

January 7, 2024

Clifton Town Precinct Polling Place Relocation Request

Statutory Context:

On July 1, 2020, Virginia Code § 24.2-307 established the requirement that each precinct be wholly contained within a single congressional district, Senate district, House of Delegates district, and election district used for the election of one or more members of the governing body. Additionally, as of January 1, 2022, Virginia Code § 15.2-1400 moved the required elections for mayor, members of a local governing body, or members of an elected school board to the date of the November general election for terms to commence January 1.

Overview:

In 2021, the Virginia Supreme Court drew district lines that under Virginia Code § 24.2-307 required a split of the Clifton precinct, already over 5000 registered voters. As a result, in February 2022, Clifton precinct was divided using the railroad tracks and the Town of Clifton's municipal boundaries to create Liberty precinct north of the tracks, Clifton South precinct south of the tracks, and Clifton Town precinct. Liberty's polling place was established at Liberty Middle School. Because this split reduced the number of voters by half who previously voted at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, the Office of Elections agreed to co-locate the newly created Clifton Town precinct with Clifton South precinct at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. However, after two November elections (2022 and 2023), the Office of Elections was informed by both election teams that the Church was too small to continue to accommodate both polling places.

Action Requested:

Office of Elections staff recommends that the polling place for Clifton Town precinct be relocated to the Clifton Town Hall beside the fire station. When the town elections were held in May, this location served as the polling place. Adopting this change will greatly increase the options for parking, setting up voting equipment, including the check-in stations, and staging the flow of voters through the voting room. This change will significantly improve overall accessibility for voters in both precincts. Because the precinct for Clifton Town has already been established along with dedicated voting equipment and election personnel, there is no additional associated cost for the Town of Clifton to approve this relocation.