

November 2, 2023

To: Board Members of the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE); Jared DeMarinis, Administrator

My name is Seth Wilson. I am a registered voter who lives in Washington County, approximately 1.6 miles outside of Hagerstown. I urge the Board Members to approve the Hancock early voting center that was submitted by the Washington County Board of Elections (LBE). Comments made during the October 26th meeting of the SBE lead me to believe that it has been substantially misled by partisan activists. While I suppose some might lump me into that category because I am the current Chair of the Washington County Republican Central Committee, my concern has always been that all citizens of Washington County have equitable access to early voting, to the extent that is possible, and that the selection of the early voting centers is compliant with federal and state law. Please consider the following information.

As shown by the record from the special public meeting held by the LBE¹, incorporated here by reference, the process used by the LBE was transparent, robust, and public. If this detailed information was not shared with the Members of the Board prior to their October meeting, then I believe you did not have sufficient information to make a reasonably informed decision. Please review this information and consider it in your decision regarding any early voting center in Washington County.

The Election Center is a purpose-built facility, designed in part to be used as an early voting center. There is no better facility in Washington County for voting. My analysis of the SBE's own data shows approximately 85% of Washington County voters who voted early used the Election Center. Even in precinct 17-001, where the Washington County Free Library is located, only 23% of early voters used the library site in the 2022 General Election. The Election Center is used as a polling place on Election Day, but the Library is not used as a polling place on Election Day.

The support for the selection of the Election Center site in 2019 was unanimous. As shown by the record of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners, incorporated here by reference, the acquisition of the site to be used in part as the Early Voting Center was applauded by everyone attending the meeting, including members of the Washington County Republican Central Committee and the Washington County Democratic Central Committee. The Washington County Board of Commissioners has indicated its strong support for the plan submitted by the LBE to the SBE and has indicated that its approval of an optional third site was based solely on that plan.

My petition for judicial review of the selection of the library in 2022, the record of which is incorporated here by reference, was dismissed on procedural grounds. It was not "thrown out" or otherwise to be determined to be meritless.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Wilson

¹ Available at https://www.washco-mdelections.org/files/ugd/ff44a6_9bd32a5d4aa645668add1267e52fd394.pdf and https://video.wixstatic.com/video/ff44a6_da79e5710b324b2cb39486c4fb5c09e2/720p/mp4/file.mp4

To: Maryland Board of Elections,

At the public meeting held in Washington County a group of individuals, myself included, voiced their strong support for the original recommended early voting sites. In Hagerstown's 2B district, the numbers are telling – with 434 voters (28%) at the library and 1133 (72%) at Virginia Ave. Surprisingly, if each early voting site costs \$50,000 as per the county , it boils down to an exorbitant \$115 per vote for those 434 library-goers in 2B. A more economical solution would be for the political parties to provide taxi vouchers for 2B residents to vote at Virginia Avenue.

I implore Delegate Brooke Grossman, the Hagerstown City Council, and the outgoing Mayor of Hagerstown to put aside personal interests and think about the greater good of the entire county. It's time for them to take on fiscal responsibility and strongly advocate for the State Board of Elections to approve the original locations proposed by our exemplary local board of elections who was appointed by Governor Moore . The County Board of Elections have done an outstanding job, and the three original locations should be given the green light for the benefit of our community.

Respectfully submitted ,
Thomas Thorsen

Good Morning Ms. Lisa Dennis

The voting location for Hancock MD is not the only problem. There has always been a voting location in Downtown Hagerstown. Now our beloved commissioners have moved it out of downtown to a location in the county.

This is a blatant attempt to disenfranchise city voters many of whom do not own a car. There is a bus they could ride but it is an hour ride each way as the bus system is not as good as it might be in Baltimore and DC. Early voting has always been held in a government building or at our public library. There should be voting at the Washington County Free Library as it was last time. This location is easily accessible for downtown residents.

I do not live in the city and have vehicles so it doesn't concern me personally but this is just an attempt to keep city residents from voting since a majority of them are Democrats. There is more corruption in this county than could ever be in some of the more urban counties.

Thank you for listening,

Art Crampton



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

October 17, 2023

State Board of Elections
Attn: Jared Demarinis, Administrator
151 West Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Third Early Voting Center

Dear Mr. Demarinis:

At its October 10, 2023 regular meeting, the Washington County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the Boonsboro American Legion, located at 710 N. Main Street, Boonsboro, MD 21713, as the County's third Early Voting Center, in accordance with Maryland Election Law § 10.301.1(a)(10)(i). Funds are available in the FY24 Operating Budget to support a third Early Voting Center.

The Boonsboro American Legion joins The Washington County Election Center, located at 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740 and Hancock Town Hall, located at 126 W. High Street, Hancock, MD 21750, in providing Early Voting options for residents throughout the county.

The Commissioners agree with the Washington County Board of Elections that the three sites, selected together, best meet the requirements and factors of Maryland Election Law and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), and urge the State Board of Elections (SBE) to approve all three as well.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 
John F. Barr, President