



AGENDA

Washington County Board of Elections October 14, 2025

Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at **3:00PM**. Meeting will be held in person but may also be attended virtually. Call in information is provided below.

Pursuant to Maryland Code Ann., Election Law Article, § 2-208, all meetings of the Washington County Board of Elections are livestreamed and recorded, and those recordings will be posted online and archived as required by law. Livestream broadcasts and recordings may consist of video, audio or any combination thereof. By participating in any meeting, you consent to be recorded.

Call Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Declaration of Quorum Present:

Record Those Present:

Approval of Draft Agenda:

Approval of Draft Minutes of September 9, 2025 executive session:

Approval of Draft Minutes of September 9, 2025 regular session:

Correspondence:

Reports:

- I. Election Director
- II. Attorney

Unfinished Business:

- I. 2026 Election Plan
 - A. Vote on Ballot Drop Boxes
 - B. Vote on Election Day Polling Places
 - C. Early Voting
 - 1. Vote on Required Three (3) Early Voting Sites
 - 2. Discussion and Possible Vote on an Additional Optional Early Voting Site

New Business:

I. Holiday Dinner

Members Remarks:

Guest Remarks:

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Distributed Information:

Board Packet

Future Events:

October 21, 2025, 11:00am – MAEO Board Meeting in Washington County

November 3, 2025 – Clear Spring Municipal Election

November 11, 2025 – Veterans Day – Office Closed

November 24, 2025 – LBE Election Plans due to SBE

Adjournment of Regular Session:

Public Participation: Members of the public may address the Board. Pursuant to §3.2B of the Board's bylaws, public participation at a meeting must be pre-scheduled and pre-approved by the President. To request approval to speak at a board meeting, contact Barry Jackson at 240.313.2054 or by Email at barry.jackson@maryland.gov no later than 5 pm the day before the meeting.

Call In Instructions for the Meeting:

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/djc-pbrg-ckb

Dial-in: (US) +1 321-586-2420

PIN: 654 242 640#

Director's Report – October 14, 2025

A. Personnel –

1. Anna Dolman's (Outreach Coordinator) last day is October 22nd. We have submitted paperwork to SBE to rehire for the position.
2. Reopening IT/Warehouse Clerk position to get more applicants
3. Interviewing Training Coordinator applicants October 23rd and 24th.

B. Meetings:

1. SBE/LBE Collaboration Meeting:
 - a) Highlights from October 9, 2025 meeting:
 - (1) Chatter among General Assembly about redistricting in special session this fall.
 - (2) New Campaign Reporting Information System (MDCRIS) migration underway – go-live fall 2025
 - (3) New pollbook procurement (2028) was awarded, but it has been protested by another vendor.
 - (4) New voting system (2028) proposals are in, technical evaluations underway
 - (5) Mail In Ballot Drop Box reconfiguration of lock flap.
 - (6) Katie Berry, SBE Deputy Administrator, will begin weekly "check-ins" with LBE directors and deputy directors on November 5th and run through at least the Primary Election.
 - b) Next Meeting: November 20, 2025.
2. MAEO Meeting in Washington County! – October 21, 2025
3. Certified Maryland Election Administrator Program Meeting in Calvert County, October 1, 2025 – next meeting in Frederick County on October 20, 2025.

C. Legislative Update: N/A.

D. Voter Registration Activities and Statistics:

1. Registration Statistics for September 2025 were distributed to the Board.

E. Candidate Filings: Candidate Filing for 2026 Gubernatorial Election began February 25, 2025. There have been 15 filings so far:

1. 2 for County Commissioner
2. 1 for Clerk of the Circuit Court
3. 1 for Register of Wills
4. 4 for Democratic Central Committee
5. 2 for Republican Central Committee
6. 2 for Sheriff
7. 2 for States Attorney
8. 1 for Board of Education

F. Voting System Activities:

1. Pollbook battery tests completed today

G. Projects:

1. New Website
2. "I Voted" Sticker Contest
3. Election Management Software and Services
4. Election Operations Center

2026 Gubernatorial Election
Ballot Drop Box Locations
Washington County

Drop Box Name	Location
Election Center	17718 Virginia Ave Hagerstown MD 21740
Williamsport Town Hall	2 N. Conococheague St. Williamsport, MD 21795
Clear Spring Town Hall	146 Cumberland St. Clear Spring, MD 21722
Hancock Town Hall	126 W. High St. Hancock, MD 21750
Washington County Free Library	100 S. Potomac St. Hagerstown, MD 21740
Smithsburg Town Hall	21 W. Water St. Smithsburg, MD 21783
Boonsboro Town Hall	21 N. Main St. Boonsboro, MD 21713
Keedysville Town Hall	19 S. Main St. Keedysville, MD 21756

Washington County Polling Place List by District-Precinct

Dist-Prec	Polling Place	Address	City - Zip	Room
01-0	Sharpsburg Elem. School	17525 Shepherdstown Pike	Sharpsburg, 21782	Gymnasium
02-1 / 02-2	Williamsport High School	5 S. Clifton Drive	Williamsport, 21795	Cafeteria
03-1	Potomac Towers	11 W. Baltimore Street	Hagerstown, 21740	Gymnasium
03-2	Girls Inc.	626 Washington Avenue	Hagerstown, 21740	Gymnasium
04-0	Clear Spring High School	12630 Broadfording Road	Clear Spring, 21722	Lobby
05-0	Hancock Middle/Senior HS	289 W. Main Street	Hancock, 21750	Cafeteria
06-0	Boonsboro High School	10 Campus Avenue	Boonsboro, 21713	Gymnasium
07-1	Smithsburg Elem. School	67 N. Main Street	Smithsburg, 21783	Cafeteria
07-2	Smithsburg Middle School	68 N. Main Street	Smithsburg, 21783	Cafeteria
08-0	Pleasant Valley Baptist Church	3346 Gapland Road	Rohrersville, 21779	Fellowship Hall
09-0	Leitersburg Ruritan Community Center	21427 Leiter St	Hagerstown, 21742	Gymnasium
10-1	South Hagerstown HS - Gymnasium	1101 S. Potomac Street	Hagerstown, 21740	Gymnasium
10-2 / 10-4	Rockland Woods Elementary School	18201 Rockland Drive	Hagerstown, 21740	Gym
10-3 / 10-5	Eastern Elem. School	1320 Yale Drive	Hagerstown, 21742	Cafeteria
11-1	Pleasant Valley Elem. School	1707 Rohrersville Road	Knoxville, 21758	Gym/Cafeteria
11-2	Potomac Valley Fire Hall	2202 Dargan School Road	Sharpsburg, 21782	
12-0	Community VFC of Dist 12 Banquet Ctr	18002 Tilghmanton Road	Fairplay, 21733	Banquet Center
13-1 / 13-2	Maugansville Elem. School	18023 Maugans Avenue	Hagerstown, 21740	Gymnasium
14-1	Ringgold Ruritan Club	14247 Windy Haven Road	Smithsburg, 21783	
14-2	Fort Ritchie Community Center	14421 Lake Royer Dr	Cascade, 21719	Blue Room
15-0	Big Pool Community Hall	11411 Tedrick Drive	Big Pool, 21711	Main Room
16-0	Greenbrier Elem. School	21222 San Mar Road	Boonsboro, 21713	Gymnasium
17-0	Bester Elem. School - Gym	385 Mill St.	Hagerstown, 21740	Gymnasium
18-1	Bethel United Methodist Church (Chewsville)	21006 Twin Springs Drive	Smithsburg, 21783	Family Life Center
18-2 / 18-4	Maranatha Brethren Church	19835 Scott Hill Drive	Hagerstown, 21742	Fellowship Hall
18-3	Hagerstown Community College ARCC Bldg	11400 Robinwood Drive, ARCC Buildin	Hagerstown, 21742	Lobby of ARCC Building
19-0	Little Antietam Community Center	40 Mt. Vernon Drive	Keedysville, 21756	Multi-purpose room
20-0	Downsville Ruritan Club	8629 Downsville Pike	Williamsport, 21795	
21-0	North Hagerstown High School	1200 Pennsylvania Avenue	Hagerstown, 21742	Gymnasium
22-1	Trinity Lutheran Church	15 Randolph Avenue	Hagerstown, 21740	Fellowship Hall
22-2 / 22-3	Pangborn Elem. School	195 Pangborn Blvd.	Hagerstown, 21740	Gym
23-0	Heritage Academy	12215 Walnut Point West	Hagerstown, 21740	Gymnasium
24-1	WACOHU Grange Hall	16412 National Pike	Hagerstown, 21740	Main Room
25-1	Bethel Gardens Comm. Center	356 Henry Avenue	Hagerstown, 21740	Conference Room
25-2	Western Heights Middle School	1300 Marshall Street	Hagerstown, 21740	Cafeteria
25-3	Salem Avenue Elem. School	1323 Salem Avenue	Hagerstown, 21740	Gymnasium
26-1	Washington County Election Center	17718 Virginia Avenue	Hagerstown, 21740	
26-2	Lincolnshire Elem. School	17545 Lincolnshire Road	Hagerstown, 21740	Cafeteria
27-1	Fountaindale Elem. School	901 Northern Avenue	Hagerstown, 21742	Cafeteria
27-2 / 27-3	Paramount Elem. School	19410 Longmeadow Road	Hagerstown, 21742	Cafeteria

Polling Places: 40 Precincts: 47

Election Law

Title 10 - Polling Places

Subtitle 3 - Polling Place Procedures

Section 10-301.1 - Early Voting and Early Voting Centers

(a) Except as provided under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article, during any regularly scheduled primary or general election a voter may vote:

(1) in the voter's assigned precinct on election day; or

(2) at an early voting center in the voter's county of residence on any early voting day in accordance with this section.

(b) (1) Each county shall have at least one early voting center established in the county as prescribed in this subsection.

(2) A county with fewer than 50,000 registered voters shall have one early voting center established in the county.

(3) A county with at least 50,000 registered voters but fewer than 100,000 registered voters shall have two early voting centers established in the county.

(4) A county with at least 100,000 registered voters but fewer than 200,000 registered voters shall have three early voting centers established in the county.

(5) A county with at least 200,000 registered voters but fewer than 300,000 registered voters shall have five early voting centers established in the county.

(6) A county with at least 300,000 registered voters but fewer than 400,000 registered voters shall have seven early voting centers established in the county.

(7) A county with at least 400,000 registered voters but fewer than 500,000 registered voters shall have nine early voting centers established in the county.

(8) A county with at least 500,000 registered voters but fewer than 600,000 registered voters shall have 11 early voting centers established in the county.

(9) A county with at least 600,000 registered voters shall have 13 early voting centers established in the county.

(10) In addition to the early voting centers required in this subsection, each county may establish one additional early voting center if:

(i) first, the local board and the governing body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center; and

(ii) then, the State Board approves the establishment of the additional early voting center.

(c) (1) No later than 6 months before a primary election, the local board in each county shall, subject to the approval of the State Board, designate each early voting center in that county.

(2) A local board shall take into account the following factors when determining the location of an early voting center:

(i) accessibility of the early voting center to historically disenfranchised communities, including cultural groups, ethnic groups, and minority groups;

(ii) proximity of the early voting center to dense concentrations of voters;

(iii) accessibility of the early voting center by public transportation;

(iv) ensuring equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county; and

(v) maximizing voter participation, including through the use of community centers and public gathering places as locations for early voting centers.

Chapter 281

(Senate Bill 259)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Local Boards of Elections – Election Plan Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring a local board of elections to submit an election plan to the State Board of Elections for approval at least a certain number of months before each statewide primary election; establishing requirements related to an election plan; altering the requirements related to polling place plans, ballot drop box plans, and early voting center plans; and generally relating to local boards of elections and election plans.

BY repealingArticle – Election LawSection 2–303(h) and 10–301.1(c)Annotated Code of Maryland(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Election Law

Section 2–303.1, 2–304, and 10–301.1(d) through (h)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

~~BY repealing~~~~Article – Election Law~~~~Section 10–301.1(e)~~~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~~~(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Election Law2–303.

[(h) (1) The requirements of this subsection do not apply if a local board is creating a new precinct or changing a precinct boundary or polling place under subsection (f) of this section during the period beginning 21 days before election day through election day.]

(2) Each local board shall:

(i) maintain a contact list of individuals and organizations who wish to be notified about local board meetings at which proposed changes to the locations of polling places will be discussed; and

(ii) enable individuals and organizations to register for the contact list maintained in accordance with item (i) of this paragraph.

(3) A local board may not vote to change the location of a polling place unless the local board first:

(i) holds a meeting to discuss the proposed change; and

(ii) provides an opportunity for interested individuals and organizations to testify on the proposed change at the meeting.

(4) At least 14 days before the meeting required under paragraph (3)(i) of this subsection, the local board shall provide written notice of the meeting to:

(i) each individual and organization on the contact list maintained in accordance with paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection; and

(ii) the following elected officials if the official is elected by eligible voters residing in the precinct containing either the current polling place location or the proposed polling place location:

1. the mayor;
2. the county executive;
3. each county commissioner;
4. each county council member;
5. each municipal council member; and
6. each member of the Maryland General Assembly.]

2-303.1.

(a) At least [6] 7 months before each statewide primary election, each local board shall submit [a polling place plan] AN ELECTION PLAN to the State Board for approval.

(B) AN ELECTION PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) A POLLING PLACE PLAN THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION;

(2) A BALLOT DROP BOX PLAN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-304 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(3) AN EARLY VOTING CENTER PLAN THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(4) AN ANALYSIS OF HOW TO MAXIMIZE VOTER PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTY AND EACH PRECINCT.

[(b)] (C) (1) A polling place plan shall include:

(1) (I) evidence that the plan complies with § 10-101(a)(2) of this article; AND

(2) [an analysis of how to maximize voter participation in each precinct;] and

~~(3) if the polling place plan proposes to reduce the total number of separate buildings used as polling places below the total number of separate buildings used as polling places in the [2018] FIRST STATEWIDE general election HELD AFTER THE MOST RECENT REDISTRICTING BASED ON THE CENSUS;~~

(II) THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF:

1. IN THE FIRST STATEWIDE ELECTION HELD AFTER A STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING BASED ON THE CENSUS, THE POLLING PLACE PLAN PROPOSES TO REDUCE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES BELOW THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING GENERAL ELECTION; OR

2. IN ANY STATEWIDE ELECTION OTHER THAN THE FIRST STATEWIDE ELECTION HELD AFTER A STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING BASED ON THE CENSUS, THE POLLING PLACE PLAN PROPOSES TO REDUCE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES BELOW THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS USED AS POLLING PLACES IN THE FIRST STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION HELD AFTER THE MOST RECENT STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING BASED ON THE CENSUS.

(2) IF REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A POLLING PLACE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

(i) the address and a description of the location of each affected polling place;

(ii) an analysis of available suitable buildings within the precinct boundary, including the availability of parking and a determination regarding building compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act;

(iii) of the voters who cast ballots in each affected precinct in the three most recent statewide elections:

1. the percentage who voted in person on election day;
2. the percentage who voted by mail;
3. the number who registered to vote on election day; and
4. the number who voted at an early voting center;

(iv) the proximity of the proposed polling place to a dense concentration of voters in the affected precinct;

(v) the change in the number of registered voters in the affected precinct from the last statewide election;

(vi) the public transportation options that voters in each affected precinct could use to access the polling place that would serve the precinct under the plan; and

(vii) an analysis of the impact on the ability of historically disenfranchised communities to cast a ballot, including demographic information of the voters in the affected precinct [from the most recent report published by the Maryland Vital Statistics Administration].

(D) AN EARLY VOTING CENTER PLAN SHALL ~~TAKE INTO ACCOUNT~~ USE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WHEN DETERMINING THE LOCATION OF AN EARLY VOTING CENTER IN THE COUNTY:

(1) ACCESSIBILITY OF THE EARLY VOTING CENTER TO HISTORICALLY DISENFRANCHISED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING CULTURAL GROUPS, ETHNIC GROUPS, AND MINORITY GROUPS;

(2) PROXIMITY OF THE EARLY VOTING CENTER TO DENSE CONCENTRATIONS OF VOTERS;

(3) ACCESSIBILITY OF THE EARLY VOTING CENTER BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION;

(4) FOR COUNTIES WITH FOUR OR MORE EARLY VOTING CENTERS, ENSURING EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF EARLY VOTING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY; AND

(5) THE USE OF COMMUNITY CENTERS AND PUBLIC GATHERING PLACES.

(E) (1) THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY IF A LOCAL BOARD IS CREATING A NEW PRECINCT OR CHANGING A PRECINCT BOUNDARY OR POLLING PLACE UNDER § 2-303(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING 21 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY THROUGH ELECTION DAY.

(2) EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL:

(I) MAINTAIN A CONTACT LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO WISH TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT LOCAL BOARD MEETINGS AT WHICH AN ELECTION PLAN OR ANY PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES WILL BE DISCUSSED; AND

(II) INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTACT LIST AND HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE LIST IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION ON THE LOCAL BOARD'S WEBSITE.

(3) A LOCAL BOARD MAY NOT VOTE TO ADOPT AN ELECTION PLAN OR CHANGE THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE UNLESS THE LOCAL BOARD FIRST:

(I) HOLDS A MEETING TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON THE PROPOSED ELECTION PLAN OR CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE; AND

(II) PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE WRITTEN OR ORAL TESTIMONY AT THE MEETING ON THE PROPOSED ELECTION PLAN OR CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE.

(4) AT LEAST 14 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL:

(I) POST THE PROPOSED ELECTION PLAN OR A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE ON THE LOCAL BOARD'S WEBSITE; AND

(II) PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE MEETING TO:

1. EACH INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATION ON THE CONTACT LIST MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

2. IF AN ELECTION PLAN WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING, THE ELECTED OFFICIALS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHO REPRESENT ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE COUNTY; OR

3. IF A CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF A POLLING PLACE WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING, THE ELECTED OFFICIALS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION WHO REPRESENT THE PRECINCT CONTAINING EITHER THE CURRENT POLLING PLACE LOCATION OR THE PROPOSED POLLING PLACE LOCATION.

(5) IF REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(II)2 OR 3 OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE MEETING TO:

(I) THE MAYOR;

(II) THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE;

(III) EACH COUNTY COMMISSIONER;

(IV) EACH COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER;

(V) EACH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER; AND

(VI) EACH MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(F) THE LOCAL BOARD SHALL SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD WITH THE LOCAL BOARD'S ELECTION PLAN ANY WRITTEN TESTIMONY AND A SUMMARY OF ANY ORAL TESTIMONY ON THE ELECTION PLAN PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC AT THE MEETING AT WHICH THE LOCAL BOARD DISCUSSED AND VOTED ON THE ELECTION PLAN.

[(c)] ~~(E)~~ (G) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL VOTE ON THE ELECTION PLAN SUBMITTED BY EACH LOCAL BOARD.

(2) The State Board shall approve [a polling place plan] AN ELECTION PLAN OF A LOCAL BOARD if the [polling place plan] ELECTION PLAN:

~~[(1)]~~ (I) complies with the requirements of this section and § 10-101(a)(2) of this article; [and]

~~[(2)]~~ (II) HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR; AND

~~[(2)]~~ ~~[(3)]~~ (III) will not negatively affect access to voting for historically disenfranchised communities.

[(d)] ~~[(F)]~~ (H) [(1)] The State Board shall reject a polling place plan that does not meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

(2)] If the State Board VOTES ON AN ELECTION PLAN AND [rejects a polling place plan] **DOES NOT APPROVE AN THE ELECTION PLAN UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(F)~~ (G) OF THIS SECTION**, the local board shall submit a revised [polling place plan] **ELECTION PLAN** to the State Board within 15 days after the date on which the State Board ~~rejected~~ VOTED ON the previous plan.

2-304.

(a) (1) **EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A BALLOT DROP BOX PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF EACH BALLOT DROP BOX IN THE COUNTY.**

(2) A local board shall ~~consider~~ USE the following factors when determining the location of a ballot drop box:

[(1)] (I) the accessibility of the ballot drop box to historically disenfranchised communities, including voters with disabilities, cultural groups, ethnic groups, and minority groups;

[(2)] (II) proximity of the ballot drop box to dense concentrations of voters;

[(3)] (III) accessibility of the ballot drop box by public transportation; AND

[(4)] (IV) equitable **GEOGRAPHIC** distribution of ballot drop boxes throughout the county[]; and

(5) maximizing voter participation, including through placement of ballot drop boxes at community centers and public gathering places].

(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, a local board shall designate locations in the county at which a ballot drop box will be placed in accordance with the factors set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) (1) Each local board shall submit the **BALLOT DROP BOX PLAN WITH THE** proposed locations in the county for each ballot drop box to the State Administrator for ~~approval~~ **REVIEW**.

~~(2) The State Administrator shall approve a ballot drop box location that meets the factors established under subsection (a) of this section.~~

~~(3)~~ **(2)** If a proposed ballot drop box [location] **PLAN** does not meet the factors **LISTED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, BEFORE THE LOCAL BOARD'S ELECTION PLAN IS SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BOARD FOR APPROVAL UNDER § 2-303.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, the State Administrator shall:

(i) ~~require~~ **REQUEST** that the local board reconsider the proposed location for one or more ballot drop boxes; and

(ii) provide to the local board a detailed explanation of why the proposed location does not meet the factors.

~~(4)~~ **(3)** If the State Administrator finds that the proposed ballot drop box locations submitted to the State Administrator after reconsideration by the local board under paragraph ~~(2)~~ **(2)** of this subsection do not meet the factors, the State Administrator may add ballot drop box locations in the county.

10-301.1.

[(c) (1) No later than 6 months before a primary election, the local board in each county shall, subject to the approval of the State Board, designate each early voting center in that county.

(2) A local board shall take into account the following factors when determining the location of an early voting center:

(i) accessibility of the early voting center to historically disenfranchised communities, including cultural groups, ethnic groups, and minority groups;

(ii) proximity of the early voting center to dense concentrations of voters;

(iii) accessibility of the early voting center by public transportation;

(iv) ensuring equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county; and

(v) maximizing voter participation, including through the use of community centers and public gathering places as locations for early voting centers.]

[(d)] (C) Each early voting center shall be open for voting as follows:

(1) beginning the second Thursday before a primary or general election through the Thursday before the election; and

(2) during the hours between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. each early voting day.

[(e)] (D) (1) Each early voting center shall satisfy the requirements of § 10-101 of this title.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the public official responsible for the use of a public building requested by a local board for an early voting center shall make the public building available to the local board in accordance with § 10-101(a)(3) of this title.

(3) (i) The State Board shall adopt regulations that establish an appeals process for public officials responsible for public buildings requested for use under paragraph (2) of this subsection to contest the availability of the public building during the period of time the building would be used as an early voting center.

(ii) The appeals process established under this paragraph shall include:

1. an initial appeal to the local board that selected the public building for use as an early voting center;

2. an opportunity for a public official to be heard publicly at a meeting of the local board before the local board makes a decision on the appeal;

3. an appeal by a public official of an adverse decision of the local board to the State Board;

4. an opportunity for a public official to be heard publicly at a meeting of the State Board before the State Board makes a final decision on the appeal; and

5. a final decision at least 8 months before the primary election for which the local board seeks to use the public building as an early voting center.

(iii) The decision of the State Board regarding an appeal under this paragraph is final.

[(f)] (E) Beginning 30 days prior to each early voting period the State Board and each local board shall undertake steps to inform the public about early voting and the location of early voting centers in each county, including:

- (1) a series of public service media announcements;
- (2) mailings to all registered voters in each county; and
- (3) other measures as appropriate.

[(g)] (F) Except as expressly provided in this section, any provision of this article that applies to voting on election day also applies to early voting.

[(h)] (G) The State Board shall adopt regulations and guidelines in accordance with the requirements of this section for the conduct of early voting.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.

Md. Code Regs. 33.17.02.02 - Selecting Early Voting Centers

A. Considerations for Early Voting Centers. A local board shall consider the following factors when determining the location of an early voting center:

- (1) Accessibility of the early voting center to historically disenfranchised communities, including cultural groups, ethnic groups, and minority groups;
- (2) Proximity of the early voting center to dense concentrations of voters such that:
 - (a) If a county is required by Regulation .01 of this chapter to have one or two early voting centers, 50 percent of the registered voters in the county live within 10 miles of one of the proposed early voting center; or
 - (b) If a county is required by Regulation .01 of this chapter to have three or more early voting centers, 80 percent of the registered voters live within 5 miles of one of the early voting centers;
- (3) Accessibility of the early voting center by public transportation;
- (4) Ensuring equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county;
- (5) Maximizing voter participation, including through the use of community centers and public gathering places as locations for early voting centers;
- (6) Whether the early voting center can accommodate long lines of voters, including taking into consideration how voters waiting in line are protected against inclement weather; and
- (7) Whether the early voting center has parking facilities sufficient for early voting, taking into consideration the normal business activities of the proposed early voting center.

B. Requirements for Early Voting Centers. A local board shall propose early voting center locations that:

- (1) Allow a local board to install the required telecommunication needs;
- (2) Are of sufficient size and layout to conduct early voting, including adequate access to electricity;
- (3) Are accessible or can be made accessible for voters with disabilities;
- (4) Can store voting equipment and supplies in a secure location during non-early voting hours;
- (5) Have sufficient and reliable heating and air-conditioning capabilities; and

(6) Can accommodate a no electioneering zone as required by Election Law Article, § 16-206, Annotated Code of Maryland, exit polling as required by COMAR 33.07.08, and electioneering outside of the no-electioneering zone.

Potential Early Voting Site
Rating Chart - 2026

	Factors to be Considered (COMAR 33.17.02.02.A)							Requirements (COMAR 33.17.02.02.B)					
	(1) Accessibility to historically disenfranchised communities	(2) Proximity to dense concentration of voters (80% within 5 miles)	(3) Accessibility to public transportation	(4) Ensuring equitable distribution throughout the county	(5) Use of community centers and public gathering places	(6)Accommodation of long lines, including protection against inclement weather	(7) Sufficient parking	(1) Allowance to install required telecommunications	(2) Sufficient size, including adequate access to electricity	(3) Accessible or can be made accessible	(4) Can store voting equipment in a secure location	(5) Sufficient and reliable heating and air conditioning	(6) Can accommodate a no electioneering zone
Considered Early Voting Site													
Washington County Election Center													
Boonsboro American Legion													
Big Pool Community Center													
Hancock Town Hall													
Washington County Free Library (Hagerstown)													
Clear Spring American Legion													
Smithsburg Library													
Maugansville Ruritan													
Meritus Park													
Robert W. Johnson Community Center													
Western Enterprise Fire Co.													
Wacohu Grange Hall													
The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park													

Scoring Legend:

Meets the criteria

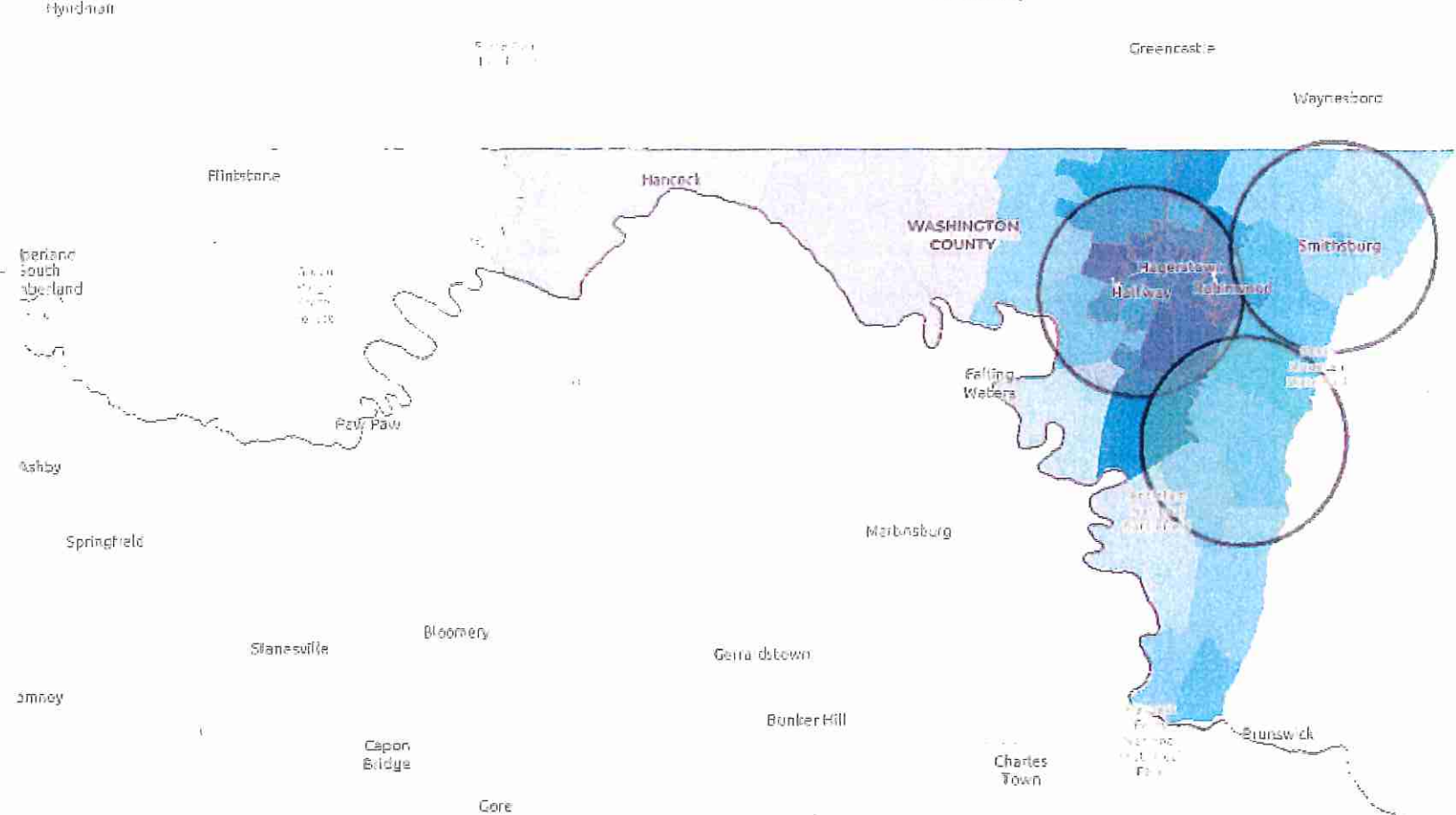
Meets the criteria, but with some deficiency

Does not meet the criteria

79,822

5 Mile Buffer

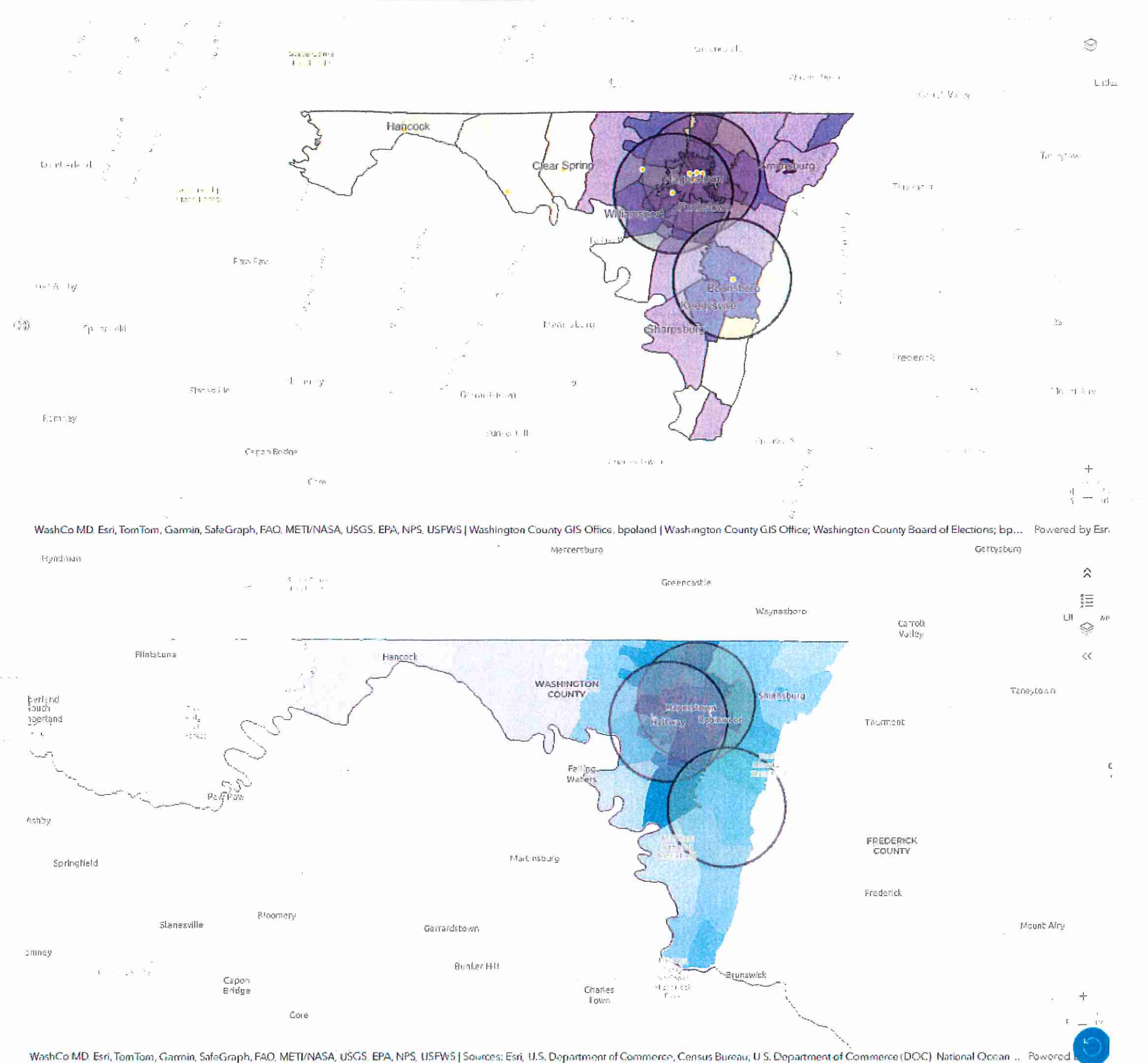
-



75%
77,264
102,841

5 Mile Buffer

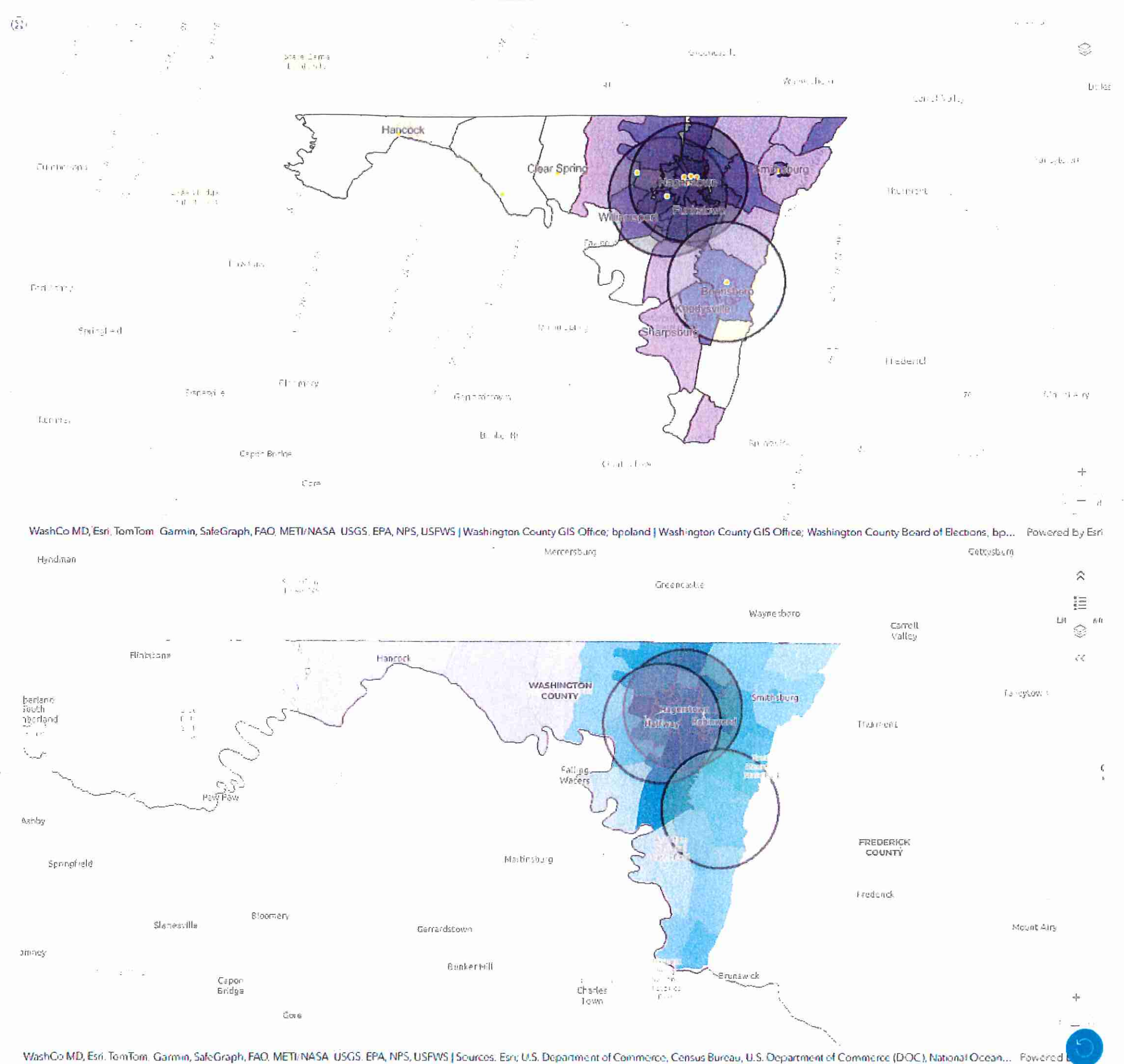
- Washington County Election Center
- Boonsboro American Legion
- Big Pool Community Center
- Hancock Town Hall
- Washington County Free Library
- Clear Spring American Legion
- Smithsburg Library
- Maugansville Ruritan
- Meritus Park
- Robert W. Johnson Community Center
- Western Enterprise Fire Co.
- Wacohu Grange Hall
- The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



75%
76,711
102,841

5 Mile Buffer

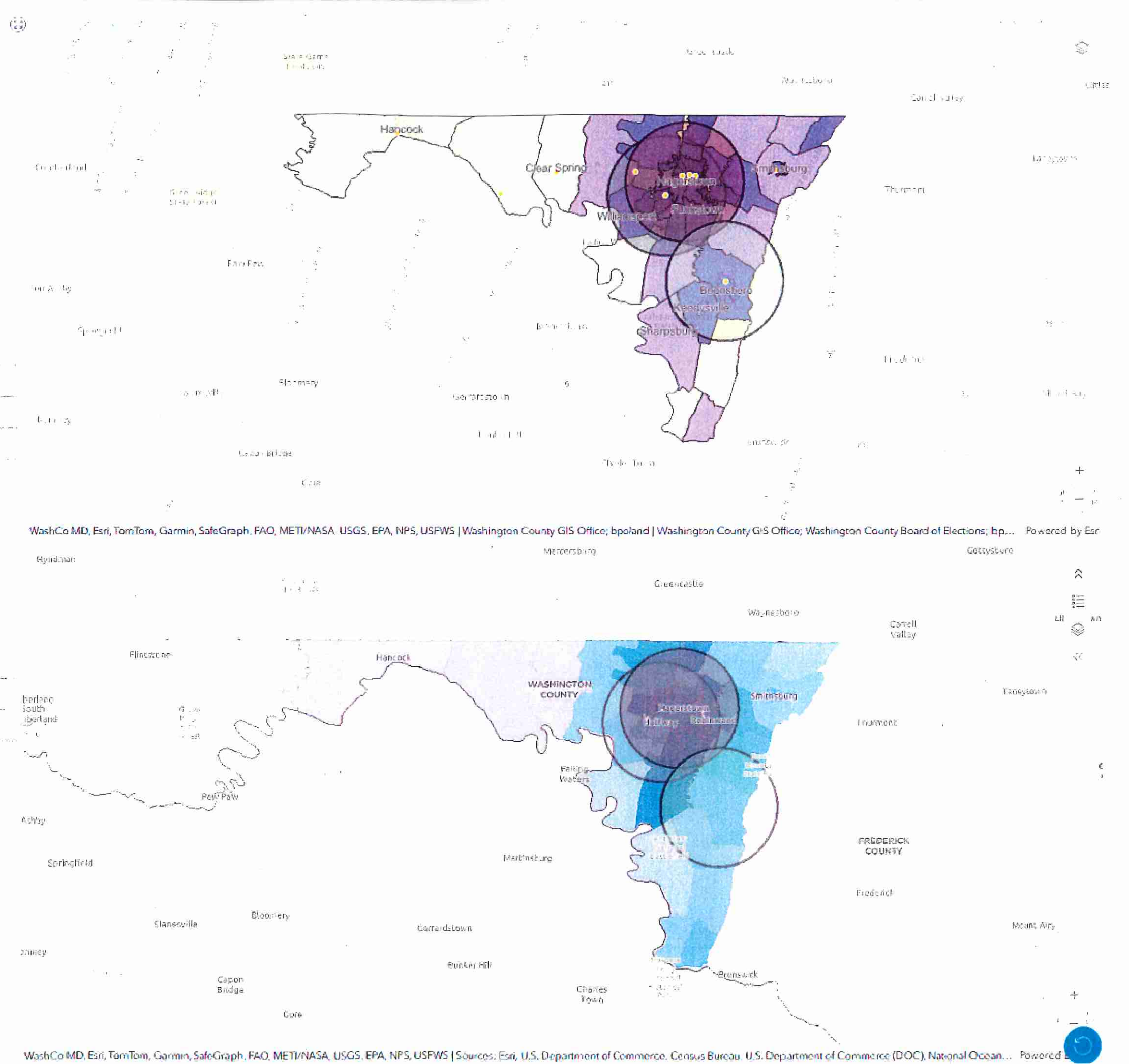
- Washington County Election Center
- Boonsboro American Legion
- Big Pool Community Center
- Hancock Town Hall
- Washington County Free Library
- Clear Spring American Legion
- Smithsburg Library
- Maugansville Ruritan
- Meritus Park
- Robert W. Johnson Community Center
- Western Enterprise Fire Co.
- Wacohu Grange Hall
- The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



76,574

5 Mile Buffer

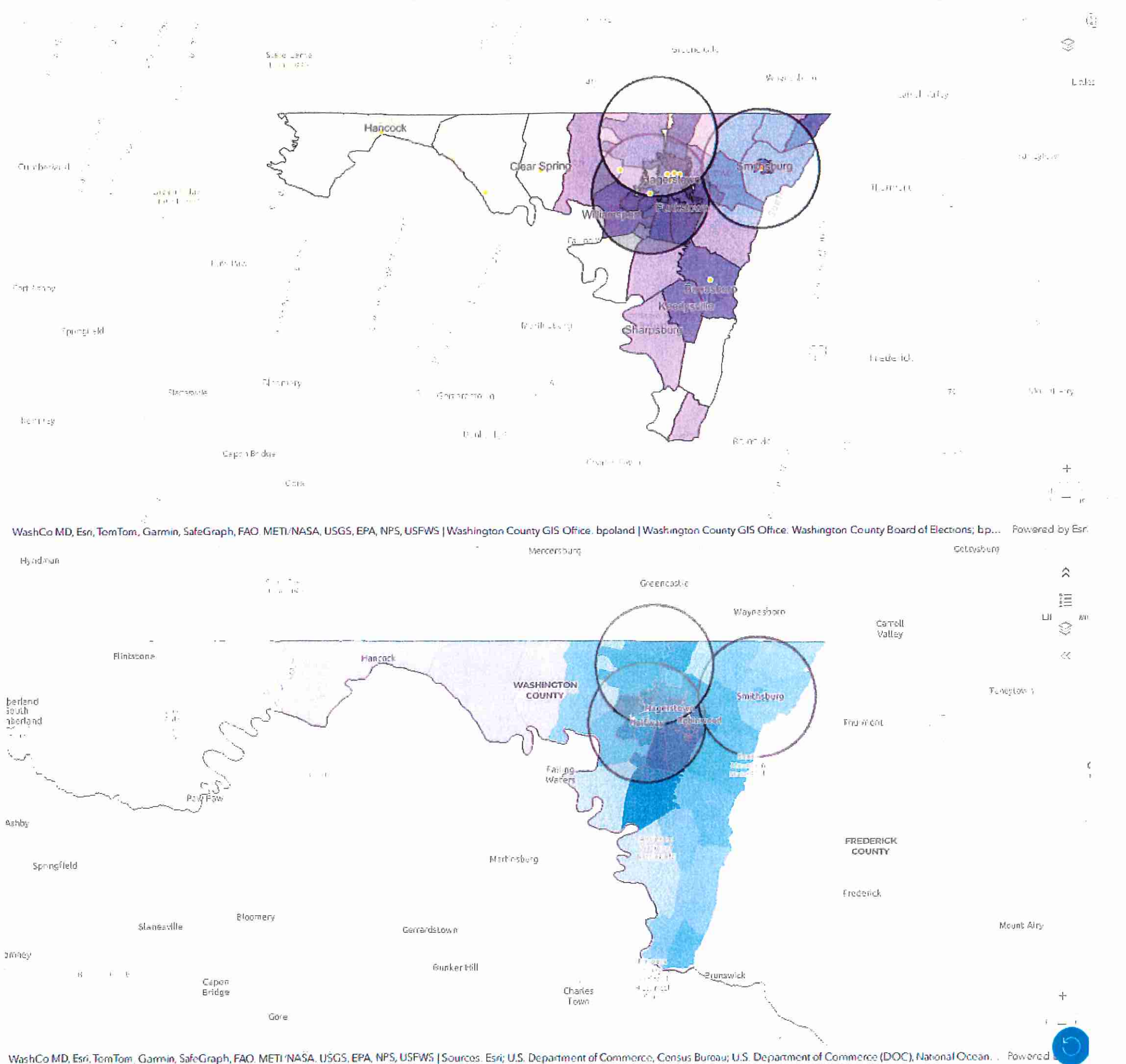
- 
- Washington County Election Center
- Boonsboro American Legion
- Big Pool Community Center
- Hancock Town Hall
- Washington County Free Library
- Clear Spring American Legion
- Smithsburg Library
- Maugansville Ruritan
- Meritus Park
- Robert W. Johnson Community Center
- Western Enterprise Fire Co.
- Wacohu Grange Hall
- The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



75,763

5 Mile Buffer

- 
- Washington County Election Center
- Boonsboro American Legion
- Big Pool Community Center
- Hancock Town Hall
- Washington County Free Library
- Clear Spring American Legion
- Smithsburg Library
- Maugansville Ruritan
- Meritus Park
- Robert W. Johnson Community Center
- Western Enterprise Fire Co.
- Wacohu Grange Hall
- The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park

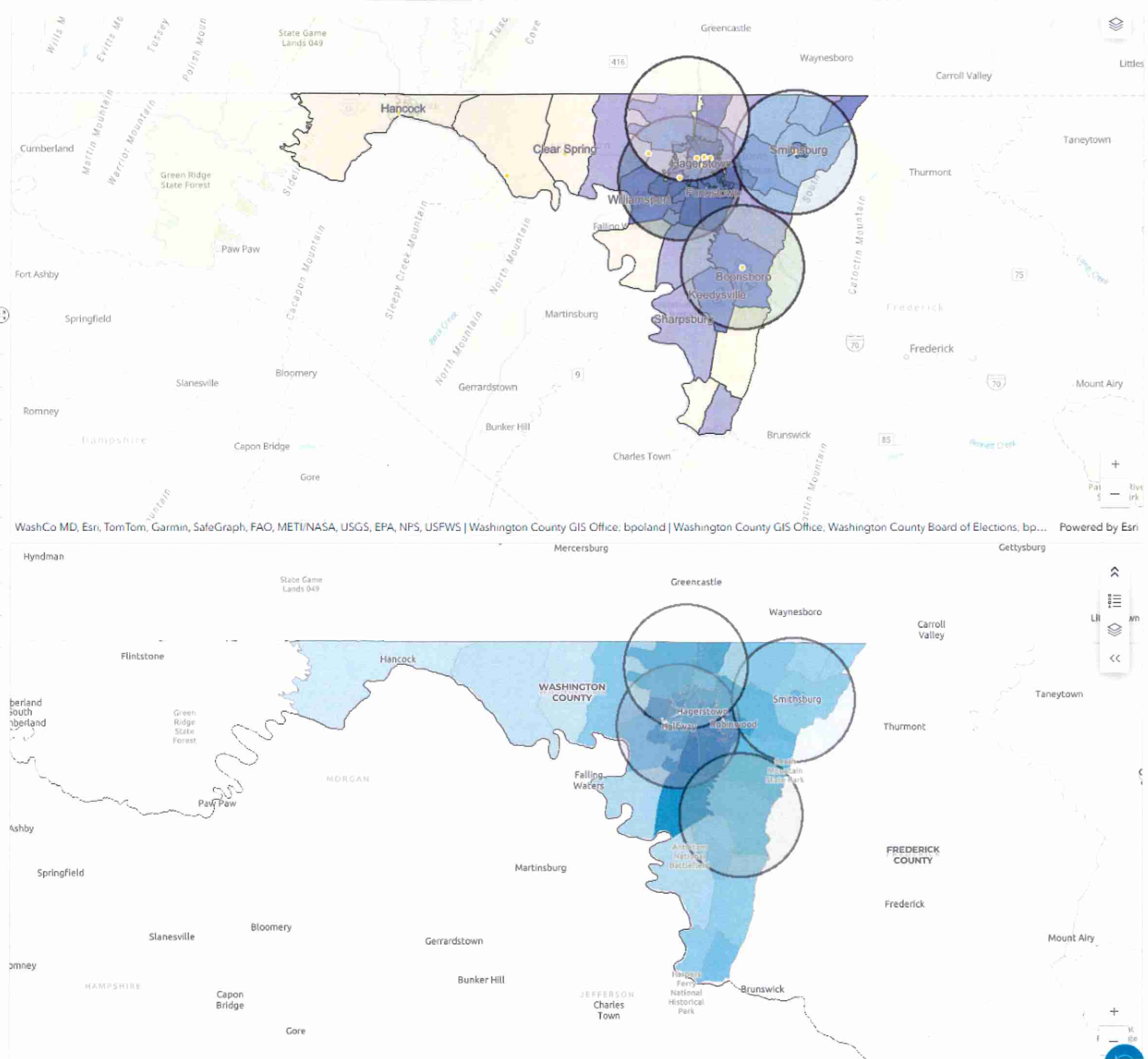


84%

86,120
102,841

5 Mile Buffer

- Washington County Election Center
- Boonsboro American Legion
- Hancock Town Hall
- Washington County Free Library
- Clear Spring American Legion
- Smithsburg Library
- Maugansville Ruritan
- Meritus Park
- The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



82%

84,495

102,841

5 Mile Buffer

Washington County Election Center

Boonsboro American Legion

Hancock Town Hall

Washington County Free Library

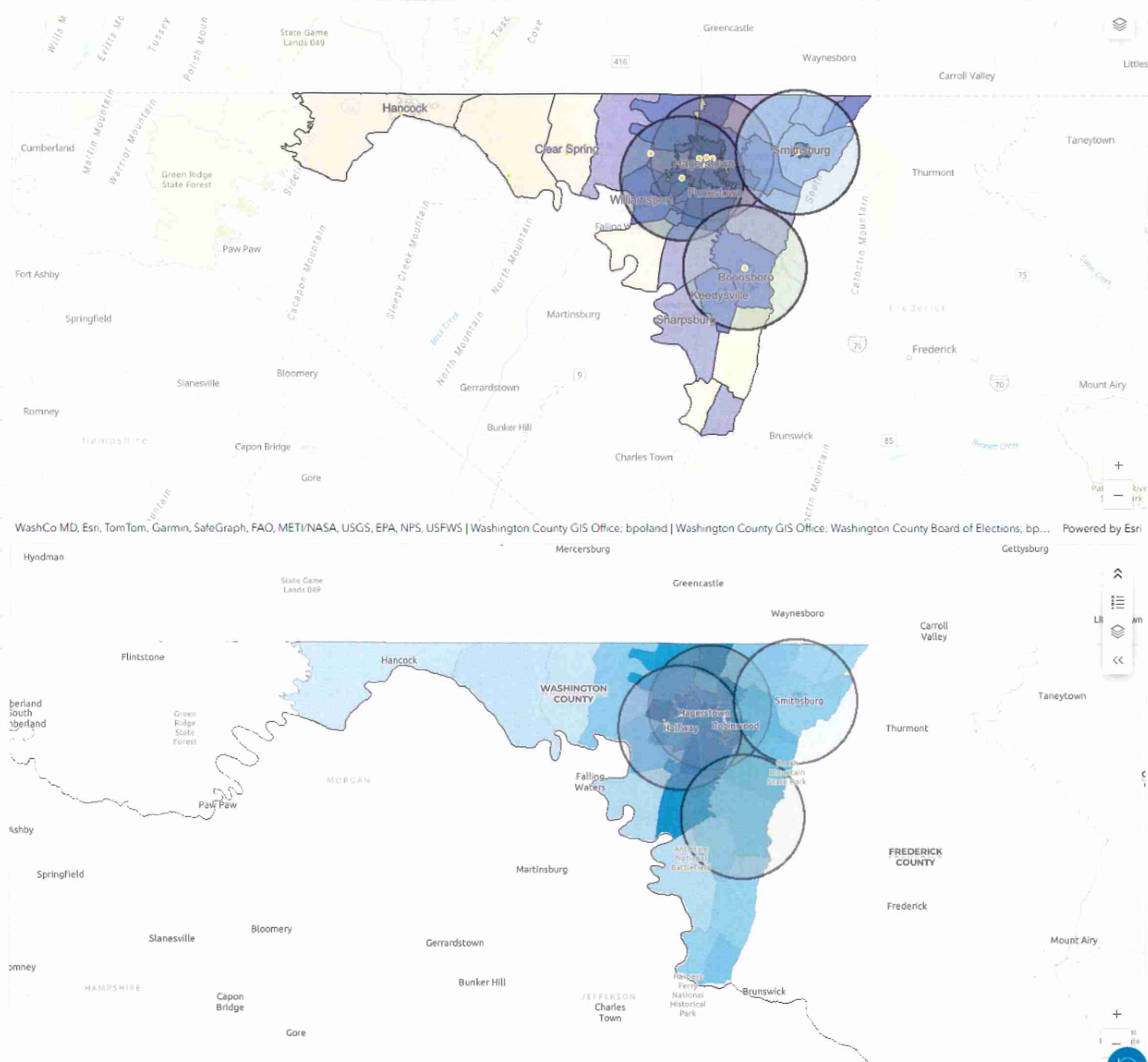
Clear Spring American Legion

Smithsburg Library

Maugansville Ruritan

Meritus Park

The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



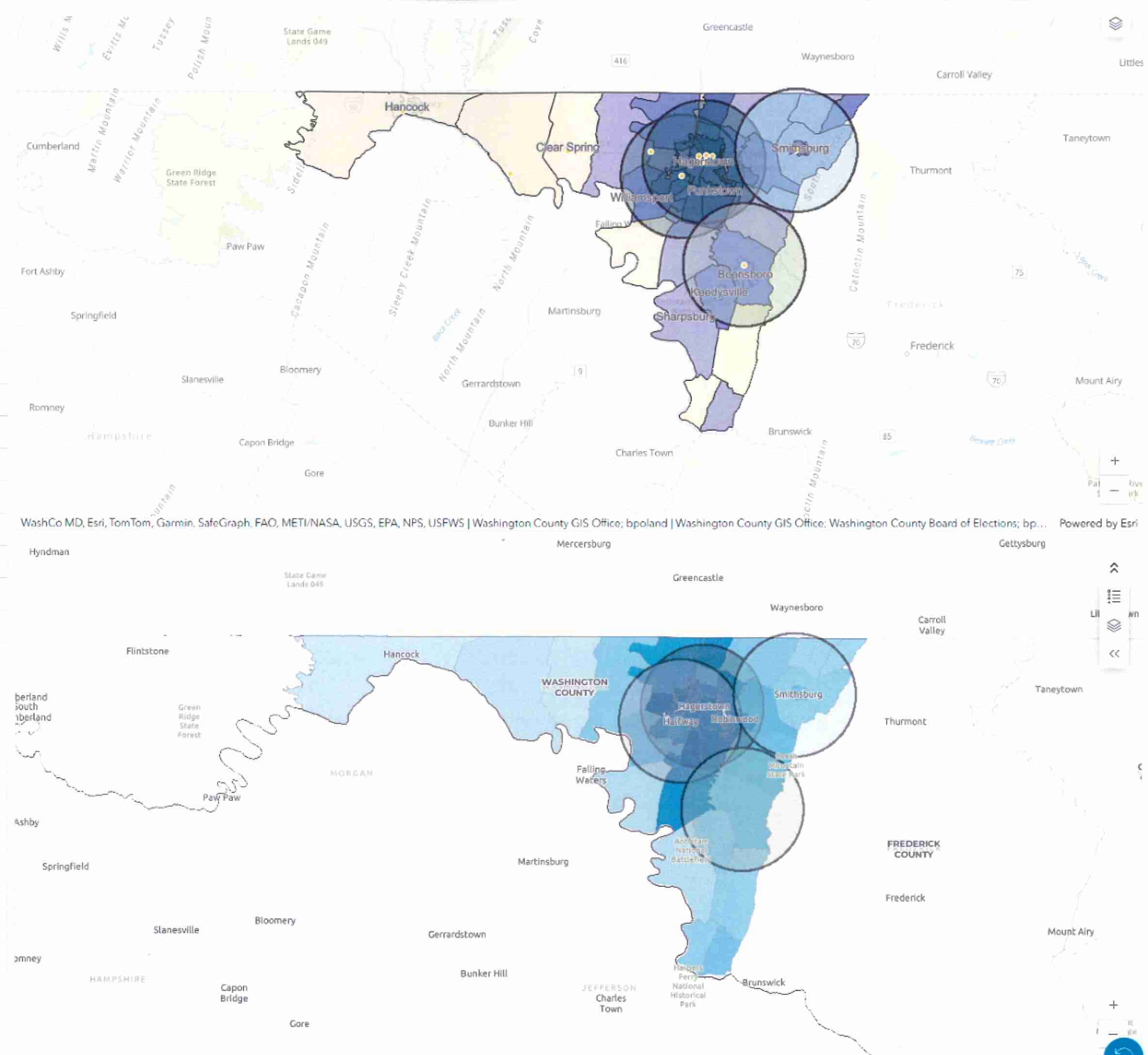
82%

84,409

102,841

5 Mile Buffer

- Washington County Election Center
- Boonsboro American Legion
- Hancock Town Hall
- Washington County Free Library
- Clear Spring American Legion
- Smithsburg Library
- Maugansville Ruritan
- Meritus Park
- The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



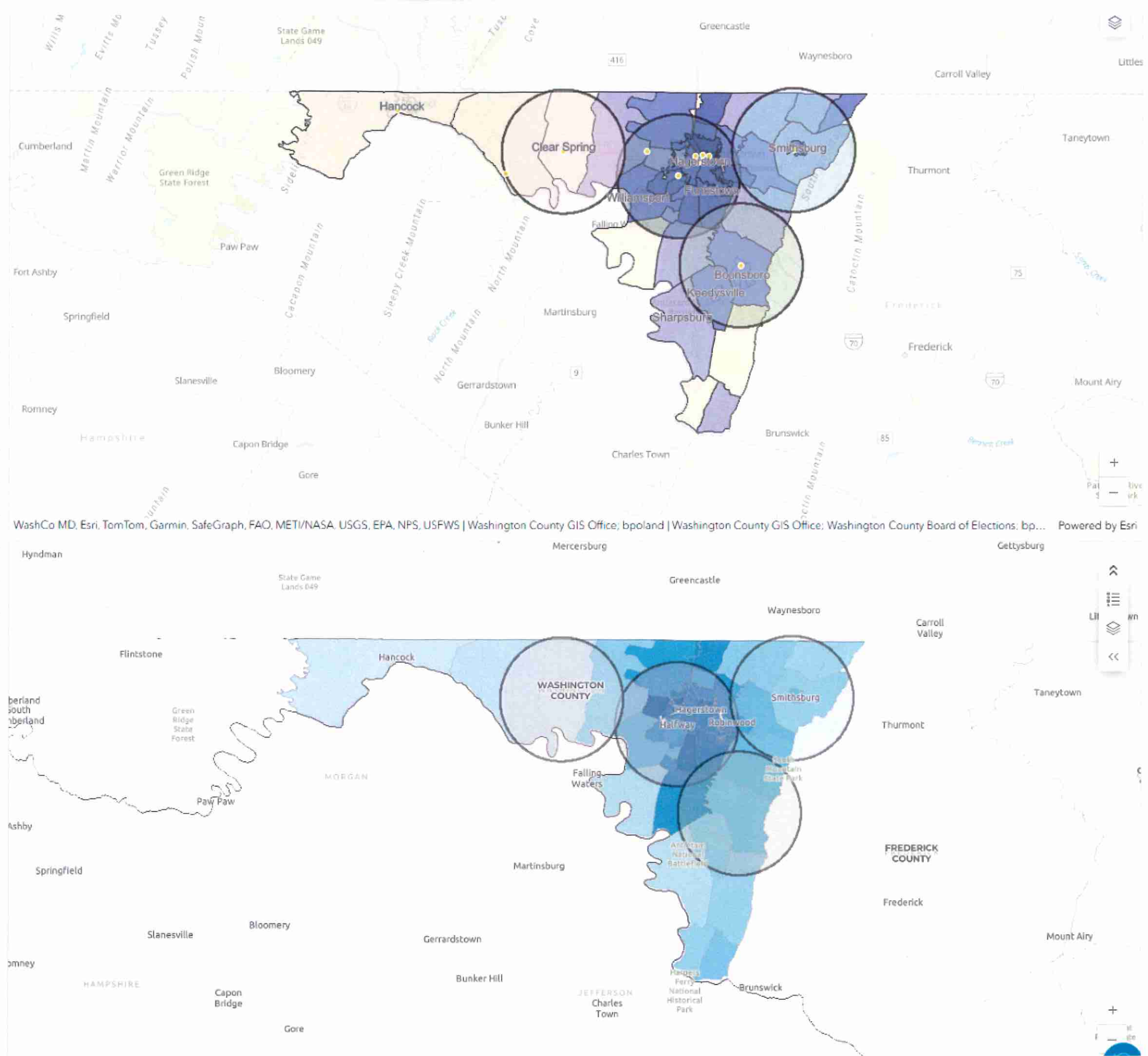
82%

84,279

102,841

5 Mile Buffer

	Washington County Election Center
	Boonsboro American Legion
	Hancock Town Hall
	Washington County Free Library
	Clear Spring American Legion
	Smithsburg Library
	Maugansville Ruritan
	Meritus Park
	The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park

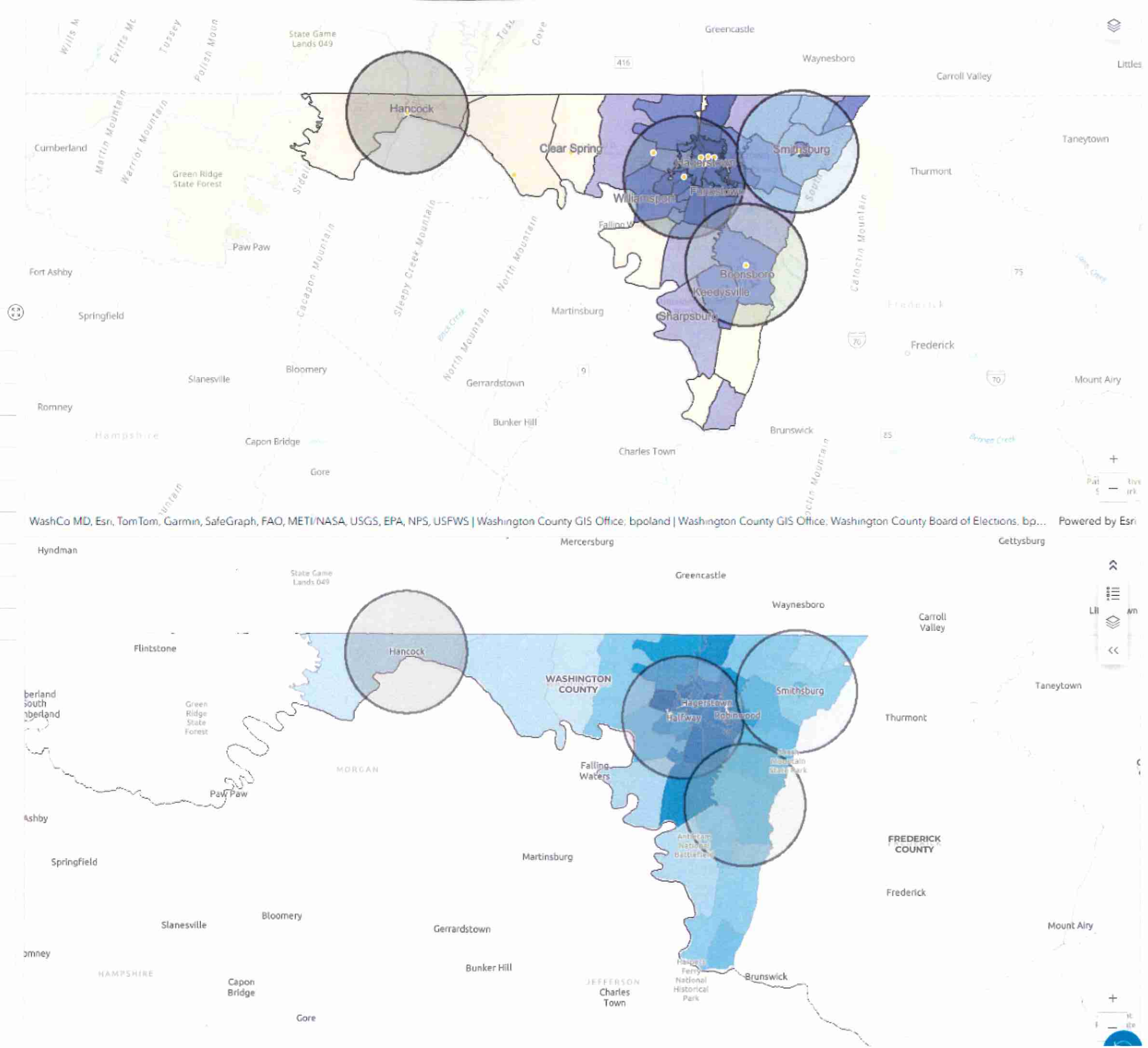


80%

81,847
102,841

5 Mile Buffer

- Washington County Election Center
- Boonsboro American Legion
- Hancock Town Hall
- Washington County Free Library
- Clear Spring American Legion
- Smithsburg Library
- Maugansville Ruritan
- Meritus Park
- The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



79%

81,721

102,841

5 Mile Buffer

Washington County Election Center

Boonsboro American Legion

Hancock Town Hall

Washington County Free Library

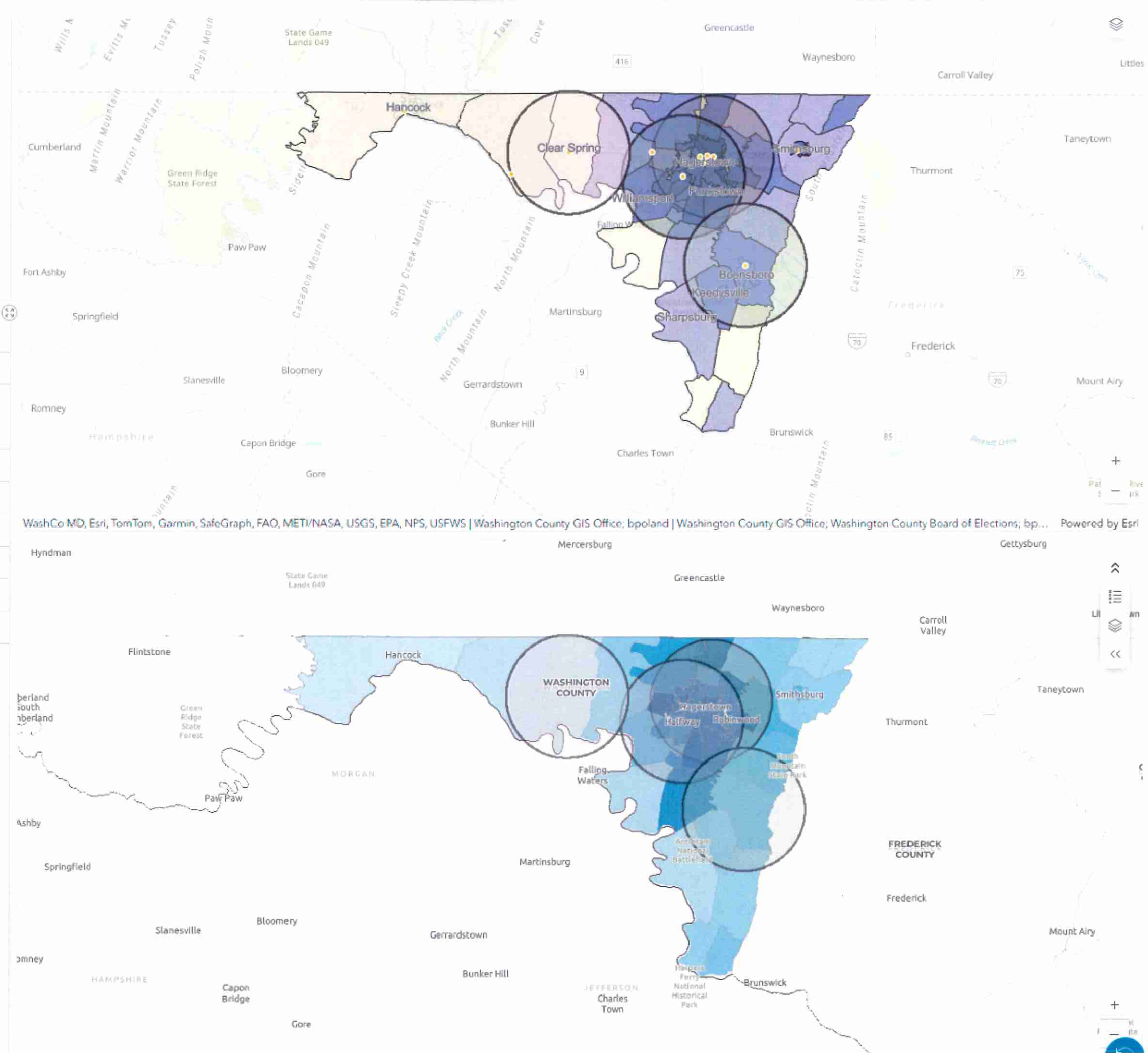
Clear Spring American Legion

Smithsburg Library

Maugansville Ruritan

Meritus Park

The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park



79%

81,168

102,841

5 Mile Buffer

Washington County Election Center

Boonsboro American Legion

Hancock Town Hall

Washington County Free Library

Clear Spring American Legion

Smithsburg Library

Maugansville Ruritan

Meritus Park

The Fit Room at Fairgrounds Park

