



AGENDA

Washington County Board of Elections September 19, 2023

Special Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at **3:00PM**. Meeting will be held in person but may also be attended virtually. Call in information is provided below.

Call Meeting to Order:

Record Those Present:

Correspondence:

Agenda Item: Selection of Early Voting Sites

- I. Sites I and II
- II. Optional 3rd Site

Members Remarks:

Call In Instructions for the Meeting:

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/xii-vvrr-jaf

Join by phone

1 502-294-7166

PIN: 272 638 178#



Barry Jackson -SBE- <barry.jackson@maryland.gov>

Earlying Voting Center Determination for the 2024 Election Cycle

1 message

CountySupport SBE -SBE- <countysupport.sbe@maryland.gov>

Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 5:31 PM

To: Lisa Dennis -SBE- <lisa.dennis1@maryland.gov>

Bcc: barry.jackson@maryland.gov

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached the earlying voting center determination for the 2024 Election Cycle. If you have any questions, please reach out to Melissa.

Best,

Melissa D.

--

County Support
countysupport@maryland.gov



2024 Early Voting Centers Numbers.doc

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**2024 Primary and General Elections
Determination of Early Voting Centers**

	Number of Registered Voters ¹	Number of Early Voting Centers Required in 2024 ²	Number of Early Voting Centers Required in 2022 ²	Number of Optional Early Voting Centers in 2022 ³	Total Number of Early Voting Centers (General Election)
ALLEGANY	43,762	1	1	0	1
ANNE ARUNDEL	411,927	9	9	0	9
BALTIMORE CITY	393,864	7	7	0	7
BALTIMORE COUNTY	567,395	11	11	0	11
CALVERT	68,385	2	2	1	3
CAROLINE	21,840	1	1	0	1
CARROLL	128,429	3	3	0	3
CECIL	71,477	2	2	0	2
CHARLES	122,082	3	3	0	3
DORCHESTER	23,043	1	1	0	1
FREDERICK	198,165	3	3	1	4
GARRETT	20,615	1	1	1	2
HARFORD	191,177	3	3	1	4
HOWARD	232,343	5	5	0	5
KENT	13,929	1	1	0	1
MONTGOMERY	676,661	13	13	1	14
PRINCE GEORGE'S	597,880	11	13	0	13
QUEEN ANNE'S	40,044	1	1	1	2
SAINT MARY'S	74,902	2	2	1	3
SOMERSET	14,173	1	1	0	1
TALBOT	28,700	1	1	0	1
WASHINGTON	99,396	2	2	0	2
WICOMICO	65,666	2	2	0	2
WORCESTER	42,577	1	1	0	1
STATEWIDE	4,147,432	87	89	7	96

¹ As of September 12, 2023. See Regulation 33.17.02.01A of Code of Maryland Regulations.

² Election Law Article, § 10-301.1(b), Annotated Code of Maryland specifies the number of early voting centers for each county. A county with fewer than 50,000 registered voters shall have 1 early voting center. A county with at least 50,000 registered voters but fewer than 100,000 registered voters shall have 2 early voting centers. A county with at least 100,000 registered voters but fewer than 200,000 registered voters shall have 3 early voting centers. A county with at least 200,000 registered voters but fewer than 300,000 registered voters shall have 5 early voting centers. A county with at least 300,000 registered voters but fewer than 400,000 registered voters shall have 7 early voting centers. A county with at least 400,000 registered voters but fewer than 500,000 registered voters shall have 9 early voting centers. A county with at least 500,000 registered voters but fewer than 600,000 registered voters shall have 11 early voting centers. A county with at least 600,000 registered voters shall have 13 early voting centers.

³ In addition to the early voting centers required by Election Law Article, §10-301.1(b), each county may establish one additional early voting center if, first, the local board and governing body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center; and then the State Board approves of the establishment of an additional early voting center.



TOWN OF HANCOCK, MARYLAND

126 W. High St., Hancock, MD 21750



September 12, 2023

Mr. Barry Jackson, Election Director
Washington County Board of Elections
17718 Virginia Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Dear Mr. Jackson,

The Mayor and Council fully support the establishment of an early voting center (EVC) at the Community Center in Hancock, MD. We believe an EVC in this location would serve the voters of western Washington County very well and would encourage citizens to participate in the democratic process.

Sincerely,

Michael Faith, Town Manager



WashCo Elections -SBE- <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Early Voting

1 message

I.downswebb [redacted]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 2:27 PM

Washington County BOE

Early Voting locations need to be fairly

Placed throughout the county

My recommendations are

1. BOE on Virginia Ave
2. South County Boonsboro
3. Western County Hancock

Thank You
Registered Voter
Linda Downs



Re: Notice of Public Hearing

1 message

Seth Wilson [REDACTED] Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 3:41 PM
To: "washco.elections@maryland.gov" <washco.elections@maryland.gov>
Cc: Barry Jackson -SBE- <barry.jackson@maryland.gov>, Teresa Morningstar -SBE- <teresa.morningstar1@maryland.gov>, [REDACTED]

To the Members of the Board of Elections of Washington County:

Please find attached the memoranda I filed last year in support of my petition for judicial review of the decision of the state and local Boards of Elections to select the Hagerstown branch of the Washington County Free Library as the second early voting site in Washington County. I would like these documents and this e-mail included in the record of public comment about the early voting centers and would appreciate their consideration by the Board.

My previous petition was dismissed on a legal technicality related to the procedure that was used to submit the petition and was not decided on its merits. In my opinion, the court's decision ignored the central arguments of my petition and prioritized procedural justice for the state and local Boards of Elections above substantial justice for the citizens of Washington County.

The problem with the selection of the library is visually summed up in Figure 1 of page 4 of my original memorandum. As a member of the Maryland State Board of Elections observed during their consideration of the proposed site, "the Venn diagram is basically one circle." The selection of the library completely ignores the legal requirement of equitable distribution of early voting centers and does not encourage increased voter participation because it ignores areas of low voter participation.

As I argued in my petition, the early voting process is inherently unfair. There's really no good answer. The only thing the Board can do is make a bad situation somewhat less so until the law is changed. Putting another voting center in the library that is essentially on top of the purpose-built Election Center while the rest of the county is denied more convenient access to early voting is both wasteful and unlawful and makes a bad situation even worse. Whatever the Board decides, they should reject the location of the library outright.

I also believe it would be helpful for the Board to critically examine what districts the voters came from who chose to vote at the early voting centers in 2022. The patterns at the voting centers in 2020 should also be examined, recognizing that the 2020 election was an aberration that should never be repeated.

I appreciate the Board's invitation for public comment on the process this time. I would be happy to answer any questions about my comments if there are any. I am a registered voter who lives in Washington County.

Seth Wilson

On 9/1/2023 4:16 PM, Barry Jackson -SBE- wrote:

The Washington County Board of Elections has scheduled a public hearing on September 12, 2023 at 7:00PM. The topic of discussion is the five possible Early Voting sites being considered by the Board. Please see the attached notice of public hearing for more information. This notice has also been posted on our website. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns,

Barry Jackson, CERA
Election Director
Washington County Board of Elections
17718 Virginia Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2054



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2 attachments



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(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.

The number of registered voters in Washington County is approximately 99,000. Election Law § 10-301.1(b)(3) requires Washington County to have two voting centers. This was a new requirement based on a recent change to this law; previously, under the old law, Washington County was required to have only one early voting center and was very unlikely to ever be large enough to be required to have three early voting centers. Washington County therefore selected and built its Virginia Avenue Election Center (EVC01) to be an early voting center that could serve the entire county.

The Washington County Board of Elections (WCBOE) unanimously approved the Hagerstown Library (EVC02) as the second early voting center required by the new law in its October meeting (WCBOE 118) and a third, unrequired site at the Smithsburg Library (EVC03). Subsequently, the WCBOE made a presentation to the Washington County Board of County Commissioners recommending to the Commissioners that they approve an additional, unrequired site at the Smithsburg Library (EVC03). The Commissioners were unhappy with the selection of EVC02 and did not approve the addition of the third EVC03 because they did not want to spend money if they were not required to. In spite of this, the WCBOE reaffirmed in its November meeting its decision to locate the second early voting center at the Hagerstown Library (this discussion was not recorded in the record). The Maryland State Board of Elections (MDSBE) unanimously approved EVC02 as the second early voting center in its December meeting (MDSBE 0223), based on the recommendation of the WCBOE.

I, Seth Wilson, am the petitioner. I am a registered voter who lives in Washington County who is adversely affected by this decision. I am also an elected member of the Washington County Republican Central Committee and as such represent other affected registered voters. I testified against the proposed location for the second early voting center at meetings of both the Washington County Board of Elections (WCBOE 116-117, WCBOE 122, WCBOE 126, and WCBOE 130-131) and the Maryland State Board of Elections (MDSBE 0158-0171 and MDSBE 0201-0208). My objections were that the early voting centers were not equitably distributed throughout the county as required by law (MDSBE 0166) and that the location of the second early voting center ignored other areas of low voter turnout in the county (MDSBE 0167). I further asserted that the process used to select early voting centers did not properly consider “equitable distribution” (MDSBE 0163-0164).

ARGUMENT

I. The selection of the Hagerstown Library (EVC02) is facially non-compliant with Maryland Elec. Law § 10-301.1.

The addition of EVC02 to the Election Center (EVC01) adds nothing and does not take into account the factors of “ensuring equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county” or “maximizing voter participation.”

According to the MDSBE (MDSBE 0142), EVC01 serves 83,824 voters; EVC02 serves 82,764 voters; the combination of the two early voting centers serves 85,602 voters; and the total number of voters is 98,732. Thus, only 1,778 voters were added (2% of the total number) and there is a 97% to 98% overlap in the voters served by EVC01 and EVC02. As MDSBE

Board Member Miller observed, “the Venn diagram is basically one circle” (MDSBE 0222, line 17-18).

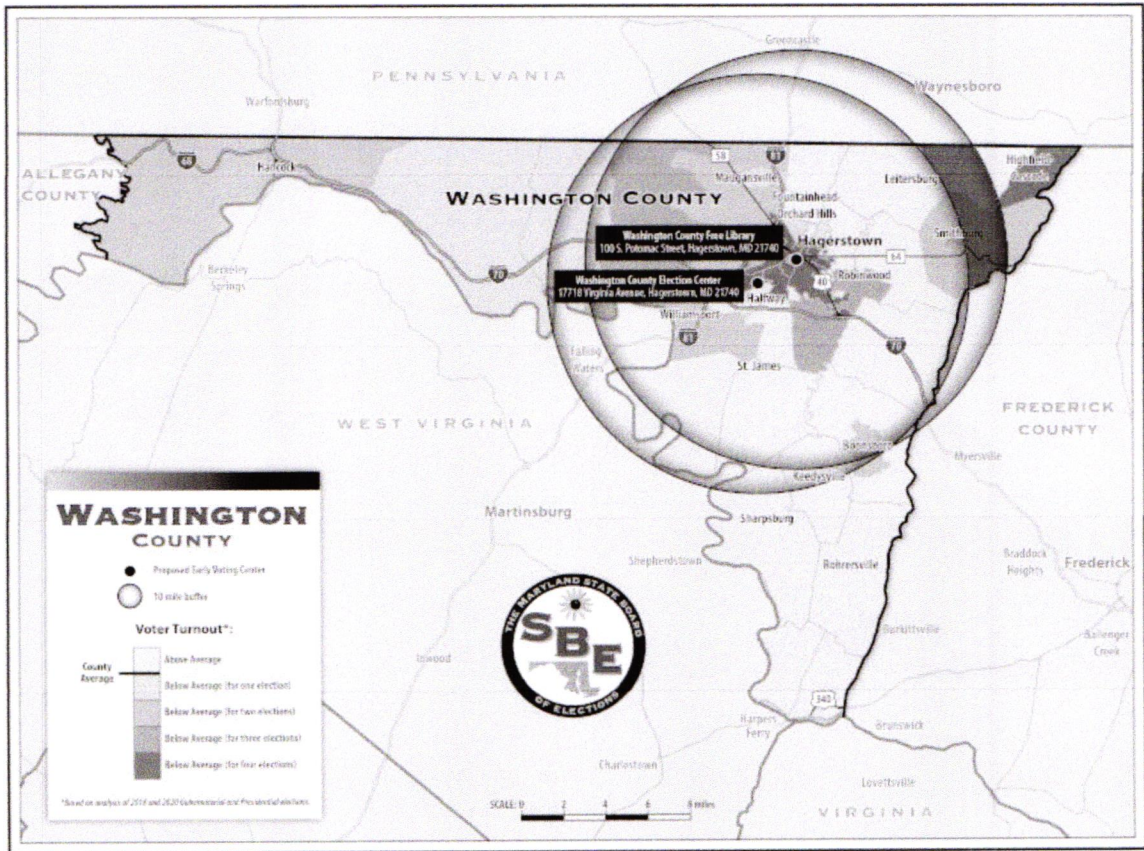


Figure 1

Further, as Figure 1 above (adapted from MDSBE 0144) illustrates, the addition of EVC02 ignores the entire western region of Washington County (the “panhandle”), where there is below-average turnout. I added shading to the MDSBE’s map to illustrate where the voters added by EVC02 came from.

The WCBOE claimed that the Smithsburg Library that it proposed as the third early voting center was too small to serve as a second early voting center and could only work as a

third early voting center if the Hagerstown Library voting center was in use. This claim makes no sense. The only voters added by EVC02 are in a strip that is practically on top of the Smithsburg Library. Nobody who lives in this area is going to drive past the Smithsburg library to get to the Hagerstown Library.

II. The process used did not take into account the equitable distribution of voting centers throughout the county.

As I pointed out in my presentation to the MDSBE (MDSBE 0163), the form used to propose early voting centers (WCBOE 083-091) does not contain any questions relevant to the equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county. Indeed, the testimony given by the staff of the MDSBE is devoid of any mention of “equitable distribution” at all. The first mention of “equitable distribution” occurs on Page 31 of the transcript (MDSBE 0202) during my testimony.

The regulation that defined the form to be used, Md. Code Regs. 33.17.02.02, had no mention of “equitable distribution.” Proposed changes to this regulation were presented to the MDSBE after I raised questions about the form with WCBOE staff. The regulation was changed to include “equitable distribution” months after the MDSBE made its decision. The “Guidelines for an Early Voting Center Washington County” used by the WCBOE likewise do not mention “equitable distribution” (WCBOE 081-082).

As I described in my letter dated October 20, 2021 (WCBOE 130), “the Board [WCBOE] seemed, in my opinion, to give undue consideration to a supposed requirement that an early voting center must be located such that 80 percent of voters are within a five mile radius of one of the voting centers. **No such requirement exists in law.**” (emphasis in original). The actual

requirement was that 50 percent of voters live within 10 miles of one of the early voting centers, a requirement completely satisfied by the original Election Center early voting center (EVC01) alone.

Sites in the western part of the county were not considered at all. As I pointed out in my testimony before the MDSBE (MDSBE 0165), WCBOE Deputy Director Jackson said in testimony before the Washington County Board of County Commissioners:

“I will say Hancock, there’s no way we could have—even if there was a facility available—that we could put one out there because it would not meet the requirements that we have. 80 percent of the voting population lives in a 10 mile radius of Hagerstown and so we have to—another part of our requirements and Kirk [County Attorney] can back me up on this—is, we have to have, the early voting centers have to be within five miles of 80 percent of the voting population. So the only way we could do one in Hancock is if we already met those requirements and then did another one out there.”

In the July meeting of the WCBOE, WCBOE Member Tammy Downin asked “if one Early Voting site is within 5 miles of 80% of voters, does it matter where the other two are?” (WCBOE 054). I found no answer to her question in the record. The WCBOE did not understand the correct requirements while it was making its decision. I was told by WCBOE President Lum that the staff had documentation from the state that required 80% of voters to be within five miles of the early voting centers. I sent an e-mail to Deputy Director Jackson and Director Rubucci asking for that documentation but received no reply.

In addition to the confusion about the requirements, Director Rubucci was clearly biased in her approach to locating a second early voting center and completely disregarded the requirement to take equitable distribution of early voting centers into account. In her testimony before the MDSBE, explaining her reasoning for selecting the Hagerstown Library as the second site, she said (MSSBE 0218, line 24 to MDSBE 0219, line 7):

“I’ll be honest, when we had these new considerations to consider, the one that I thought, you now, of those new ones, as far as dense population, near transportation to different historically disenfranchised communities, even if, for me, if the Washington County library is out of the picture, I feel like with those considerations-- population, disenfranchised minority groups, it would--still should be a place downtown Hagerstown and, I’m sorry, that’s just how I see it. We even went to the point to contact Senator Corderman about the new stadium that’s coming to Hagerstown because we thought that would be an ideal early voting location. And so I just, when I saw these new considerations, I just thought there had to be one downtown Hagerstown.”

In Part 3 of the Proposed Early Voting Center Form submitted for the Hagerstown Library, the additional factors that were considered were listed as follows: “Dense population”; “Historically disenfranchised communities”; “Within walking distance”; “Familiarity of location with county voters”; and “Library is enthusiastically cooperative.”

III. Maryland’s early voting law is unconstitutional because it creates a system that is inherently unequal.

The law unfairly discriminates against those voters who are not members of a minority group, who do not live in areas of dense population, who do not have access to public transportation, and who do not live in counties with many community centers. This discrimination is abundantly clear in the application of the law in Washington County, where rural voters in other parts of the county, particularly in the west, were completely disregarded in favor of placing two early voting centers practically on top of each other in and near Hagerstown.

Even were the equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout a county not completely ignored as it has been in this case, matching the fairness of the equitable distribution of the precinct voting system in an early voting scheme is logistically and financially impossible for all practical purposes. These constraints cannot help but create a system where some voters

have convenient access to almost two weeks of in-person voting while others have convenient access to in-person voting only on Election Day at their precinct.

Recent changes to expanded access to absentee (mail-in) balloting and creating a system of more widely distributed ballot drop boxes have made early voting centers obsolete. Early voting centers are unfair, expensive, and unnecessary. They should be abolished entirely.

REQUESTED RELIEF

The record clearly demonstrates that the factor of “ensuring equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county” was completely disregarded by both the WCBOE and the MDSBE in the selection of the Hagerstown Library as the second early voting center. Further, the system created by Maryland’s early voting law is inherently unequal. I therefore request the following relief:

That this Court find that Maryland’s early voting law violates guarantees of equal protection of the law under the Maryland Constitution and the Constitution of the United States and order that all early voting is abolished; or in the alternative,

That this Court find that the Washington County Board of Elections and the Maryland State Board of Elections did not take into account the equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county when they approved the Hagerstown Library as the site for Washington County’s second early voting center and order that the second early voting center must be placed in an alternate location that does take into account the equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Seth Wilson

Seth Wilson

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 22nd day of April, 2022, a copy of this Memorandum was filed and served electronically by the MDEC system. A copy of the foregoing was also sent by electronic mail to Brian Kane and James Lewis.

/s/ Seth Wilson

Seth Wilson

<p>IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY</p> <p>SETH EDWARD WILSON, PETITIONER,</p> <p>V.</p> <p>MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS</p> <p>AND</p> <p>WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS,</p> <p>RESPONDENTS</p>	<p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p>	<p>CIV. NO. C-02-CV-22-000078</p>
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REPLY MEMORANDUM

I. Respondents answers do not address the Petitioner’s first argument of facial non-compliance with the law.

The closest approach to an answer is the attempt by the County Board to define the statutory factor of “equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county” in terms of the statutory factors of “proximity of the early voting center to dense concentrations of voters” and “maximizing voter participation” (County Memorandum, p. 18, ¶ 2). This interpretation would render the “equitable distribution” mere surplusage and demonstrates the consistent and continued failure by the Respondents to give any regard to the factor of “equitable distribution.” Giving the “equitable distribution” factor a weight of zero is not compliant with the law.

No attempt has ever been made to explain how placing two voting centers practically on top of each other, giving the same voters two convenient locations for early voting while others have none, takes into account the “equitable distribution of early voting centers throughout the county.” That is because there is no explanation.

II. The record clearly shows staff did not take equitable distribution into account in its determination of the location of the second early voting site.

The Respondents did not address the statement by the Director of the Local Board of Elections, who said, “when we had these new considerations . . . I feel like with those considerations . . . [even] if the Washington County library is out of the picture . . . [it] still should be a place downtown Hagerstown and, I’m sorry, that’s just how I see it” (Petitioner Memorandum, p. 7, ¶ 1).

The County Board asserts “Petitioner ignores the fact that various locations spread throughout the county were sought, and the ones that were available considered, as pointed about above and in Petitioner’s own presentation to the SBE. R. at MDSBE 0165.” This is the portion of my presentation to the State Board where I quote the Deputy Director of the County Board explaining to the County Commissioners why the second early voting center could not have been put in Hancock, which is in the far western “panhandle” of Washington County: “I will say Hancock, there’s no way we could have . . . put one out there because it would not meet the requirements that we have . . . the only way we could do one in Hancock is if we already met those requirements and then did another one out there.” The Deputy Director’s remarks cast considerable doubt on the claim that sites elsewhere in Washington County were ever being considered as anything but possible locations for a third, unrequired site. Efforts to locate acceptable sites for a third, unrequired site in the County should not excuse the placement of the second site on top of the first one.

The County Board in its answer states, “Throughout its process, the Local Board considered the statutory factors (e.g., R. at WCBOE 026-027)” ((County Memorandum, p. 15, ¶ 1). Examination of the record referred to once again shows that the factor of equitable

distribution was ignored and only information regarding the other four required factors was requested.

The County Board continues, “Indeed, the minutes reflect expressly that the body considered the geographic distribution of possible sites, e.g., R. at WCBOE 049, 060-62, 067” (id.). The sites outside of Hagerstown are not labeled but appear to me to simply be the locations of county library branches. Nevertheless, there is nothing to indicate that these sites were ever considered as locations for the second early voting center. For example, one of the dots appears to be located at the Smithsburg Library, which the staff said would not be an acceptable second early voting site.

III. The Respondents erred in their analysis of the legal authority.

Both the County Board and the State Board in their memoranda incorrectly relied on the current version of COMAR 33.17.02.02 and their analyses based on that reliance should be disregarded. They have properly, if perhaps not clearly, alerted the court to these errors in their Respondent’s Notice of Legal Authority. The facts are as I said in my petition: COMAR at the time had no mention of “equitable distribution” and changes to the regulation were presented to the State Board after I raised questions about the form with County Board staff.

I am willing to stipulate that the County Board was aware of the change to the law. I will also observe that most criminals are aware of the laws they break. Awareness of the law and adherence to it are two completely separate questions. I did not argue that the Respondents were unaware of the change to the law; I argued that they disregarded the law. The regulatory changes are simply further evidence of disregard for the law. Requirements in the law have been transformed into “considerations” while other items are listed as “requirements.”

IV. Voting is a substantial right.

The Respondents have incorrectly interpreted a case in which a property interest was declared to be a substantial right as a conclusion that property interests are the only substantial right that exists. Suffrage is recognized as a right in Article 7 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

V. Mandamus is appropriate and the Respondents have not been prejudiced by any delay.

Selection of an early voting center is a joint action undertaken by both the County Board and State Board. A petition for judicial relief on the basis of the County Board decision alone would have been premature. Likewise, any issue raised at one level of the process, including the unconstitutional nature of early voting that I raised at the meeting of the County Board, is fairly considered to be preserved for the entire process.

The State Board ignored its own regulations and simply put off any consideration of the Anne Arundel early voting sites until its January meeting. My petition was filed prior to that meeting. Even if the Court were to determine that a statutory right of appeal exists, the Respondents cannot have been prejudiced in any way when their own actions delayed the process longer than it took me to file my petition. Likewise, my petition mains in part that the decision of the Boards was illegal and therefore mandamus remains the proper path to seek judicial relief.

Denying my petition on a technicality does not serve the interests of substantial justice. I respectfully request that the Respondents requests for dismissal be denied and that the case be allowed to proceed on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Seth Wilson

Seth Wilson

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 16th day of June, 2022, a copy of this Reply Memorandum was filed and served via the MDEC system. A copy of the forgoing was also sent by electronic mail to Brian Kane and James Lewis on June 15th. I was prevented from filing my memorandum in MDEC on June 15th because MDEC was experiencing a technical issue that was not resolved until June 16th.

/s/ Seth Wilson

Seth Wilson



WashCo Elections -SBE- <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Please Consider Smithsburg

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 12:06 PM

To: "washco.elections@maryland.gov" <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Good morning,

I have just heard that there will be a few additional early voting locations throughout the county and several more are to be considered. Notably, the Smithsburg area was not included in on that list. Our family owns a retirement community with a large community center that we would like to be considered for an early voting station. If required, I would be happy to send photographs of the space. There's plenty of parking, in the whole itself is as large, if not larger than the early voting space use the Washington County free library. In an ideal world, all main cities in Washington County would have a place.

Thank you,

Landon Grove



Another Comment

1 message

john.gundling@maryland.gov
To: "washco.elections@maryland.gov" <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 1:00 PM

For Barry Jackson and the Board:

First of all the forum last evening was fantastic. Thank-you! I just have some additional background comments about our Beautiful Area herein attached. Thank-you in advance for reading...//JG.

John H. Gundling MPH, LLD; HTP Pres.

Public Health & Strategic Consultant

Cell: [REDACTED]

Confidentiality Notice: This message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the individual or entity named above. The message may contain confidential health and/or legally privileged information.

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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To whom this may concern:

as I've been a resident of Hagerstown for over 35 years, I've learned a few things about this area and Washington County in general. For example, the first HANES Study was conducted at the Washington County Health Department in 1921 and interpolated for the broader United States Population based on the prevailing Public Health conditions at that time, disease prevalence, likely incidence, and life expectancy. HANES stands for Health Assessment Needs Evaluation Survey.

Why was Washington County picked? Apparently the population mix, or diversity if you will in Washington County has always been an eclectic mixture of various populations from the city of Hagerstown and throughout Washington County in general. Secondly, the Johns Hopkins center began operations in 1920 here in Hagerstown MD. The idea at the time was to study longevity and see in what ways it could be increased. So that a person's likely productive years would be in excess of 25 or better as the industrial revolution was demanding more and more output from population who produced goods and services .

That's background. The point that of this small blurb here is that all areas need to be accurately represented and I think the consensus ended up at the Board of Elections public forum was if we could swing 3 voting centers with a 10 mile radius each would be the ideal way to reach 96% of the eligible voters in this region.

There appears to be no other county in the state of Maryland that is drawn or configured the way Washington County is. Annapolis, Baltimore, Prince Georges and Montgomery County don't have any clue how things work or what the terrain is like in Washington County. Perhaps there are some exceptions that should and must be considered when affecting outreach to eligible voters. Moreover, the law should reflect that flexibility to ensure the best possible outcome [Exigent circumstances].



Early Voting Site Comments

1 message

Catherine Poropatic [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 4:15 PM

Not sure if you got a nice recipe for Apple Oatmeal Cookies but if I get them made I'll bring you some!! Sorry about that - here's the right email:

TO: Washington County Board of Elections

DATE: September 13, 2023

RE: Public Hearing on Early Voting Sites – 9/12

Dear Members,

While I did attend the 9/12 Board of Election meeting to hear public comments about EV sites, I didn't speak. Thank you for accepting written comments as I've had some time to digest some points and now am submitting this letter.

To begin, I was surprised to hear some making a case for the VA Avenue offices to be kept as an EV site. Was this even in question? Those of us who work/worked as judges know headquarters and the staff working there are the go-to for the hundreds of questions to be answered, , problems to be resolved, and support for the many workers during elections. Why would you NOT use the VA Avenue Headquarters when it has to be open and functioning!

The handout was a lot to absorb and for myself, personally, I need more time to understand it. One thing I do understand is the site WITHIN CITY LIMITS is not even a debate when population numbers, minority numbers, and ease of access are taken into account. The Library, of course, fills all the requirements. And, as several pointed out, it may take another few cycles for it to reach desirable numbers.

Ms. Smith, of the NAACP, made an excellent case about the minority populations of Washington County. But during my "thinking" time it occurred to me there's another population right here in the City that should not be overlooked – that of our college students.. It is an easy step to "advertise" the Library as a convenient EV site. I believe it would catch on quickly.

It was a County Commissioner who put forth the notion that bus service could be extended to the Western or Southern reaches of WC should a 2nd (or 3rd) site be chosen. If that happens and/or the Library is taken away, will that same Commissioner make sure shuttle busses will be made available to the City neighborhoods to take them to VA Avenue to vote?

Finally, I'd like to address the several people who spoke up about safety concerns. I worked as a judge at the Library last year and found it quite safe. There were security guards stationed at various locations and they'd check in to make sure all was fine. Also, when it was time to leave, Kay made sure we left as a group. Yes, there was plenty of parking and no, to the best of my knowledge there were no issues with the late evening closing.

But here's what I found distressing about the "safety" issues being raised. Hagerstown is not known for its nightlife but within walking distance of the Library is the Maryland Theater and BISFA – both hold evening performances. There are several nice restaurants close by – one directly across the street, and now, within a few a blocks, there will be a brand new baseball stadium. Not to sound skeptical, but it did sound as if being in town at night to vote is somehow less safe than attending a show, or, in the future, a Flying Boxcar night game! I believe this needs to be clarified by those who voice concerns about safety. I personally found it a bit intimidating.

Thank you. And good to know – it can be read through in less than 3 minutes.

Catherine Poropatic

Hagerstown Resident



Early voting site recommendations

1 message

WCDCC Chairwoman <chair@wcdccmd.com>

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 1:07 AM

To: "washco.elections@maryland.gov" <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

[Redacted content]

To the Members of the Board of Elections:

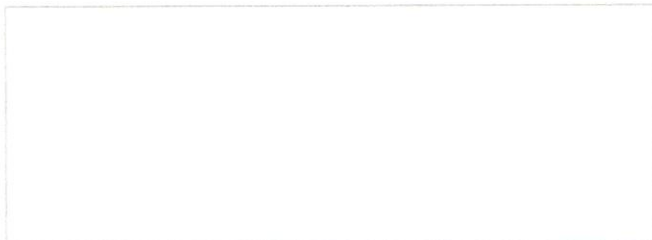
On behalf of the Washington County Democratic Central Committee, I would like to thank you for your diligence in vetting the early voting centers, and for offering the forum for the community to have their voices heard.

In support of the Washington County voters, we need to acknowledge that the whole point of early voting is to give as many people as possible the opportunity to vote. Therefore, we urge you to place the early voting sites in areas with the highest concentration of the population. The Hagerstown Free Library is in the hub of the county, and near where the most voters are located. Keeping this early voting site means that the disenfranchised and the elderly have a more accessible place to have their voices represented by casting their vote.

As a third early voting site has already been built into the budget, it makes sense to utilize this resource to engage as many voters as possible. Boonsboro would be the next logical choice.

Again, we thank you for all you do to ensure an equitable voting process.

Angela Batista (she/her)
Chair
[Washington County Democratic Central Committee](#)



If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far go together.
– African Proverb



Early voting sites

1 message

Lorraine Blaydes [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Lorraine Blaydes [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 2:30 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I would highly recommend the early voting site pick to be in downtown Hagerstown, and the logical choice would be the Hagerstown Public Library.

The vast majority of voting eligibility is in the downtown Hagerstown area (over 80%), it makes a lot of sense to have it at the Library where it is open to all. It's has easy access for those who are disabled, old, and working sometimes two jobs to get ahead. Don't let this site and opportunity for early voting slip away at this very important time.

Also, Derek Harvey is the worst County Commissioner that was elected ever to Washington County. Please make sure that his speaking to the public is respectful in the future.

Lorraine Blaydes



Early voting site recommendations

1 message

Donnie Souders [REDACTED]
To: "washco.elections@maryland.gov" <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 9:24 AM

Good Morning,

I would like to express my thoughts on the need for keeping the additional early voting center at the Hagerstown area library.

As many of you know the library is centrally located to the most populous area of our county. This current location will continue to allow voters who have issues of transportation, or may be elderly or simply prefer the convenience of voting within their neighborhood would be vastly affected if a early voting center was moved to somewhere outside of downtown Hagerstown.

Some citizens are concerned with the mechanics of mail in voting, what a better way to ensure more potential voters show up at the polls, then to keep a early voting center in the location that would see the largest number of potential voters.

Thank you for your time and the service you provide to our voters.

Donnie Souders
[REDACTED]



Early voting site

1 message

Betty Arnall [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 11:01 AM

I strongly support the library downtown as the second early voting site. The population is significant in the area. The Virginia Avenue site is easy for this in outlying areas to get to so there is no need to put one outside the city limits.



Downtown library as early voting site

1 message

Paulette Lee [REDACTED]
Reply-To: Paulette Lee [REDACTED]
To: "washco.elections@maryland.gov" <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 12:19 PM

To whom it may concern:

I live in Hagerstown's north end (21742) and I used the downtown library, of which I'm a frequent patron, to deposit my early ballot during the last election. I drove there, but downtown Hagerstown is also within walking distance of the largest concentration of County voters and thus an ESSENTIAL public service. **It must be retained as an early voting site!**

Democracy is about *expanding* the voice of the people, not limiting it to prevent participation. Surely YOU want access to this right; so do others. Let's do all we can to encourage participation in our democratic government.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

(Ms.) Paulette Lee
[REDACTED]

Paulette Lee, APR
(Accredited in Public Relations)
Hagerstown, MD
[REDACTED]

*Traveler, writer, painter, actor, director, lifelong learner and host of podcast
"WomanWorthy: Real Talk About Real Issues for Women Over 60"
(named by AARP as one of "The Five Best Podcasts for Older Women")*



WashCo Elections -SBE- <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Early Voting Sites

1 message

Cara Herchenrother [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 1:06 PM

Hello,

I would like my voice to be heard in keeping the Hagerstown Free Library as an early voting site. It is a site I rely on for voting that I would like to remain available.

- Cara Herchenrother



WashCo Elections -SBE- <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Early voting

1 message

Susan Norris [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 1:42 PM

I think the library should remain a place for early voting.

Sue Norris



WashCo Elections -SBE- <washco.elections@maryland.gov>

Keep Hagerstown Library available for early voting

1 message

joli kemp [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 2:05 PM

I support the availability of the Central Hagerstown library open for Early voting. I am a resident of Washington County now going into my 24year. Please recognize that availability is necessary for free and fair elections.
Make the Library OPEN for early Voting.
Thank you,
Joli Kemp



Voting places

1 message

Eric Schwartz [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 2:20 PM

To whom it may concern:

I want to strongly support the placement of an early voting site located at the public library located on Potomac Street. I think it is essential that the ability to vote be accorded to all citizens, even those citizens who do not drive cars. Many of these people live in the downtown, and they should be treated fairly. They should be given the rights that are due to them under the 14th and 15th amendments. They should be accorded the same rights and privileges that our citizens in the more wealthy surrounding towns enjoy.

The City of Hagerstown has the largest concentration of voters in the area. Why is the Board of Commissioners considering a change that would effectively - and unnecessarily - remove their ability to vote in elections?

Sincerely,

Eric Schwartz
[REDACTED]



Public Comment-Selection of Early Voting Sites

1 message

Brittany Mason [REDACTED]

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 2:41 PM

To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Hello,

I write to express my support for selecting the Washington County Free Library site in Hagerstown for early voting. This site provides access for early voting for a large proportion of the Washington County community, is within Hagerstown city limits, and would not add undue burden, such as travel with associated costs and time, for many voters. Despite living in Boonsboro, I am someone who is able and willing to shoulder the burden of travel to an early voting site for myself while making it easier for a large number of my fellow community members to exercise their right to vote. I strongly express my support for selecting the library location for early voting.

Brittany Mason-Mah
[REDACTED]



Washington County Free Library: Early Voting Site

1 message

Laura Mehegan [REDACTED]
To: washco.elections@maryland.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 3:25 PM

Good morning,

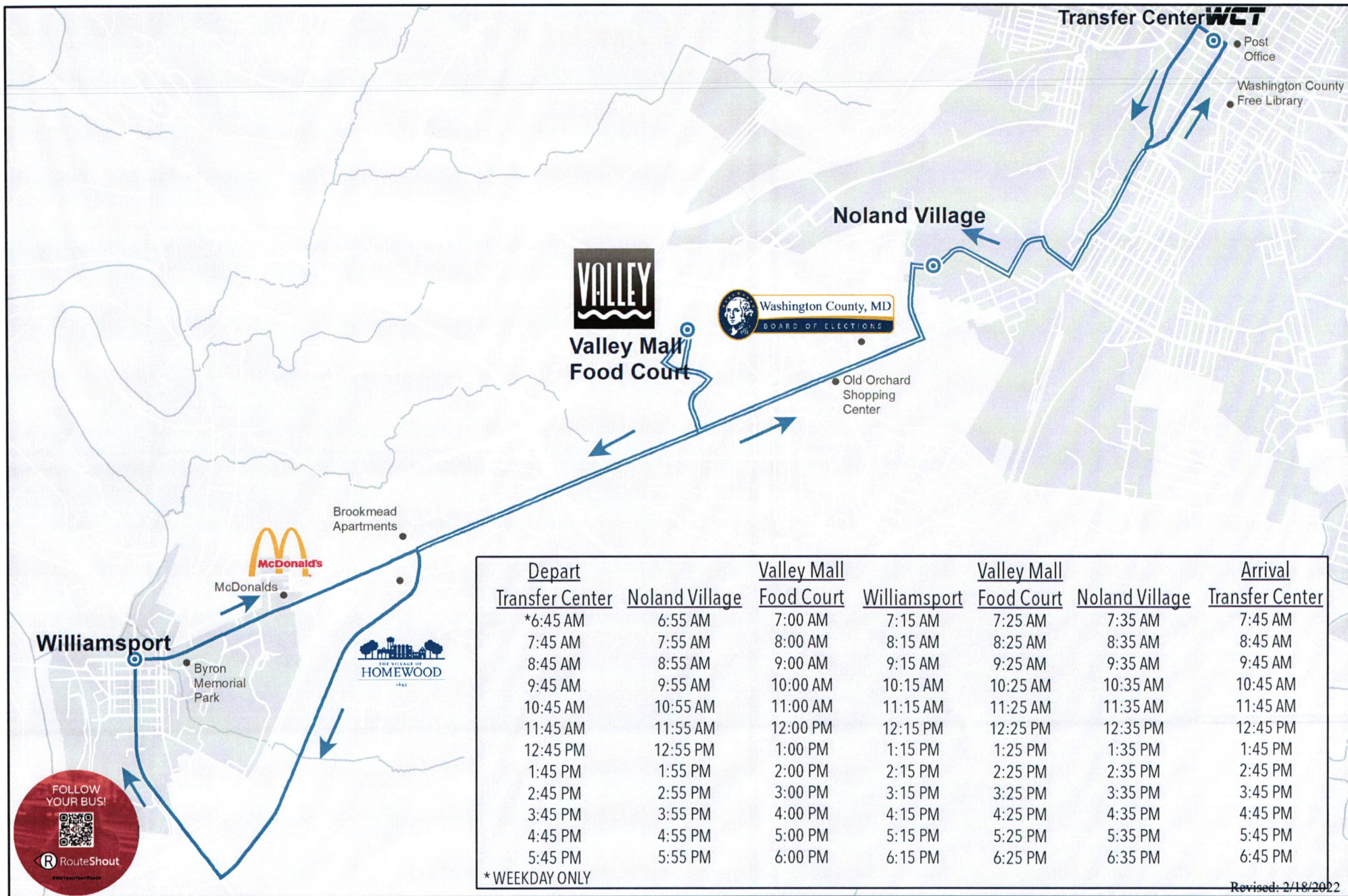
I am a registered voter and I live in Washington County. **I support the downtown branch of the library as an early voting site.** It may be a hardship for Individuals who live in the city of Hagerstown, who may not have easy access to transportation, to visit other early voting sites across the county. Additionally, some individuals may not have the resources to identify other early voting sites potentially disenfranchising them from the entire election process.

I can easily get in my car and drive to any site but that is not the case for everyone. Barriers to easy voting should be eliminated and not created. Everyone should have easy access to cast their vote -- early or otherwise.

Please make it easier for all citizens to cast their vote, not more difficult.

Best regards,
Laura Mehegan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



<u>Depart</u>	<u>Valley Mall</u>	<u>Valley Mall</u>	<u>Williamsport</u>	<u>Valley Mall</u>	<u>Valley Mall</u>	<u>Arrival</u>
<u>Transfer Center</u>	<u>Noland Village</u>	<u>Food Court</u>	<u>Williamsport</u>	<u>Food Court</u>	<u>Noland Village</u>	<u>Transfer Center</u>
*6:45 AM	6:55 AM	7:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:25 AM	7:35 AM	7:45 AM
7:45 AM	7:55 AM	8:00 AM	8:15 AM	8:25 AM	8:35 AM	8:45 AM
8:45 AM	8:55 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:25 AM	9:35 AM	9:45 AM
9:45 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:25 AM	10:35 AM	10:45 AM
10:45 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:25 AM	11:35 AM	11:45 AM
11:45 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:25 PM	12:35 PM	12:45 PM
12:45 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:25 PM	1:35 PM	1:45 PM
1:45 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:25 PM	2:35 PM	2:45 PM
2:45 PM	2:55 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:25 PM	3:35 PM	3:45 PM
3:45 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:25 PM	4:35 PM	4:45 PM
4:45 PM	4:55 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:25 PM	5:35 PM	5:45 PM
5:45 PM	5:55 PM	6:00 PM	6:15 PM	6:25 PM	6:35 PM	6:45 PM



* WEEKDAY ONLY

Revised: 2/18/2022

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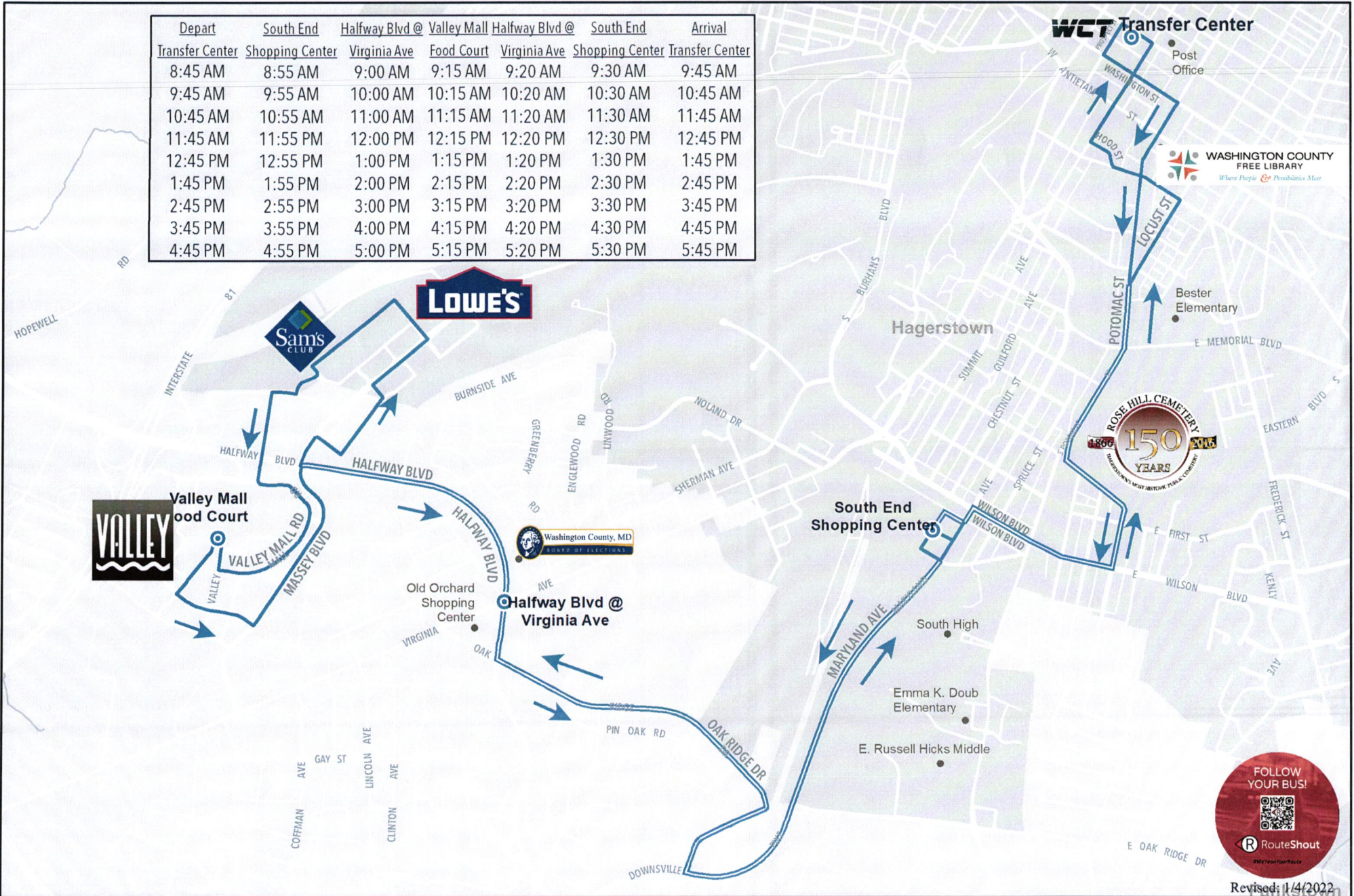


WILLIAMSPORT - ROUTE #441

	Transfer Center
←	Depart Transfer Center turning left onto Franklin Street
←	Turn left onto Walnut Street
↑	Continue by going around Park Circle onto Virginia Avenue
→	Turn right onto Burhans Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Sherman Avenue
→	Turn right onto Noland Drive
←	Turn left onto Linwood Avenue
→	Turn right onto Virginia Avenue
→	Turn right onto Massey Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Cole Road
→	Take 2 nd right onto Valley Mall Road to Food Court
←	Exit Valley Mall turning left onto Cole Road
→	Turn right onto Massey Blvd.
→	Turn right onto Virginia Avenue
←	Turn left onto Governor Lane Blvd.
→	Turn right onto MD Route 68
↑	Continue as Route 68 becomes Conococheague Street
→	Turn right onto Potomac Street in Williamsport
↑	Continue as Potomac becomes Virginia Avenue
←	Turn left onto Massey Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Cole Road
→	Take 2 nd right onto Valley Mall Road to Food Court
←	Exit Valley Mall turning left onto Cole Road
→	Turn right onto Massey Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Virginia Avenue
←	Turn left onto Linwood Avenue
→	Turn right onto Noland Drive
←	Turn left onto Sherman Avenue
→	Turn right onto Burhans Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Virginia Avenue
↑	Continue by going around Park Circle onto Summit Avenue
↑	Continue as Summit becomes Jonathan Street
←	Turn left onto Franklin Street
←	Turn left into Transfer Center
	Transfer Center



Depart	South End	Halfway Blvd @	Valley Mall	Halfway Blvd @	South End	Arrival
Transfer Center	Shopping Center	Virginia Ave	Food Court	Virginia Ave	Shopping Center	Transfer Center
8:45 AM	8:55 AM	9:00 AM	9:15 AM	9:20 AM	9:30 AM	9:45 AM
9:45 AM	9:55 AM	10:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:20 AM	10:30 AM	10:45 AM
10:45 AM	10:55 AM	11:00 AM	11:15 AM	11:20 AM	11:30 AM	11:45 AM
11:45 AM	11:55 AM	12:00 PM	12:15 PM	12:20 PM	12:30 PM	12:45 PM
12:45 PM	12:55 PM	1:00 PM	1:15 PM	1:20 PM	1:30 PM	1:45 PM
1:45 PM	1:55 PM	2:00 PM	2:15 PM	2:20 PM	2:30 PM	2:45 PM
2:45 PM	2:55 PM	3:00 PM	3:15 PM	3:20 PM	3:30 PM	3:45 PM
3:45 PM	3:55 PM	4:00 PM	4:15 PM	4:20 PM	4:30 PM	4:45 PM
4:45 PM	4:55 PM	5:00 PM	5:15 PM	5:20 PM	5:30 PM	5:45 PM





Revised: 1/4/2022

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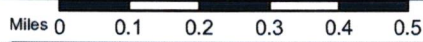
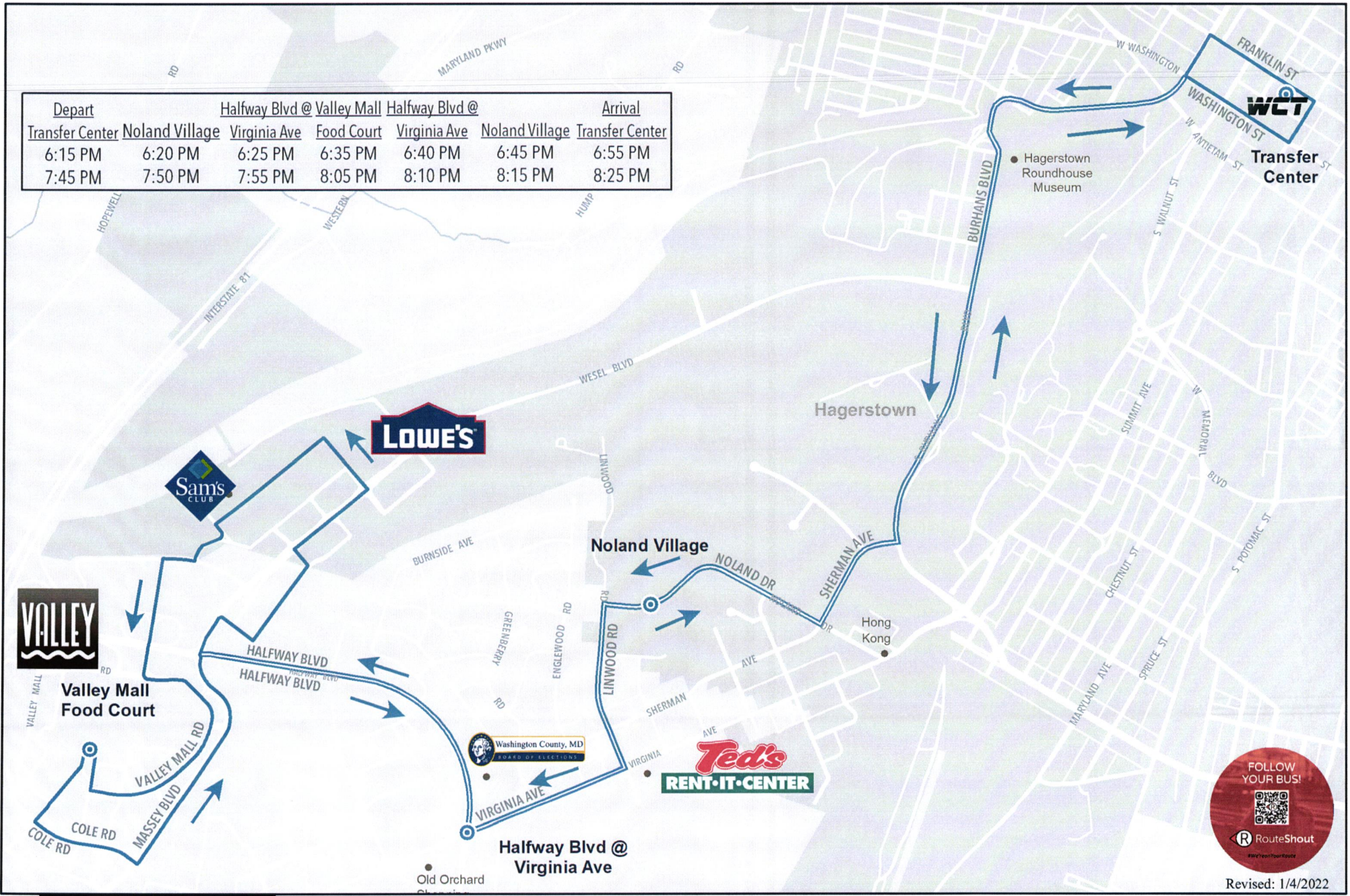


VALLEY MALL – Route #111

	Transfer Center
←	Depart Transfer Center turning left onto Franklin Street
←	Turn left onto Prospect Street
←	Turn left onto Washington Street
→	Turn right onto Potomac Street
←	Turn left onto Howard Street
→	Turn right onto Rosehill Avenue
→	Turn right onto Wilson Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Maryland Avenue
→	Turn right into 1 st entrance of South End Shopping Center
→	Exit Shopping Center at 3 rd exit & turn right onto Maryland Ave.
→	Turn right onto Oak Ridge Drive
→	Turn right onto Halfway Blvd.
→	Turn right onto Massey Blvd.
→	Turn right into 1 st entrance of Valley Plaza (Kmart)
←	Exit Valley Plaza turning left onto Heister Street
→	Turn right onto Wesel Blvd.
←	Turn left into Valley Park Commons (Lowes)
↑	Continue straight through Valley Park Commons
→	Turn right onto Railway Lane
←	Turn left onto Underpass Way
←	Turn left onto Valley Mall Road
↑	Follow Valley Mall Road to Food Court
←	Exit Valley Mall turning left onto Cole Road
←	Turn left onto Massey Blvd.
→	Turn right onto Halfway Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Oak Ridge Drive
←	Turn left onto Downsville Pike
←	Turn left into South End Shopping Center at last entrance
←	Exit Shopping Center at 2 nd exit and turn left onto Maryland Avenue
→	Turn right onto Wilson Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Rosehill Avenue
←	Turn left onto Howard Street
→	Turn right onto Potomac Street
↑	Continue straight as Potomac becomes Locust Street
←	Turn left onto Baltimore Street
→	Turn right onto Summit Avenue
←	Turn left onto Franklin Street
←	Turn left into Transfer Center
	Transfer Center





Depart	Halfway Blvd @ Valley Mall		Halfway Blvd @		Arrival	
Transfer Center	Noland Village	Virginia Ave	Food Court	Virginia Ave	Noland Village	Transfer Center
6:15 PM	6:20 PM	6:25 PM	6:35 PM	6:40 PM	6:45 PM	6:55 PM
7:45 PM	7:50 PM	7:55 PM	8:05 PM	8:10 PM	8:15 PM	8:25 PM



Revised: 1/4/2022



VALLEY MALL NIGHT RUN - ROUTE #113

	Transfer Center
←	Depart Transfer Center turning left onto Franklin Street
←	Turn left onto Burhans Blvd.
←	Continue South on Burhans Blvd. turning left at Elgin Blvd.
→	Turn right onto Sherman Avenue
→	Turn right onto Noland Drive
←	Turn left onto Linwood Avenue
→	Turn right onto Virginia Avenue
→	Turn right onto Halfway Blvd.
→	Turn right onto Massey Blvd.
→	Turn right into 1 st entrance of Valley Plaza (Kmart)
←	Exit Valley Plaza turning left onto Heister Street
→	Turn right onto Wesel Blvd.
←	Turn left into Valley Park Commons (Lowes)
←	Continue straight through Valley Park Commons
→	Turn right onto Railway Lane
←	Turn left onto Underpass Way
←	Turn left onto Valley Mall Road
↑	Follow Valley Mall Road to Food Court
←	Exit Valley Mall turning left onto Cole Road
←	Turn left onto Massey Blvd.
→	Turn right onto Halfway Blvd.
←	Turn left onto Virginia Avenue
←	Turn left onto Linwood Avenue
→	Turn right onto Noland Drive
←	Turn left onto Sherman Avenue
←	Turn left onto Burhans Blvd.
→	Continue North on Burhans Blvd. turning right at Elgin Blvd.
→	Turn right onto Washington Street
←	Turn left onto Jonathan Street
←	Turn left onto Franklin Street
←	Turn left into Transfer Center
	Transfer Center