

TO: Montgomery County Board of Elections

From: Carol Petzold. Resident 13-46

Date: Monday, November 18, 2019

Re: Location of polling place for 13-46

I am Carol Petzold, a resident of 13-46 for more than 5 decades, I feel strongly about having our polling place within our precinct and within walking distance for many of our voters. This will be in keeping with your policy to have the polling place within the precinct whenever possible. It is now possible to return our polling place to our precinct.

Precinct 13-46 voted at English Manor Elementary School for over 50 years before deterioration and then renovation of the building forced a move to Lucy Barnsley Elementary School in 13-52, the adjacent precinct. The change required getting in a car and driving to the new site for those who had walked to the neighborhood school.

Parking is apparently an issue in moving our 13-46 polling place to its home at the newly renovated English Manor Center (EM). The same spaces that were used for over 50 years are still available plus 3 additional handicapped spaces. The driveway in front of the building is now clearly marked for parking. An additional 18 spaces may become available by April 18, 2020. There is a long stretch of on-street parking on the Center's side of the street. The beauty of the building has always been that there are no steps, no need for ramps and easy access to the entrance. I counted 55 parking spaces, a few more than when we last voted there. All spaces are reasonably close to the front door of the EM building with no steps or ramps to enter the building. Handicapped spaces are only a few steps to the entrance with easy accessibility. Parking was not an issue at the English Manor polling site in the past. The population of the precinct has not increased to make it an issue now.

By comparison Lucy Barnsley ES has significantly more parking places; however, these all require either stairs or multiple ramps to access the polling place. The back door that might avoid some of the issues of accessibility is invisible to the voter. Parking places in front of the building are quite a distance from any entrance to the polling place.

The interior of the EM building is sparkling! The All Purpose room, which would be used for voting, is spacious with new windows, new paint, new flooring. It looks great. At the east end of the room, there is children's play equipment which can be easily moved to the storage room that has been made from the former stage on the west end of the All Purpose room. There are 70+ adult-sized chairs that will adequately handle Election Day needs. A separate room is available with 3 tables for election judges to take a break or to eat.

Although some of the MCPS programs in the building may have employees on site on Election Day at the EM Center, checking on scheduling for April 28<sup>th</sup>, only the Infants and Toddlers program may have 3 to 4 families for on site mid-day-- none during morning and evening rush hours. The Child Find program has scheduled clients for April but not April 28. Building Service Training is scheduled for April but not on April 28. . For the General Election, none of the 5 offices will be open.

As you consider designating polling places today, I ask that you return our precinct's polling place to its home at the English Manor Center.