Harrisonburg City Electoral Board
Minutes
Monday – February 14, 2022
9:00 a.m.
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Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair of Electoral Board, Wiens at 9:02 a.m.
Meeting broadcast on City TV.

In Attendance

Electoral Board Members; Dave Wiens, Chair, Sandra Price-Stroble, V.Chair Jane Grant Burner, Secretary: Mark Finks, Director of Elections and Katrina Gerald, Assistant Director of Elections.

Grant Burner made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Price-Stroble.
All board members voted in favor.

Price-Stroble made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Wiens.
All board members voted in favor.

Director of Elections Report

1. **Directors Report Attached:**
   - **State Redistricting**
   - **JMU Precinct Locations**
   - **Harrisonburg Precinct Boundaries**
   Nothing will change this year for a Primary but changes will be made for the November Election.
2. **A fifth employee will possibly be considered for the Registrar's Office.**
3. **New locations will be reviewed and considered for (5) different JMU possible precinct locations. City Council created the first JMU location in 2015.**
4. **Attached is a letter from JMU College Republicans, JMU College Democrats, and Center for Civic Engagement at the JMU**
   Key Issues for precincts in Attachment
   - **A Precinct Presentation will be made by the Registrar to City Council on March 8th. A vote will take place at the council meeting the second Tuesday in April.**
   - **The JMU precinct location change has already been publicized.**

***** Meeting opened to public comment at 9:45 a.m.**
No Public Comment

Open discussion with Electoral Board concerning JMU Campus Locations

- **Motion was made by Price-Stroble to choose Godwin Hall Location**
- **Motion was made by Wiens to choose Godwin Hall Location**
- **Motion was made by Grant Burner to choose X-Labs Location**

Decision to choose Godwin Hall location was passed.
Note: Ordinance Change per paperwork attached

*****Meeting open to public comment again at 10:23 a.m.**
No Public Comment

Closed Session

Price-Stroble made a motion and motion was seconded by Grant Burner that the Board enter into executive session at 10:27 a.m. for the purpose of 24.2-625.1.B of the Code of Virginia, (ii) discussion and consideration of personnel, the appointment of prospective City of Harrisonburg Officers of Election.
All voted in favor.

Return to Public Session

Price -Stroble made a motion to return to Public Session at 10:40 a.m. and motion was seconded by Wiens.

RESOLVED, that to the best knowledge of each member of this Board (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of Chapter 37 (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which today's executive session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the executive session.----. Roll Call vote: Wiens, yes: Price-Stroble, yes;
and Grant Burner, yes.

Final Business

The next Electoral Board Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on
Monday – March 14th.

Adjournment

The motion was made by Grant Burner and seconded by Wiens to adjourn the Electoral Board meeting at 10:40 a.m. All voted in favor.

Respectively submitted,
Jane Grant Burner, Secretary

February 14, 2022

To,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signed,

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

(1) Ward No. 1 (East Ward).

a. *Precinct No. 1.* The boundaries of the northeast election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 1 in Ward No. 1, are as follows:

i. Beginning at the intersection of North Main Street and East Rock Street; then east along the centerline of East Rock Street to Summit Street; then south along the centerline of Summit Street to East Wolfe Street; then east along the centerline of East Wolfe Street to Old Furnace Road; then east along the centerline of Old Furnace Road to Vine Street; then south along the centerline of Vine Street until just before its intersection with Honeysuckle Lane; then along the rear lot lines of the houses fronting on Honeysuckle Lane to Star Crest Drive; then along the rear lot lines of the house fronting on the west side of Blue Ridge Drive to Country Club Road; then south along the centerline of Country Club Road to the southbound lane of Interstate 81; then north along the southbound lane of Interstate 81 to the city limit boundary; then counterclockwise around the city limits to the intersection of the city limit boundary with North Main Street; then south along the centerline of North Main Street to the point of beginning.

ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 1, Ward No. 1 shall be Simms School.

b. *Precinct No. 2.* The boundaries of the east central election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 2 in Ward No. 1, are as follows:

i. Beginning at the intersection of North Main Street and East Rock Street; then east along the centerline of East Rock Street to Summit Street; then south along the centerline of Summit Street to East Wolfe Street; then east along the centerline of East Wolfe Street to Old Furnace Road; then east along the centerline of Old Furnace Road to Vine Street; then south along the centerline of Vine Street until just before its intersection with Honeysuckle Lane; then along the rear lot lines of the houses fronting on Honeysuckle Land and following the rear lot lines of the houses fronting on the west side of Blue Ridge Drive to Country Club Road; then south along the centerline of Country Club Road to Country Club Court; then west along the centerline of Country Club Court to its intersection with the railroad right-of-way; then west along the centerline of the railroad right-of-way to its intersection with East Market Street; then south along the centerline of East Market Street to its intersection with University Boulevard; then west along the centerline of University Boulevard to its intersection with Reservoir Street; then north along the centerline of Reservoir Street to its intersection with Eastover Drive; then west along the centerline of Eastover Drive to its intersection with Paul Street; then north along the centerline of Paul Street to its intersection with Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; then west along the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way to its intersection with South Main Street; then north along the centerline of North Main Street to the point of beginning.

ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 2, Ward No. 1 shall be Spotswood Elementary School.

c. *Precinct No. 3.* The boundaries of the southeast election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 3 in Ward No. 1, are as follows:
    i. Beginning at the intersection of the city's southern limits with the southbound lane of Interstate 81; then north along the southbound lane of Interstate 81 to its intersection with Port Republic Road; then east along the centerline of Port Republic Road to the northbound entrance 245 of Interstate 81; then north along the property lines adjacent to the northbound entrance 245 of Interstate 81 to the intersection of University Boulevard and Hickory Hill Drive; then north and east along the centerline of University Boulevard until just before its intersection with Modular Hill Lane; then heading in a southeast direction along the northeast boundaries of the Forest Hill Subdivision and the Ashby Heights Subdivision to the city limits; then clockwise around the city limits to the point of beginning.
    ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 3, Ward No. 1 shall be Stone Spring Elementary School.
d. *Precinct No. 4.* The boundaries of the east election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 4 in Ward No. 1, are as follows:
    i. Beginning at the intersection of the city's northern limits with the northbound lane of Interstate 81; then south along the northbound lane of Interstate 81 to its intersection with Country Club Road; then west along the centerline of Country Club Road to Country Club Court; then west along the centerline of Country Club Court to its intersection with the railroad right-of-way; then west along the centerline of the railroad right-of-way to its intersection with East Market Street; then sound along the centerline of East Market Street to its intersection with University Boulevard; then west along the centerline of University Boulevard until just after its intersection with Modular Hill Lane; then heading in a southeast direction along the northeast boundaries of the Forest Hill Subdivision and the Ashby Heights Subdivision to the city limits; then counterclockwise around the city limits to the point of beginning.
    ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 4, Ward No. 1 shall be Smithland Road Elementary School.
e. *Precinct No. 5.* The boundaries of the southeast central election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 5 in Ward No. 1, are as follows:
    i. Beginning at the intersection of South Main Street and Port Republic Road; then north along the centerline of South Main Street to its intersection with Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; then east along the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way to its intersection with Paul Street; then south along the centerline of Paul Street to its intersection with Eastover Drive; then east along the centerline of Eastover Drive to its intersection with Reservoir Street; then south along the centerline of Reservoir Street to its intersection with University Boulevard; then west along the centerline of University Boulevard to its intersection with Oak Hill Drive at Interstate 81; then south along the northbound entrance 245 of Interstate 81 to its intersection with Port Republic Road; then west along the centerline of Port Republic Road to the point of beginning.

ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 5, Ward No. 1 shall be the James Madison University Godwin Hall.

(2) Ward No. 2 (West Ward).

a. *Precinct No. 1.* The boundaries of the northwest election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 1 in Ward No. 2, are as follows:

i. Beginning at the intersection of North Main Street and East Wolfe Street; then north along the centerline of North Main Street to the city limits; then counterclockwise around the city limits to its intersection with Mt. Clinton Pike; then east along the centerline of Mt. Clinton Pike to its intersection with Chicago Avenue; then south along the centerline of Chicago Avenue to its intersection with Waterman Drive; then southwest along the centerline Waterman Drive to its intersection with West Market Street; then east along the centerline West Market Street to its intersection with North Dogwood Drive; then north along the centerline North Dogwood Drive to its intersection with West Wolfe Street; then east along the centerline of West Wolfe Street to the point of beginning.

ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 1, Ward No. 2 shall be Waterman Elementary School.

b. *Precinct No. 2.* The boundaries of the southwest election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 2 in Ward No. 2, are as follows:

i. Beginning at the intersection of the southbound lane of Interstate 81 and the city limits; then north along the southbound lane of Interstate 81 to its intersection with Port Republic Road; then west along the centerline of Port Republic Road to its intersection with South Main Street; then north along the centerline of South Main Street to its intersection with Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; then west along the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way to its intersection with South High Street; then south along the centerline of South High Street to its intersection with South Avenue; then west along the centerline of South Avenue to just beyond its intersection with South Dogwood Drive; then southwest following the rear lot lines of the lots adjoining the northwest side of South Dogwood Drive to the city limits; then counterclockwise around the city limits to the point of beginning.

ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 2, Ward No. 2 shall be Keister Elementary School.

c. *Precinct No. 3.* The boundaries of the west center election district or precinct, being Precinct No. 3 in Ward No. 2, are as follows:

i. Beginning at the intersection of the western city limits with Mt. Clinton Pike; then east along the centerline of Mt. Clinton Pike to its intersection with Chicago Avenue; then south along the centerline of Chicago Avenue to its intersection with Waterman Drive; then south along the centerline of Waterman Drive to its intersection with West Market Street; then east along the centerline of West Market Street to its intersection with North Dogwood Drive; then north along the centerline of North Dogwood Drive to its intersection with West Wolfe Street; then east along the centerline of West Wolfe Street to its

intersection with North Main Street; then south along the centerline of North Main Street to its intersection with Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; then west along the centerline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way to its intersection with South High Street; then south along the centerline of South High Street to its intersection with South Avenue; then west along the centerline of South Avenue to just beyond its intersection with South Dogwood Drive; then southwest following the rear lot lines of the lots adjoining the northwest side of South Dogwood Drive to the city limits; then clockwise around the city limits to the point of beginning.

ii. The voting precinct for Precinct No. 3, Ward No. 2 shall be Thomas Harrison Middle School.

Sec. 1-1-11. – Designation and boundaries of wards.

The territory within the corporate limits of the city~~, including the area annexed to the city January 1, 1983,~~ shall be divided into two (2) wards, to be known, respectively, as the east ward and the west ward, and the boundaries thereof shall be as follows: The east ward, being Ward No. 1, shall comprise all that portion of the city lying east of the line beginning at the intersection of the city's northern limits with North Main Street; then south along the centerline of Main Street to its intersection with Port Republic Road; then east along the centerline of Port Republic Road to its intersection with Interstate 81; then south along the centerline of the southbound lane of Interstate 81 to the city's southern limits. ~~center line of Main Street and the~~ The west ward, being Ward No. 2, shall comprise all that portion of the city lying west of the same line ~~center line of Main Street~~.

CITY OF HARRISONBURG
VOTER
REGISTRAR

HARRISONBURG CITY HALL
409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
OFFICE (540) 432-7707 • FAX (540) 432-7784

To: Electoral Board
From: General Registrar
Date: February 14, 2022 (Regular Meeting)
Re: JMU Polling Location Change

Summary:

In 2020 James Madison University (JMU) alerted the General Registrar that 2021 would be the last year that the Convocation Center would be available for use as a polling location. Working with representatives from JMU the General Registrar and the Electoral Board have toured campus to find a suitable replacement polling location.

Background:

In 2015 City Council voted to create an individual precinct for JMU campus. The Convocation Center was chosen as the polling location for several reasons. With planned renovation of the Convocation Center in 2022 it will not be available to be used as a polling location for more then a year. Rather then find a temporary polling location the General Registrar has determined that the best choice is to find a new permeant polling location for precinct 105.

When precinct 105 was created in 2015 it included a few streets not on JMU campus. These streets include. East Fairview Avenue, MapleHurst Avenue, Moffett Terrace and Hillcrest Drive. These streets typically have around 100 registered voters. On JMU campus registration numbers can fluctuate between 500 to 3,000. There is a small contingent of on campus students at 42 West Grace Street that fall outside of the 105 precinct, because this student hall falls on the west side of the ward line it can't be included in 105.

On Tuesday January 11th the General Registrar toured the following locations on campus; Student Success Center, Godwin Hall, University Recreation Center (URec), Festival Conference and Student Center, and Atlantic Union Bank Center. Based on that tour the General Registrar determined that URec and the Student Success Center did not meet all state required criteria. On Friday February 4th the General Registrar and the Electoral Board toured the following locations on campus; JMU X Labs, Godwin Hall, Festival Conference and Student Center, and Atlantic Union Bank Center.

Key Issues:

There are several factors that need to be addressed when choosing a polling location on JMU campus.

1. The polling place must be located within the boundaries of 105 or within one mile of that boundary.
2. The space is compliant with American with Disabilities Act requirements for polling locations.
3. The location has available parking for voters, and staff.
4. There is at least one parking space that can be used for curbside parking that is within 150 feet of an entrance to the polling location.
5. The polling location is not located interior to the campus gates.
6. Convenience of location for voters on and off campus should be considered.

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7. The location should be able to handle a high turn out election in terms of size.
8. The location needs to have availability throughout the year given the possibility that a special election could happen at any time.

Considering these factors staff has created a weighted number system for each precinct, starting from 1 to 5 with a total possible score of 25. The higher the score the more criteria a location meets to be an acceptable polling location.

Criteria: convenience for students, convenience for off campus voters and staff, meets state criteria, availability, and size.

Student Success Center Convenience for students: 4 Convenience for off-campus and staff: 4 Meets state criteria: 1 Availability: 1 Size: 3 **Total: 13**	**URec** Convenience for students: 3 Convenience for off-campus and staff: 3 Meets state criteria: 1 Availability: 1 Size: 5 **Total: 13**
Festival Conference and Student Center Convenience for students: 3 Convenience for off-campus and staff: 5 Meets state criteria: 4 Availability: 1 Size: 5 **Total: 18**	**Atlantic Union Bank Center** Convenience for students:1 Convenience for off-campus and staff: 5 Meets state criteria: 5 Availability: 3 Size: 5 **Total: 19**
Godwin Hall Convenience for students: 5 Convenience for off-campus and staff: 3 Meets state criteria: 2 Availability: 5 Size: 5 **Total: 20**	**JMU X-Labs** Convenience for students: 2 Convenience for off-campus and staff: 5 Meets state criteria: 5 Availability: 5 Size: 3 **Total: 20**

The timetable for adopting a new polling location is as follows. After the ordinance has been presented to City Council it has to go through a thirty-day public comment period before it can be voted on. A new location needs to be adopted by City Council before April 25th after the thirty-day public comment has elapsed.

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Environmental Impact:
N/A

Fiscal Impact:
N/A

Prior Actions:
N/A

Alternatives:
(a) Recommend approval of JMU X-Labs as new polling location
(b) Recommend approval of Godwin Hall as new polling location
(c) Recommend approval of Atlantic Union Bank Center as new polling location
(d) Recommend approval of Festival Center as new polling location
(e) Table discussion

Community Engagement:
We have sent out our meeting notice to the email list. There was a social media post about this meeting.

Recommendation:
General Registrar recommends alternative (a) or (b)

Attachments:
N/A

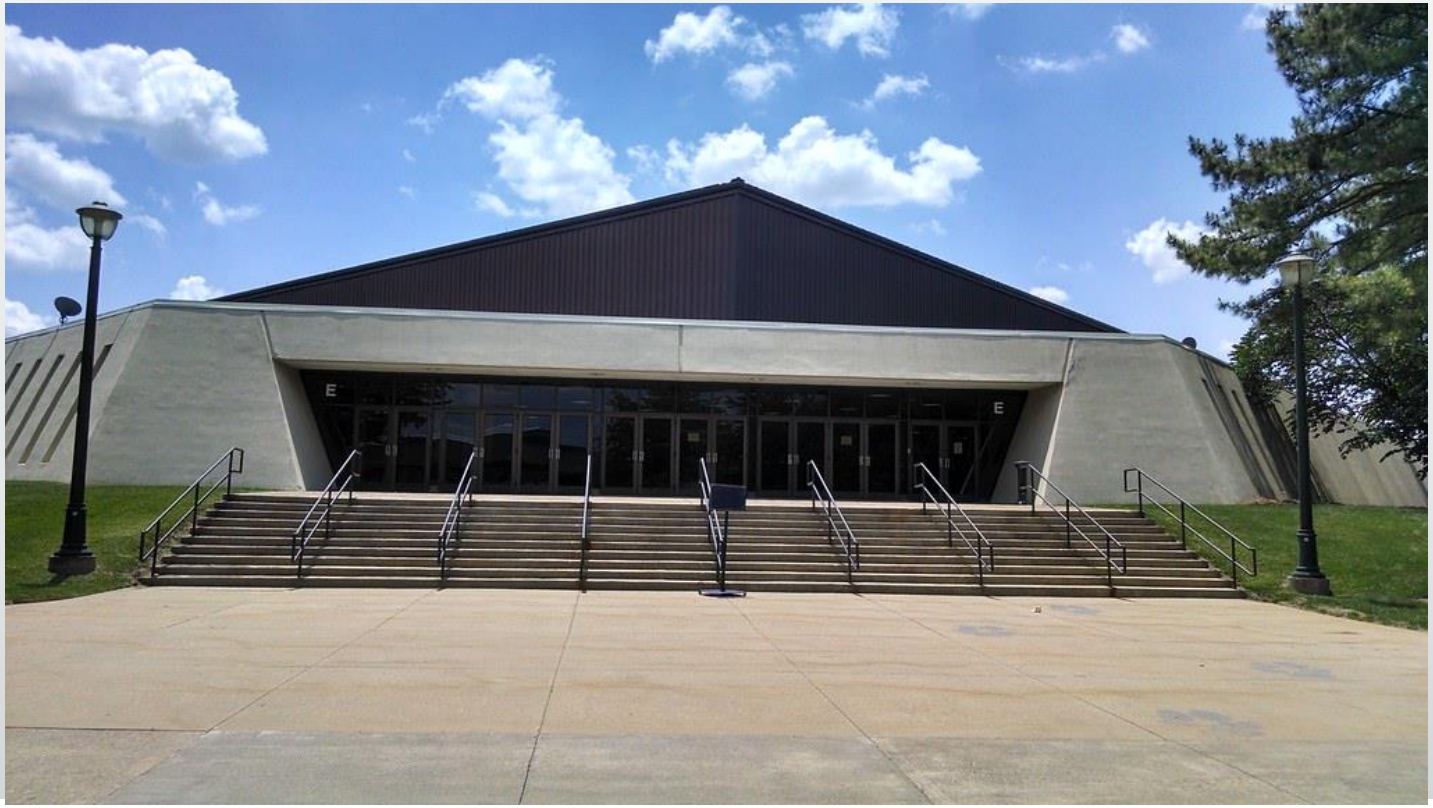
Review:
N/A

JMU Polling Location

February 14, 2022

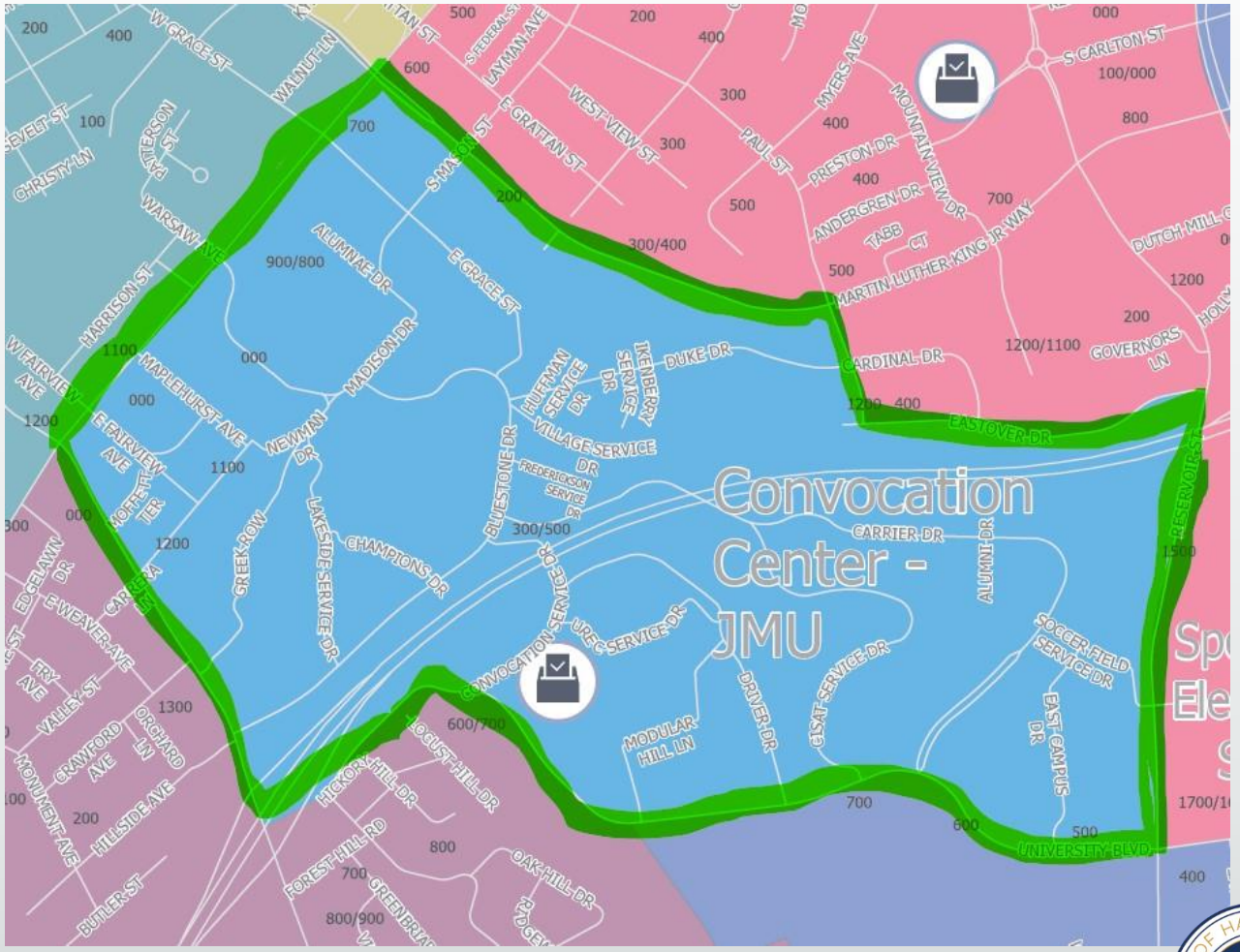
Summary

In 2020 James Madison University (JMU) alerted the General Registrar that 2021 would be the last year that the Convocation Center would be available for use as a polling location. Working with representatives from JMU the General Registrar and the Electoral Board have toured campus to find a suitable replacement polling location.



Background

In 2015 City Council voted to create an individual precinct for JMU campus. The Convocation Center was chosen as the polling location for several reasons. With planned renovation of the Convocation Center in 2022 it will not be available to be used as a polling location for more then a year. Rather then find a temporary polling location the General Registrar has determined that the best choice is to find a new permeant polling location for precinct 105.



Key Issues

There are several factors that need to be addressed when choosing a polling location on JMU campus.

1. The polling place must be located within the boundaries of 105 or within one mile of that boundary.
2. The space is compliant with American with Disabilities Act requirements for polling locations.
3. The location has available parking for voters, and staff.
4. There is at least one parking space that can be used for curbside parking that is within 150 feet of an entrance to the polling location.
5. The polling location is not located interior to the campus gates.
6. Convenience of location for voters on and off campus should be considered.
7. The location should be able to handle a high turn out election in terms of size.
8. The location needs to have availability throughout the year given the possibility that a special election could happen at any time.

Key Issues

Considering these factors staff has created a weighted number system for each precinct, starting from 1 to 5 with a total possible score of 25. The higher the score the more criteria a location meets to be an acceptable polling location.

Criteria:

1. Convenience for students
2. Convenience for off campus voters and staff
3. Meets state criteria
4. Availability
5. Size

Student Success Center

738 S Mason St, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

<u>Criteria:</u>

Convenience for students: 4

Convenience for off-campus and staff: 4

Meets state criteria: 1

Availability: 1

Size: 3

Total: 13

University Recreation Center (URec)

701 Driver Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Criteria:

Convenience for students: 3
Convenience for off-campus and staff: 3
Meets state criteria: 1
Availability: 1
Size: 5
Total: 13

Festival Conference and Student Center

1301 Carrier Dr, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Criteria:

Convenience for students: 3

Convenience for off-campus and staff: 5

Meets state criteria: 4

Availability: 1

Size: 5

Total: 18

Atlantic Union Bank Center

645 University Blvd, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Criteria:

Convenience for students:1

Convenience for off-campus and staff: 5

Meets state criteria: 5

Availability: 3

Size: 5

Total: 19

Godwin Hall

261 Bluestone Dr, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Criteria:

Convenience for students: 5

Convenience for off-campus and staff: 3

Meets state criteria: 2

Availability: 5

Size: 5

Total: 20

JMU X-Labs

298 Port Republic Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Criteria:

Convenience for students: 2

Convenience for off-campus and staff: 5

Meets state criteria: 5

Availability: 5

Size: 3

Total: 20

Recommendation

(a) Recommend approval of JMU X-Labs as new polling location
(b) Recommend approval of Godwin Hall as new polling location
(c) Recommend approval of Atlantic Union Bank Center as new polling location
(d) Recommend approval of Festival Center as new polling location
(e) Table discussion

General Registrar recommends (a) or (b)

Questions?