

October 19, 2019

Mr. James Shalleck, President
Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Re: Support for Additional Early Voting Site at the White Oak Recreation Center

Dear Mr. Shalleck and Board of Election Members:

Thank you to the Board of Elections for giving me the time to speak today. My name is Rachael Evans and I have lived in Silver Spring for over 25 years, with the last 11 years as homeowner in White Oak. I have voted since I was 18 and I am passionate about all American's having the right and access to vote. This is something I learned from my father who fought for the right for all Americans to vote regardless of socioeconomic status during the 1960s. When early voting was introduced, I immediately starting voting that way for every primary and general election for its convenience. I feel this right should be given to all people living and working in Montgomery County.

I am here to advocate for an additional 12th Early Voting location in Montgomery County and for it be at the White Oak Community Recreation Center. This location can accommodate residents from White Oak and Route 29 surrounding areas, those who work in the area like FDA, Adventist at White Oak Hospital, and other science gateway employees that want to vote before returning to their homes in other parts of the county.

The White Oak Community Recreation Center is already used as an Election Day polling site. It has the needed parking and electrical requirements; and it is located in a heavily populated community of voters from diverse backgrounds, cultures, ages, and socioeconomics. What unites them is that many do not have vehicles and rely on public transit, which is limited due to the absence of Metro trains and the fact that bus service is limited on the weekends. The nearest early voting centers to the White Oak area are the Marilyn Praisner Community Recreation Center and the Silver Spring Civic Building which are both over four miles from White Oak, and difficult to access by public transportation. Both of these locations have a history of long lines during early voting and on Election Day which makes it difficult for the elderly and persons with disabilities to wait in long lines to vote. The White Oak Community Recreation Center, on the other hand, is for many, within walking distance and early voting is an effective way to reduce Election Day wait times. It is a less than a 10-minute walk from my community and would be a benefit to my friends and neighbors. I was also there on Election Day for the 2018 primary and general election and the set up created a very good flow for the people voting.

In the words of the late Congressman Elijah Cummings (MD) "this is not Russia, this is the United States of America and I will fight to my death to make sure every citizen has the right to vote ... because it is the essence of our democracy."

Please do not let Montgomery County be a place where it is difficult for all citizens to vote. We should make it easier and accessible for all eligible voters. The additional voting site at White Oak Community Center will be a great service to us all and ensure those with transportation or ability challenges are not discouraged from participating in the voting process.

Thank-you for your time today,

Rachael Evans
President of Whitehall Square Homeowners Association and
Member of Friends of White Oak

October 21, 2019

Chairman Shalleck and Members of the Board of Elections,

As the Montgomery County League of Women Voters liaison to the Board of Elections, I express the League's thanks to the Board for once again opening the early voting center selection process to public comments. As I mentioned last month, the League has no position on the sites of specific early voting center sites. We recognize the Board of Elections choices of the current early voting centers greatly exceeds the state's 80% geographic goal by covering over 98% of the county's registered voters within five miles of one of the eleven centers. However, we do support providing the easiest path possible to encourage citizens to vote, and there are locations that are near the edge or outside of those five mile radii, in communities with denser populations and a history of longer wait terms.

We find it regrettable that some of the rhetoric surrounding last month's decision and the actions that have led to its reconsideration today became highly partisan. The Board has given due consideration reviewing the list of staff-vetted sites that meet the state requirements. Comments from elected officials and interested organizations and citizens were heard. The choice on whether to select an additional site seemed to revolve on different views of the duties of Board members with relevant points made by all – ease of voting access vs. cost of service to County citizens.

The League also has to weigh those issues on many of our endeavors. It is our hope that the members consider this decision with their fiduciary duty of care and loyalty to the Board, ahead of personal and partisan interests. The possibility of adding a new early voting site is a complex decision, shared by passage of state legislation by elected representatives from the County, by approval of the funding by locally elected representatives in the County, and by you, the Board members. Each group and individual involved should give due attention given to the needs of the County residents whom all of you are charged with serving.

We also hope the discussion and coverage of this decision remains above the fray of partisan politics. Our electoral process needs to encourage the widest participation of all our citizens, and not seen as a partisan battleground.

Again, thank you for including public comments in your consideration of the 2020 early voting centers.

Barbara Marsh Sanders,
Liaison to the Montgomery County Board of Elections
League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc.
12216 Parklawn Dr, Suite 105
Rockville, MD 20852.

Personal
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mr. James Shalleck, President
Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Re: Support for 12th Early Voting Site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center

Dear Mr. Shalleck and Board of Election Members:

My name is Ashley Grimes and I am a member of the Whitehall Square Homeowners Association Board, and a resident of White Oak, and I would like to voice my support for the addition of a 12th early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center.

As a new resident of the White Oak area in 2018, the lack of early voting facilities is concerning to me. All county residents should be able to access early voting, as it greatly decreases the volume of voters on Election Day and allows residents who do not have flexible schedules to vote at a time convenient to them. The White Oak Community Recreation Center is located in a high-density area that is only going to continue growing with the addition of the Adventist at White Oak Hospital and proposed Viva White Oak initiatives, making it a great choice for an early voting location for our expanding community.

Last year I traveled to Wheaton to vote, due to the longer lines at both Silver Spring early voting locations. While I am able to do this, many residents are not, which inhibits their ability to make their voices heard. Voting is integral to the democratic process, which is more important now than it has ever been. I hope that my voice as a member of this wonderful community is taken into consideration by the Board of Elections, as it is critical that we stand up for those who do not have the same opportunities to express their needs. With this in mind, please consider adding an additional early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center.

Thank you,

Ashley Grimes

Member of Whitehall Square Homeowners Association Board of Directors

White Oak Resident

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen of the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

I am CDR Richard Jurgena, USN, Ret. living in Darnestown, Maryland, in Election District 6.

I come here today to point out the lack of opportunity to participate in Early Voting by the voters of Election District 6 and 4 other Election Districts in the Western half of Montgomery County.

As you well know, there are 13 Election Districts in Montgomery County. Of those 13 districts, 4 have 2 Early Voting sites, 3 have one Early Voting Site, and 6 have no Early Voting Sites. Five of the 6 districts, with no Early Voting sites, are in the Western half of the County.

If I were looking at this as a partisan, I would have to think there must be some political reason why there should be such a geographic misallocation of election services to the voters of the Western half of the County. In the past, the argument for placement of the Early Voting Centers was based on the number of voters in certain areas of the County; sadly, that ignores the fact that the distance a voter has to travel is also a major consideration of how convenient it is for that voter to exercise their right and privilege to vote.

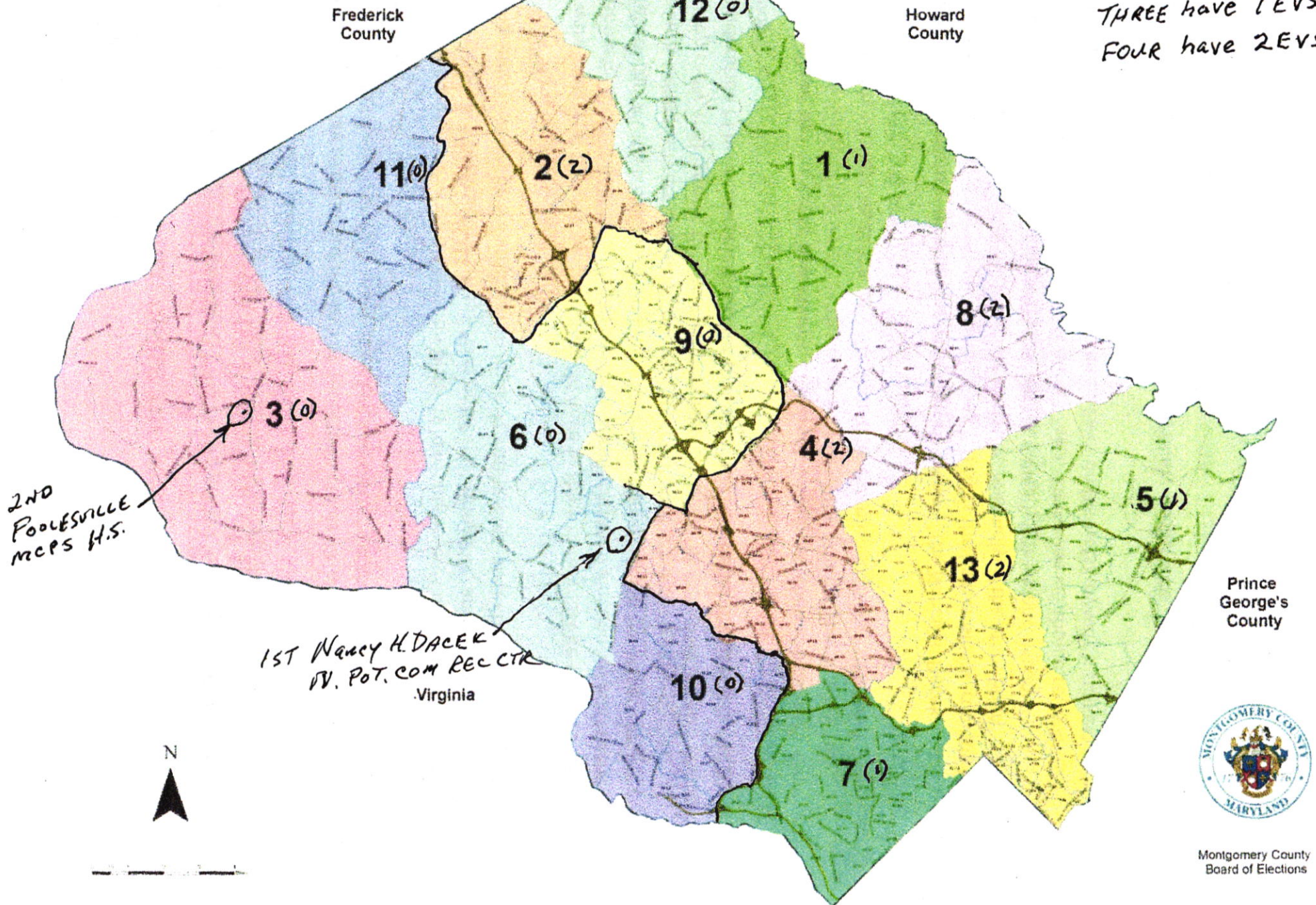
If you believe, as I do, every vote counts, I think you will agree, when you consider the distance a majority of the voters in the Western half of the County have to travel to reach an Early Voting site, that a new site should be established in either Election District 3 or 6.

Therefore, I respectfully recommend your consideration of the Nancy H. Dacek Community Recreation Center on Travilah Road (ED 6) as the best choice to remedy this geographic appearance of political gerrymandering. Secondly, if the State Board is going to overrule your decision again next year, let's get ahead of them and propose Poolesville H. S. in Election District 3 as our 13th site. Or maybe we should reorganize completely and put one site in each of the 13 Election Districts (my wife's suggestion – and I always listen to her).

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my suggestions.

Montgomery County
2018
Election Districts and Precincts

13 ELECTION DIST'S;
SIX have 0 EVS
THREE have 1 EVS
FOUR have 2 EVS



Testimony of Scott Goldberg to the Montgomery County Board of Elections,
October 21, 2019

Good afternoon members of the Board of Elections. It's great to be with so many fellow Montgomery Countians. In 2014 I worked for then County Executive Ike Leggett traveling with him as he made public appearances in front of full ballrooms all the way down to small living rooms with a handful of people. Since he was campaigning at the time, he would always list his accomplishments, serving as an Army officer in Vietnam, navigating the County through the Great Recession while maintaining our Triple A bond rating and people would be clapping, until he ended by sharing his position as President of the County Executives of America. All of a sudden, the clapping would get much louder. The first time I heard it I was staring at my phone and looked up to see what was going on because I didn't know what was happening. And sure enough every subsequent speech he made, the loudest applause line was when he said he was the President of the County Executives of America, an organization that probably no one had heard of or knew what it did. I started asking members of the audience why they were clapping so hard when he mentioned that. The answer was nearly uniform: It proved that Montgomery County was one of the best run organizations in the country. A lot of people used the phrase "gold standard."

Today, right now, you have the opportunity to uphold that excellence in managing how our government sets a benchmark for its service to the people. The hallmark of any great organization is continuous improvement. Last election, the voters were served with 11 Early Voting locations. In 2020, the Board of Elections can say "our mission is to conduct elections and we decided that having more sites was better than having the same number of sites." While this Board does a great job in managing elections in the areas it controls, there has been some loss of trust from outside influence and we have the power to regain that confidence by maximizing the ability to cast a vote.

Now, if we agree that having more Early Voting sites accomplishes the goal of making voting easier and more accessible both for those who choose to cast an Early Vote and also for those who vote on Election Day for a variety of reasons, such as shorter lines and easier to find parking, where is a good place to add a 12th location?

Testimony of Paul B. Ellis

10/21/19

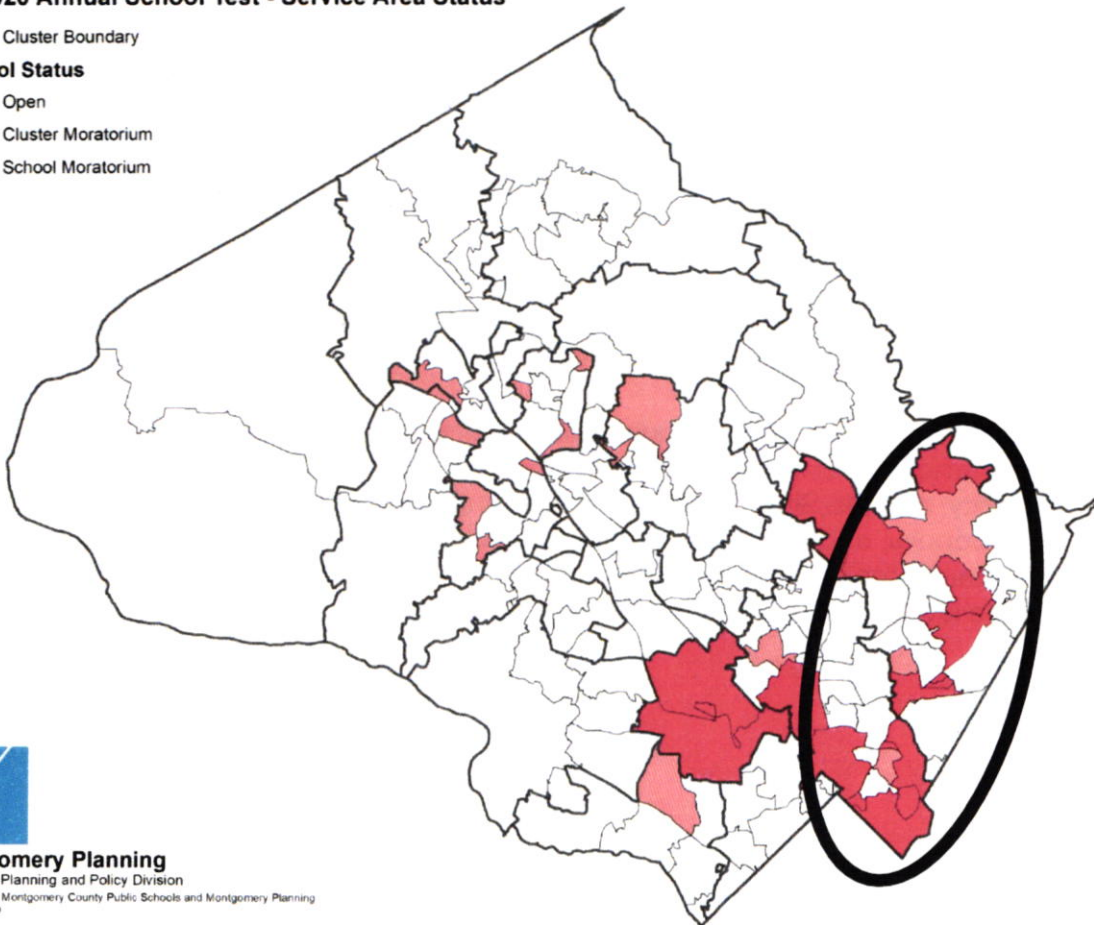
President Shalleck, Vice President Khozeimeh, members of the board, thanks for taking my testimony today in support of a 12th early voting site at White Oak.

I am a lifelong resident of Silver Spring, and an avid early voter. I was an election judge in the 2014 primary in Silver Spring. Before that, I was a Future Vote student aide at my precinct in Silver Spring. Having returned here after observing elections in Ohio, Montgomery County runs its elections extremely well, but if there's one thing we could do better, it would be to reduce lines at our most popular early voting locations so more people can vote more conveniently.

It's important for all parts of the county to have EV centers that are easily accessible by all methods of transit. But anyone could tell you that our 11 centers aren't used equally. Similarly, the population in the county is not increasing at equal rates, causing the county to institute a moratorium on new residential construction in the districts on the map in red. Schools there are beyond 120% of their capacity. Many of the districts fall in the eastern part of the county along the Rt. 29 corridor, including between the Praisner and Silver Spring Civic Building sites. There are other overcrowded areas just up New Hampshire from White Oak.

FY2020 Annual School Test - Service Area Status

-  Cluster Boundary
- School Status**
-  Open
-  Cluster Moratorium
-  School Moratorium



Montgomery Planning

Functional Planning and Policy Division

Data Source: Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery Planning
June 20, 2019

The areas above are under the moratorium. (Courtesy Montgomery County Planning)

I personally observed the long lines at the end of early voting in Silver Spring on Thursday 11/1/18, which are documented below in pictures my neighbor Ari posted on Twitter and that I took.

The line exited the door of the great hall, wrapped around the inside of the building through all the auxiliary rooms on the ground floor, snaked around the atrium, out the door, across the plaza, and was starting to go down Fenton Street. The only time I've ever seen anything like it was in the 2012 presidential general election at my election day precinct as a Future Vote aide.

Lines like these, combined with misdirected voters at Praisner on election night itself mean that the board has a responsibility to ensure it maintains voters' trust in this area of the county. While people may still erroneously go to Praisner on election night, a White Oak site would convert some of those otherwise provisional election night ballots to early voting ballots, and reduce lines. The investment made in a 12th early voting center will avert the need for emergency intervention on election night.

New voters are moving to the area, who may be unregistered and want to register same day. According to Dr. Z, the board is bracing for an influx of voter registration applications with the new state law, and for the additional challenges duplicate registrations will cause. This can only exacerbate existing wait times.

Residents of White Oak, including in the mammoth apartment complexes like the Enclave Apartments, need a proximal place with a shorter line so they don't lose faith in our electoral process. They work long hours and weekends and need to care for children. Having a location near more new immigrant populations will result in more multilingual election judges and aides, who can clarify a process that could be strange and daunting to anyone brand new to it. They may in turn serve the Board throughout the county for years to come.

So a White Oak early voting center would pay dividends, easing judge recruitment and aiding a county facing budget cuts. The alternative is discouraging new voters from voting with long lines during the only times they're not at work or going there.

White Oak is clearly the area of the county most in need of shorter lines, shorter voting commutes, and whose faith in voting integrity must be made solid. It's the most overcrowded area of the county, and the Silver Spring Civic Building and Praisner Center have consistently been the most popular, and among the most popular EV locations, especially in presidential elections. With the potential for a crisis of public confidence in election administration and the changes in state law, White Oak is the right location for a new EV site.

Thurs. 11/1/18 7:44 PM outside Silver Spring Civic Building, from Silver Spring resident Ari Natter:
<https://twitter.com/AriNatter/status/1058142884442980353>



Ari Natter ✓
@AriNatter

Following



Line for last day early voting is out the door
and around the corner in Silver Spring, Md.



7:44 PM - 1 Nov 2018

Thurs. 11/1/18 8:15 PM inside Silver Spring Civic Building, photos by me:





Total votes cast at each EV center for the past four elections, based on data from the BOE site for total votes cast. Silver Spring is always by far the center with the most votes cast. Praisner was near the top of the pack in the last presidential election.

Together, votes cast at those two sites make up nearly a quarter of early votes cast countywide in general elections, and over a quarter of early votes cast countywide in primary elections.

	18 general rank	18 general total	18 primary rank	18 primary total	16 general rank	16 general total	16 primary rank	16 primary total
Silver Spring Civic Bldg	1	16864	1	6668	1	21822	1	7580
Potomac	2	14186	2	4470	4	18997	2	4957
Bohrer Park	3	13230	4	3981	3	19540	5	4587
Lawton	4	12265	3	4287	7	16166	4	4596
Germantown	5	11899	5	3384	2	19800	7	4246
Praisner	6	10286	6	3203	5	16639	3	4604
Rockville EOB	7	9190	7	3109	8	14466	8	3766
Mid County	8	7934	8	2736	9	11155	9	2793
St. Catherine 18/Wheaton 16	9	7808	9	2034	6	16320	6	4470
Sandy Spring VFD	10	6154	10	1273				
Damascus	11	4793	11	1180	10	7627	10	1440
Total		114609		36325		162532		43039
Silver Spring as percent of total		14.71437671		18.35650379		13.42627913		17.61193336
Praisner as percent of total		8.974862358		8.81761872		10.23736864		10.69727456
Silver Spring pct + Praisner pct		23.68923906		27.17412251		23.66364777		28.30920793

Graciela Rivera-Oven (Gracie)

October 21, 2019

Testimony for the Board of Elections Montgomery County

Subject: Future Vote and Early Voting Center at White Oak

Good afternoon, President Shalleck, and members of the Board. My name is Graciela Rivera-Oven, and I am a citizen of Montgomery County where I have lived for over 40 years.

As a former member of this body, it is always great to see you all. You know how much I value your work and dedication and commitment to serve on this body.

It is with sadness and a heavy heart that I am before you today, because of a topic that was discussed at your last meeting about Future Vote, an issue that I have been involved with from its conception.

I still remember my long talks with Nancy Dacek, who was the chair at the time this program was implemented, and her full support for Future Vote.

Although Nancy and I were from different political parties we always had a wonderful friendship on and off the court -- she mostly beat me when we played tennis -- and she valued civic involvement to its core.

So imagine my disappointment when I heard about the rhetoric that came out of this body to eliminate young people from participating in this well recognized national program because of their immigration status. It is exactly these citizens who should serve as Future Vote participants in a county that is a majority-minority county.

In other words, you would be excluding young people like me. When I was a junior at Gaithersburg High School I met Ed Bohrer, who was running for Mayor of my City, the city of Gaithersburg. He invited me to join him and Sidney Katz for the campaign for mayor and city council; this was my first experience about democracy and politics. Needless to say, I was hooked.

Since then I have been involved in numerous political campaigns, eventually I even ran for County Council, last year. When I started on that first campaign, I was a US resident, you see it takes a while to become a citizen. I am wearing a US flag pin today -- to you it might just mean a pin of the flag -- but to me it means a lot more. It was given to me by Mayor Bohrer the day after I became a US citizen, he took me out to lunch gave this pin along with a US flag and a copy of the Constitution of our country. His exact words are with me today: "When you see injustice of any kind speak up." He also gave me a voter registration form and said, "This is the most fundamental right you have as an American, don't let anyone speak for you, make sure you vote."

And so I did, and today I am speaking up for the thousands of young people in our schools, who participate in Future Vote and who one day like me will become proud US citizens. I know some folks are not happy with the tan that Montgomery County has gotten over the past 20 years, but it is what it is. In fact it makes us better people and a more inclusive community. Just ask the young people in our schools. Yet, we the adults are the ones with the prejudices. My response to that is get over it, and embrace the tan! At the end of the day we are all members of this community, and we all want the same thing

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

I stand by this statement, and knowing most of you at this table, I know you do as well. Let the anti-immigrant rhetoric at Pennsylvania Avenue stay at Pennsylvania Avenue -- it was never a part of this table. The job of this Board is to represent all the members of our community including the Future Vote participants.

White Oak

My two cents on White Oak, as most of you already know, is that we need it. It is a growing community -- I am sure more folks would like to be here today from that community, but transportation is a challenge for some, and the time of our

meeting is a challenge to many. But not to worry because that's why we have you to make sure that people in White Oak have a voice at this table. I know you will also do the right thing and recommend White Oak as the 12th early voting center.

Montgomery County Early Voting 2019

Early Voting 2019

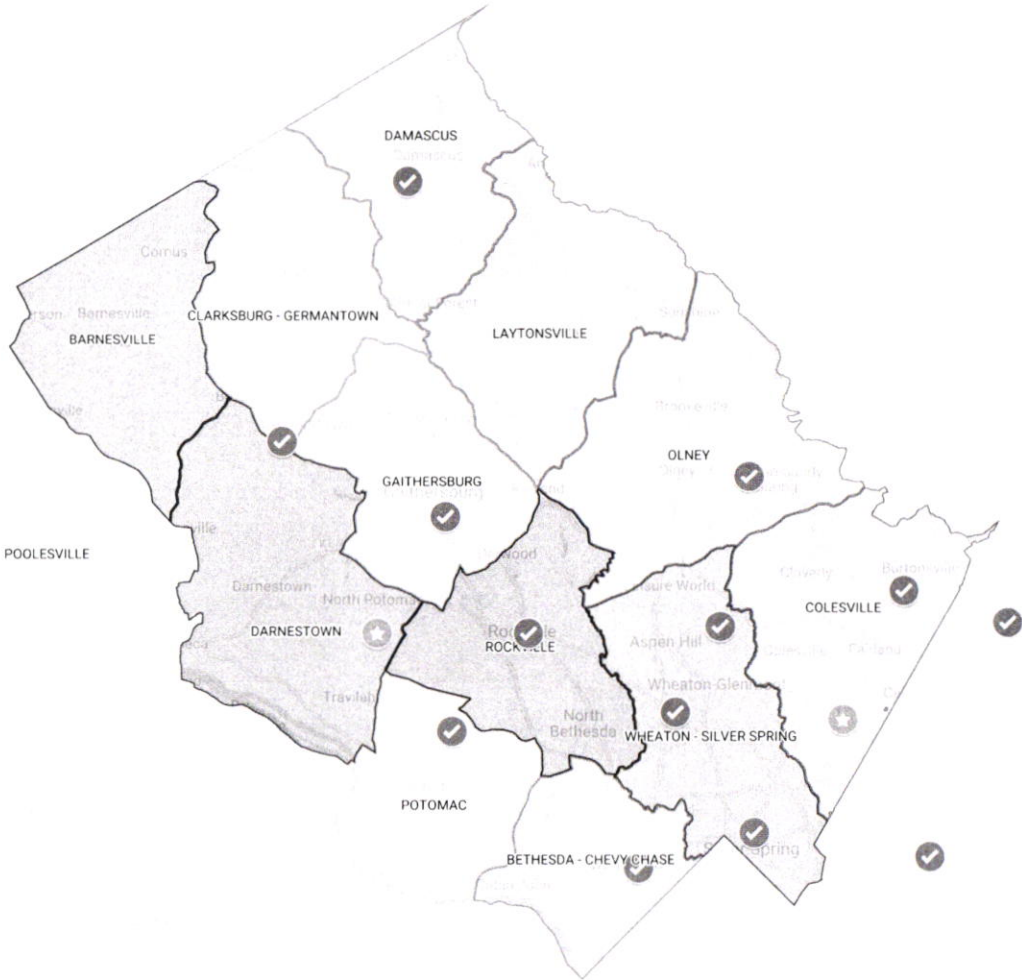
✓ All items

Additional Early Voting

- ⊗ Nancy Dacek CC
- ⊗ White Oak CC

Election Districts 2018

- 📍 BARNESVILLE
- 📍 BETHESDA - CHEVY CHASE
- 📍 CLARKSBURG - GERMANTOWN
- 📍 COLESVILLE
- 📍 DAMASCUS
- 📍 DARNESTOWN
- 📍 GAITHERSBURG
- 📍 LAYTONSVILLE
- 📍 OLNEY
- 📍 POOLESVILLE
- 📍 POTOMAC
- 📍 ROCKVILLE
- 📍 WHEATON - SILVER SPRING





MONTGOMERY COUNTY
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

October 21, 2019

Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Chair Shalleck and Members of the Board:

After following the discussion at the September 16 County Board of Elections meeting as well as the October 8 Maryland State Board of Elections meetings, we are writing this joint letter to clarify our position. **We strongly urge the Montgomery County Board of Elections to recommend adding a 12th early-voting site for the 2020 primary and general election in White Oak.** We commit to funding of this site for the 2020 primary and general elections.

Having closer and more convenient early-voting centers — as well as early-voting centers that are sited on major transit corridors like U.S. 29 — is especially important in areas with low car ownership and high transit dependency like East County, where around 35 percent of adults do not own a car despite limited transit availability in that area.

That's why we believe that the White Oak Recreation Center — which is more convenient to East County voters than the Burtonsville or Silver Spring early-voting sites — should be designated as the county's 12th early-voting site for the upcoming General election. Having early voting at White Oak will relieve pressure, and reduce the long lines, at nearby polling places on Election Day.

Voting is our precious and hard-won right and responsibility as Americans. We hope the Montgomery County Board of Elections would collaborate with us to make it as easy as possible for these voters to access early voting.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marc Elrich in black ink.

Marc Elrich, County
Executive

Handwritten signature of Nancy Navarro in black ink.

Nancy Navarro, Council
President

Handwritten signature of Sidney Katz in black ink.

Sidney Katz, Council
Vice-President



Gabe Albornoz
Councilmember At-Large



Evan Glass
Councilmember At-Large



Will Jawando
Councilmember At-Large



Hans Riemer
Councilmember At-Large



Craig Rice
Councilmember District 2



Tom Hucker
Councilmember District 5

cc: Maryland State Board of Elections

Elections, Board-Of

From: Dominic Fabrizio <Dominic.Fabrizio@tributeatblackhill.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 9:50 AM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Cc: Jodie Taylor, MS CPC
Subject: Early voting site in Germantown

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello!

We are an Assisted living community in Germantown! We are Tribute at Black hill and we are opening in January. We are right off Crystal Rock at Black Hill. We would love to be an early voting site for next year. Could you help me with the steps it takes to become an early voting site?

Thanks for all you do!

Dominic

3014480303

Dominic Fabrizio | Community Relations Director



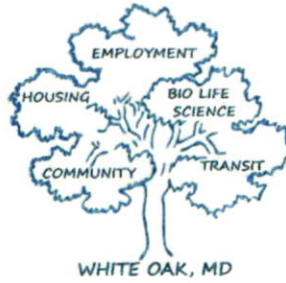
Tribute at Black Hill | Assisted Living and Memory Care

312 Baltusrol Dr | Germantown, MD 20874

O:410-401-5262 C:301-448-0303

Dominic.Fabrizio@tributeatblackhill.com

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Friends of White Oak
Montgomery County
1700 April Lane
White Oak, Maryland 20904

October 17, 2019

Mr. James Shalleck, President
Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Re: Support for Additional Early Voting Site in at the White Oak Recreation Center

Dear Mr. Shalleck and Board of Election Members:

The Friends of White Oak (FOWO) is a nonpartisan community-based body focusing on the implementation of the 3,000-acre White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan, approved by the Montgomery County Council in 2014. FOWO Board Members include residents, business owners, and property owners who represent a broad diversity of backgrounds and interests; advocating for responsible development in White Oak.

As advocates for the White Oak community, we want to add our voice to those supporting a 12th early voting site at the White Oak Community Recreation Center (1700 April Lane). Since it is already used as an Election Day polling site, it has the needed parking and electrical requirements; and is located in a heavily populated community of voters from diverse backgrounds, cultures, ages, and socioeconomics. What unites them is that many do not have vehicles and rely on public transit, which is limited due to the absence of Metro or Marc trains and the fact that bus service is limited on the weekends.

The nearest early voting centers are the Marilyn Praisner Community Recreation Center and the Silver Spring Civic Building which are both over four miles from White Oak, difficult to access by public transportation, and have a history of long lines during early voting and on Election Day. The White Oak Community Recreation Center, on the other hand, is for many,

within walking distance and early voting is an effective way to reduce Election Day wait times. More importantly, voting is the foundation of our democracy and every citizen, regardless of their socioeconomic status, should be afforded the same opportunity to exercise this fundamental right. Therefore, the Friends of White Oak fully and wholeheartedly endorse the addition of a twelfth early voting site at the White Oak Recreation Center.

Thank you for your attention to this important community matter.

Sincerely,

Friends of White Oak

Barry Wides	North White Oak Civic Association
Brian Downie	BF Saul Companies
Bruce Cole	Montgomery County Police
Chris Gillis	Montgomery Housing Partnership
David Feehan	Gatestone Townhomes
Elisse Wright Barnes	Whitehall Square
Fatmata Barrie	White Oak Resident
June Henderson	White Oak Resident
Ken Jones	Burnt Mills
Kim Jones	The Nonprofit Village
Rachael Evans	Whitehall Square
Rob Richardson	LabQuest
Shana Davis-Cook	Hillandale Citizens Association
Shane Pollin	The Duffie Companies

Cc: Marc Elrich, County Executive
Nancy Navarro, County Council President, District 4
Tom Hucker, County Council Member District 5
Peter Fosselman, Master Plan Coordinator, Office of the County Executive

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject:

FW: FYI Fw: Keep Future Vote Inclusive, Welcoming and Successful

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Foxen <

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 4:32 PM

To: Elections, Board-Of <Board-Of.Elections@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Subject: Keep Future Vote Inclusive, Welcoming and Successful

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Montgomery County Board of Elections

8753 N. Frederick Ave

Suite 210

Gaithersburg, MD 20879

US

RE: Keep Future Vote Inclusive, Welcoming and Successful

Dear Chairman Shalleck and Members of the Board:

Since 2004, the Board has operated the Future Vote program to engage students from grades 6 through 12 as student election aides. I commend the Board and its staff for operating this successful program that provides first-hand experience of our democratic processes to so many of our county's youth.

I am writing to ask the Montgomery County Board of Elections to keep the Future Vote program inclusive and welcoming for all students. I believe the proposal to limit Future Vote participation to US Citizens is misguided and inconsistent with Montgomery County's values of welcoming and inclusion. We ask that you do not make any changes to limit this program that has served almost 45,000 students since 2004.

As you know, earlier this year the Federal government's U.S. Election Assistance Commission awarded the Montgomery County Board of Elections with the 2018 "Clearie" Award for Recruiting, Training and Retaining Election Workers. According to the EAC, the award "recognizes best practices in election administration and highlights exemplary models which can serve as examples to other officials and jurisdictions." Other organizations such as the National Association of Counties, local and regional media outlets and others have joined the Federal government in applauding our county's program as it is currently structured. As the old adage says, "If it's not broke, don't fix it!"

Lastly, I am also concerned that limiting this program may jeopardize the ability of any MCPS student from receiving Student Service Learning hours for participating in Future Vote due to our school system's anti-discrimination policy. This could drastically hamper participation and even lead to a fiscal impact for the Board of Elections if it would have to hire additional election workers.

For all of these reasons, please protect our county's successful Future Vote program by rejecting any changes that would limit student participation.

Sincerely,

Ann Foxen

Silver Spring, MD 20902

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject: FW: FYI Fw: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Solomon <

Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 6:18 PM

To: Elections, Board-Of <Board-Of.Elections@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Subject: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Montgomery County Board of Elections
8753 N. Frederick Ave
Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
US

RE: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

Dear Chairman Shalleck and Members of the Board:

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Having early voting at the White Oak Recreation Center — which is more convenient to East County voters than the Burtonsville or Silver Spring early-voting sites — will relieve pressure, and reduce the long lines, at nearby polling places on Election Day.

It's also a matter of equity. Having closer and more convenient early-voting centers — particularly siting them on major transit corridors like U.S. 29 — is especially important in areas with low car ownership and high transit dependency like East County. About 35 percent of adults in that area do not own a car, despite limited transit availability.

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In the eight years we've had early voting in Maryland, participation in Montgomery County has grown from 8.4 percent of the total votes cast in the general election to 27.8 percent last year — proving how popular early voting has become.

Voting is our precious and hard-won right and responsibility as Americans. We urge the members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections to make voting as easy as possible for all citizens by adding the White Oak Community Recreation Center as a 12th early-voting site in Montgomery County.

Sincerely,
Michael Solomon

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject: FW: FYI Fw: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

RE: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

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Sincerely,
Ms. Kimberly Sicard

Silver Spring, MD 20902

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject:

FW: FYI Fw: Keep Future Vote Inclusive, Welcoming and Successful

RE: Keep Future Vote Inclusive, Welcoming and Successful

Dear Chairman Shalleck and Members of the Board:

Since 2004, the Board has operated the Future Vote program to engage students from grades 6 through 12 as student election aides. I commend the Board and its staff for operating this successful program that provides first-hand experience of our democratic processes to so many of our county's youth.

I am writing to ask the Montgomery County Board of Elections to keep the Future Vote program inclusive and welcoming for all students. I believe the proposal to limit Future Vote participation to US Citizens is misguided and inconsistent with Montgomery County's values of welcoming and inclusion. We ask that you do not make any changes to limit this program that has served almost 45,000 students since 2004.

As you know, earlier this year the Federal government's U.S. Election Assistance Commission awarded the Montgomery County Board of Elections with the 2018 "Clearie" Award for Recruiting, Training and Retaining Election Workers. According to the EAC, the award "recognizes best practices in election administration and highlights exemplary models which can serve as examples to other officials and jurisdictions." Other organizations such as the National Association of Counties, local and regional media outlets and others have joined the Federal government in applauding our county's program as it is currently structured. As the old adage says, "If it's not broke, don't fix it!"

Lastly, I am also concerned that limiting this program may jeopardize the ability of any MCPS student from receiving Student Service Learning hours for participating in Future Vote due to our school system's anti-discrimination policy. This could drastically hamper participation and even lead to a fiscal impact for the Board of Elections if it would have to hire additional election workers.

For all of these reasons, please protect our county's successful Future Vote program by rejecting any changes that would limit student participation.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Barbara Noveau

Rockville, MD 20853

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject:

FW: FYI Fw: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

RE: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

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Sincerely,
Ms. Joanna Silver

Silver Spring, MD 20902

Elections, Board-Of

From: Rohan Rajesh <
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Citizenship Requirement for Future Vote Volunteers

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello President Shallek,

My name is Rohan Rajesh, I am a Future Vote Ambassador for Clarksburg High School. I heard about the new requirement introduced requiring Future Vote volunteers under 16 to have American citizenship. As a Future Vote Ambassador since 2014 and a registered Republican, I believe that this requirement should not be enacted. Using data from the 2017 census, In Montgomery County alone, 15% of residents are not citizens and 5.7% of those people are between 11 and 15. The requirement would reduce the number of potential volunteers by approximately 50,000 people. FV Ambassadors under 15 passes out "I Voted" stickers, greet voters, and keep the polling room clean. They get exposed to the voting process and encourages students to work as election poll workers. Most high school election judges volunteered as a Future Vote volunteer. Future Vote was founded on the idea to help promote participatory democracy, this requirement would challenge what the program stands for. Please reconsider your stance on the requirement.

Thanks and Regards,
Rohan Rajesh

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject:

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Sincerely,
Miss. Sahar Afnan

Olney, MD 20832

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject: FW: FYI Fw: Keep Future Vote Inclusive, Welcoming and Successful

RE: Keep Future Vote Inclusive, Welcoming and Successful

Dear Chairman Shalleck and Members of the Board:

Since 2004, the Board has operated the Future Vote program to engage students from grades 6 through 12 as student election aides. I commend the Board and its staff for operating this successful program that provides first-hand experience of our democratic processes to so many of our county's youth.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Anne Sen

Silver Spring, MD 20902

Merino, Lisa Y.

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Sincerely,
David Kunes

Rockville, MD 20851

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject: FW: FYI Fw: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Sen

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 12:20 AM

To: Elections, Board-Of <Board-Of.Elections@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Subject: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Montgomery County Board of Elections
8753 N. Frederick Ave
Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
US

RE: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

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Silver Spring, MD 20902

Merino, Lisa Y.

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Sincerely,
Folly Kouevi

Takoma Park, MD 20912

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject: FW: FYI Fw: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

-----Original Message-----

From: Joanne Antoine

Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 12:58 PM

To: Elections, Board-Of <Board-Of.Elections@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Subject: Recommend White Oak for Early Voting

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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8753 N. Frederick Ave
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Sincerely,
Ms. Joanne Antoine

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Merino, Lisa Y.

Subject:

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Sincerely,
Ms. Sandy Maldonado

Silver Spring, MD 20904

Elections, Board-Of

From: DANIEL J McHugh
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 1:38 PM
To: info.sbe@maryland.gov; Elections, Board-Of
Subject: Fwd: Montgomery County, MD Watch 360: State Board Says Montgomery County Must Recommend a 12th Early Voting Site (Response For The Record)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: DANIEL J McHugh <info.sbe@maryland.gov>
Date: Sun, Oct 20, 2019, 1:30 PM
Subject: Montgomery County, MD Watch 360: State Board Says Montgomery County Must Recommend a 12th Early Voting Site (Response For The Record)
To: <info.sbe@maryland.gov>, <elections@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Cc: Jamie Raskin For Congress <Info@jamieraskin.com>, <jamie.raskin@mail.house.gov>, <craig.zucker@senate.state.md.us>, <senate@montgomerycountydelegation.com>, <Marc.Korman@house.state.md.us>, <house@montgomerycountydelegation.com>, <ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov>, <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>, <county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov>, <oag@oag.state.md.us>, <States.Attorney@montgomerycountymd.gov>, <cheryl.kagan@senate.state.md.us>, <kumar.barve@house.state.md.us>, <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>, <john.sarbanes@mail.house.gov>



Montgomery County Watch 360

State Board Says Montgomery County Must Recommend a 12th Early Voting Site (Response For The Record)

The Story:

Updated: State Board Says Montgomery County Must Recommend a 12th Early Voting Site

Election panel in Annapolis has emergency meeting about dispute

BY KATE MASTERS | Published: 2019-10-08 17:57

Daniel Koroma, a community activist in White Oak, testified on the benefits of a 12th early voting site at a Maryland Board of Elections meeting on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY KATE MASTERS

This story and headline were updated at 7:50 p.m. Oct. 8, 2019, to correct a description of the

Maryland State Board of Elections' decision.

The Maryland State Board of Elections ruled on Tuesday that Montgomery County must recommend a location for a 12th early voting site for the 2020 elections — an issue that has divided elected and appointed officials in recent weeks.

The decision, made by a supermajority of board members, did not mandate a specific location for the site, a point that board Chairman Michael Cogan emphasized repeatedly throughout nearly two hours of testimony at an emergency meeting in Annapolis. Nor does it guarantee that the state board will ultimately vote to establish a 12th site in Montgomery County despite requiring the local board to pick a location.

That detail didn't mar the excitement for advocates who spent weeks petitioning for a 12th early voting site in White Oak, an area in eastern Montgomery County with a majority black population.

The decision marked the latest development in a weeks-long disagreement between the Republican-appointed Board of Elections and Democratic county lawmakers, including District 5 Council Member Tom Hucker, County Executive Marc Elrich, and several state delegates.

Elected officials, community activists, and the Democratic minority on the board have spent weeks petitioning for a 12th facility in White Oak, where many residents say they face barriers to voting. But in early September, three Republican board members voted not to designate a 12th early voting site in White Oak or anywhere else in the county, describing it as an unneeded expense.

The state board called the emergency meeting to address disagreements in Montgomery County and Baltimore City, where the local board of elections also declined to designate an additional early voting site, spurring the City Council to issue a resolution supporting a polling place in west Baltimore.

Montgomery County has 11 early voting sites, the maximum number required under state election laws. But a recent change to those regulations allows the county's Board of Elections to designate an optional 12th site.

State board members said the vote on Tuesday didn't require them to make a definitive decision on where a 12th voting site would be located in Montgomery County. But it does require the county board to recommend a location, which would then be subject to approval by state.

"I'm happy," said Hucker, who began advocating for the White Oak site before the Montgomery County board voted in September. "I think it's telling that the [state] Board of Elections, by bipartisan authority, voted to look at the data and direct our board to add an additional site."

The location must be identified by Oct. 24 and sent to the state board for review before its Oct. 31 meeting.

David Naimon, a Democratic member of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, said he would continue to advocate for White Oak as the most logical site.

"I tried to make that motion twice at our September meeting and those motions did not pass," he said. "But now I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues to determine the best site for our residents."

Naimon was one of six Montgomery County advocates who spoke in favor of a 12th early voting site — and White Oak, specifically — at Tuesday's meeting. Arguments in favor of the site have followed the same lines since the local elections board raised the issue at its Sept. 16 meeting.

Both residents and representatives have cited long voting lines in both Silver Spring and Burtonsville, the next closest early voting sites for White Oak residents. Both locations are within six miles of the proposed site, but community activist Daniel Koroma said the distance still poses a considerable barrier for voters in the area.

"People in my community wake up at 5 o'clock, 6 o'clock in the morning to take the bus to their first jobs," he said. "More than 30% of people don't have cars. And they can't afford to take off work for hours to cast a vote."

There is an early-voting period before each primary and general election. Voters may cast ballots at any early-voting site in the county. Those who can't vote during the early period or on Election Day may be eligible to vote through an absentee ballot.

Hucker, whose district includes White Oak, also argued that an additional early voting site could help alleviate long lines at the polls on Election Day.

In 2016 and 2018, voters from the eastern part of the county spent hours in Silver Spring and Burtonsville, where the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center attracted national attention for its long voting lines.

"In 2016, I was called to Praisner because there was a wait of up to 2 hours just to vote," he said. "And some people had to leave without voting at all. Seniors and people with disabilities or people who just had to leave to go to work or pick up their kids."

But arguments against the early voting site have also stayed consistent. Jim Shalleck, the chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, was the lone opponent to speak at Tuesday's meeting. He argued that adding a site would be a needless expenditure in a county with 11 early voting facilities.

Those sites are open to all residents for eight days before the general election, Shalleck said — plenty of time for voters to make their way to the polls. An added site would cost \$234,000 for the 2020 primary and general elections, in addition to the roughly \$350,000 that local boards are required to spend next year to update polling precincts, he added.

“Our main concern was cost,” Shalleck said on Tuesday. “Our County Council already allocated \$125,000 for additional equipment at precincts with the longest lines, and we felt this was a sufficient solution to the problem.”

Cogan and Republican state board member David Voelp grilled advocates on an earlier letter from Elrich, which Shalleck used to justify the majority’s decision.

In the letter, Elrich wrote that he supported an additional site for the general election, but had “concerns” over the cost and benefit of a 12th site for the primary. At a later press conference, the county executive clarified that he supported the site for both elections, but initially wondered if the additional voting equipment would address the issue of long lines.

Advocates used his later statement, referenced in a Bethesda Beat article, as a clarification of the board’s questions.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections will consider the location of a 12th site at its meeting on Oct. 21. Shalleck said he disagreed with the state’s decision, but would work with his colleagues to implement it.

U.S. Rep. John Sarbanes, who represents eastern Montgomery County as part of Maryland’s Third Congressional District, wrote a letter in support of the White Oak site, as did four state legislators, including Sen. William Smith.

<https://bethesdamagazine.com/bethesda-beat/politics/state-board-says-montgomery-county-must-have-12th-early-voting-site/>

Response:

ATTN:

Maryland Board of Elections

Montgomery County, MD Board Of Elections

Montgomery County, MD Delegation (Federal, State, County)

In 2010 Early voting Started in Maryland, Montgomery County, MD the largest County in the State of Over 1 Million people started out with 9 Locations. By 2016 The County had 11 Locations 2 were added in Potomac, MD, and Olney, MD. Now there is a demand for a 12th Location in the White Oak - Silver Spring region of the county. currently there are already 4 Early Voting Locations in that region: Mid County Community Rec Center, Saint Catherine Laboure, Sandy Spring Spring Volunteer Fire Department, and the Silver Spring Civic Building. Silver Spring, MD's population is 79 Thousand People. This white Oak Location would be the 5th location for this region of the County.

One thing to make mention of is 3 of the 4 Montgomery County Council At Large members, and 2 of the 5 District Council Members on the County Council, The Current County Executive, and 1 out of 3 of Montgomery County's members of Congress all live in the "Silver Spring - Takoma Park Vortex" (Listed Below).

US Congressman Jamie Raskin, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council President Nancy Navarro, Councilman Tom Hucker, Councilman Hans Riemer, Councilman Will Jawando, and Councilman Evan Glass.

Now compare that to the Up-County, the Up County which has Germantown, MD, Germantown is the Largest Populated area in Montgomery County of over 90 Thousand people. Germantown has 1 Early Voting Location in Kingsview. Poolesville has zero, and Clarksburg which is the fastest growing community in Montgomery County has zero as well. People in Poolesville have to drive at least 20 minutes to get to the closest early voting location near them. Maybe the County needs a new Early Voting Location UP-County in either Germantown, Poolesville, or Clarksburg?

The UP-County is neglected and underrepresented in Rockville even though more people in the County Live UP- County. As long as power the vast majority of the County's Elected Power remains in the "Silver Spring - Takoma Park Vortex" there appears to be Zero Change in the way the County conducts business.

Sources:

1. In August 2006, a judge ruled in favor of several plaintiffs that the state constitution permitted voting only on the day of the election.[citation needed] The plaintiffs were challenging a new early-voting law on the probability of fraud. Absentee ballots appear to remain acceptable for the

time being.

Voters approved a constitutional amendment in November 2008 to allow early voting, starting with the primary elections in 2010. Maryland now offers both early voting in person and absentee voting by mail.[30]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_voting

2. <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/EarlyVoting/index.html>
3. <https://www.mymcmedia.org/board-of-elections-decision-on-early-voting-centers-video/>
4. <https://www.facebook.com/FickerLawOffices/photos/robindeliversforyoucom-of-boyds-gives-diversity-the-takoma-park-trapezoid-5-of-m/1433853923382049/>
5. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Spring,_Maryland
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germantown,_Maryland
7. <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Poolesville,+Maryland+20837/Germantown,+Maryland/@39.1526503,-77.4146714,12z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x89b630087cac66f9:0x402e0f40cc509332!2m2!1d-77.4169311!2d39.1459392!1m5!1m1!1s0x89b62b7548f55669:0xe1b8ab17b2820a85!2m2!1d-77.2716502!2d39.1731621!3e0>
8. <https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/bs-md-census-clarksburg-growth-20110210-story.html>

Thank You,

**Dan McHugh
Montgomery County Watch 360**

MARY ANN KEEFFE

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Rockville, Maryland 20849

October 20, 2019

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to you as a Montgomery County voter who resides in Pct. 4-17 and as a former Member of the Montgomery County Board of Elections, familiar with the history of polling place changes to Pct. 4-17. I was very surprised to discover in looking at the 2020 proposed polling place changes posted on the Board website that Pct. 4-17 has been proposed to be moved back to the Kennedy-Shriver Aquatic Center for the 2020 Primary Election. I understand that Luxmanor Elementary School, the "home" polling site for Pct. 4-17 which has been under construction since 2018, will be available for the 2020 General Election but not the Primary. This, therefore necessitates that the precinct voters will have to vote in different locations for each election – not an ideal situation but understandable and acceptable under the circumstances. What is not acceptable, however, is the proposal that Pct. 4-17 voters go to the Aquatic Center for any election.

The Aquatic Center was used as a substitute polling place in the 2018 Primary election for Pct. 4-17 and it was discovered by me and another Member of the Board of Elections to be completely inappropriate and unacceptable as a polling place. In addition to not having a room size large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and to provide a comfortable environment for the voters, it is also unsuitable for Election Judges. There is no adequate rest area or break-room where Election Judges and other election personnel can have a lunch or snack break, and as experienced Board Members know, Election Judges are not permitted to leave the premises during what is a very long day. Also because the interior space in the building is so limited there is not adequate space for voters to wait inside should the weather be inclement. When I and another Board Member discovered the situation with the Aquatic

Center during the 2018 Primary Election, we informed the full Board and staff of the Board and we worked together to petition the State Board of what we considered an emergency appeal to allow the Board to move the polling place for the 2018 General Election. The State Board of Elections granted the appeal and Pct. 4-17 voted at B'nai Israel Congregation in November, 2018, which was an ideal facility with plenty of space, ample parking, accessibility for handicapped voters and provided a comfortable rest area for the Election Judges.

Given the background of problems that were experienced using the Aquatic Center as a polling place in 2018, along with the issue of continually changing the polling place location for Pct. 4-17, which research indicates will suppress voter turnout, I respectfully request that the Board continue to use the B'nai Israel Congregation location for the 2020 Primary, which will be the same location where Pct. 4-17 voted in the last election. If that is not possible, then I encourage you to secure a location other than the Aquatic Center, which previously has been deemed unacceptable not only by both voters and election staff but also by the Board during the 2018 election cycle.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Keeffe