



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of May 19, 2012

DATE: April 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Request to advertise a public hearing on proposed amendments to the ordinance on precincts and polling places

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the advertisement of a public hearing on June 16, 2012 to consider the attached proposed amendments to the ordinance on precincts and polling places, specifically, to adjust the precinct boundaries between the Barcroft 005 and Jefferson 027 Precincts (see Attachment 1).

ISSUES: There is a need to adjust precinct boundaries to better serve certain voters.

SUMMARY: The General Registrar and Electoral Board recommend precinct boundary changes to two precincts.

BACKGROUND: When the General Assembly enacted redistricting changes for the House of Delegates in 2011, they split the Jefferson Precinct 027 between the 47th and 49th House of Delegates Districts. In June 2011 the County Board approved a change to the ordinance on precincts and polling places to adjust precinct boundaries between Barcroft 005 and Jefferson 027 Precincts, along with a number of other changes, in order to eliminate issues associated with managing split precincts. This particular change resulted in some voters who reside in the vicinity of their former polling place being considerably inconvenienced by needing to travel further to vote.

DISCUSSION: The General Registrar and the Arlington County Electoral Board recommend the following changes to the County ordinance, attached in part (Attachment 1), establishing precinct boundaries and polling places. The proposed changes will take effect with the November 6, 2012 general and special election, pending approval by the U.S. Department of Justice. Virginia law requires polling places and precincts be established by County ordinance.

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

[Signature]

Staff: Linda Lindberg

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Some voters relocated from the Jefferson 027 Precinct to the Barcroft 005 Precinct during 2011 were considerably inconvenienced by the change, which was intended to prevent a precinct split and avoid potential multiple ballot management issues. These voters live immediately adjacent to the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, the voting location for the Jefferson Precinct. The General Assembly drew the House of Delegates boundaries so that the northern portion of Jefferson Precinct was in the 47th House District, with the southern portion in the 49th. See Attachment 2, Figure 1.

The 2011 change enacted by the County Board at the recommendation of the General Registrar and Electoral Board moved all Jefferson Precinct voters in the 47th House District to Barcroft Precinct, which is also in the 47th House District. Jefferson Precinct subsequently was comprised of voters in the 49th House District only. See Attachment 2, Figure 2.

Following voter complaints, the Electoral Board worked with General Assembly members to propose a technical adjustment to the House of Delegates Districts that would enable the move of the inconvenienced voters back to the Jefferson Precinct by the creation of a new precinct from portions of the present Jefferson and Barcroft Precincts. Although such legislation was introduced and ultimately incorporated in an omnibus bill of technical adjustments to other House boundaries, it was not enacted during the 2012 session.

The General Registrar and Electoral Board recommend moving approximately 825 voters from Barcroft Precinct back to Jefferson Precinct to help prevent voter confusion during the high-turnout November 6, 2012 election. Since 2012 is not an election year for House of Delegates, the Jefferson Precinct, though still split between two House Districts, will have a single ballot for all voters. The General Registrar and Electoral Board will continue to work with General Assembly members to try to make the necessary technical adjustments during the 2013 session.

The General Registrar and Electoral Board recommend that about 125 of the voters moved in 2011 remain in the Barcroft Precinct, as their current polling place of Barcroft School is now closer to their homes than is the Thomas Jefferson Center. See Attachment 2, Figure 3.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BOUNDARIES OF VOTING PRECINCTS AND POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, that:

1. Pursuant to Chapter 3, Article 3 of Title 24.2, Elections, of the Code of Virginia, the following amended boundaries of voter election precincts and polling place locations are hereby adopted:

005 BARCROFT PRECINCT

Beginning at the intersection of the centerlines of Arlington Boulevard and Lubber Run; thence in a southerly direction with the centerline of Lubber Run to its intersection with the centerline of Four Mile Run; thence in a southwesterly direction with the centerline of Four Mile Run to its intersection with the centerline of Columbia Pike; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of Columbia Pike to its intersection with the centerline of South Quincy Street; thence in a northerly direction with the centerline of South Quincy Street to its intersection with the centerline of the driveway entrance to the Arlington Hall Reservation in the vicinity of 6th Street South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of the driveway entrance to its intersection with the south boundary of the Arlington Hall Reservation; thence following the south boundary of the Arlington Hall Reservation in an easterly direction to the east boundary of the Arlington Hall Reservation; thence in a northerly direction with the east boundary line of the Arlington Hall Reservation to the north boundary line of the Arlington Hall Reservation; thence in a westerly direction with the north boundary line of the Arlington Hall Reservation 6th Street South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of 6th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Glebe Road; thence in a northwesterly direction with the centerline of South Glebe Road to its intersection with the centerline of 2nd Street South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of 2nd Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Fillmore Street; thence in a northerly direction with the centerline of South Fillmore Street to its intersection with the centerline of Arlington

Boulevard; thence in a westerly direction with the centerline of Arlington Boulevard to its intersection with the centerline of Lubber Run, the point of beginning.

The polling place is located at Barcroft Elementary School, 625 South Wakefield Street.

027 JEFFERSON PRECINCT

Beginning at the intersection of the centerlines of Arlington Boulevard and South Fillmore Street; thence in a southerly direction with the centerline of South Fillmore Street to its intersection with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive; thence in a southerly direction with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive to its intersection with the centerline of 7th Street South; thence in a westerly direction with the centerline of 7th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Highland Street; thence in a southerly direction with the centerline of South Highland Street to its intersection with the centerline of 9th Street South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of 9th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive; thence in a southerly direction with the centerline of South Walter Reed Drive to its intersection with the centerline of Columbia Pike; thence in a westerly direction with the centerline of Columbia Pike to its intersection with the centerline of South Quincy Street; thence in a northerly direction with the centerline of South Quincy Street to its intersection with the centerline of the driveway entrance to Arlington Hall Reservation in the vicinity of 6th Street South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of the driveway entrance to its intersection with the south boundary line of Arlington Hall Reservation; thence following the south boundary line of Arlington Hall Reservation in an easterly direction to the east boundary line of Arlington Hall Reservation; thence in an northerly direction with the east boundary line of Arlington Hall Reservation to the north boundary line of Arlington Hall Reservation; thence in a westerly direction with the north boundary line of Arlington Hall Reservation 6th Street South; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of 6th Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Globe Road; thence in a northwesterly direction with the centerline of South Globe Road to its intersection with the centerline of 2nd Street South; thence in an easterly direction with

~~the centerline of 2nd Street South to its intersection with the centerline of South Fillmore Street; thence in a northerly direction with the centerline of South Fillmore Street to its intersection with the centerline of Arlington Boulevard; thence in an easterly direction with the centerline of Arlington Boulevard to its intersection with the centerline of South Fillmore Street, the point of beginning.~~

The polling place is the Thomas Jefferson Center, 3501 2nd Street South.

All other precincts and polling places shall remain as previously established by ordinance.

Figure 2: Current Configuration

To avoid potential ballot errors with split precinct management, in 2011 the County Board, upon recommendation from the General Registrar and Electoral Board, changed the boundaries between Jefferson Precinct 027 and the adjacent Barcroft Precinct 005, moving the portion of Jefferson in the 47th House District to Barcroft, as shown below. This created considerable inconvenience for many of those voters, as they had to go past their former polling place at the Thomas Jefferson Center to get to their new polling place at Barcroft School.



Figure 3: Proposed Change

This proposed change would restore the boundaries as they were prior to the 2011 change with one exception, as seen below, which would enable the affected voters to vote at the Thomas Jefferson Center. The southwestern boundary would remain at South Quincy Street instead of South George Mason Drive since the voters relocated in 2011 southwest of South Quincy Street reside closer to their current polling place, Barcroft School, than they do to the Thomas Jefferson Center.

