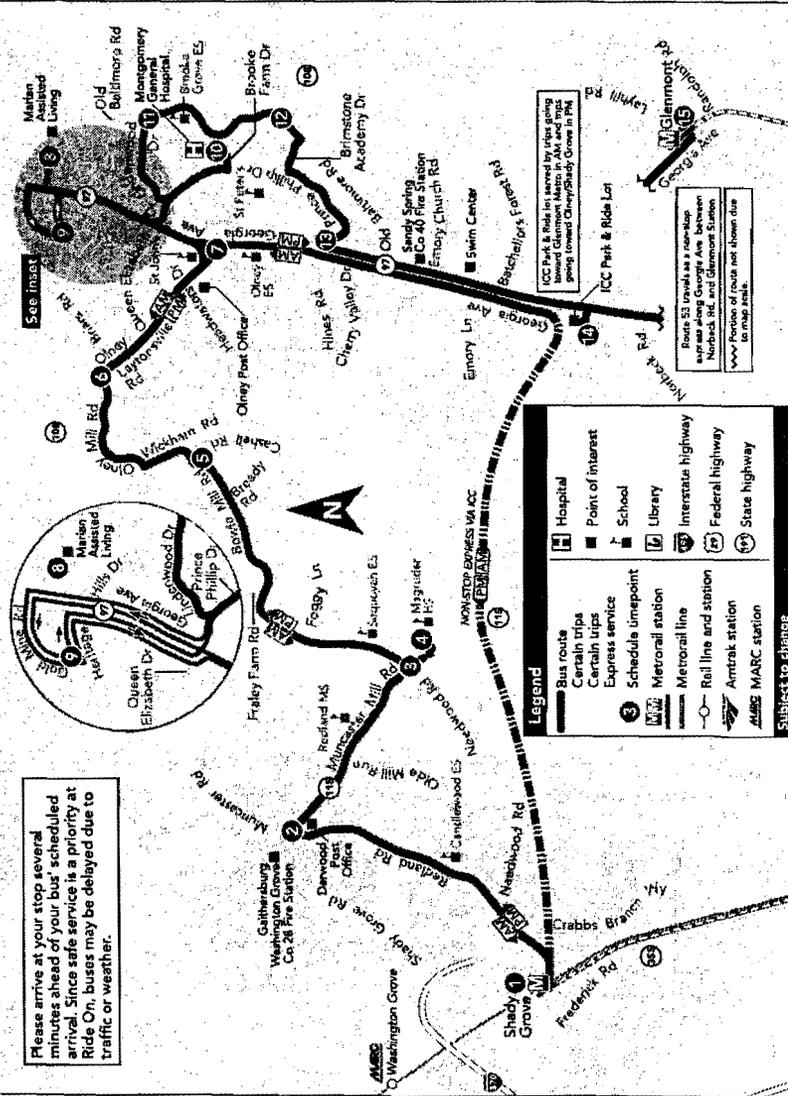
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Shady Grove Metro Station - MD 115 & Bowie Mill Rd - Gold Mine Rd - Lindenwood Dr - Montgomery General Hospital - Prince Phillip Dr - ICC Park & Ride Lot - Georgia Ave - Norbeck Rd - Glenmont Metro Station

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Montgomery County Transit

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Legend

- Bus route
- Certain trips
- Express service
- Schedule linepoint
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- Metro rail line
- Rail line and station
- Amtrak station
- MARC station
- Subject to change

- Hospital
- Point of interest
- School
- Library
- Interstate highway
- Federal highway
- State highway

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Montgomery County DOT
Division of Transit Services
101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- New Year's Day.....Sunday Schedule
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.....Special Schedule
- Presidents' Day.....Special Schedule
- Memorial Day.....Sunday Schedule
- Independence Day.....Saturday Schedule
- Labor Day.....Sunday Schedule
- Columbus Day.....Weekday Schedule
- Veterans Day.....Special Schedule
- Thanksgiving Day.....Sunday Schedule
- Christmas Day.....Sunday Schedule

For special schedules, consult our website or call 311.

Thank You for Riding with Us!

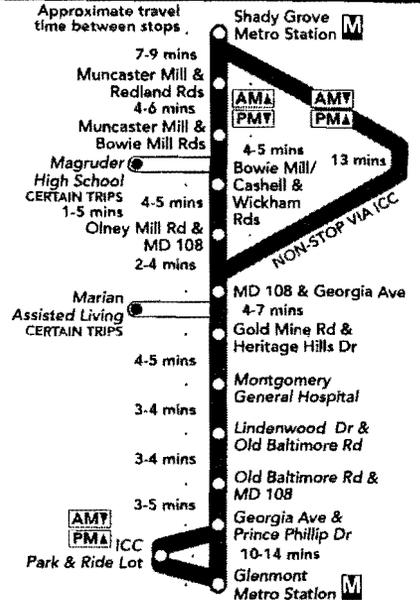


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53



SERVICE DAYS
MONDAY - FRIDAY



Telephone 311
Online at www.rideonbus.com
Real Time Info at www.rideonrealtime.com

53 To Glenmont Metro Station

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

SEE TIMEPOINT LOCATION ON ROUTE MAP

1	2	4	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
5:20						5:33		5:38	5:43	5:47	5:50	5:54	5:58	6:08
5:50						6:03	6:07	6:09	6:14	6:18	6:21	6:25	6:29	6:39
6:20						6:34		6:39	6:44	6:48	6:51	6:55	7:00	7:11
6:50						7:04	7:08	7:10	7:15	7:19	7:22	7:26	7:31	7:42
7:25						7:39		7:44	7:49	7:53	7:57	8:01	8:06	8:18
8:00						8:14		8:19	8:24	8:28	8:31	8:35	8:40	8:51
8:35						8:49		8:54	8:59	9:03	9:06	9:10	9:14	9:25
3:43	3:51	3:56	3:57	4:02	4:05	4:09	4:13	4:15	4:20	4:24	4:27	4:31		4:43
4:13	4:22		4:23	4:31	4:35	4:39		4:44	4:49	4:53	4:57	5:01		5:15
4:43	4:52		4:55	5:01	5:05	5:09		5:14	5:19	5:23	5:27	5:31		5:45
5:13	5:22		5:25	5:31	5:35	5:39		5:44	5:49	5:53	5:57	6:01		6:15
5:43	5:52		5:55	6:01	6:05	6:09		6:14	6:19	6:23	6:27	6:31		6:45
6:13	6:22		6:25	6:31	6:35	6:39		6:44	6:49	6:53	6:57	7:01		7:15
6:48	6:56		6:59	7:04	7:08	7:12		7:17	7:22	7:26	7:29	7:33		7:46
7:25	7:33		7:36	7:41	7:45	7:49		7:54	7:59	8:03	8:06	8:10		8:23

53 To Shady Grove Metro Station

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

SEE TIMEPOINT LOCATION ON ROUTE MAP

15	14	13	12	11	10	8	9	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
5:15		5:27	5:31	5:35	5:39		5:45	5:49	5:50	5:56		6:02	6:07	6:15
5:45		5:57	6:01	6:05	6:09		6:15	6:19	6:20	6:26		6:32	6:37	6:45
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4:43	4:54	5:00	5:04	5:09	5:13		5:20	5:24						5:38
5:13	5:24	5:30	5:34	5:39	5:43		5:50	5:54						6:08
5:45	5:56	6:02	6:06	6:10	6:14		6:20	6:24						6:37
6:15	6:26	6:32	6:36	6:40	6:44		6:50	6:54						7:07
6:45	6:56	7:01	7:05	7:09	7:13		7:19	7:23						7:36
7:15	7:26	7:31	7:35	7:39	7:43		7:49	7:53						8:06

HOW TO RIDE A BUS

Check schedule for timepoint nearest your location. Wait at the blue and white RIDE ON bus stop sign. Arrive several minutes before scheduled time. Have exact fare ready (drivers do not make change).

- Not all stops are listed on a public timetable.
- If you are unfamiliar with your stop, sit or stand behind the line near the front of the bus and ask the bus driver to notify you when your stop is approaching.
- Ask the bus driver if you are not sure if the bus goes to your stop.
- If you have internet access (at home or somewhere else, such as a public library), it may be easier for you to use an online trip planner rather than a paper timetable.
- Be mindful of changes in the schedule, for holidays or bad weather.
- Please observe the following rules for all patrons: No eating, drinking, or smoking.
- Electronic devices may be played with earphones set at low level.

FARES

Regular Fare or Token	\$1.80
Fare Using SmarTrip®	\$1.60
Seniors and persons with disability with valid ID (including attendant-eligible) except during free periods:	
Cash	\$0.90
Senior/Disabled SmarTrip®	\$0.80
Senior/Disabled SmarTrip® Transfer from Metrorail	\$0.30
Seniors age 65 years or older with a Senior SmarTrip® card or valid Metro Senior ID Card or with valid Medicare Card and Photo ID from 9:30AM - 3PM Mon - Fri	FREE
Person with disability with Metro Disabled Identification Card from 9:30AM - 3PM Mon - Fri	FREE
Person with disability with Metro Disability ID Card - Attendant Eligible from 9:30AM - 3PM Mon-Fri Attendant rides half fare or free depending on time	FREE
MetroAccess - Certified Customer with ID MetroAccess - Companion	FREE
Children under age 5 Limit 2 children per paying passenger	FREE
Local Bus Transfer with SmarTrip®	FREE
Children 3 to 18 with a student ID Monday - Friday, 2-7 pm	FREE

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METROACCESS

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There is NO Saturday or Sunday service on this route

Resolution No.: 17-867
Introduced: September 10, 2013
Adopted: September 24, 2013

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President Navarro, Council Vice President Rice, Councilmembers Andrews, Berliner, Elrich, Ervin, Floreen, Leventhal, and Riemer

SUBJECT: Affirming the Council's Commitment to Increasing Voter Participation, Improving Election Practices, and Supporting an Affirmative Right to Vote

Background

1. Voter turnout in Montgomery County was 66% of registered voters in the 2012 presidential election and 51% of registered voters in the 2010 gubernatorial election.
2. In the United States, less than 60% of eligible voters participated in the 2012 presidential election.
3. Of the 119 nations that elect their public officials using democratic elections, the United States is one of only 11 nations that does not have the right to vote in its constitution.
4. The 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution provide that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged based on race, sex, and age respectively, and the 24th Amendment prohibits poll taxes. However, these amendments do not guarantee Americans an explicit right to vote.
5. In the 2000 decision, *Bush v. Gore*, a majority of the Supreme Court wrote: "The individual citizen has no federal constitutional right to vote."
6. In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby County v. Holder* that the coverage formula in Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) is unconstitutional, thereby invalidating the formula used to determine which states are covered by Section 5 of the VRA.
7. Section 4 of the VRA was an effective tool in curbing racial discrimination in elections in 1965; and continued to be a critical instrument for free, fair and accessible elections, helping block laws making it more difficult to vote for nearly a half century.
8. With Montgomery County's proud tradition of civic and community activism, the Council has a history of supporting a variety of efforts to increase participation in and access to the democratic process.

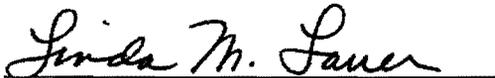
Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The Council calls on Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would grant an individual right to vote to every American citizen of voting age.
2. The Council calls on Congress to restore Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by creating a new coverage formula to determine which states and local jurisdictions should have voting changes reviewed for potential discriminatory impact.
3. The Council calls on Congress to give residents of Washington, DC full representation and voting rights in the House of Representatives and United States Senate.
4. The Council supports Maryland's recent expansion of early voting and the adoption of same-day voter registration. We support placing new early voting sites at locations that are easily accessible by public transportation.
5. The Council establishes a Right to Vote Task Force to:
 - a. Review all local laws and practices that may affect the right to vote;
 - b. Review and recommend changes at the local level to uphold voting rights and increase voter participation;
 - c. Develop plans and take action to promote early voting and same-day registration and make recommendations to the Council on any policies or actions needed to strengthen these efforts;
 - d. Develop plans for a voter registration program designed to register eligible high school students and support voter education programs to increase citizenship knowledge and participation in the democratic process;
 - e. Review Maryland election laws and regulations and recommend legislation that would strengthen the right to vote in Montgomery County, including whether the General Assembly should adopt automatic voter registration, allowing eligible voters to "opt-out" of the voter registration database instead of "opt-in"; and
 - f. Review with the Montgomery County Board of Elections the strengths and weaknesses of our election practices and regulations after the 2014 general election.
6. The Task Force consists of up to 15 members appointed by the Council. The members of the Task Force should include representatives of political parties and those not registered in any party. Not more than two-thirds of the members may be registered to vote in the same party. The Task Force will also include a representative of the Board of Elections as an ex officio member. The Council must designate a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Task Force. The Chair and Vice-Chair must not be from the same party.

7. The Task Force must issue an interim report by February 28, 2014 and a final report with recommendations by May 31, 2014. The Task Force must submit a report by February 28, 2015 that evaluates the efficacy and implementation of its recommendations during the 2014 general election.
8. Copies of this resolution will be sent to the Governor, Montgomery County's State Legislative Delegation, and Maryland's Congressional Delegation.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

People QuickFacts	Bethesda CDP	Burtonsville CDP	Cloverly CDP	Calverton CDP	Damascus CDP	N. Bethesda CDP	Olney CDP	Potomac CDP	White Oak CDP
Population, 2014 estimate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Population, 2013 estimate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Population, 2010	60,858	8,323	15,126	17,724	15,257	43,828	33,844	44,965	17,403
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2010	5.5%	6.3%	4.6%	5.70%	6.4%	5.60%	5.00%	4.30%	8.3%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2010	23.2%	26.7%	23.6%	21.20%	28.8%	17.90%	26.50%	25.30%	25.5%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2010	17.0%	7.6%	13.3%	22.70%	6.4%	16.00%	10.80%	19.20%	7.8%
Female persons, percent, 2010	52.8%	52.7%	50.8%	54.20%	51.0%	52.60%	52.10%	52.20%	53.3%
White alone, percent, 2010 (a)	83.2%	33.3%	47.5%	36.20%	78.6%	70.10%	72.80%	75.80%	27.7%
Black or African American alone, percent, 2010 (a)	3.3%	38.3%	25.4%	37.50%	8.0%	6.90%	10.90%	4.60%	49.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent, 2010 (a)	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.40%	0.4%	0.30%	0.20%	0.10%	0.4%
Asian alone, percent, 2010 (a)	9.3%	20.4%	18.1%	15.80%	5.6%	14.70%	10.80%	15.90%	8.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent, 2010 (a)	0.1%	Z	0.1%	0.10%	0.1%	0.10%	Z	Z	0.1%
Two or More Races, percent, 2010	2.9%	3.7%	4.3%	3.80%	3.3%	3.60%	2.60%	2.60%	4.5%
Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2010 (b)	6.8%	8.9%	10.7%	14.00%	11.6%	13.40%	8.50%	6.40%	18.4%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent, 2010	77.8%	29.7%	42.3%	30.30%	72.2%	62.10%	67.60%	70.70%	21.6%
Living in same house 1 year & over, percent, 2009-2013	84.9%	92.0%	91.9%	88.80%	91.1%	77.20%	94.30%	89.60%	81.3%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2009-2013	22.2%	33.5%	27.1%	36.80%	13.2%	33.50%	18.30%	28.70%	42.6%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2009-2013	24.8%	41.3%	35.8%	43.40%	15.7%	40.10%	22.50%	34.00%	46.8%
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2009-2013	98.2%	94.7%	93.2%	89.40%	94.7%	95.30%	96.30%	97.30%	88.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2009-2013	82.4%	54.7%	54.8%	47.80%	48.9%	70.50%	62.10%	79.90%	42.8%
Veterans, 2009-2013	3,427	309	898	1,264	765	2,442	1,789	2,429	666
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2009-2013	29.1	37.1	35.7	36.2	39.2	30.8	34.2	31.3	37.9
Housing units, 2010	27,470	2,791	4,996	7,358	5,172	20,789	11,879	16,642	6,865
Homeownership rate, 2009-2013	68.3%	79.9%	91.8%	64.20%	88.5%	55.10%	88.20%	87.70%	34.2%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2009-2013	38.0%	11.8%	2.0%	38.80%	7.9%	59.20%	5.80%	10.90%	61.4%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2009-2013	\$807,800	\$387,200	\$478,400	\$307,200	\$380,500	\$508,300	\$491,500	\$868,600	\$380,100

Households, 2009-2013	25,078	2,684	4,911	6,947	4,897	19,975	11,410	16,096	6,763
Persons per household, 2009-2013	2.41	3.09	3.24	2.66	3.03	2.18	2.98	2.82	2.55
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2013 dollars), 2009-2013	\$85,442	\$41,199	\$43,956	\$34,940	\$40,530	\$59,145	\$48,338	\$86,840	\$32,767
Median household income, 2009-2013	\$143,245	\$106,545	\$119,243	\$76,220	\$109,590	\$103,916	\$127,443	\$178,722	\$61,644
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009-2013	2.8%	4.1%	3.4%	5.40%	6.8%	5.60%	2.50%	3.20%	12.1%
Business QuickFacts	Bethesda CDP	Burtonsville CDP	Cloverly CDP	Calverton CDP	Damascus CDP	N. Bethesda CDP	Olney CDP	Potomac CDP	White Oak CDP
Total number of firms, 2007	9,539	1,147	868	2,089	1,720	6,567	3,213	6,640	1,973
Black-owned firms, percent, 2007	3.2%	27.7%	S	S	F	4.00%	S	S	36.5%
American Indian- and Alaska Native-owned firms, percent, 2007	0.3%	F	S	S	S	0.50%	F	F	F
Asian-owned firms, percent, 2007	6.9%	14.8%	S	13.50%	S	7.80%	S	14.70%	15.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms, percent, 2007	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2007	3.5%	S	S	S	S	5.10%	S	S	S
Women-owned firms, percent, 2007	31.8%	20.5%	S	30.10%	S	24.10%	S	34.80%	43.3%
Manufacturers shipments, 2007 (\$1000)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merchant wholesaler sales, 2007 (\$1000)	415,863	80,245	D	D	D	372,179	24,888	D	3,548
Retail sales, 2007 (\$1000)	1,391,078	97,012	40,091	573,429	112,368	1,011,963	211,239	978,597	154,301
Retail sales per capita, 2007	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Accommodation and food services sales, 2007	332,915	15,050	D	30,673	11,131	207,548	43,377	81,438	16,645
Geography QuickFacts	Bethesda CDP	Burtonsville CDP	Cloverly CDP	Calverton CDP	Damascus CDP	N. Bethesda CDP	Olney CDP	Potomac CDP	White Oak CDP
Land area in square miles, 2010	13.29	7.83	10.05	4.6	11.56	8.85	16.19	25.11	3.78
Persons per square mile, 2010	4,579.6	1,063.6	1,505.2	3,853.00	1,320.0	4,952.90	2,089.90	1,790.50	4,605.2
FIPS Code	7125	11750	18150	12350	21475	56337	58900	63300	84375
Counties	Mont	Mont	Mont	Mont/PG	Mont	Mont	Mont	Mont	Mont
(a) Includes persons reporting only one race.									
(b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.									
FN: Footnote on this item for this area in place of data									
NA: Not available									
D: Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information									
X: Not applicable									
S: Suppressed; does not meet publication standards									
Z: Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown									
F: Fewer than 100 firms									
Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts									



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEMORANDUM

August 28, 2015

James Shalleck, President
Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Mr. Shalleck and Members of the Board of Elections:

As the Board of Elections begins the process of considering early voting sites for the 2016 Primary and General Elections, we felt it was important at this time to reiterate our support for keeping early voting locations in Aspen Hill and Wheaton.

As you know, for the 2014 elections, state law required Montgomery County to have a minimum of 8 early voting sites. However, at the request of the Board of Elections, the Council approved funding for a total of 9 sites. One of the sites the Board of Elections selected was the Wheaton Recreation Center on Georgia Ave. During this year's budget process, the Council approved funding to build a new, state-of-the-art library and recreation center facility at the current location of the Wheaton Library and Wheaton Recreation Center. The project is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2015, which will interfere with early voting during the 2016 election cycle.

The introduction of an early voting site in Wheaton in 2014 was incredibly important to that community. As you may know, Wheaton, with a 2010 population of more than 48,000, is one of the County's most racially and culturally diverse places. People of all backgrounds and ethnicities call Wheaton home, including a racial makeup according to the Census of 42.2% Latino, 18.6% African American, 12.1% Asian, and 25.7% White. There is a significant Orthodox Jewish community in Kemp Mill, within walking distance to the 2014 Wheaton early voting site.

Wheaton also has some socioeconomic challenges. The median household income in Wheaton is more than \$20,000 lower than the County as a whole, and the percentage of residents without health insurance is twice the County average. Wheaton has more than 1.5 times the percentage of residents living in poverty compared to the rest of Montgomery County.¹ These disadvantages make it even more essential to maintain an

¹ U.S. Census Bureau; "QuickFacts." <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts>.

early voting site in the Wheaton community, since many Wheaton residents will not have an easy time getting to vote on Election Day.

The Greater Wheaton community is poised to make great progress in the coming years. Aside from the new library and recreation center, the County is investing more than \$144 million in the Wheaton Redevelopment Program, and another \$100 million in the new Wheaton High School, scheduled to open this fall. Having an early voting site in this community demonstrates Montgomery County's continued commitment in a place it has neglected for far too long. The County Council and County Executive have made great strides over the past few years by making significant investments in this community. The Board of Elections has an opportunity to follow suit by continuing to locate an early voting site in Wheaton.

It has come to our attention that the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad (WVRS) is being considered as a potential early voting location. We understand that there is a cost for both the primary and general elections associated with renting the facility and for making accommodations to satisfy security requirements. However, if you determine the WVRS is the most suitable location in Wheaton, as County elected officials, we are committed to funding this effort in order to ensure an early voting site remains in Wheaton.

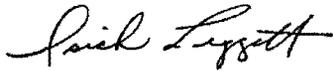
Aspen Hill is also a location where an early voting site is essential to the residents of the community, who also numbered more than 48,000 in 2010. During the 2010 and 2012 election cycles, the Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center served as Aspen Hill's early voting location. In 2014, the Board of Elections moved that site to the Mid-County Community Recreation Center. We urge the Board of Elections to review the successes and challenges presented by each of these sites and to choose the one that will best serve the residents of Aspen Hill and other nearby communities.

Like Wheaton, Aspen Hill is also a very diverse community, including a racial make-up of 27.9% Latino, 21.7% African American, 10.9% Asian, and 37.2% White. The median household income of Aspen Hill is nearly \$18,000 less than the County average, and the percentage of individuals without health insurance is nearly 6 percentage points higher than the County as a whole. The percentage of people living in poverty in Aspen Hill is roughly 2 percentage points higher than the County average.

Ensuring that residents living in less affluent sections of the County have an opportunity to participate in the democratic process is a fundamental responsibility we have as public servants. Many residents in Wheaton and Aspen Hill rely on public transportation and work multiple jobs with nontraditional hours. They may not have the luxury of driving a long distance to an early voting location if it is not located close to their home, and may not easily vote on Election Day. We hope you will consider the impact of taking away early voting sites from Wheaton and Aspen Hill as you continue your deliberations.

Thank you for your service on the Board of Elections and your continued commitment to encouraging all of our citizens to exercise the right to vote.

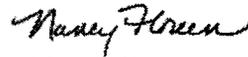
Sincerely,



Isiah Leggett
County Executive



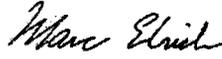
George Leventhal
Council President



Nancy Floreen
Council Vice President



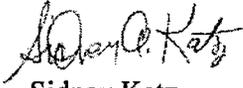
Roger Berliner
Councilmember



Marc Elrich
Councilmember



Tom Hucker
Councilmember



Sidney Katz
Councilmember



Nancy Navarro
Councilmember



Craig Rice
Councilmember



Hans Riemer
Councilmember



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

TOM HUCKER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

September 16, 2015

Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear President Shalleck and Board Members:

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide comment on the selection of early voting sites for the 2016 election cycle. We write to you as elected district Councilmembers of the Montgomery County Council seeking to preserve early voting locations in the western down county and at least two early voting locations in East County. The County Executive and Council have been strong proponents of early voting since its inception in 2010, and have continued funding an additional ninth early voting site in the County. Early voting make our elections more accessible and convenient – especially for underrepresented groups – and we hope the Board continues the progress we have made.

As we understand, the Board is considering proposals to switch the Lawton Center for the Potomac Community Center and add a Brookeville location at the expense of an East County early voting site. These proposals present a number of concerns, which will leave a major impact on our residents.

As you are aware, the Lawton Center is the only western down county early voting site in the County and it is approximately a half mile walk from the Bethesda Metro station. This makes it a suitable and highly accessible location by transit for many of our residents. Furthermore, in addition to the dense housing in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area, there are approximately 40,000 people who work in downtown Bethesda. The Lawton Center enables these individuals to have convenient access to an early voting site during work hours. Conversely, the Potomac location is more residential, much further from our Bethesda urban core, and it would pose as a challenge for many voters to access the location during the weekday daytime.

The expansion of early voting and addition of same-day registration during the 2016 cycle, make any changes to the East County locations worrisome. The Praisner Community Center and Silver Spring Civic Building are not only among the highest performing sites in the County, but in the state. Early voting has occurred at these locations for every election since 2010, and they are highly accessible to the diverse populations and neighborhoods along Colesville Road (Route 29).

We recognize the need for the Board to routinely reassess the County's early voting locations as we strive to increase access and convenience to early voting to as many residents as possible. The State Board of Elections' data clearly show that voters closest to early voting centers, vote early at the highest rates. It is also likely that residents who will take advantage of same-day voter registration

will also live closest to early voting locations. This is why it is critical to preserve early voting locations in the highest density areas in Montgomery County. Such locations are very important to the County's residents and serve as ideal sites for early voting.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to consider our comments as you determine the 2016 election cycle early voting locations.

Sincerely,



Roger Berliner
Councilmember
District 1



Tom Hucker
Councilmember
District 5



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Tom Hucker

Sept. 22, 2015

Contact: Matt Verghese 240-777-7960

Montgomery Councilmember Hucker Says Relocation of Praisner Center as Early Voting Site is 'Naked Voter Suppression'

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ROCKVILLE, Md., September 22, 2015—Montgomery County Councilmember Tom Hucker, who represents Council District 5 that includes Burtonsville and the eastern portion of the County, today said he was “outraged” by the decision of the of Montgomery County Board of Elections on Monday to eliminate the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Center in Burtonsville as an early voting site in the 2016 election.

The board voted 3-2 to not have early voting at the Praisner Center, which was one of Montgomery County’s original early voting centers. During the 2014 general election, the site was the second-highest performing early voting site with 14.1 percent of total early voting share. The site also is near the highest concentration of minority voters in the County.

“This decision is naked voter suppression that will make it harder for thousands of working families and minorities in my district to exercise their right to vote,” said Councilmember Hucker.

The complete text of Councilmember Hucker’s statement:

I am outraged by the decision of the new Republican majority of the Montgomery County Board of Elections to eliminate early voting in East County. Early voting sites are intended to be chosen to allow the greatest number of people—not just Republicans—to vote.

This decision is naked voter suppression that will make it harder for thousands of working families and minorities in my district to exercise their right to vote.

It is akin to previous efforts by Republican activists in recent statewide elections—such as the distribution of misleading flyers in Prince George’s County and fraudulent robocalls to suppress the vote in the City of Baltimore.”

I am exploring all options to fight this decision, as well as to continue to make voting more accessible for as many residents as possible.

Below is information detailing the importance of the Praisner Center as an early voting center.

Early Voting Turnout in Montgomery County by Location, 2010-14

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/Resources/Files/EV%20Turnout%20in%20MoCo%20by%20Location%202010-2014.pdf>

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Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Roger Berliner

Sept. 22, 2015

Contact: Neil H. Greenberger 240-777-7939 / Delphine Harriston 240-777-7931 /
Namita Acharya 240-777-7819 / Sonya Healy 240-777-7926

Montgomery Councilmember Berliner's Statement on Board of Elections' Decision to Replace Lawton Community Center as Early Voting Center in 2016

ROCKVILLE, Md. September 22, 2015—In response to the Montgomery County Board of Elections' decision to replace the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center for the Potomac Community Center as an early voting location for the 2016 elections, Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner today issued the following statement:

I am deeply disappointed with the decision by the Montgomery County Board of Elections to approve the switch from the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center to the Potomac Community Center as a western down county early voting location for the 2016 elections. This decision by the County Board is not in the public interest. It is a purely partisan decision, designed to give greater advantage to Republican voters in the suburbs and make it more difficult for down county Democrats. Our only goal should be expanding the number of voters, not partisan agendas.

The Lawton Center has been the only western down county early voting site in Montgomery County surrounded by a dense community and housing approximately 80,000 residents. During the 2014 elections, the Lawton Center was able to allow 2,187 residents to vote early during the primary and 3,355 residents to vote early for the general election. Additionally, the Lawton Center has been serving nearly 40,000 people who work in downtown Bethesda. This has enabled our residents to have convenient access during work hours to an

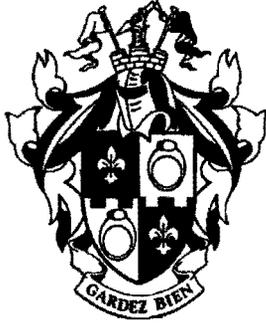
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early voting site. The Potomac location is more residential, further away from the Bethesda urban core, and poses a challenge to access the location during the weekday daytime.

I will continue to fight to ensure that Montgomery County residents get the most convenient and accessible early voting sites in the State.

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Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Sept. 25, 2015

CONTACT: Adam Fogel 240-777-7953

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Councilmember Nancy Navarro Schedules Committee Meeting with Montgomery Board of Elections to Discuss Selection Process for Early Voting Sites in County

*After Changes to Established Early Voting Sites, Government
Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee Worksession on Oct. 1
Will Address Actions to Encourage Voter Participation*

ROCKVILLE, Md., Sept. 25, 2015—Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro, who chairs the Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee, has scheduled a worksession with the County Board of Elections at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1, to address steps that can be taken to encourage voter turnout after the board relocated two established early voting sites in Montgomery County.

The GO Committee, which includes Councilmembers Sidney Katz and Hans Riemer, will meet in the Seventh Floor Hearing Room at the Council Office Building in Rockville at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville. The meeting will be broadcast live on County Cable Montgomery (Cable Channel 6 on Comcast and RCN, Channel 30 on Verizon) and will be streamed live via the Council web site at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council.

On Sept. 21, the County Board of Elections, which became controlled by a Republican majority after the election of Governor Larry Hogan, voted to relocate two popular and heavily utilized early voting sites in Montgomery County. As a result of the 3-2 vote, the early voting sites at the Marilyn Praisner Community Center in Burtonsville and the Jane Lawton Community Recreation

Center in Chevy Chase were eliminated. New early voting sites will be the Longwood Community Recreation Center in Brookeville and the Potomac Community Recreation Center on Falls Road.

Councilmember Navarro said the board's decisions relocated two easily accessible voting centers in densely populated areas with sites near areas that are sparsely populated and difficult to reach by public transportation.

"We all know that voter turnout is an issue across the nation, and Montgomery County is no exception," said Councilmember Navarro. "Moving early voting locations away from where people live is only going to discourage participation. Voting is one of the most fundamental civic duties in our democracy. Part of my job is to make sure that our residents have access to polling places in all parts of Montgomery County."

All early voting sites are open to all voters across the County. Approximately 8,000 voters cast ballots at the Burtonsville and Chevy Chase early voting sites in the 2014 general election. In that election, Burtonsville was the second busiest early voting center in the County, behind the Silver Spring Civic Building.

"In 2013, I garnered unanimous Council support to create the Right to Vote Task Force," said Councilmember Navarro. "The resolution establishing the Task Force directed the Montgomery County Board of Elections to select early voting sites that are 'easily accessible by public transportation' to help ensure that all eligible voters, regardless of income or access to a vehicle, have an opportunity to cast a ballot. The actions by the Board of Elections move us away from this goal. Now, it is time to roll up our sleeves and do everything possible to educate the public about these changes."

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Van Hollen Calls on State Board of Elections to Reject Proposal to Change Early Voting Sites in Montgomery County

Proposal Would Negatively Impact Low-income and Minority Voters

Sep 25, 2015 | Rockville, MD

Today Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen sent a letter to the Maryland Board of Elections urging the rejection of a proposal to change early voting sites in Montgomery County. The Board is considering a proposal to eliminate early voting at the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center in Bethesda and the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center in Burtonsville, which would make voting harder for thousands of residents.

"We should do everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote," Congressman Van Hollen wrote. "Unfortunately, the current early voting proposal makes it harder. It will create confusion, undercut early voting and same-day voter registration in 2016, and make it harder for low-income and elderly people and people of color to participate in our political process. I urge the Board to reject this proposal."

The full text of the letter is below:

Dear Chairman McManus and Board Members:

I am writing regarding the selection by the Montgomery County Board of Elections of early voting centers for the 2016 election cycle. The Board is considering a proposal to eliminate early voting at the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center in Bethesda and the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center in Burtonsville. I believe that this proposal will have a major negative impact on the success of early voting in Montgomery County.

During my time in Congress, I have fought to make it easier for every citizen to exercise the right to vote. Unfortunately, many Americans still face obstacles in registering to vote and casting a ballot, and a number of states in recent years have passed new laws that make it harder to vote. In Maryland, we have worked hard to increase access to the ballot box by expanding early and absentee voting and implementing online and same-day voter registration. These efforts make our elections more accessible and easy - especially for underrepresented groups - and strengthen our democracy.

However, the proposal to change early voting locations in Montgomery County is a step in the wrong direction and endangers the very progress we have worked so hard to make.

The Lawton Center is the only western down-county early voting site in the County and is within

walking distance of the Bethesda Metro station. This makes it a convenient and highly accessible location by transit for many of our residents and the approximately 40,000 people who work in downtown Bethesda.

The Praisner Community Center was the second highest performing site in the County, and early voting has occurred at this location for every election since 2010. The Center had the highest concentration of minority voters in 2014 and is highly accessible to the diverse growing populations and neighborhoods along Route 29. Eliminating this location puts these voters more than ten miles away from an early voting center.

Since 2010, the State Board on a bipartisan basis has worked to increase access and convenience to early voting for as many Marylanders as possible. The Board's election data show that voters closest to early voting centers vote early at the highest rates. Furthermore, early voting isn't merely a matter of convenience but a recognition that some people find it harder to vote if they are working and have no paid time off, have to arrange child care, rely on public transit, or are elderly. This is why it is critical to preserve early voting locations in the highest density areas close to where people work and live, and that are well served by public transportation.

We should do everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote. Unfortunately, the current early voting proposal makes it harder. It will create confusion, undercut early voting and same-day voter registration in 2016, and make it harder for low-income and elderly people and people of color to participate in our political process. I urge the Board to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen

Member of Congress

Issues: Maryland's 8th Congressional District

Some Outraged by Decision to Replace Early Voting Sites

Decision to replace popular 2014 early voting sites in Burtonsville and Chevy Chase was made by Republican-led county Board of Elections

BY AARON KRAUT



VIA JAMES SHALLECK/FACEBOOK

Updated at 11:45 a.m. - The decision Monday by the Montgomery County Board of Elections to replace 2016 early voting sites in Burtonsville and Chevy Chase with sites in Brookeville and Potomac has made some down-county residents and Democrats unhappy.

The county Board of Elections (BOE) picked nine early voting sites for the 2016 presidential primary and general elections out of 17 possibilities.

Included in the list of 17 possible sites was the Jane Lawton Community Recreation Center in Chevy Chase and the Marilyn Praisner Community Center in Burtonsville, both locations that hosted early voting in the 2014 primary and general elections.

But the five-member BOE, which has three Republicans and is led by Republican Jim Shalleck, chose instead to name the Longwood Community Recreation Center in Brookeville and the Potomac Community Recreation Center in Potomac as early voting sites by a 3-2 vote along party lines.

The other seven sites, including one in Damascus that was the least popular in 2014, will remain. The county BOE decision is likely to be upheld by a Republican-controlled State Board of Elections.

"We wanted to make it accessible to parts of the county that have never had early voting sites," said Shalleck, who

emphasized that the Brookeville site will serve a nearby and growing Olney community.

State law mandates that the party of the governor have a majority on local election boards. That means Republicans will lead the Montgomery County BOE until at least 2019.

Gov. Larry Hogan nominated Shalleck to the post of BOE president in February. Shalleck challenged County Executive Ike Leggett for county executive in the 2014 general election. Leggett got 167,052 votes, beating Shalleck by a nearly two-to-one margin.

District 14 state Del. Eric Luedtke, a Democrat who represents the Burtonsville area, tweeted his displeasure with the removal of the Burtonsville site Monday night.

District 16 state Del. Marc Korman, a Democrat who represents Bethesda, said Democratic state lawmakers in his district and next-door District 18 began getting hints late last week that losing the Chevy Chase site in favor of Potomac was a possibility.

"What they've done is they've swapped it with a site in a much more sparsely populated area and basically no employment," Korman told Bethesda Beat. "There's going to be almost no one voting during the day."

District 16 State Sen. Susan Lee attended the Monday BOE hearing and made a last-ditch appeal to stave off the move.

A letter sent by District 16 and District 18 lawmakers to the BOE pointed out that the Lawton Center is about half-a-mile from the Bethesda Metro station, "certainly more transit-accessible than any site in Potomac," and close to almost 40,000 people who work in downtown Bethesda.

At the start of their regular session Tuesday morning, all nine Democratic County Council members registered their disappointment with the decision.

Council member Nancy Navarro said the council is "exploring what would be our recourse."

"This was clearly a partisan decision by the new Board of Elections to disenfranchise elderly voters in probably the largest concentration of seniors in Montgomery County," said Jon Weintraub, a downtown Bethesda resident who emailed the BOE asking for it to choose the Chevy Chase location as an early voting center again.

"It's sad," Weintraub said. "It appears to be a clearly partisan decision."

Shalleck denied the decision was made for political reasons, saying the BOE's goal was to come up with an even distribution of early voting sites throughout the county.

"The count is three to one [in terms of Democrats to Republicans] in every area except maybe Damascus," Shalleck said. "We maintained seven of the nine sites that were set by a Democratic-majority board. It was not political. But if we wanted to be political we could've by a 3 to 2 vote moved more Democratic sites like Silver Spring and Wheaton, but we did not."

The list of 17 possible sites also included the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, the county government building steps away from the Bethesda Metro station.

With the removal of the Lawton Center as an early voting site, the only early voting site inside the Capital Beltway in 2016 will be the Silver Spring Civic Building in downtown Silver Spring. Other unchanged sites include a recreation center in the Layhill area of Silver Spring, the Executive Office Building in Rockville, the Germantown Community Recreation Center and the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg.

All registered Montgomery County voters are allowed to vote at any of the nine early voting sites. But statistics show the likelihood of a registered voter voting early decreases based on his or her distance from an early voting site.

Montgomery County went from five early voting sites to nine for the first time before the 2014 gubernatorial primary.

The Marilyn J. Praisner site, located in Burtonsville near Route 29, had the second most early voters with 4,988 before the 2014 general election and the third most early voters with 2,324 before the 2014 primary election.

The Silver Spring Civic Building was the most popular early voting site before both the 2014 general and 2014 primary elections, with 4,988 voters and 3,961 voters, respectively. The Executive Office Building in Rockville was the second most popular early voting center with 2,506 voters before the 2014 primary.

The Lawton site in Chevy Chase was the fifth most popular site before the 2014 primary with 2,187 votes and the seventh most popular site before the 2014 general with 3,355 votes.

The least popular site before both elections was the Damascus Community Recreation Center, which attracted just 1,468 voters before the general and 518 voters before the primary.

Shalleck didn't specify why the sites in Burtonsville and Chevy Chase were chosen to be replaced.

"It's so sad that it's come to this," said County Council member Nancy Floreen on Tuesday. "This could become such a political act in an environment where we tried so hard to take it out of the world of politics."

Early voting for the April 26 primary election is set to run from April 14-21, with close Democratic battles for U.S. Senate and the 8th congressional district expected. A competitive race is also expected for the Republican nomination in the 6th congressional district now led by Democratic Rep. John Delaney.

The newly selected Potomac Community Recreation Center could prove to be a key early voting site for that district.

Maryland Politics

Republican-led Montgomery election board shifts early voting sites

By Bill Turque September 22 at 1:24 PM

The Republican majority on the Montgomery County Board of Elections, led by an appointee of Gov. Larry Hogan (R), voted Monday to shift two early voting sites — one in low-income East County and the other in densely populated Chevy Chase — to less populous locations, prompting Democratic charges of voter suppression.

The board voted 3 to 2 to replace the early voting site at the Marilyn Praisner Community Center in Burtonsville near Route 29 with the Longwood Recreation Center in Brookeville, just north of Olney. Of the county's nine early voting sites, the Praisner Center drew the second-highest number of early voters (4,988) prior to the 2014 general election.

The board also decided to remove early voting from the Lawton Community Center near downtown Bethesda and replace it with a site at the Potomac Community Recreation Center in Potomac.

Under state law, the party of the sitting governor holds the majority on local election boards.

Board Chairman James Shalleck, Hogan's appointee and the 2014 Republican candidate for Montgomery County Executive, did not return a phone call or e-mail message late Tuesday morning. He told Bethesda Beat that the board wanted to make early voting accessible to parts of the county that have not had early voting sites, and that the Brookeville location will serve a growing Olney community.

Shalleck also said that Democrats hold a 3 to 1 registration advantage in the areas surrounding eight of the nine early voting sites, the exception being Damascus in the Upcounty.

"If we wanted to be political we could've by a 3 to 2 vote moved more Democratic sites like Silver Spring and Wheaton, but we did not," Shalleck said.

But the board's decision drew expressions of outrage Tuesday from Montgomery Democrats, who said they were investigating what recourse they might have to reverse the moves.

"It's outrageous," said council member Tom Hucker (D-Silver Spring) who represents much of the East County. "It's a naked attempt at voter suppression."

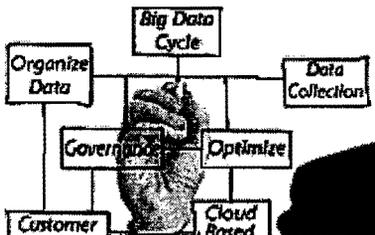
In a letter to the election board, Hucker and council member Roger Berliner (D-Bethesda) pointed out that the Lawton Center in Chevy Chase is a half-mile walk from the Bethesda Metro station, making it a suitable and highly accessible location to residents. There are also about 40,000 people who work in downtown Bethesda, they said.

“Conversely, the Potomac location is more residential and much further from our Bethesda urban core, and it would pose a challenge for many voters to access the location during the weekday daytime,” council members said.

Bill Turque, who covers Montgomery County government and politics, has spent more than thirty years as a reporter and editor for The Washington Post, Newsweek, the Dallas Times Herald and The Kansas City Star.

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ADDENDUM

GO Item #2
October 1, 2015

Discussion

MEMORANDUM

September 30, 2015

TO: Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: **Discussion:** Early voting site locations

Attached to this addendum is the testimony that Chair Navarro delivered to the Board of Elections at their September 12 public hearing.

Montgomery County Board of Elections
Public Hearing on Early Voting Locations

September 12, 2015

- President Shalleck and Members of the Board – Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning about the importance of maintaining early voting locations in Wheaton and Aspen Hill.
- I represent District 4 on the County Council, which includes much of the mid-County – from Wheaton in the south to the Howard County line in the north.
- There are many very good reasons to keep sites in Wheaton and Aspen Hill.
- First, both are centrally located in the County and accessible by public transportation.
- The proposed Wheaton site is easy for people to access who live in the immediate neighborhoods, but also very convenient for commuters who drive down Georgia Ave. every day who live north of the site. Both Ride On and Metro Buses have stops very close by.
- Aspen Hill is similarly situated. Both the current site on Queensguard Road and the former early voting site on Bauer Drive are accessible by public transportation and major highways. Both sites are also convenient for drivers living north of the areas who commute downtown for work.
- While geography and accessibility are important, I wanted to focus my remarks this morning on the people living in these communities and why it is so important we make an effort to engage them in the civic process.
- Wheaton is one of – if not the – most diverse communities in Maryland. People of different backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and socioeconomic statuses call Wheaton home. The Wheaton area is home to a very large Orthodox Jewish community in Kemp Mill that is within walking distance to

the proposed Wheaton location. Wheaton's population is majority-people of color, with nearly 60% Latino and African American.

- Wheaton is also a place where there are pockets of poverty. For example, the percentage of residents without health insurance is more than double the County average.
- We need to make sure the people living in and around Wheaton have an early voting location that is close by and encourages them to participate.
- Similarly, Aspen Hill is also a very diverse community, with about half the population being Latino and African American. There is also a concentration of low income residents living there – with the median household income nearly \$20,000 lower than the County average.
- As the Board considers where to put early voting locations, I hope you consider the populations living in these communities and the challenges they face in getting to the polls.
- Many low income residents are working multiple jobs with irregular hours. They have child care obligations and many not have access to a vehicle. It is much more difficult for low income people to get to the polls on Election Day than those with means. Early Voting is an important opportunity to help level the playing field and make our democratic process more open and accessible.
- Finally, I want to reiterate the message that was sent to you in a letter last month by the County Executive and all 9 of my colleagues on the Council: We stand ready to fund the cost of relocating the Wheaton Early Voting site to the Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad. The 10 County elected officials are in full agreement that maintaining an early voting location in Wheaton is a top priority and we will make sure those resources are available.
- Thank you again for this opportunity. As chair of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee, I look forward to receiving an update in the coming months on your preparations for the 2016 election.