

FULTON COUNTY VOTE CENTER PLAN



FULTON COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

Dennis Grossnickle, Chairman

Laura Calvert, Vice Chairman

Teri Furnivall, Clerk of the Circuit Court/Election Board Secretary



Fulton County Clerk

Teri Furnivall • 815 Main St., Rochester, IN 46975 • 574-223-4824 • clerk@co.fulton.in.us

November 4, 2021

Co-Directors
Indiana Election Division
Indiana Government Center South
Room E204
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Directors:

Please accept the following vote center plan on behalf of the Fulton County Board of Election. The Election Board and I are excited about this new opportunity for the Voters of Fulton County.

It is our intention to continuously modify this plan to fit current Indiana legislation and also to revise based on our experiences with vote centers and the needs of our voters.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns regarding any of our documentation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri Furnivall".

Teri Furnivall
Fulton County Clerk
815 Main St.
Rochester, IN 46975
574-223-4824
clerk@co.fulton.in.us



MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK

Citizens of Fulton County,

Since Vote Centers were first utilized in Indiana elections in 2007, leaders in Fulton County have been carefully observing its effect on voters, county budgets, and on the election process. Now, 48 counties in Indiana have made the transition to become Vote Center counties.

The following pages layout our plan to bring Vote Centers to Fulton County. The Vote Center concept gives any voter in Fulton County the opportunity to cast their ballot at any polling location throughout the county; no one is restricted to one polling place on Election Day. In addition to making it easier for voters on Election Day, the Vote Center concept also calls for increased early voting opportunities at what are called "Satellite Vote Centers" that are open prior to Election Day.

Vote Centers will also provide Fulton County with financial savings. By having fewer locations, the county spends less tax-payer money on poll workers, meals, and rentals on Election Day.

By transitioning to Vote Centers, voter convenience is improved, election administration is streamlined and made simpler, and the county's long-term fiscal stance will be improved when it comes to elections.

I want to thank all of those who have worked so hard and in a bipartisan manner to move the county toward vote centers. Fulton County should be proud of its community leaders who worked together for what will be best for all citizens.

Respectfully,



Teri Furnivall
Fulton County Circuit Court Clerk

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INTRODUCTION

What is a Vote Center?

Simply put, a vote center is a polling place where any eligible voter in the county may go to vote. The vote center model gives voters more flexibility on Election Day because they are not constrained to a specific polling location. Vote centers are connected through secure internet connections, and as ballots are cast, an electronic poll book is instantaneously updated.

From 2007-2010, the Indiana Secretary of State's office ran the Vote Center Pilot Program where three Indiana counties; Wayne, Tippecanoe and Cass, used the vote center concept to determine if it would be a viable option for election administration in Indiana. After immense success, in 2011 the Indiana General Assembly passed Senate Enrolled Act 32 and House Enrolled Act 1242. The Governor signed both pieces of legislation, making vote centers an option for any Indiana county.

What is required to become a Vote Center County?

Indiana Code 3.11-18.1-3 sets forth the requirements for a county to become a vote center county. The first step to becoming a vote center county is to gauge the interest of the community by talking to leaders in and out of government. Ultimately, county council members and county commissioners must, by majority vote, pass resolutions simply approving a county's designation as a vote center county.

Once those resolutions have been passed, a draft plan pursuant to IC 3-11-18.1-4 is submitted for public review and comment at a public meeting of the County Election Board, the opportunity for the public to review the draft plan and submit comments must remain open for 30 days. After the 30 days of opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft plan, the County Election Board holds another public meeting to consider all public comments and then votes to adopt the vote center plan as is or as amended. For the county to become a vote center county, the County Election Board must approve a vote center plan by a unanimous vote.

If all three resolutions are passed, the plan must be filed with the Indiana Election Division and Fulton County will officially become a vote center county. Any future amendments to the plan or a decision to return to traditional precinct-based elections must be voted on by unanimous vote of the County Election Board and filed with the Indiana Election Division.

Fulton County will officially gain status as a vote center county once the vote center plan is filed with the Indiana Election Division, pursuant to IC 3-11-18.1-8.

The Fulton County Vote Center Plan will allow voters to have a choice to vote at any of our 6 locations. All machines will be programmed at each vote center location with all of the ballots for the entire county. Just as in the past, at the end of the Election Day, votes will be tallied and reported by precinct.

The question has been raised, will the voters not vote because a location may be farther from their home? This should not affect the voter. On Election-Day the voter can vote anywhere in the county, on their way to work, on their way to an appointment or grocery shopping. If the voter is unavailable to vote on election-day they will still be able to vote by mail, vote absentee at the courthouse, by travel board if confined or, now, at one of the new satellite locations available on the two Saturdays prior to election-day.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE PLAN

Vote Center Plan Requirements as Defined in IC 3-11-18.1-4

IC 3-11-18.1-4 Vote center plan; requirements

Sec. 4. The plan required by section 3 of this chapter must include at least the following:

- (1) The total number of vote centers to be established.
- (2) The location of each vote center.
- (3) The effective date of the order.
- (4) The following information according to the computerized list (as defined in [IC 3-7-26.3-2](#)) as of the date of the order:
 - (A) The total number of voters within the county.
 - (B) The number of active voters within the county.
 - (C) The number of inactive voters within the county.
- (5) For each vote center designated under subdivision (2), the number of precinct election boards that will be appointed to administer an election at the vote center.
- (6) For each precinct election board designated under subdivision (5), the number and name of each precinct the precinct election board will administer consistent with section 13 of this chapter for an election that is not being held in each precinct of the county.
- (7) For each vote center designated under subdivision (2), the number and title of the precinct election officers who will be appointed to serve at the vote center.
- (8) For each vote center designated under subdivision (2):
 - (A) the number and type of ballot variations that will be provided at the vote center; and
 - (B) whether these ballots will be:
 - (i) delivered to the vote center before the opening of the polls; or
 - (ii) printed on demand for a voter's use.
- (9) A detailed description of any hardware, firmware, or software used:
 - (A) to create an electronic poll list for each precinct whose polls are to be located at a vote center; or
 - (B) to manage data in an electronic poll book through a secure electronic connection between the county election board and the precinct election officials administering a vote center.
- (10) A description of the equipment and procedures to be used to ensure that information concerning a voter entered into any electronic poll book used by precinct election officers at a vote center is immediately accessible to:
 - (A) the county election board; and
 - (B) the electronic poll books used by precinct election officers at all other vote centers in the county.
- (11) This subdivision applies to a county in which ballot cards are used at a vote center. For each vote center designated under subdivision (2), whether each ballot card printed will have the printed initials of the poll clerks captured through the electronic signature pad or tablet at the time the poll clerks log into the electronic poll book system printed on the back of the ballot card immediately before the ballot card is delivered to a voter.
- (12) The security and contingency plans to be implemented by the county to do all of the following:
- (13) Prevent a disruption of the vote center process.
- (14) Ensure that the election is properly conducted if a disruption occurs.
- (15) Prevent access to an electronic poll book without the coordinated action of two (2) precinct election officers who are not members of the same political party.

(13) A certification that the vote center complies with the accessibility requirements applicable to polling places under [IC 3-11-8](#).

(14) A sketch depicting the planned layout of the vote center, indicating the location of:

(A) equipment; and

(B) precinct election officers;

within the vote center.

(15) The total number and locations of satellite offices to be established under [IC 3-11-10-26.3](#) at vote center locations designated under subdivision (2) to allow voters to cast absentee ballots in accordance with [IC 3-11](#). However, a plan must provide for at least one (1) vote center to be established as a satellite office under [IC 3-11-10-26.3](#) on the two (2) Saturdays immediately preceding an election day.

(16) The method and timing of providing voter data to persons who are entitled to receive the data under this title. Data shall be provided to all persons entitled to the data without unreasonable delay.

(17) In a county in which a majority of votes are cast on optical scan ballot cards, any additional procedures to provide for efficient and secure voting at each vote center, including ballot on demand printing.

As added by P.L.1-2011, SEC.3. Amended by P.L.225-2011, SEC.69; P.L.258-2013, SEC.81; P.L.55-2014, SEC.9; P.L.64-2014, SEC.59; P.L.76-2014, SEC.44; P.L.278-2019, SEC.115.

Fulton County will have 6 vote center locations placed strategically throughout the county. These locations were used in previous elections and were selected because of their accessibility, parking, handicap accessibility, space for equipment and location throughout the county.

A vote center map is in this plan showing the vote center locations with the locations indicated by the location name and red arrows on the map.

Implementation of the plan is January 1, 2022.

On August 19, 2021 Fulton County had 13,148 registered voters, 12,229 active and 919 inactive with a total county population of 20,480 as of the 2020 Census.

All precinct ballots will be available at each vote center location in Fulton County.

The precincts are:

Rochester 1, Rochester 2, Rochester 3, Rochester 4, Rochester 5, Rochester 6, Rochester 7, Rochester 8, Aubbeenaubbee 9, Henry 1, Henry 2, Henry 3, Liberty, Newcastle 14, Richland 15, Union 16 and Wayne 17.

ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY

While it is possible that counties will save money using vote centers, the purpose of the voter centers is to increase voter convenience and accessibility. Counties locating more than one precinct in the same location could experience cost savings. Voter centers may reduce the number of voting machines needed. With less poll sites, we will greatly alleviate a serious problem of not being able to find enough poll workers.

SATELLITE VOTE CENTERS

Satellite locations will be open prior to the election based on Indiana law and as determined by the Fulton County Election Board based on projected voter turnout.

At the beginning of each day, poll workers will collectively match the number of voter's signatures on the electronic poll book to the number of voters on the voting machines. At the close of the day the Republican and Democrat Election Workers will return voting equipment to the Fulton County Voter Registration Office. At the close of absentee voting on the Saturday prior to the election, the voting machines will be securely locked and stored until the vote counting process on Election Day. This procedure will be followed in all elections.

VOTING EQUIPMENT

Fulton County will be using the Verity Duo voting machines from Hart. At the end of the Election Day, votes will be tallied and reported by Precinct.

ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK

Fulton County will be utilizing EVID E-poll books. This system is certified with the Secretary of State. The Poll Pad E-Poll Book application software runs on the Apple iPad tablet. The poll pad is managed by a central command and interfaced with Quest Voter Registration System. In the event of a power failure the poll pads will continue to operate 6-8 hours before needing recharged.

AT&T HOT SPOTS

The AT&T mifi hot spots will be used to have continuous and secure internet for the electronic poll books in order to have instantaneous updating.

EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION

Rochester East Vote Center (Community Resource Center) will have 8 machines with 2 poll pads

Rochester West Vote Center (Fulton Co. Fairgrounds) will have 8 machines with 2 poll pads

Fulton County East Vote Center (Akron Community Center) will have 8 machines with 2 poll pads

Fulton County West Vote Center (Kewanna Fire Station/Community Center) will have 5 machines with 2 poll pads

Fulton County South Vote Center (Fulton Community Center) will have 5 machines with 2 poll pads

Fulton County North Vote Center (Fulton County Historical Museum) will have 5 machines with 2 poll pads

Absentee Voting in the Clerk's office will have 6 machines with 2 poll pads

Satellite locations (Saturday voting with location(s) to be determined each election) will have 3 machines and 1 poll pad.

POLL WORKERS

Each vote center will have either nine (9) or seven (7) poll workers:

- One-Inspector

- Four to Six-Election Judges/Greeters, two to three from each party

- Four to Six-Election Clerks, two to three from each party

- One-IT person for IT and machine support only at each of the four vote centers outside of Rochester to be chosen by the Clerk.

If the Election Board determines that the amount of poll workers can be reduced at a Vote Center the poll workers will be reduced to five (5) and will consist of at least one Inspector, two Judges/Greeters and two Clerks.

Each Satellite location used during the election will consist of at least three election poll workers, one from each party plus one additional from the party to which the Secretary of the State belongs.

Nomination of election workers will apply according to I.C. 3-6-6-9.

However, if the appropriate party chairmen do not nominate poll workers in a timely manner, the Election Board will nominate poll workers.

VOTER EDUCATION

Education for voters will be achieved through postings on the Fulton County website, media and press releases. Additionally, a post card will be sent to all registered voters detailing the vote center locations as well as a mailer that will be sent to all residences in Fulton County containing information regarding voting locations, early voting along with how to register. Included in the mailer will be all pertinent information for the upcoming election.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Every Vote Center will have a bag with an Emergency Preparedness Guide that will be discussed during Poll Worker training and can be referenced at any time. Emergencies include fire, severe weather, floods, earthquakes, utility disruption, bomb threats, and weapons in the polling place, violent situations and hazardous material. Each bag will have weather radios and tornado signs

The Verity-Duo voting equipment has battery backup. Each machine requires eight (8) C batteries. The election headquarters will provide those as needed.

In the event of an emergency on Election Day requiring a temporary or permanent evacuation, the Election Board and County Commissioners, in cooperation with the County Emergency Management Direction, will determine the best resolution. If necessary, the Office of the Secretary of State's Election Division will be contacted for emergency assistance. Signs will be posted communicating to the voters what the emergency is and indicating the other vote centers that are available.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

City of Rochester Municipal election will have two vote centers located in Rochester.

Rochester East Vote Center (Community Resource Center) will have 5 machines and 2 poll pads

Rochester West Vote Center (Fulton County Fairgrounds) will have 5 machines and 2 poll pads

VOTE CENTER HOURS AND PHYSICAL LOCATIONS

Vote Center Locations will be open from 6 AM – 6 PM on Election Day

Satellite Locations will be open the two Saturdays prior to Election Day from 8 AM – 3 PM

Absentee voting will be in the Fulton County Courthouse 28 days prior to the Election including the two Saturdays prior to Election Day.

SIX (6) VOTE CENTER LOCATIONS

- 1.** Rochester East Vote Center,
Community Resource Center, 625 Pontiac St., Rochester
8 machines/2 poll pads/1 inspector/4 judges/2 clerks/2 assistant clerks
- 2.** Rochester West Vote Center,
Fulton County Fairgrounds, 100 W 3rd St., Rochester
8 machines/2 poll pads/1 inspector/4 judges/2 clerks/2 assistant clerks
- 3.** Fulton County East Vote Center,
Akron Community Building, 815 E Rural St., Akron
8 machines/2 poll pads/1 inspector/4 judges/2 clerks/2 assistant clerks
- 4.** Fulton County West Vote Center,
Kewanna Fire Station Community Room, 404 N Toner St, Kewanna
5 machines/2 poll pads/1 inspector/4 judges/2 clerks/2 assistant clerks
- 5.** Fulton County North Vote Center,
Fulton County Historical Museum, 37 E 375 N, Rochester
5 machines/2 poll pads/1 inspector/4 judges/2 clerks/2 assistant clerks
- 6.** Fulton County South Vote Center,
Fulton Community Building, 204 E Dunn St., Fulton
5 machines/2 poll pads/1 inspector/4 judges/2 clerks/2 assistant clerks

Five SATELLITE LOCATIONS are listed below and will be utilized on the two Saturdays prior to the Election. Which location(s) to be used will be decided upon by the Election Board and will be based on the forecasted turnout of the election. The additional locations not currently shown as vote centers will be the first choice for the satellite location(s).

Vote Center: Fulton County East Vote Center,
Akron Community Building, 815 E Rural St., Akron

Vote Center: Fulton County West Vote Center,
Kewanna Fire Station Community Room, 404 N Toner St, Kewanna

Additional locations:

Grass Creek Fire Station/Community Building, State Road 17, Grass Creek
Aubbeenaubbee Township Community Building-Leiters Ford Indiana, 7410 Main St.,
Rochester IN 46975
Talma Community Building, State Road 25, Talma

Each of the chosen satellite locations will have 3 election poll workers, one poll worker from each party plus one additional poll worker from the party to which the Secretary of the State belongs.



Verity Duo

modern secure hybrid voting



Verity Duo is the all-new hybrid voting solution that combines the ease of touchscreen voting with the assurance of voter-verifiable paper vote records.

Centralized polling place management

Unique daisy-chain configuration with centralized management to quickly, easily open and close polls and monitor voting devices from one console.

Reduces warehouse labor to a fraction

Less equipment to prepare before the election; no equipment to clear after the election.

One convenient device to mark and print

Voters mark ballot choices on a touchscreen and print easy-to-review vote records on the integrated printer.

Ideally suited for Early Voting and Vote Centers

Thousands of ballot styles can be easily managed electronically without the expense and complication of pre-printing paper ballots.

VVSG-compliant accessible interfaces

Designed for voting privacy and independence – for all voters. Fully compliant with federal requirements for accessibility.



HART Intercivic Verity Controller, Touch Writer Duo, & Scan



With **Verity Controller** and **Verity Touch Writer Duo**, poll workers issue Access Codes with Verity Controller, which voters use to access, mark and print paper vote records on a Verity Touch Writer Duo device. The voter will then scan their vote record using a Verity Scan device.



Verity Touch Writer Duo may be used with **Verity Access**, an Audio-Tactile Interface (ATI) intended for voters that cannot, or prefer not to, use the touchscreen. Verity Access includes two connection ports: the left connection port for headphones, and the right connection port for any dual-switch input device (such as tactile switches or sip-and-puff devices).



Verity Scan is a polling place-based digital scanner for scanning and casting printed vote records from Verity Touch Writer Duo devices. Verity Scan deposits scanned vote records into its ballot box for secure storage.



vDrives are used to transfer digital ballot styles from the Verity election definition software to Verity Controller and Verity Scan. When used with Touch Writer Duo, vote data is not stored on the Controller's vDrive. vDrives are inserted into a standard USB port located in a locked and sealed compartment; each Verity Controller and Verity Scan has its own vDrive.

A Better, Smarter Hybrid Solution



Verity Duo
Ballot Marking and Printing



Verity Scan
Digital Vote Capture

Casting votes is as easy as inserting the printed vote record into Verity Scan

- **Intuitive voting on touchscreen.** Plain language interfaces based on Design for Democracy standards.
- **Private on-screen review.** Voting choices are displayed on screen for review in the privacy of the voting booth.
- **Printed paper vote record.** The vote record protects the identity of the voter and supports auditability.
- **Accessible independence.** Voter activates ballot independently with a randomly generated, disposable access code.
- **Savings with fewer consumables.** No toner. No ink cartridges. Vote records print on commercially available thermal paper.
- **Easy to store, transport and set up.** Lightweight and compact, Verity transports securely in standard vehicles.



The Future of Elections

About Hart

Election solutions innovator Hart InterCivic partners with state and local governments to deliver secure, accurate and reliable elections. Our drive for technological innovation has produced modern, secure voting options for every style of voting: electronic, hybrid and hand-marked. Hart provides modern, secure voting solutions for the future of elections.

10

EViD[®] ★ Edge

The EViD Edge is a complete electronic pollbook solution.

Custom-designed and built specifically for elections, the EViD Edge comes with VR's 10 year support

package option, so elections

directors can minimize tablet

replacement costs over the long

run. The Edge offers a ruggedized design that includes a tablet, mobile

printer and case. Its exceptional

usability, durability and value deliver a

successful election, every time.

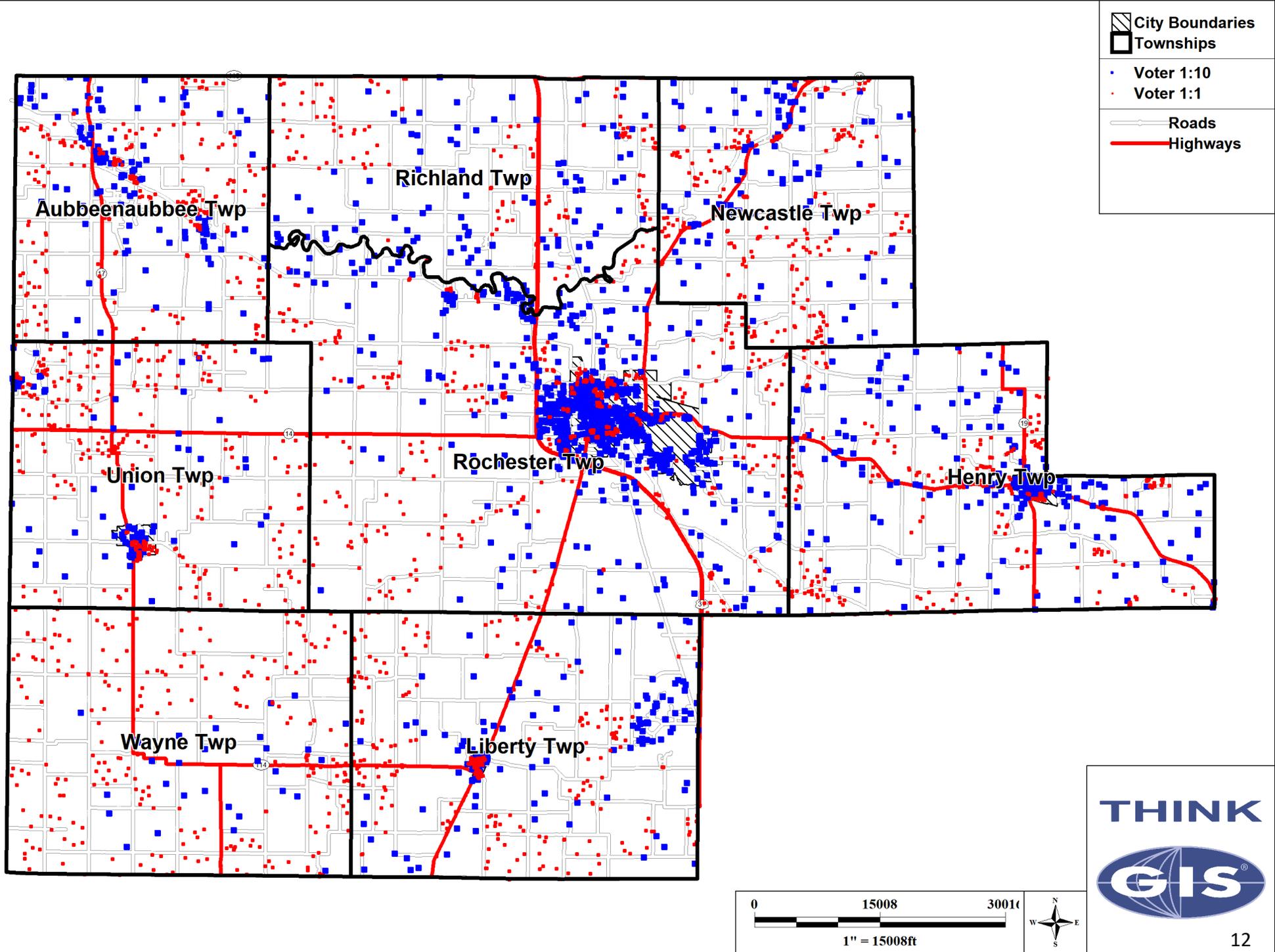


Features:

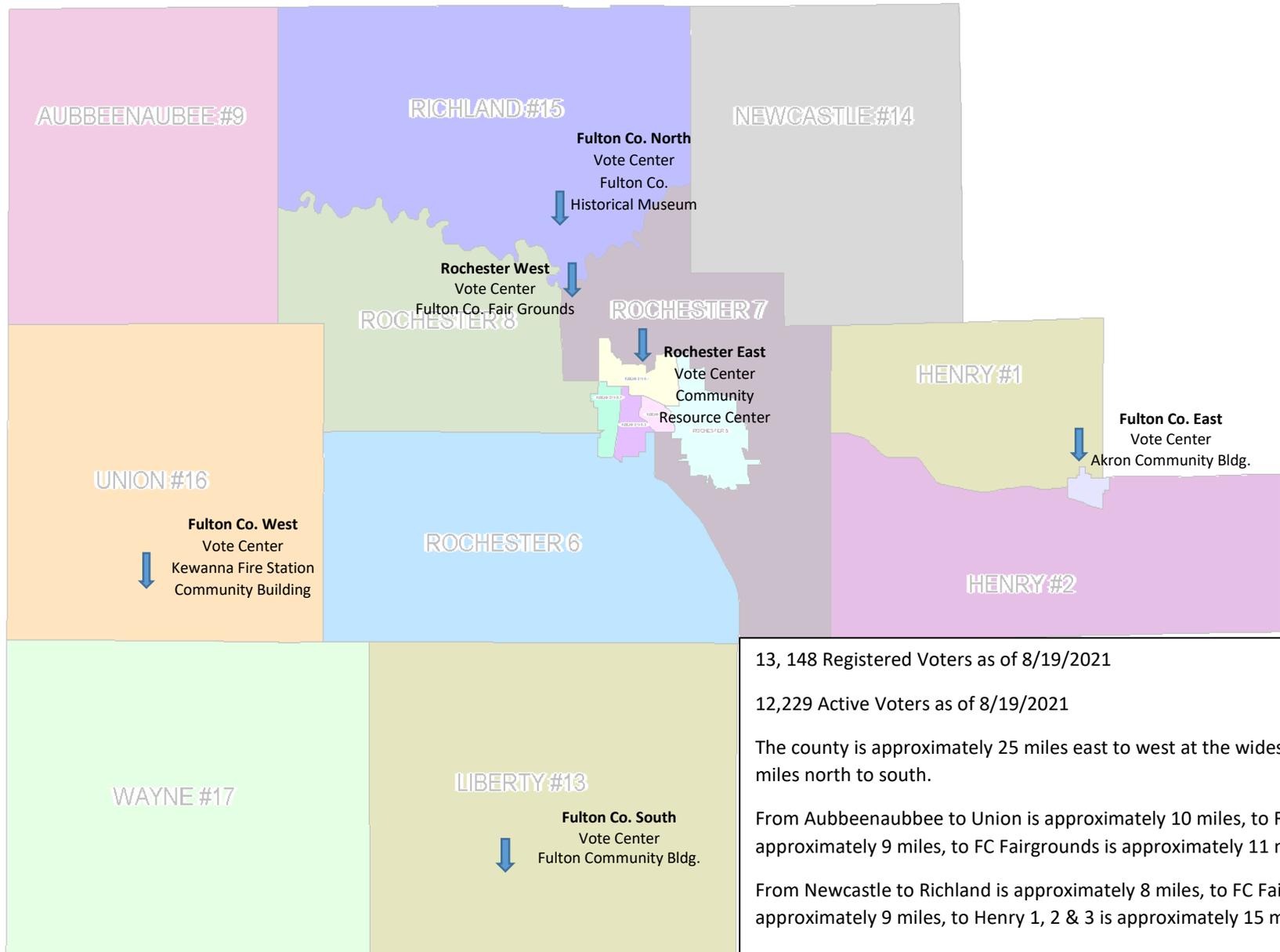
- *Five USB 3.0 ports*
- *MicroSD card reader*
- *Laser barcode scanner*
- *WiFi/Ethernet/Bluetooth*
- *Three point ergonomic positioning to facilitate voter signature*
- *Reinforced tablet cradle/dock integrated in stand*
- *Full interoperability with VR'S DirectPrint ballot printing solution for direct device to printer ballot printing*
- *Rugged casing solution optimized for storage, transport, and operation inside the case if desired*



Fulton Voter Density



FULTON CO. VOTE CENTER LOCATIONS & PRECINCTS



13, 148 Registered Voters as of 8/19/2021

12,229 Active Voters as of 8/19/2021

The county is approximately 25 miles east to west at the widest point and 18 miles north to south.

From Aubbeenaubee to Union is approximately 10 miles, to Richland is approximately 9 miles, to FC Fairgrounds is approximately 11 miles

From Newcastle to Richland is approximately 8 miles, to FC Fairgrounds is approximately 9 miles, to Henry 1, 2 & 3 is approximately 15 miles

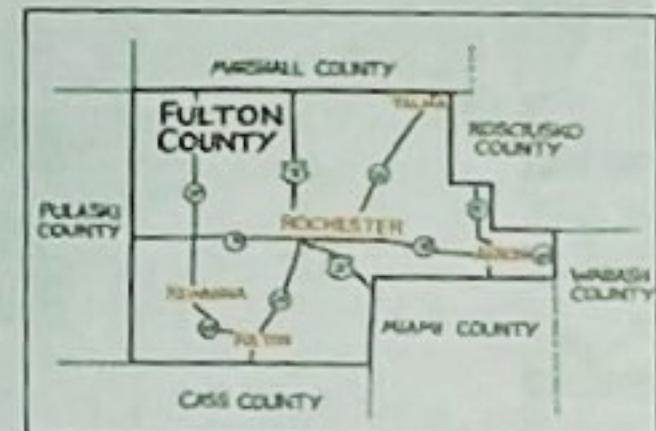
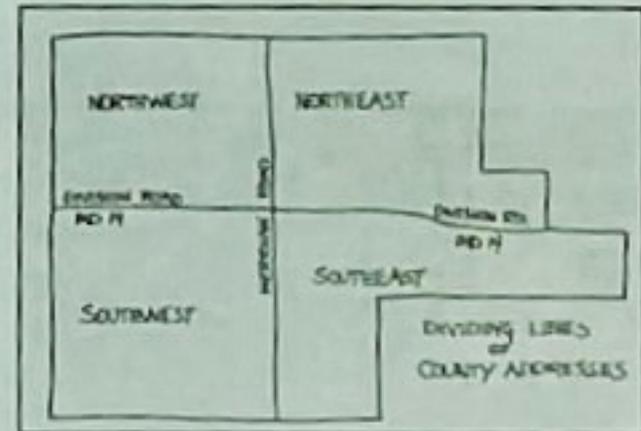
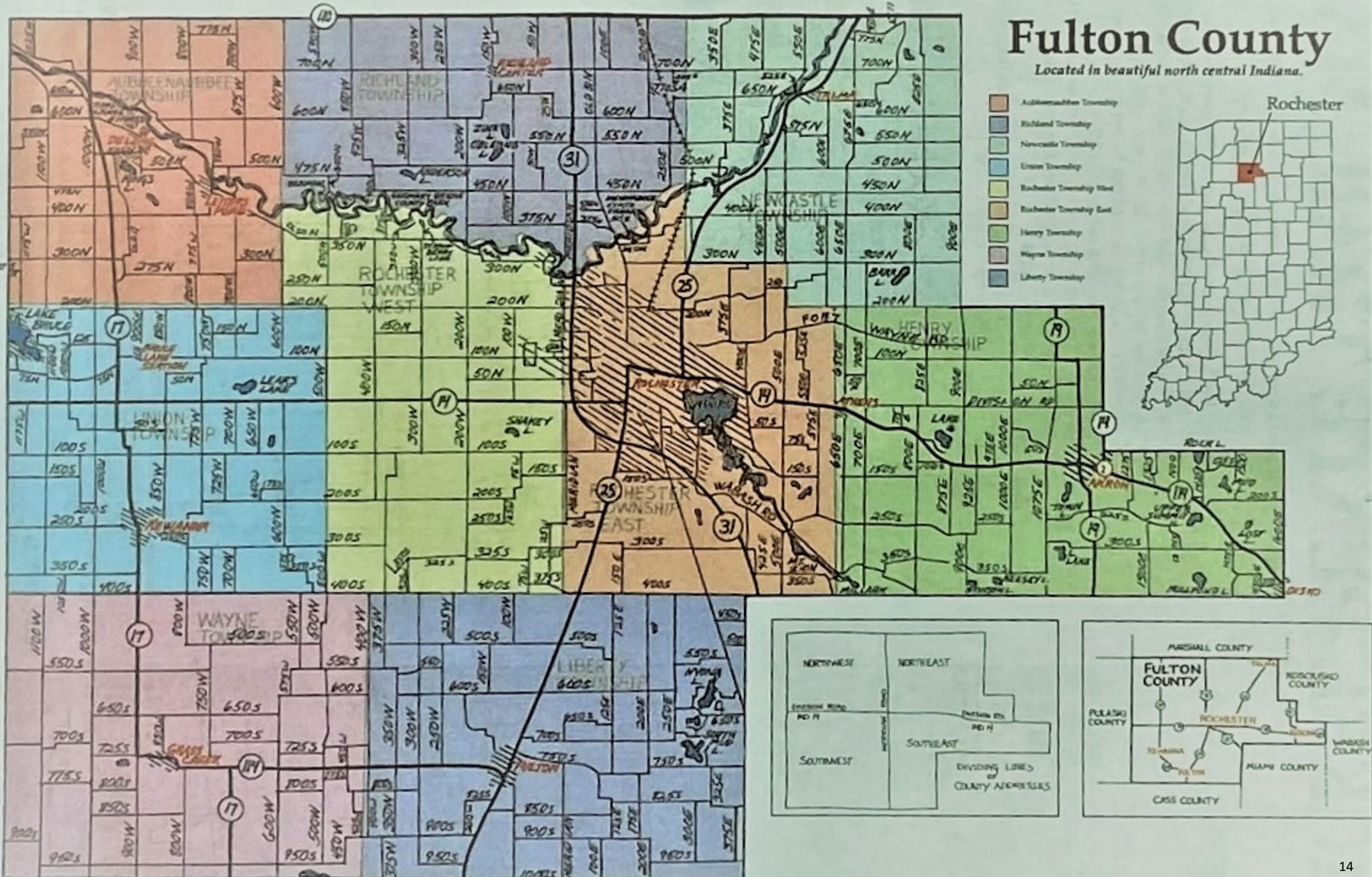
From Wayne to Union is approximately 6 miles, to Liberty is approximately 8 miles, to Rochester Fairgrounds is approximately 18 miles

Fulton County

Located in beautiful north central Indiana.

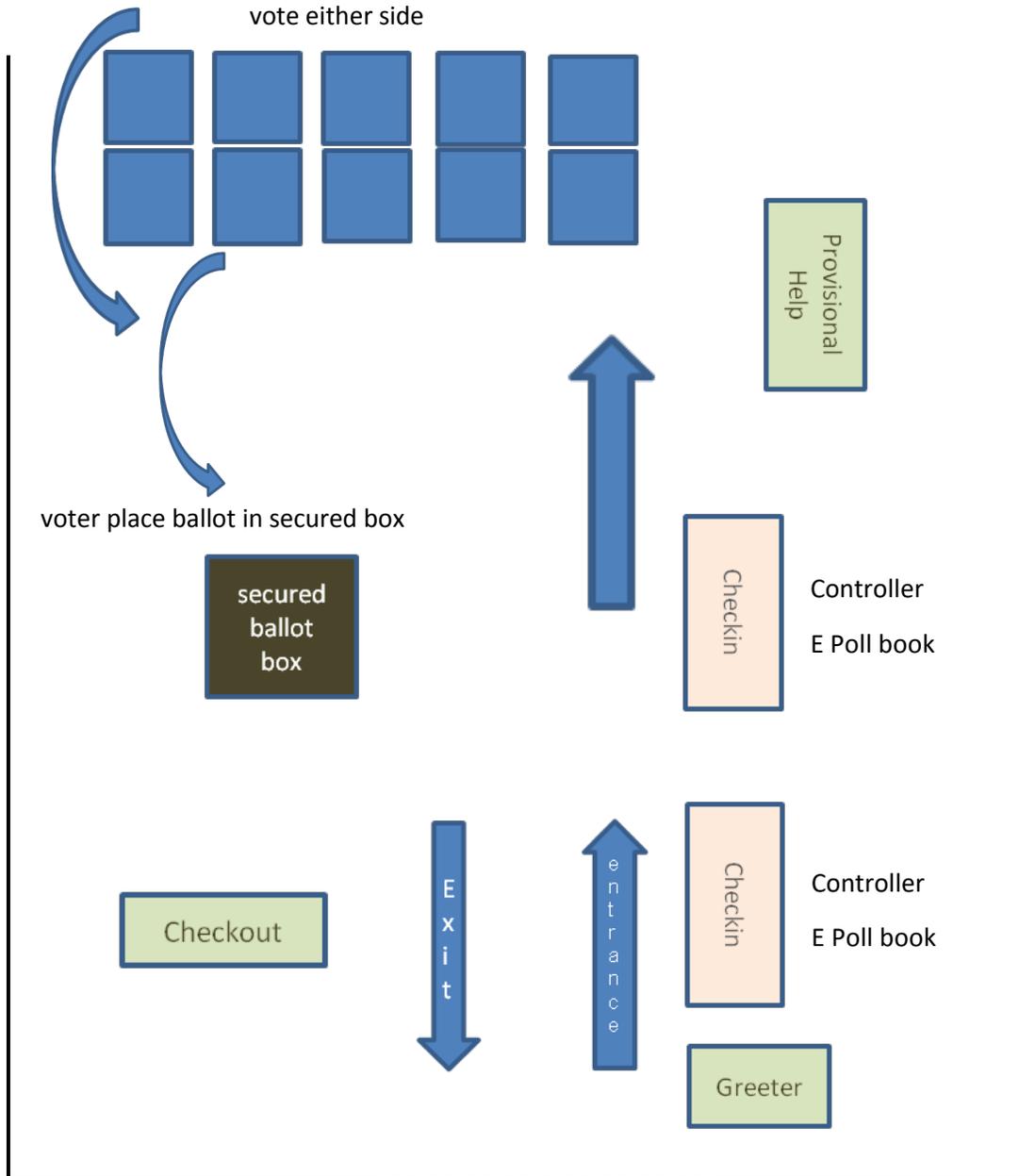
- Adamsmauthor Township
- Richland Township
- Newcastle Township
- Union Township
- Rochester Township West
- Rochester Township East
- Henry Township
- Wayne Township
- Liberty Township

Rochester



Vote Center Layout and Design: Large Room

Figure 1



9 to 11 Poll workers (depending on Election type)

1 - Inspector: oversees the vote center

1 to 2 - Greeters: checks identification and directs voters to check in

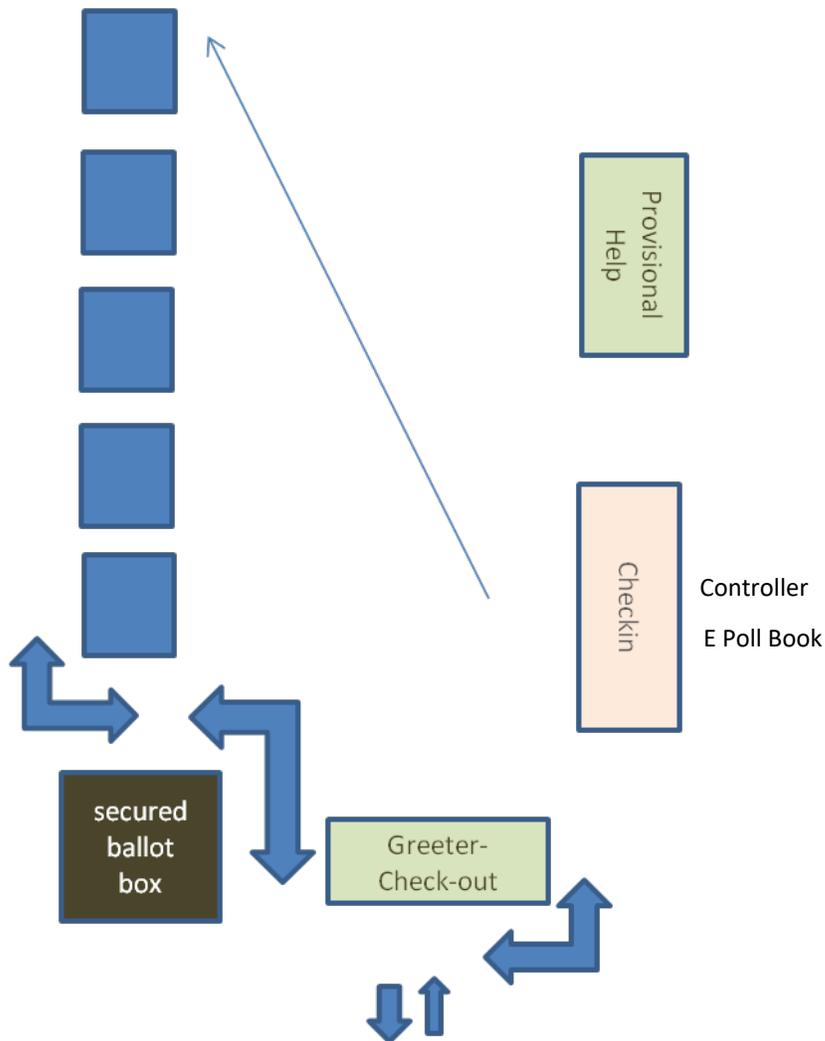
4 - Check-in Poll Clerks - e-poll book and controller stations

2 - Judges: help at voting machines, help with provisional ballots

1 to 2 - Check-out Poll Clerks - to verify voter scanned ballot into the ballot box and to help at voting machines as needed

Vote Center Layout and Design: Small Room

Figure 2



7 Poll Workers

1 Inspector-oversees the vote center

2 Greeters: checks identification and directs voters to check-in, verifies the ballot got scanned into the secured box and help at voting machines as needed

2 Check In Poll Clerks - e-poll book stations and controller

2 Judges: help at voting machines, help with provisional ballots

COUNTY PRECINCT KEY

Fulton County

Precinct Totals:17, Split Totals:7

Precinct	Split Name	Township	CON	SEN	HSE	County Comm.	County Council	Municipality	City Common Council	Town Council	School	School Board	Court of Appeals Judge
AUBBEENAUBBEE 9	0	AUBBEENAUBBEE	2	18	17	01	1				Culver Community School Corp	CULVER 1	
HENRY 1	0	HENRY	2	18	17	03	2				TIPPECANOE VALLEY SCHOOL CORPORATION	TIPPECANOE VALLEY 4	
HENRY 2	0	HENRY	2	18	17	03	2				TIPPECANOE VALLEY SCHOOL CORPORATION	TIPPECANOE VALLEY 4	
HENRY 3	0	HENRY	2	18	17	03	2	AKRON			TIPPECANOE VALLEY SCHOOL CORPORATION	TIPPECANOE VALLEY 4	
LIBERTY	Town	LIBERTY	2	18	23	01	1	FULTON			CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION	CASTON 2	
LIBERTY	Township	LIBERTY	2	18	23	01	1				CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION	CASTON 2	
NEW CASTLE 14	0	NEWCASTLE	2	18	17	03	2				TIPPECANOE VALLEY SCHOOL CORPORATION	TIPPECANOE VALLEY 5	
RICHLAND 15	0	RICHLAND	2	18	17	03	2				ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 1	
ROCHESTER 1	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	3	ROCHESTER	1		ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
ROCHESTER 2	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	3	ROCHESTER	2		ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
ROCHESTER 3	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	3	ROCHESTER	3		ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
ROCHESTER 4	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	3	ROCHESTER	4		ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
ROCHESTER 5	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	4	ROCHESTER	5		ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
ROCHESTER 6	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	4				ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
ROCHESTER 7	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	4				ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
ROCHESTER 8	0	ROCHESTER	2	18	17	02	4				ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
UNION 16	Caston	UNION	2	18	16	01	1				CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION	CASTON 1	
UNION 16	Caston - Kewanna	UNION	2	18	16	01	1	KEWANNA			CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION	CASTON 1	
UNION 16	Eastern Pulaski	UNION	2	18	16	01	1				EASTERN PULASKI	EASTERN PULASKI HARRISON	
UNION 16	Rochester	UNION	2	18	16	01	1				ROCHESTER SCHOOL CORPORATION	ROCHESTER 2	
WAYNE 17	0	WAYNE	2	18	16	01	1				CASTON SCHOOL CORPORATION	CASTON 1	

State of Indiana Voter Status Counts by Precinct and Split FULTON COUNTY

Precinct	Split	Active	Inactive	Total Current Voters	Pending	Incomplete
AUBBEENAUBBEE 9						
	0	780	82	862	0	0
		Precinct Subtotal	780	862	0	0
HENRY 1						
	0	437	31	468	0	0
		Precinct Subtotal	437	468	0	0
HENRY 2						
	0	636	61	697	0	0
		Precinct Subtotal	636	697	0	0
HENRY 3						
	0	497	68	565	2	0
		Precinct Subtotal	497	565	2	0
LIBERTY						
	TOWN	201	20	221	1	0
	TOWNSHIP	844	58	902	2	0
		Precinct Subtotal	1,045	1,123	3	0
NEW CASTLE 14						
	0	719	82	801	4	0
		Precinct Subtotal	719	801	4	0
RICHLAND 15						
	0	620	39	659	0	0
		Precinct Subtotal	620	659	0	0
ROCHESTER 1						
	0	636	120	756	0	0
		Precinct Subtotal	636	756	0	0
ROCHESTER 2						
	0	593	69	662	2	0
		Precinct Subtotal	593	662	2	0
ROCHESTER 3						
	0	738	148	886	2	0
		Precinct Subtotal	738	886	2	0

State of Indiana Voter Status Counts by Precinct and Split

Precinct	Split	Active	Inactive	Total Current Voters	Pending	Incomplete
ROCHESTER 4	0	686	56	742	3	0
	Precinct Subtotal	686	56	742	3	0
ROCHESTER 5	0	852	93	945	4	0
	Precinct Subtotal	852	93	945	4	0
ROCHESTER 6	0	673	61	734	3	0
	Precinct Subtotal	673	61	734	3	0
ROCHESTER 7	0	833	68	901	2	0
	Precinct Subtotal	833	68	901	2	0
ROCHESTER 8	0	1,021	70	1,091	2	0
	Precinct Subtotal	1,021	70	1,091	2	0
UNION 16						
	CASTON	79	6	85	0	0
	CASTON - KEWANNA	319	45	364	1	0
	EASTERN PULASKI	196	13	209	0	0
	ROCHESTER	201	16	217	0	0
	Precinct Subtotal	795	80	875	1	0
WAYNE 17	0	376	13	389	0	0
	Precinct Subtotal	376	13	389	0	0
FULTON County Totals	(7222 Total Cancelled)	11,937	1,219	13,156	28	0

Fulton County Vote Center Committee

Dennis Grossnickle, Election Board Chairman

Laura Calvert, Election Board Vice-Chairman

Teri Furnivall, Election Board Secretary, Clerk of the Circuit Court Mike

Canada, Fulton County Republican Party Chair

Phyllis Biddinger, Fulton County Democrat Party Chair

Shoda Beehler, City of Rochester Clerk/Treasurer

Ron Dittman, Fulton County Council

Randy Sutton, Fulton County Council

Rick Ranstead, Fulton County Commissioner

Peggy Dague, Democrat citizen chosen by Phyllis Biddinger Amy Roe,

Republican citizen chosen by Mike Canada

Support members:

Lanae Kline, Fulton County Voter Registration, resigned as of July 2021

Carissa Ziemek, Fulton County Voter Registration, as of July 2021

Devin Medeford, Fulton County Election IT

Dawn Ziemek, Fulton County Clerk First Deputy

Fulton County Vote Center Committee Meeting

January 25, 2021

Minutes

On January 25, 2021 at 4:30 the Fulton County Vote Center Committee held its first meeting.

In attendance were Dennis Grossnickle, Election Board Chairman, Laura Calvert, Election Board Vice-Chairman, Teri Furnivall, Election Board Secretary, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Mike Canada, Fulton County Republican Party Chair, Shoda Beehler, City of Rochester Clerk/Treasurer, Ron Dittman, Fulton County Council, Randy Sutton, Fulton County Council, Rick Ranstead, Fulton County Commissioner, Peggy Dague, Democrat citizen chosen by Phyllis Biddinger, Amy Roe, Republican citizen chosen by Mike Canada, Lanae Kline, Fulton County Voter Registration and Dawn Ziemek, Fulton County Clerk First Deputy. In attendance by phone was Phyllis Biddinger, Fulton County Democrat Party Chair. Devin Madeford, Fulton County Election IT was unable to attend in person but was available by phone.

Clerk Furnivall began the meeting by reviewing information on “What is a Vote Center”.

The committee reviewed the current vote system in Fulton County which is a 17 precincts, 10 polling locations system. The voter turnout, which included the number of early voters and election-day voters and the overall percentage of turnout at the largest Presidential Election to date held in Fulton County, was discussed by the members of the committee.

The current polling location map was reviewed to help the members see the actual position of the ten current locations. A Vote Center map was reviewed showing proposed Vote Center locations. Because one of the Vote Centers in Rochester was yet to be determined a discussion was held regarding potential locations. Some of the suggestions included the Moose Lodge, the Elks Lodge, the Fire Station and the Airport. It was determined that of the four locations the airport would be the most feasible if we can use a hanger and if the hanger is climate controlled. City of Rochester Clerk/Treasurer Shoda Beehler will reach out to ask if there is the potential for us to use either the building or a hanger. By using the Airport we would have an east location in Rochester.

We spoke about the satellite locations for the 2 Saturdays prior to the election. Peggy Dague, Democrat citizen, suggested that one of the Saturdays we use a former polling location; one that is not included in the 6 locations open on Election Day such as Grass Creek, Leiters Ford or Talma. The committee is in agreement that this would be the best way to accommodate Grass Creek (formerly known as Wayne) and Leiters Ford (formerly known as Aubbeenaubbee) voters by having the Saturday immediately prior to election day designated as having the seven hours of voting held at each of these locations. On the Saturday one week prior to the Election the satellite locations will be at Kewanna and Akron and seven hours of voting will be held at each of these locations.

Clerk Furnivall spoke about the number of machines needed at each location and the committee discussed issues at the 2020 election with the limited number of machines at certain locations. The Vote Center plan will help with that issue and Clerk Furnivall, Lanae Kline, Voter Registration Clerk and Laura Calvert, Election Board Member, will meet to look at the numbers and reach a consensus regarding the number of machines to have at each location.

....sidebar: the number of machines used were the same number used at the outlying areas in past elections according to documentation in the Voter Registration Office....

A discussion took place about how best to inform the public, if Fulton County becomes a vote center county, as to where they may vote both early and on election-day. All of the committee members' focus was on making sure that everyone was aware of the voting locations and the opportunities they present. Clerk Furnivall indicated that every registered voter would have a post card sent to them indicating that Fulton County is a vote center county and also a flyer would be sent to every Fulton County household giving pertinent information for the upcoming election including how to register to vote, check vote center locations and dates of early voting. RTC, Shopping Guide, WROI Radio and The Sentinel will be utilized along with flyers placed at various locations throughout the county.

All members present for the meeting were in agreement to proceed with a vote center plan. Clerk Furnivall is to update the proposed plan to include information regarding satellite locations, election equipment for each location and vote center locations.

There will be one more committee meeting and then a public Election Board meeting will be set in order to gain public input. Thirty days after the public meeting the committee will meet again in order to determine if any changes to the Vote Plan need made based on public comments.

The next meeting is set on February 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Fulton County Courthouse, in the Auxiliary Courtroom.

Meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Furnivall, Fulton County Clerk

Fulton County Vote Center Committee Meeting

March 22, 2021

Minutes

On March 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. the Fulton County Vote Center Committee held its second meeting.

In attendance were Jim Frost, Democratic Party Chair, Teri Furnivall, Election Board Secretary, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Randy Sutton, Fulton County Council, Rick Ranstead, Fulton County Commissioner, Amy Roe, Republican citizen chosen by Mike Canada, Lanae Kline, Fulton County Voter Registration and Dawn Ziemek, Fulton County Clerk First Deputy.

Clerk Furnivall presented a copy of the minutes from the January 23rd meeting, a copy of three pages with changes for the vote center plan, a copy of the Fulton County Vote Density map and an example of a flyer that would be distributed the beginning of the election year.

The three pages addressed issues that were discussed at the first meeting:

1. Where will the second Rochester Vote Center be located?
2. How many machines will be used at each vote center?
3. Where will satellite voting be held, location and times?

Shoda Beehler had previously shared with Clerk Furnivall that the airport does not have a facility that would accommodate election-day voting. There is one hanger that is heated and has handicapped facilities however it is privately owned and used for maintenance; it would not be feasible to have it available on the two election days per year. Shoda and Teri talked about the Community Resource Center and determined that if we were able to use the full facility on both election days it would be a good solution. At a meeting held by the board for the Community Resource Center it was agreed upon that they would allow voting to take place in the 3 rooms on the two election days. Randy Sutton and Amy Roe were both at the Community Resource Center board meeting as members of that board. They fielded a question about paying for janitorial staff and how we handled other locations. Teri advised that if she is made aware there will be a charge to use the facility she would include that payment in the budget. It is agreed that the Community Resource Center will be one of the two vote center locations in Rochester.

The number of machines at each location on election-day has been decided upon and the information has been updated in the Vote Plan. 3 of the locations will have 8 machines and two e-poll books and the other three locations will have 5 machines and two e-poll books.

As for the satellite voting that will take place on the Saturdays prior to the election; there are five satellite locations now listed in the Vote Plan. Two of the locations are also Vote Center locations, three of the locations are former precinct voting locations. The plan states that *".....two will be utilized the second Saturday prior to the election and two will be utilized the first Saturday prior to the election. Which locations are to be used will be decided upon by the Election Board and will be based on forecasted turnout."*

The reason for this wording is to continue to be able to monitor where satellite locations should be placed. It is anticipated that the three non-vote center locations will always be used prior to the

elections but the wording needs to contain the ability for the Election Board to make decisions based on vote forecast. Clerk Furnivall advised that Fulton County, according to the 2020 Census, now has 19,816 residents. Because we are under 20,000 residents we are legally obligated to hold voting for a minimum of 4 hours on the two Saturdays prior to the election, not 7 hours as was done in the past.

A Fulton Voter Density map was handed out. The map shows the county and indicates where voters are located. The blue dots represents 10 people, the red dots represent less than 10 people.

An example of a flyer was handed out showing information that would be sent to every household in Fulton County. Democrat Party Chair Jim Frost asked how we will advise the voters in the county. Clerk Furnivall explained that once we become a vote center county the Voter Registration clerk will mail to each registered voter a postcard generated by the Voter Registration System stating that we are now a vote center county and that voters will be able to vote at any of the vote center locations. We will also advertise in the Sentinel and Shopping Guide, on RTC and on WROI. VR Lanae Kline said that as a resident of the west side of the county she does not get the Shopping Guide however she receives a publication out of Pulaski County. Clerk Furnivall will contact the Shopping Guide and any other publication from surrounding counties to find out the cost and how we can advertise in their publications. It was also mentioned going on the Dick Belcher Show on WROI. It was also discussed having the candidates hand out a flyer as they campaign with vote center information.

The public meeting has been set on September 29, 2021 at 6:30. Clerk Furnivall will contact the fairgrounds to see if we can use the building for the meeting. After the public meeting there will be 30 (thirty) days allowed for the public to comment. They will be directed to Clerk Furnivall's phone, address and email for providing their comments. The next Vote Center Committee meeting is set for November 1, 2021 at 5:00 in the Auxiliary Courtroom of the Courthouse. This meeting will be used to finalize the vote center plan. The committee will be disbanded after the November 1, 2021 meeting; the Election Board will meet to file the proper paperwork with the Indiana Election Board.

Meeting ended at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Furnivall, Fulton County Clerk

Vote Center Public Meeting September 22, 2021

The vote center public meeting was held at the Fulton County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Included in the audience were Jim Frost, Fulton County Democrat Chair, Mike Canada, Fulton County Republican Chair, Dennis Grossnickle, Democrat Election Board Member, Laura Calvert Republican Election Board Member and also Vote Center Committee Members, Rick Ranstead, Ron Dittman, Amy Roe, Phyllis Biddinger, Dawn Ziemek and Peggy Dague.

Clerk Teri Furnivall handed out and reviewed a packet of information taken from the proposed Vote Center Plan. What is a Vote Center, What is Required to become a Vote Center, Locations for the Vote Centers, Density Map, Room Layout and precinct statistics were included in the packet.

A discussion was held on early voting and satellite locations to be utilized during early voting. It is noted that two satellite locations will be used the second Saturday prior to the election and two different locations will be used the Saturday immediately preceding the election. Members of the audience expressed concerns that by taking away election-day voting, voters in the area would be less apt to vote. Clerk Furnivall encouraged the audience to talk to those in their area to reinforce the options available to all voters to vote prior to election-day, while in Rochester at the courthouse the 28 days prior to election-day or at the satellite locations open on the two Saturdays preceding the election. Since generally residence of rural areas travel to town to the doctor, dentist, grocery shopping and so on it is hoped they will be able to utilize voting at the courthouse during early voting. It was also explained there are several reasons why a person might want to request a ballot by mail.

Clerk Furnivall talked about the postcards that will be sent to all registered voters if Fulton County becomes a vote center as well as postcards that will be mailed to every household in Fulton County. One will be mailed prior to the primary and one prior to the general election every election year. The postcards will include information relating to that specific upcoming election such as vote center locations, satellite locations, where to check or register to vote amongst other information.

The number of poll workers needed at each vote center location, satellite location and during absentee voting (early voting) was touched upon as were questions regarding cost savings. Clerk Furnivall noted that the purpose of vote centers is to provide convenience to the voter; to allow the ability for the voter to go anywhere within the county to cast their vote. While there may be a cost savings ultimately our goal is to provide voters the ability to vote in the most convenient way possible.

The question was asked about record keeping with regards to precinct turnout, how we can keep track of who is voting at each vote center. Clerk Furnivall explained that we have the ability with our e-poll books to run reports to show how many vote each day and which precinct's ballots are being pulled for voting. E-poll books were explained and the process in which a precinct specific ballot is generated.

Clerk Furnivall advised that there are 30 days provided for the public to comment on the Vote Center Plan. The Vote Center Committee will meet again after 30 days to review the comments and will determine if any changes need made to the plan. Once the Vote Center Committee has finalized the plan it will be up to the Election Board to approve it by a unanimous vote. If approved, the plan will then be sent to the State of Indiana Election Division for filing.

Teri Furnivall,

Secretary, Fulton County Election Board

Resolution ~~2021-~~ 01192021-A

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF FULTON COUNTY
AS A VOTE CENTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 3-11-18.1 allows counties to adopt the vote center model and;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of Fulton County approves the designation of Fulton County as vote center county and;

WHEREAS, the county election board has the responsibility for properly drafting a vote center plan for Fulton County, which will take effect upon unanimous vote of the county election board and having the plan is properly filed with the Indiana Election Division;

BE IT SO RESOLVED BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FULTON COUNTY that Fulton County is approved to operate as a vote center county, upon the required approval and filing of the county vote center plan.

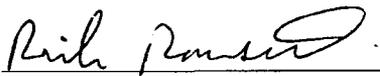
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FULTON COUNTY

“AYES”

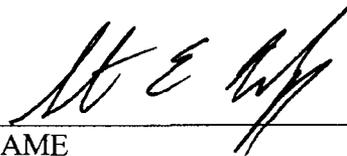
“NAYS”


NAME

NAME


NAME

NAME


NAME

NAME

Adopted this 19th of January, 2021

ATTEST:



County Auditor

Resolution 2021-1-20

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF FULTON COUNTY
AS A VOTE CENTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 3-11-18.1 allows counties to adopt the vote center model and,

WHEREAS, the County Council of Fulton County approves the designation of
Fulton County as vote center county and,

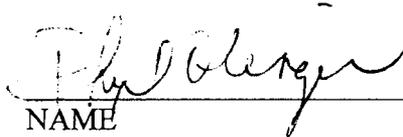
WHEREAS, the county election board has the responsibility for properly drafting a vote
center plan for Fulton County, which will take effect upon unanimous vote of the county
election board and having the plan is properly filed with the Indiana Election Division;

**BE IT SO RESOLVED BY THE FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL OF
FULTON COUNTY** that Fulton County is approved to operate as a vote center county,
upon the required approval and filing of the county vote center plan.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF FULTON COUNTY

“AYES”

“NAYS”


NAME

NAME


NAME

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NAME

NAME

Ron Atkins
NAME

NAME

James Showley-approved
NAME Virtually

NAME

NAME

NAME

Adopted this 20th of January, 2021

ATTEST:

Christina Sriver
County Auditor

March 29, 2021

Fulton County Election Board

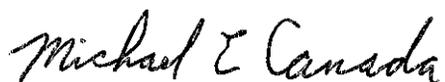
Rochester, IN 46975

In re: Vote Centers

All,

As Chairman of the Fulton County Republican Central Committee, I fully support the effort to transition to vote centers. I believe it would benefit the voters of Fulton County by giving them options as to where they can cast their ballot within the county. I believe great care should be taken for those precincts that will no longer have a location in their precinct to vote. The distance they would have to travel should be a consideration in deciding the locations for vote centers. I have full confidence that the election board will do its due diligence in these matters. The voters of Fulton County will be better served by the opportunity to vote at any center in the county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Canada". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael E. Canada

Chairman, Fulton County Republican Party

Fulton County Democratic Central Committee

Facebook: Fulton County Indiana Democrats
Jim Frost-Chair 574-355-0006; jrf46975@gmail.com
Phyllis Biddinger-Vice Chair
Robin Saiz-Secretary
Pam Fish-Treasurer

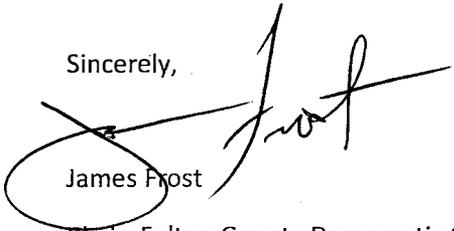
August 20, 2021

Fulton County Election Board
Rochester IN 46975

Re: Vote Centers

I appreciate your addressing questions and concerns that members of our party had in reference to the operations of the Voting Centers at the most recent meeting. While I'm sure new questions will arise, I would like to endorse the concept for your operations going forward. I am confident that your office will implement this change successfully. Please don't hesitate to contact me regarding any assistance I can give implementing your efforts.

Sincerely,



James Frost

Chair, Fulton County Democratic Central Committee

Friday, January 22, 2021

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Council permits vote center study

By WESLEY DEHNE
Staff Writer, The Sentinel

With the signing of a resolution on Wednesday, the Fulton County Council approved a feasibility study about proposed voting centers.

The 6-0 vote, with Councilman Ryan Zimpleman not present, came after County Clerk Teri Furnivall detailed what a vote center is, the steps to become a vote center county and the potential benefits of moving away from precinct-based polling places.

Simply put, a vote center is a polling

place where any eligible voter in the county may go to vote. The vote center model gives voters more flexibility on Election Day because they are not constrained to a specific polling location.

In 2011, the Indiana General Assembly passed Senate Enrolled Act 32 and House Enrolled Act 1242. The governor signed both pieces of legislation, making vote centers an option for any Indiana county.

Furnivall says the purpose of the vote center concept is to increase voter convenience and accessibility.

"If you work in Rochester, but you vote in Akron, you won't need

to get back there by 6 o'clock. You won't have to go before work or take a day off because you can vote in Rochester," she said. "Think of it like our early voting that takes place at the courthouse. When you walk into the courthouse, it doesn't matter where your precinct is, you can vote."

She noted the resolution signed by the council, as well as a similar one signed by commissioners earlier this week, does not yet put voting centers in place.

The resolutions are about confirming that the county is open to the potential change, not about ac-

tually making the change.

"What we're doing is starting the process," Furnivall said, adding that the first step is to meet and form a committee to evaluate if vote centers are right here.

Wanting that study committee to be as diverse as possible, Furnivall's invited various council members, commissioners, city officials and party chairs to the table.

Councilman Jim Showley asked if there has been any discussion so far on the number of vote centers needed.

See COUNCIL, page A2

COUNCIL

From page A1

"That's one of the first things that has to be decided or looked into by the committee," Furnivall responded.

She said the committee will not only be tasked with determining how many locations and where, but also how many poll workers should be at those locations and how to get the word out to the public.

"If we go to a vote center, every registered voter in the county will receive a postcard that says, 'We are a vote center and these are your polling locations,'" she said.

Currently, Fulton County has 17 precincts and 10

polling locations.

Although the decision doesn't lie with her, Furnivall says she can't imagine having any less than six vote centers in the county.

"In my mind, I can't see where we would benefit anyone if we went less than that," she said.

Population density will be taken into account in deciding where vote centers should be located.

Once a vote center plan has been drafted, it is to be presented at a public meeting. The public will have 30 days to provide input.

"That's our biggest thing is to make sure the public is on board," Furnivall said.

The plan will need unanimous support from the coun-

ty's three-person election board before it can go into effect.

No state approval of the plan is necessary. However, it has to be on file, along with any amendments, at the Indiana Election Division.

"This is a nonelection year, so if we're going to do it, this is the year to do it," Furnivall said. "I'm also an experienced clerk. This is not something you want to put on a new clerk, and that's going to happen in two years, there will be someone else and I won't be there."

Furnivall says there will be no need to purchase any additional voting equipment if the county opts to have vote centers instead of precinct-based polling places.

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Rochester, Indiana 46975

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VOTING

From page A1

Enrolled Act 32 and House Enrolled Act 1242. The governor signed both pieces of legislation, making vote centers an option for any Indiana county.

Furnivall says the purpose of the proposed vote center model is to increase voter convenience and accessibility. For instance, those who work in Rochester but vote in Akron would not need to get back there by 6 p.m. to vote because they could do so in Rochester, or at any other vote center.

Of the six locations being considered, two would be in Rochester and one each in Akron, Fulton, Kewanna and Newcastle Township. Population density was a considering factor.

The change would mean a loss of one polling place in Rochester, and the Newcastle, Aubbeenaubee and Wayne Township polling places. Keeping those open as satellite locations for early voting is being considered, with hours from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. the two Saturdays before an election.

"We tried to make it as convenient as we can for the entire population," Furnivall said.

She adds the opening of satellite locations for early voting would need to be evaluated each year by the election board.

The change also would result in fewer poll workers being needed. Currently, elections in the county are run with the help of 85 poll workers. That would decrease to 54 under the vote center model.

Furnivall notes the plan for the first year under the new model is to have a maximum of nine poll workers – one inspector, four judges and four poll clerks – at each vote center. Additionally, a nonpartisan individual who has been trained on the voting machines is to be at each of the six locations to address and resolve any issues that arise.

After the Sept. 22 meeting, there will be a 30-day public comment period on the proposed plan. The election board will then reconvene to take those comments into consideration and potentially sign and submit the plan to the state.

The plan needs unanimous support from the election board before it can go into effect. No state approval of the plan is necessary. However, it has to be on file, along with any amendments, at the Indiana Election Division.

Furnivall adds there will be no need to purchase any additional voting equipment if the county opts to have vote centers.

If implemented, every registered voter in the county will receive two postcards – one before the next primary election and another before the next general election – indicating where the county's vote centers are located.

The value in making the change for Furnivall is three-fold: It gives people the ability to vote wherever they need to; it makes more voting machines available at each polling location; and it gives people the opportunity to vote elsewhere if one polling location is particularly busy with long lines.

Anyone wishing to comment before or after the meeting may submit comments, questions or requests to speak to Furnivall by calling 574-223-4824, or emailing clerk@co.fulton.in.us.

Public can comment on voting centers

By WESLEY DEHNE
Staff Writer, The Sentinel

currently has 17 precincts and 10 polling locations.

A plan for vote centers in Fulton County will be presented to the public at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

The meeting was announced Tuesday by Fulton County Clerk Teri Furnivall, who tells The Sentinel six vote centers are being considered for the county, which

Simply put, a vote center is a polling place where any eligible voter in the county may go to vote. The vote center model gives voters more flexibility because they are not constrained to a specific polling location.

In 2011, the Indiana General Assembly passed Senate

See VOTING, page A2

Correction

An article about proposed vote centers in Fulton County, which appeared in Wednesday's edition of The Sentinel, incorrectly stated that Newcastle Township is one location being considered for a vote center. There are actually six proposed locations for vote centers – two in Rochester and one each in Akron, Fulton, Kewanna and Richland Township, not Newcastle Township.



Vote Center Public Meeting

On September 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
a Public Meeting will be held at the
Fulton County Fairgrounds

A presentation will be given to inform the public of a proposed change to
Vote Centers in Fulton County.

Go to www.co.fulton.in.us to see a copy of the proposed Vote Center Plan

Call Teri Furnivall, Clerk of the Circuit Court
at 574-223-4824 with questions





For August is Selena Stah. Pictured is a
the end of August. A meet and greet with
rt.

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 574-722-2887 574-224-9887

**Vote Center
 Public Meeting**

On September 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
 a Public Meeting will be held at the
Fulton County Fairgrounds

A presentation will be given to inform the
 public of a proposed change to Vote Centers
 in Fulton County.

Friday, September 17, 2021

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Rochester, Indiana 46975

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FULTON COUNTY CLERK
815 MAIN ST
ROCHESTER IN 46975-1545

County vote center plan available

Public meeting is Wednesday

By **WESLEY DEHNE**
Staff Writer, The Sentinel

With the recent release of a vote center plan, there are now more details on how elections might work in Fulton County moving forward, namely giving voters the opportunity to cast their ballot at any polling location throughout the county.

The plan, available on the county's

website at www.co.fulton.in.us, will be presented at a 6:30 p.m. Wednesday public meeting at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

To find the plan in advance, navigate to the Voting & Elections page on the county's website and scroll down to the News & Notices section, or click "All News" on the Recent News tab found on the homepage.

Among the plan is a letter drafted

by Fulton County Clerk Teri Furnivall, asking directors of the Indiana Election Division to accept the plan on behalf of the Fulton County Election Board.

"The Election Board and I are excited about this new opportunity for the Voters of Fulton County," the letter reads. "It is our intention to continuously modify this plan to fit current Indiana legislation and also to revise based on our experiences with vote centers and the needs of our voters."

Furnivall also drafted a message to

voters, included in the plan, noting vote centers were first used in Indiana elections in 2007, and leaders in Fulton County have since been carefully observing their effect on voters, county budgets and the election process.

Forty-eight counties in Indiana have made the transition to become vote center counties.

The vote center concept gives any voter in Fulton County the opportunity to cast their ballot at any polling location throughout the county; no one

is restricted to one polling place on Election Day. In addition to making it easier for voters on Election Day, the vote center concept also calls for increased early voting opportunities at what are called "satellite vote centers" that are open prior to Election Day.

Furnivall notes that vote centers would also provide the county with financial savings.

"By having fewer locations, the

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county spends less taxpayer money on poll workers, meals and rentals on Election Day," she says. "By transitioning to vote centers, voter convenience is improved, election administration is streamlined and made simpler and the county's long-term fiscal stance will be improved when it comes to elections."

The public will have 30 days after the public meeting to review the draft plan and submit comments.

After the 30 days, the election board will hold another public meeting to consider all public comments and then vote to adopt the vote center plan as is or as amended. For the county to become a vote center county, the election board must approve the plan by a unanimous vote.

The plan also must be filed with the Indiana Election Division. Any future amendments to the plan or a decision to return to traditional precinct-based elections must be voted on by unanimous vote of the election board and filed with the Indiana Election Division.

The plan will allow voters six locations to choose from. All machines will be programmed at each vote center location with all of the ballots for the entire county. Just as in the past, at the end of the Election Day, votes will be tallied and reported by precinct.

If someone is unavailable to vote on Election Day they would still be able to vote by mail, vote absentee at the courthouse, by travel board if confined, or now at one of the new satellite locations available the two Saturdays prior to Election Day.

The plan calls for six vote center locations:

■ Rochester East Vote Center – Community Resource Center, 625 Pontiac St.

■ Rochester West Vote Center – Fulton County Fairgrounds, 100 W. Third St.

■ Fulton County East Vote Center – Akron Community Building, 815 E. Rural St., Akron

■ Fulton County West Vote Center – Kewanna Fire Station, 404 N. Toner St., Kewanna

■ Fulton County North Vote Center – Fulton County Museum, 37 E. 375 North

■ Fulton County South Vote Center – Fulton Community Building, 204 E. Dunn St., Fulton

These locations were used in previous elections and were selected because of their accessibility, parking, handicap accessibility, space for equipment and location.

Vote centers will be open 6 a.m.-6 p.m. on Election Day. Satellite locations will be open the two Saturdays prior to Election Day from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Absentee voting will be in the Fulton County Courthouse starting 28 days prior to the election, including the two Saturdays prior to Election Day.

The plan also provides recommendations on the distribution of voting equipment. Eight voting machines and two poll pads would be located at the Rochester East, Rochester West and Fulton County East vote centers. Five machines are proposed for the three locations.

The plan for the first year under the new model is to have a maximum of nine poll workers – one inspector, four judges and four poll clerks – at each vote center. Additionally, a nonpartisan individual who has been trained on the voting machines is to be available at each location to address and resolve any is-

ssues that arise.

A postcard is to be sent to all registered voters detailing the vote center locations. A mailer also will be sent to all residences in Fulton County containing information regarding voting locations, early voting, along with how to register. Included in the mailer will be all pertinent information for the upcoming elections.

"I fully support the effort to transition to vote centers," Fulton County Republican Central Committee Chairman Michael Canada writes in a letter of support. "I believe it would benefit the voters of Fulton County by giving them options as to where they can cast their ballot within the county. I believe great care should be taken for those precincts that will no longer have a location in their precinct to vote. The distance they would have to travel should be a consideration in deciding the locations for vote centers. I have full confidence that the election board will do its due diligence in these matters. The voters of Fulton County will be better served by the opportunity to vote at any center in the county."

James Frost, chairman of the Fulton County Democratic Central Committee, also submitted a letter of support to the election board, stating, "I appreciate your addressing questions and concerns that members of our party had in reference to the operations of the Voting Centers at the most recent meeting. While I'm sure new questions will arise, I would like to endorse the concept for your operations going forward. I am confident that your office will implement this change successfully. Please don't hesitate to contact me regarding any assistance I can give implementing your efforts."

9/24/2021

Voter center plan gets public's attention

By WESLEY DEHNE
Staff Writer, The Sentinel

A 30-day public comment period is now underway on a proposed vote center plan for Fulton County.

Nearly 30 people, including elected officials, election board members, party chairs, poll workers and voters turned out for a public meeting about the plan Wednesday night at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

The meeting was led by Fulton County Clerk Teri Furnivall, who provided attendees with an abridged version of the plan in a 13-page hand-out.

The full plan can be found on the Voting & Elections page on the county's website at www.co.fulton.in.us.

"The way vote centers work is we have the e-poll book, electric poll book, and so because of the electric poll book you have the opportunity to sign in, receive your ballot and vote at that location," Furnivall said.

"Every vote center has every ballot. You are still precinct-based. In other words, if you live in Fulton, you are going to vote on what you normally vote on in Fulton. Same with Rochester, and all the other areas. The difference is you have the ability to go anywhere and vote."

The plan calls for six vote center locations, giving Fulton County residents the opportunity to cast their

ballot at any one of them on Election Day, regardless of where they live. The proposed locations are:

■ Rochester East Vote Center – Community Resource Center, 625 Pontiac St.

■ Rochester West Vote Center – Fulton County Fairgrounds, 100 W. Third St.

■ Fulton County East Vote Center – Akron Community Building, 815 E. Rural St., Akron.

■ Fulton County West Vote Center – Kewanna Fire Station, 404 N. Toner St., Kewanna.

■ Fulton County North Vote Center – Fulton County Museum, 37 E. 375 North.

■ Fulton County South Vote Center – Fulton Community Building, 204 E. Dunn St., Fulton.

Those who attended the public meeting expressed little consternation about moving from tradition precinct-based elections to the vote center model, which has already been adopted by 48 other counties in the state of Indiana.

Some voters of Aubbeenaubee and Wayne townships expressed dismay about losing the opportunity to vote on Election Day as they have traditionally done for decades at the Aubbeenaubee Township Community Building and the Grass Creek Fire Station, respectively.

However, the announcement of sat-

ellite locations, open two Saturdays prior to Election Day to increase early voting opportunities, helped to quell those concerns.

"In order to help with that, we as a committee decided that we have early voting two Saturdays prior to the election, and in those two Saturdays, the Saturday immediately preceding the election they'll be voting in Grass Creek and Aubbeenaubee.

The two Saturdays before they'll be voting in Newcastles and one other location," Furnivall said, adding Kewanna is the other that comes to mind, but that hasn't been decided on yet. "We're trying to hit the whole county, the outlining areas of the county. The hope is that Saturday in Aubbeenaubee, or Wayne, or Newcastles, it becomes their voting day."

The change to vote centers also means the loss of the polling place at the Fulton County Office Building for Rochester precincts 4 and 5.

Absentee voting will remain in the Fulton County Courthouse, starting 28 days prior to the election, including the two Saturdays prior to Election Day.

"My hope is that you all and the community, the county, all recognize that the idea of a vote center is not to keep anyone from voting but maybe make it more comfortable to vote because you can go wherever you want," Furnivall said.

"My hope is we get more voters registered in our county. We're a county of 20,000 and we have 13,000 registered voters. Not all of them are active, but with all the publicity that we're going to have to put out there about our vote centers it might get someone thinking, 'I need to register.' Then they can go wherever they want."

She noted with the change there is no reason to re-register to vote. Instead, she encourages people to check their voter registration status by visiting indianavoters.in.gov or calling the Voting Registration Office at 574-223-7713.

She pointed out several benefits of moving to vote centers, such as the financial savings from fewer poll workers being needed, more voting machines available at each location and having the ability to move people to another location to vote if one location is particularly busy.

Currently, elections in the county are run with the help of 84 poll workers. That would decrease to 56 under the vote center model, except on early voting days. The amount of poll workers for early voting at the courthouse also will increase from two to four, and plans are in place to have that on the first floor of the courthouse.

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VOTER

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"I don't want anyone to think we're doing this solely for money, though that's a great concern," Furnivall said, adding the purpose is to increase voter convenience and accessibility. "It's for ease of voting."

Furnivall also fielded several questions during the meeting, with one individual asking how they can be sure they're getting the right ballot when voting at a new location. She explained that once a voter signs in with a photo ID, they are given a ticket that is scanned to generate a five-digit code based on that individual and their precinct.

She also was asked how the public will be informed of the changes, noting every registered voter in the county will receive a postcard detailing the county's vote centers. Additionally, a mailer also will be sent to all residences in Fulton County containing information regarding voting locations, early voting, along with how to register. Includ-

ed in the mailer, sent each year before the primary and general elections, will be all pertinent information for the upcoming elections.

"I think it's going to give a lot more information to the county on our voting opportunities, and that's what most people want," Furnivall said. "Having a card in hand hopefully will be the incentive to get someone to sign up to vote. That would be awesome. The more voters we have the better it is."

In fielding other questions, Furnivall noted there will still be the ability to track voter turnout for each precinct and hours of voting on Election Day will not change from 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

The transition also does not mean a change in voter ID requirements. Indiana residents are required to present a government-issued photo ID before casting a ballot at the polls on Election Day. In most cases, an Indiana driver's license, Indiana photo ID card, military ID or U.S. passport is sufficient.

"This starts our 30-days public comment time," Fur-

nivall told attendees. "My email address is available to you, my phone is available to you, you can stop in at the courthouse. If you talk to people and they have concerns, direct them to me. Don't try to convince anyone of anything. I want any comment that there is out there, so we can make sure we've addressed it all and everybody's happy."

She added: "It's time to move to this, and I think it's the right time."

Furnivall can be contacted by calling 574-223-4824 or emailing clerk@co.fulton.in.us. Comments may also be submitted to party chairs and members of the election board.

After 30 days, the vote center committee will reconvene to review all of the comments and tweak the plan accordingly. It will then go to the election board for approval and then be submitted to the state.

No state approval of the plan is necessary, but the plan needs unanimous support from the election board before it can go into effect.



The Sentinel photo / Wesley Dehne

Fulton County Clerk Teri Furnivall presents a plan for vote centers to the public at a Wednesday meeting at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11-4

FULTON COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

ORDER ADOPTING THE FULTON COUNTY VOTE CENTER PLAN

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 3-11-18.1 allows counties to adopt the vote center model;

and

WHEREAS, the County Election Board of Fulton County, Indiana unanimously approves the Fulton County Vote Center Plan; and

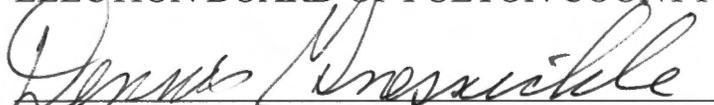
WHEREAS, the County Election Board properly drafted a Vote Center Plan and allowed for thirty (30) days of public comment; and

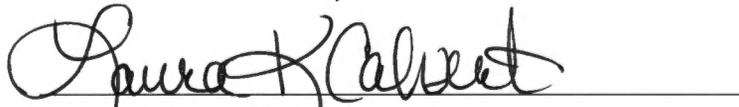
WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County and the County Council of Fulton County have by majority votes, approved the designation of Fulton County as a vote center county.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE FULTON COUNTY ELECTION BOARD that Fulton County is approved to operate as a vote center county, starting with the May, 2022 election, and the County Vote Center Plan with this RESOLUTION will be filed with the Indiana Election Division.

ADOPTED this 4th day of November, 2021

ELECTION BOARD OF FULTON COUNTY


Dennis Grossnickle, President


Laura Calvert, Member


Teri Furnivall, Clerk of Circuit Court/Secretary

THE ROCHESTER SENTINEL.

Rochester, Indiana 46975

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Vote center plan approved

By **WESLEY DEHNE**
Staff Writer, The Sentinel

The days of precinct-specific polling places in Fulton County are a thing of the past.

On Thursday, the Fulton County Election Board unanimously approved a vote center plan, allowing eligible voters to cast ballots at any vote center in the county instead of voting at a designated polling place as has been the case in the past.

Voters of Fulton County now have

six vote center locations to choose from on Election Day, regardless of where they live. Those locations are:

■ Rochester East Vote Center, Community Resource Center, 625 Pontiac St.

■ Rochester West Vote Center, Fulton County Fairgrounds, 100 W. Third St.

■ Fulton County East Vote Center, Akron Community Building, 815 E. Rural St., Akron.

■ Fulton County West Vote Center, Kewanna Fire Station, 404 N.

Toner St., Kewanna.

■ Fulton County North Vote Center, Fulton County Museum, 37 E. 375 North.

■ Fulton County South Vote Center, Fulton Community Building, 204 E. Dunn St., Fulton.

New satellite locations, open two Saturdays prior to the election to increase early voting opportunities, also have been announced as part of the plan.

Early voting will be available in Grass Creek and Aubbeenaubbee

the Saturday immediately preceding the election, and in Newcastle and one other location the Saturday before that. While the other location has yet to be chosen, election officials are leaning heavily toward opening a satellite location in Kewanna.

The change to vote centers means the loss of the polling place at the Fulton County Office Building for Rochester precincts 4 and 5. Also,

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APPROVED

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voters will not be able to vote in Aubbeenaubbee, Newcastle, or Wayne townships on Election Day.

A 30-day public comment period commenced on Sept. 22, when the vote center plan was first presented at a public meeting held at the Fulton County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Clerk Teri Furnivall, who led that meeting, said no one in opposition to the plan contacted her or any member of the county's vote center committee during the public comment period, meaning the plan that was originally presented was the one approved.

She pointed out several benefits of moving to vote centers, such as the financial savings from fewer poll workers being needed, more voting

machines available at each location and having the ability to move people to another location to vote if one location is particularly busy.

In the past, elections in the county have been run with the help of 84 poll workers. That will decrease to 56 under the vote center model, except on early voting days. The amount of poll workers for early voting at the courthouse will increase from two to four, and plans are in place to have that on the first floor of the courthouse.

Absentee voting will remain in the Fulton County Courthouse, starting 28 days prior to the election, including the two Saturdays prior to Election Day.

The transition does not mean a change in voter ID requirements. Also, election officials will still be able to track voter turnout for each

precinct and hours of voting on Election Day will remain from 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

The plan must be submitted to the state; however, no state approval is necessary. It only needed the election board's unanimous support before going into effect.

Furnivall says there is no reason to re-register to vote. Instead, she encourages people to check their voter registration status by visiting indianavoters.in.gov or calling the Voter Registration Office at 574-223-7713.

She also noted that every registered voter in the county will be receiving a postcard detailing the county's vote centers. Additionally, a mailer will eventually be sent to every household in the county.

The full plan can be found on the Voting & Elections page on the county's website at www.co.fulton.in.us.