

INDIANA ELECTIONS DIVISION

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# Amended Elkhart County Vote Center Plan

Moving Voting Forward.

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- SVRS Voter Status Count report
- Revised State forms (replacing language of "precinct polling place" with "vote center" and renaming poll-workers to fit plan)

## I. Introduction

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 Elkhart County Election Board. It means a great deal to the Board and to me to be involved in this opportunity for our county.

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

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns regarding any portion of this plan.

Sincerely,

Wendy Hudson

Elkhart County Clerk

## II. Glossary

E-Poll Book - The Electronic Poll Book.

TSX - The Touch-Screen voting machine. This machine records votes electronically on a memory card. This voting equipment is ADA compliant and is the voting equipment we will be using for our 2014 Primary and General elections.

VC encoder – Device which is used to create the appropriate ballot style for any voter onto the voter access card.

Voter access card – The “card” which contains a voter’s ballot, which is then inserted into the touch screen voting machine. The voter’s ballot then appears on the touch screen display and the voter records their votes on individual candidates and any public questions.

Vote Center Board Member – Formerly known as “poll-workers,” these are the political party appointees who will work at the vote centers to assist the voters throughout Election Day.

VPN – Virtual Private Network.

### III. Overview of the Process

#### A: The Steering Committee.

The Elkhart County Vote Center Committee is made up of 20 people with various backgrounds in conducting elections. Among the committee members are the County Election Board, the county chairs of both political parties, a member of the county council, the director of the county IT staff and various former poll workers and candidates. The steering committee has spent two years studying and planning on how best to bring Vote Centers to Elkhart County.

Wendy Hudson – Clerk of the Circuit Court

Wayne Kramer – Republican Member of Elkhart County Election Board

Arvis Dawson – Democratic Member of the Elkhart County Election Board (serving 2013 – Present)

Mike Leasor – Former Democratic Member of Elkhart County Election Board (serving 2011-2013)

Darryl Riegsecker – Elkhart County Councilman

Mary Nisly – Republican Party County Chair (serving 2013- Present)

Dale Stickel – Former Republican Party County Chair (serving 2011-2012)

Shari Mellin – Democratic Party County Chair

Scott Mills – County Information & Technology Liaison

Chris Anderson – Chief Deputy Clerk

Chad Clingerman – Office Manager of Voter Registration & Election Board

Mary Jane Hiles – Democratic Absentee Election Board Employee

Sharon Harder – Republican Poll Worker

Mike Settles – Democratic Poll Worker

Jan Shively – Republican Poll Worker, Vice Precinct Committeeman

Richard Shively – Republican Poll Worker, Precinct Committeeman

Andy Williams – Democratic Committee Member

Don Schuler - Democratic Poll Worker & Attorney

Mike Mascola – Let's Move Michiana, and Democratic Poll Worker

Peter Todd - Republican Poll Worker & Attorney

Angie McKee – Republican Poll Worker, Precinct Committeeman

### B: Voting Technology

Elkhart County will use twenty-seven (27) vote center locations on Election Day. The vote centers are placed in strategic locations around the county to most effectively serve all the voters in Elkhart County. The locations chosen have also made a commitment to be a vote center for the long term so that voters will know all the locations where they can cast their ballots for many years to come.

Electronic poll books are the cornerstone of how vote centers function. Electronic poll books, or e-poll books, allow a voter to cast their ballot at any vote center they choose and to make sure the integrity of the election process is maintained by not allowing a voter to cast their ballot at more than one location. All e-poll books are connected to a central server which allows for real-time updates to each of the individual e-poll books. This insures that a voter cannot vote more than once. The connection to the server will be a VPN which will be setup by County Information Technology personnel. The e-poll books will also be used to create the voter access card for each voter. This will insure that each voter is given the correct ballot for the precinct in which they are registered. The e-poll book has the ability to scan and read 1d or 2d barcodes like those on the back of Indiana drivers' licenses. This makes checking in a voter much faster than having to manually look up each voter in a paper poll list. Voters will sign their name into the e-poll book digitally using an electronic signature pad attached to the e-poll book.

Each vote center will have between seven and eleven vote center board members. There will be between 2 and 4 clerks each with their own e-poll book. Each pair of clerks will have equal political party representation, with one Republican and one Democrat clerk in the pair. The e-poll book software will track voter turnout and will let the election board see real-time stats on how much turnout each vote center is getting at any particular time. If one vote center is experiencing a heavy turnout, we can move vote center board members and e-poll books from a less busy center to the center that has the larger turnout. The parties will also have a pool of back-up vote center board members available, if replacements are needed.

For the elections to be held in 2014 we will be using the Accu-vote TSX touch-screen machine for voting and tabulation of ballots on Election Day. We will use the Accu-vote OS optical scan machine to count ballot card ballots used for absentee voting.

### C: Voter Education Efforts.

The first education effort involved holding five public forums around the county to get feedback from the public on the vote center plan. Anyone who attended these forums learned how vote centers work, and were able to ask questions and give feedback to the vote center committee. After the first public forum, there was a thirty day window for the public to comment on the vote center plan. Anyone wishing to leave a comment on the vote center plan could email their comments to [votecenter@elkhartcounty.com](mailto:votecenter@elkhartcounty.com). The dates and times of the five public forums are listed below.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Jan 13, 6pm</b>  | <b>County Office Building, 117 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Room 104, Goshen</b>  |
| <b>Jan 14, 6pm</b>  | <b>West Park Pavilion, 500 N Nappanee St, Nappanee</b>  |
| <b>Jan 21, 6pm.</b> | <b>Middlebury Town Hall, 418 N Main St, Middlebury</b>  |
| <b>Jan 30, 6pm</b>  | <b>Elkhart City Council Chambers, 229 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Elkhart<br/>(rescheduled from January 27, due to inclement weather)</b>  |
| <b>Feb 06, 6pm</b>  | <b>County Office Building, 117 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Room 104, Goshen*<br/>(*rescheduled from January 28, due to inclement weather, note<br/>change in original location as well.)</b> |

The Clerk's office has also updated their website, [www.elkhartcountyclerk.com](http://www.elkhartcountyclerk.com). The website has been redesigned to make it easier to navigate and includes helpful and relevant information for candidates and voters. The website is also complimented by a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Both of these social media outlets will be used to remind voters of upcoming election information and deadlines. In addition to the updated website, for the next several elections the Clerk's office will be sending out postcards to every address in Elkhart County a month before each Primary and General Election. The post cards will be sent in two separate mailings, with the first mailing providing information about the registration deadline and absentee voting options. The second mailing will list the vote center locations for voters to choose from on Election Day

In addition to the education efforts by the Clerk's office and the Election Board, the committee is asking the members of the Republican and Democratic parties as well as the various local news media to help with educating the voters of Elkhart County about vote centers and the new options open to the county's voters on Election Day.

## IV. Vote Center Locations & Set up

### A: Requirements for Vote Center Locations

The twenty-seven vote center locations were carefully chosen by the committee as locations the committee thinks will best serve the voters in Elkhart County. Criteria the committee took into account included: ADA compliance of the location, adequate parking available for the amount of traffic expected at that location, adequate internet connection for use with the e-poll book, a space large enough for voting to take place, that the location would be well-known by the voters of Elkhart County and the location would be willing to be a vote center for the long term. The committee also tried to find as many location as possible that are on the Interurban Trolley routes. Eleven locations have been secured on trolley route(s) to serve the voters of Elkhart County.

### B: Vote Center Locations – 27 total

#### **Elkhart Locations (12)**

Trinity United Methodist Church, 2715 E Jackson St, Elkhart

NEW - Elkhart FOP #52, 1003 Industrial Parkway, Elkhart (near Orange trolley route)

St James AME Church, 122 Dr Martin Luther King Dr, Elkhart (on Green/Red/Orange trolley routes)

River of Life Community Church, 2626 Prairie St, Elkhart (on Green/Orange trolley routes)

Calvary Assembly of God, 1010 E Mishawaka Rd, Elkhart (on Orange trolley route)

Calvary United Methodist Church, 2222 W Indiana Ave, Elkhart (on Green trolley route)

New Hope United Methodist Church, 28765 CR 4, Elkhart

Tolson Center, 1320 Benham Ave, Elkhart (on Red trolley route)

Northside Gym, 300 Lawrence St, Elkhart (on Blue trolley route)

Jimtown High School Gym, 59021 County Road 3, Elkhart

NEW - Osolo Township Firestation, 24936 Buddy St., Elkhart

NEW - Granger Community Church, Elkhart Campus, 2701 E. Bristol St., Elkhart

**BE AWARE – THE OMEGA CENTER IS NO LONGER ABLE TO BE A VOTE CENTER, AS OF JULY, 2014.**

#### **Goshen Locations (7)**

Grace Community Church, 20076 CR 36, Goshen

Faith United Methodist Church, 22045 CR 18, Goshen (on Orange trolley route)

Maple City Chapel, 2015 Lincolnway E, Goshen (on Red trolley route)

Salvation Army, 1013 N Main, Goshen

Trinity Lutheran Church, 202 S Greene Rd, Goshen

Greencroft Senior Center, 1721 Greencroft Blvd, Goshen (on Red trolley route)

Pleasant View Mennonite Church, 58529 CR 23, Goshen

**Dunlap Location (1)**

Elkhart County Public Services Bldg, 4230 Elkhart Rd, Goshen (on Red trolley route)

**New Paris Location (1)**

New Paris Missionary Church, 67621 SR 15, New Paris

**Millersburg Location (1)**

Millersburg Fire Station, 500 Carriage Ln, Millersburg

**Middlebury Location (1)**

Middlebury Town Hall, 418 N Main St, Middlebury

**Nappanee Location (1)**

Nappanee First Brethren Church, 1600 N Main St, Nappanee

**Wakarusa Location (1)**

Bible Baptist Church, 205 E Waterford St, Wakarusa

**Bristol Locations (2)**

Bristol United Methodist Church, 201 S Division St, Bristol

First Baptist Church, 53953 CR 17, Bristol



## V. Satellite Absentee Voting

Indiana law requires that a Vote Center location be open on the two Saturdays before an election for in-person absentee voting.

Elkhart County will add absentee voting on the two Saturdays prior to Election Day at the Middlebury Town Hall, 418 N. Main Street, in Middlebury. We also are finalizing an agreement to have absentee voting on the two Saturdays prior to Election Day at the First Brethren Church, 1600 N. Main Street, in Nappanee.

Elkhart County has already had the required location in the County Seat at the Elkhart County Administration Building, 117 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, in Goshen. We also have had a satellite absentee voting location in Elkhart at the County Courts Building, 315 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, in Elkhart.

All absentee voting locations will be open on the two Saturdays prior to Election Day from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Absentee voting at the County Administration Building in Goshen and at the County Courts Building in Elkhart will also be available during the 28 days prior to Election Day. Absentee voting will take place during the following times, at the specified locations:

Mondays - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (except the day before Election Day) – **Elkhart and Goshen locations ONLY**

Tuesday through Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – **Elkhart and Goshen locations ONLY**

Monday, the day before election day – 8:00 a.m. to noon – **Elkhart and Goshen locations ONLY**

Last two Saturdays prior to Election Day – **ALL absentee locations** open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Elkhart, Goshen, Nappanee and Middlebury locations.)

Any voter already in line to vote absentee at any of the locations will be allowed to complete the casting of their ballot prior to the absentee voting locations closing for the day.

## VI. Vote Center Board Members

**A. Vote Center Supervisor:** Each vote center will have one supervisor. The supervisor is appointed by the party that had the greatest number of votes cast in Elkhart County for the Indiana Secretary of State in the most recent election for that office. For the 2014 Election the supervisor will be appointed by the Republican Party. A person wanting to be a supervisor will have worked at least one previous election as a poll worker in at least one different position before they would be allowed to be a supervisor. Ideally, that person would have previously worked both a primary and general election. Interested, eligible and appointed people must attend training to be a supervisor on Election Day. If the supervisor does not attend training, they will be replaced with a supervisor from the reserve list and be placed in a different poll worker position, if one is available. The supervisor must learn the functions of the other poll workers and be able to help in those positions if needed. The supervisor will have their own e-poll book to handle issues and to communicate with the Election Board.

The duties for the supervisor will include:

- Managing the vote center and the other board members;
- Handling affidavits completed and submitted by the voters;
- Handling the Provisional Ballots and issuing challenges;
- Enforcing all election laws, such as no electioneering being allowed within the 50-foot chute;
- Contacting the Election Board if they need assistance with issues;
- Return of the election results from their vote center back to the Election Board along with one of the Democrat sheriffs.

**B. Voter Center Sheriffs:** In each vote center there will be four sheriffs working in teams of two consisting of one Republican and one Democrat per team. One team of sheriffs will be called greeters with the other team called machine sheriffs.

- Greeters will assist voters when they enter the vote center. They will help in lining up the voters to be checked in at the Clerk's tables.
- Greeters will also be watching the chute for any electioneering that might be taking place.
- Greeters might also be checking the photo IDs of voters before they appear at the Clerk's tables. Each Vote Center Board will determine which board member will check photo ID.

- Machine sheriffs will help direct voters to open TSX machines and help keep the voters moving smoothly through the voting process.
- Machine sheriffs' main duties will be to watch over the tabulation equipment and handle ballot issues if a voter would request assistance. The machine sheriffs will also work as a team in assisting any voter that requests assistance in marking their ballot, and will complete the "Affidavit of Voter Assistance" form.
- Machine sheriffs will help in watching for any electioneering that would be taking place in room where voting is taking place or within the chute.
- The machine sheriffs can issue a challenge to a voter if necessary.
- The Democrat machine sheriff will need to accompany the supervisor back to the counting center after the closing of the polls.
- Machine sheriffs should also be comfortable using the e-poll book if asked to fill in for a clerk on Election Day.

**C. Vote Center Clerks:** The clerks' role in a vote center will be handling the e-poll book, getting voters signed in to the e-poll book, and creating the voter's ballot. There will usually be four clerks at a vote center, two republicans and two democrats, but the number of clerks used could be changed depending on how busy a vote center is on Election Day. Clerks must have enough computer knowledge so they can be trained on how to use the e-poll book in one training session. Clerks should be able to work nonstop for long stretches of time on Election Day. Clerks must be able to follow instructions and procedures given to them in training and on Election Day and must be willing to ask for help if they do not know the correct way to handle a problem. Clerks need to be confident (not timid) enough to issue challenges if needed.

The duties for the clerk will include:

- Check voters into the e-poll book;
- Check photo IDs if not already done by another board member;
- Compare signatures between signature in e-poll book and how voter signed signature pad;
- Create voters ballot on the voter access card;
- Issue challenges if needed;
- Refer questions to supervisor.

**D: Vote Center Board Member Pay**

Supervisors = \$150.00, plus \$10 for meals, plus \$10 for training – total of \$170.00

Sheriffs = \$110.00, plus \$10 for meals, plus \$10 for training – total of \$130.00

Sheriff, of opposite political party from the supervisor, who returns precincts supplies and results to the counting center with supervisor = \$110, plus \$5 for returning results and supplies, plus \$10 for meals, plus \$10 for training – total of \$135.00

Clerks = \$110.00, plus \$10 for meals, plus \$10 for training – total of \$130.00

## VII. Electronic Poll Book

Electronic poll books are the cornerstone of the functionality of a vote center. Electronic poll books are the instruments that enable voters to cast their ballot at any vote center they choose, while also ensuring that no one can cast a ballot more than once during an election including an absentee ballot. As all electronic poll books will be connected via VPN, to a central server, they will continually update the voting status of every voter in the county – including absentee voters. The electronic poll book solution being used in Elkhart County meets all the requirements of I.C. 3-11-8-10.3 and is certified for use in Indiana by the Secretary of State's office.

Elkhart County will use five e-poll books at most vote centers. Four e-poll books will be used by the clerks to sign in voters and create the voter's ballot. The fifth e-poll book will be used by the supervisor to handle provisional ballots and other voter issues and to contact the election board. Smaller locations will have three e-poll books, with two being used by the clerks and one by the supervisor. North Side Gym was found to be the busiest vote center in the 2014 primary, and will therefore have seven e-poll books, with six being used by the clerks and one by the supervisor. Before using the e-poll book on Election Day, the clerks will be paired up as a bipartisan *team*, with one *team* per table. Each bipartisan *team* of clerks, will enter their user names and passwords into the e-poll books at their table, and provide their initials on the signature pad. The electronic poll books will be connected to a central server by a VPN that will be set up by the county's IT Department.

If a clerk would need to be replaced at a vote center at any time during Election Day, the new bipartisan *team* at that particular table will have to re-log into the electronic poll-book, and provide their initials on the signature pad, to capture the new appointee's initials in both electronic poll-books at that table.

The electronic poll book will also be able to produce a variety of reports and information on Election Day. The election board and any political party or candidate will be able to view reports on real-time voter turnout and how many voters are visiting an individual vote center.

## VIII. Processing Voters

When a voter enters the room at a vote center where voting takes place, that voter will be met by a sheriff acting as a greeter. The greeter will direct the voter to an open clerk's table where the voter will show their photo ID. After checking the voter's photo ID, the clerk will look the voter up in the e-poll book using either the bar code printed on the photo ID or by manually typing the voter's name into the e-poll book. Once the voter's record has been found, the voter will be asked to verify their address. Any other documentation that a voter would need to provide before being allowed to cast their ballot will be handled at this time as well. The voter then signs the poll book using an electronic signature pad. Next the clerk will use the VC encoder to program the Voter Access card with the proper ballot style. The VC encoder obtains the ballot information directly from the voter's registration record, so there is no chance of poll worker error in ballot distribution. The voter then takes the Voter Access card over to the TSX machine and follows the onscreen instructions to mark their ballot. Once a voter has cast their ballot, the Voter Access card comes out of the TSX and the voter will take the Voter Access card back to the clerk's table. The voter has now completed the task of casting their ballot, and will then exit the vote center.

If a voter would need to be issued a provisional ballot, that voter would be directed by the clerk or greeter to the supervisor's table. The supervisor and the voter will correctly fill out all the provisional ballot challenge forms, and the voter will electronically sign the poll book. The supervisor will then create a Voter Access card with the provisional ballot on the card. The voter uses the TSX at the supervisors table to mark their ballot, and this TSX will keep provisional ballots separate from the ballots cast on the other TSX machines. Once the voter has finished voting their provisional ballot, the voter will take the Voter Access card back to the supervisor and finish and sign any unfinished forms. The voter will then be given instructions regarding why they received a provisional ballot and what they can do to make it count, if anything. A contact number is also provided on the form for a voter to call the election board to check the status of the provisional ballot. Several days after the election has ended, the Election Board will hold a meeting(s) to determine if each provisional should be counted or rejected, with the final meeting being after the noon deadline for a voter to provide photo ID to the Clerk and complete the appropriate affidavit, if they received a provisional ballot for failing to provide photo ID on election day.

## **IX. Emergency Situations and Disaster Planning**

There are several different types of emergency situations that can happen on Election Day. The first type of emergency would be loss of connection between the electronic poll books and the central server. The e-poll will have both a high-speed internet connection using the vote center's own internet service provider, and a high-speed cellular connection. The cellular connection will be automatically turned on if an e-poll book loses its network connection through the vote center's own internet connection.

The second type of emergency would be loss of power at either the vote center or the central server. Both the e-poll books and the tabulation equipment used at the vote centers have battery backups that last for several hours. This would allow a vote center to keep functioning though a temporary power loss. However if the power at a vote center would be lost for more than just a temporary interruption, the Election Board could shut down that vote center and voters would be directed to other vote center locations. The central server also has a battery backup along with the building it is housed in having a emergency generator.

If a disaster happens in Elkhart County on Election Day, the Election Board will work closely with both the County Emergency Management Director and the State Election Division in determining the appropriate response to the situation.

**X Vote center plan requirements as defined in IC 3-11-18.1-4**

- (1) The total number of vote centers to be established and the location of each vote center.  
*27 centers; page 8*
- (2) The effective date of the order establishing Elkhart County as a vote center county.  
*Appendix A*
- (3) 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. *Appendix B*
  - (B) The number of active voters within the county. *Appendix B*
  - (C) The number of inactive voters within the county. *Appendix B*
- (4) 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. *Supervisor, Sheriff, Clerk page 12*
- (5) A 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 establish a secure electronic connection between the county election board and the precinct election officials administering a vote center. *Page 15*
- (6) A description of the equipment and procedures to be used to ensure that information concerning a voter entered into any electronic poll list used by precinct election officers at a vote center is immediately accessible to:
- (A) the county election board; and
  - (B) the electronic poll lists used by precinct election officers at all other vote centers in the county. *Page 15*
- (7) The number of electronic poll lists to be provided for the precinct. *Page 15*

(8) The security and contingency plans to be implemented by the county to do all of the following:

(A) Prevent a disruption of the vote center process. *Page 15*

(B) Ensure that the election is properly conducted if a disruption occurs. *Page 17*

(C) Prevent access to an electronic poll list without the coordinated action of two (2) precinct election officers who are not members of the same political party. *Page 15*

(9) 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. *Page 10*

(10) 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. *Page 11*

(11) That the county election board shall adopt a resolution under IC 3-11.5-5-1 or IC 3-11.5-6-1 to make the central counting of absentee ballots applicable to the county (if the board has not already done so). *Appendix A*

# Appendix A

Resolution 2014 – 86

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF ELKHART 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 Elkhart County approves the designation of Elkhart County as a vote center county and;

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

BE IT SO RESOLVED BY THE ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that Elkhart 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 ELKHART COUNTY

"AYES"

"NAYS"

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

Adopted this 10 of February, 2014

ATTEST:

Pauline E. Hoff  
County Auditor

Resolution 2014 - CC 2014-02

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF ELKHART 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 Elkhart County approves the designation of Elkhart County as a vote center county and;

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

BE IT SO RESOLVED BY THE ELKHART COUNTY COUNCIL that Elkhart 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 ELKHART COUNTY

"AYES"

"NAYS"

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

NAME

David Cole

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

Don J. Ryan

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

Mark W. Stump

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

Adopted this 8th of February, 2014

ATTEST:

Pauline E. Huff  
County Auditor



## EDITORIAL

# Vote centers are a logical next step

For three years, beginning in 2007, the Indiana Secretary of State's office conducted a Vote Center Pilot Program in Wayne, Tippecanoe and Cass counties. What was gleaned from that experiment was a successful, more efficient and more cost-effective model for running public elections.

Those results prompted the Indiana General Assembly to pass legislation in 2011 allowing all 92 counties in the state the option of moving from precinct-based voting to a vote center system. Precinct voting is geographical and registered voters are required to vote at a specific location based on where they live. Vote centers are a regional concept and allow registered voters the opportunity to vote at any center within the county that is convenient to them.

**WE ARE ENCOURAGED** that Elkhart County officials are close to moving forward with the vote center concept. A steering committee of 20 community leaders has been working hard to construct the framework for 24 vote centers in the county to be put to use for future elections. In the currently the county Election Board has runs and maintains 118 precinct polling locations, which requires an extensive amount of staffing and coordination.

"(Vote centers) give the voters more choice on where they can cast their ballot on Election Day," Wendy Hudson, clerk of Elkhart County Circuit Court, told WSBT-TV last week. "In precinct-style voting you have one precinct you're required to cast your ballot. With vote centers, you can vote at any vote center in the county that's convenient for you on Election Day."

That means if you work in Goshen and live in Nappanee or Middlebury, you could vote during your break or lunch hour. It's advanced technology that would make this possible. Instead of signing in and casting a paper ballot, registered voters would vote via an e-poll book, which is connected to a server that allows for real-time updates.

**ACCORDING TO THE** Elkhart County Vote Center Plan, there would be as many as 24 vote centers throughout the county — nine or 10 in Elkhart; seven in Goshen, two in Bristol and one each in New Paris, Millersburg, Middlebury, Nappanee and Wakarusa. Each of the locations would be ADA compliant, have adequate parking available and an Internet connection for use with the e-poll book. The committee also chose 10 voting center locations that are on Interurban Trolley routes. The Election Board must vote unanimously in favor of the vote centers in order to move forward.

Change can often be a difficult premise to deal with, but in our eyes vote centers are a logical initiative for Elkhart County to pursue. There is no reason not to take advantage of the technology available to us in the 21st century to save money and make the great American voting process more accessible to all. Good work, committee. We're looking forward to seeing vote centers become a reality.

### One more meeting

The Election Board held four public forums regarding the vote centers last month. A final public forum is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the County Office building, 117 N. Second Street, Goshen.

### On the web

For a list of Elkhart County steering committee members and vote center locations, click on this editorial on our homepage at [www.goshennews.com](http://www.goshennews.com)

ELKHART COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

ORDER 2014- 1

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 3-11-18.1 grants permission for any Indiana County that so chooses to implement vote centers in their county and,

WHEREAS, the Elkhart County Election Board held public hearings to present a draft plan for the administration of vote centers in Elkhart County on the following dates, at the following times and locations:

January 13, 2014 – County Office Building, 117 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Goshen, IN at 6:00 p.m.

January 14, 2014 – West Park Pavilion, 500 N. Nappanee St., Nappanee, IN at 6:00 p.m.

January 21, 2014 – Middlebury Town Hall, 418 N. Main St., Middlebury, IN at 6:00 p.m.

January 30, 2014 – Elkhart City Council Chambers, 229 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Elkhart, IN at 6:00 p.m.

February 6, 2014 – County Office Building, 117 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Goshen, IN at 6:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, after each public hearing, public comment was requested in writing to the Election Board or to [votecenter@elkhartcounty.com](mailto:votecenter@elkhartcounty.com), and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 3-11-18.1-3(e) the Elkhart County Election Board awaited public comment on the draft plan beginning on January 13, 2014 and through February 14, 2014, said February date being at least thirty (30) days after the first public meeting, and

WHEREAS, public comment was considered, and the draft plan was adopted by the Election Board on this date, said date being at least 60 days prior to the use of the vote center plan for the 2014 primary election, and

WHEREAS, the Elkhart County Election Board so approves the Elkhart County plan for the implementation of vote centers in Elkhart County,

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE ELKHART COUNTY ELECTION BOARD:

The Election Board of Elkhart County adopts the Order to approve the County Vote Center Plan, which is incorporated in this Order by reference.

ADOPTED THIS 27 DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2014

ELKHART COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

"AYES"

"NAYS"

*Nevega A. Wilson*

NAME

NAME

*Wendy H. ...*

NAME

NAME

*Phil ...*

NAME

NAME

State of Indiana )  
 ) Before the Elkhart County Election Board  
 ) Resolution 2014 - 2  
County of Elkhart )

Whereas, IC 3-11.5-1-1.1 (the state law permitting the central counting of absentee ballots) applies to a county whose county election board adopts a resolution by unanimous vote of the board's entire membership pursuant to IC 3-11.5.6-1;

Whereas, the Elkhart County Election Board has determined that absentee ballots in the county will be cast on ballot cards (and not on paper ballots) for absentee voting by mail and by traveling absentee voter board, and by direct-recording electronic voting machines (DRE machines) for in-person absentee voting in the Clerks Office and satellite absentee voting locations, and that, as a result, IC 3-11.5-6-1 would be the applicable statute for the adoption of a central count resolution by the board;

Whereas, the Elkhart County Election Board has determined that the adoption of a resolution for the central counting of absentee ballots would be beneficial in the administration of elections in the county;

Whereas, Elkhart County's transition to Vote Center voting requires that absentee ballots be counted centrally, per I.C. 3-11-18.1-4;

Whereas, the approval of this resolution would take place at least sixty (60) days before the next election at which the central count procedures would be used; and

Whereas, this Resolution has received the unanimous vote of the entire membership of the Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ELKHART COUNTY ELECTION BOARD:

Section 1. IC 3-11.5-6-1 applies to the counting of absentee ballots in the county, along with other pertinent provisions of IC 3-11.5.

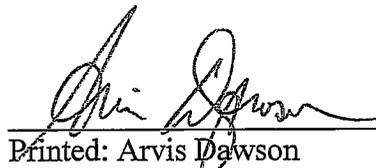
Section 2. The Secretary of the County Election Board shall immediately file a signed copy of this Resolution with the Indiana Election Division, a division of the Office of the Indiana Secretary of State.

Section 3. In accordance with IC 3-11.5-6-1, this Resolution takes effect immediately and may only be rescinded by unanimous vote of the entire membership of the board.

Adopted this 27 day of February, 2014 by all of the members of the Elkhart County Election Board.



Printed: Wayne Kramer  
Member, Elkhart County Election Board



Printed: Arvis Dawson  
Member, Elkhart County Election Board



Printed: Wendy Hudson  
Member, Elkhart County Election Board

# Appendix B

**State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting  
ELKHART COUNTY**

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
BAUGO 01	0	476
	Precinct Subtotal	476
BAUGO 02	0	573
	Precinct Subtotal	573
BAUGO 03	0	977
	Precinct Subtotal	977
BAUGO 04	0	785
	Precinct Subtotal	785
BAUGO 05	0	643
	Precinct Subtotal	643
BAUGO 06	0	561
	Precinct Subtotal	561
BAUGO 07	0	325
	Precinct Subtotal	558
	Precinct Subtotal	883
BENTON 01	0	797
	Precinct Subtotal	81
	Precinct Subtotal	878
BENTON 02	0	507
	Precinct Subtotal	507

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
CLEVELAND 01	0	647
		Precinct Subtotal 647
CLEVELAND 02	0	820
		Precinct Subtotal 820
CLEVELAND 03	0	1,101
		Precinct Subtotal 1,101
CLEVELAND 04	0	617
		Precinct Subtotal 617
CLEVELAND 05	0	895
		Precinct Subtotal 895
CLEVELAND 06	0	944
		Precinct Subtotal 944
CLEVELAND 07	0	30
	1	870
	2	17
		Precinct Subtotal 917
CLINTON 01	0	819
	1	330
		Precinct Subtotal 1,149
CONCORD 01	0	790
		Precinct Subtotal 790

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
CONCORD 02	0	1,034
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 03	0	1,147
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 04	0	698
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 05	0	725
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 06	0	389
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 07	0	789
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 08	0	314
	1	324
	2	231
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 09	0	709
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 10	0	1,000
		Precinct Subtotal

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
CONCORD 11	0	927
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 12	0	622
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 13	0	693
	1	460
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 14	0	214
	1	97
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 15	0	736
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 16	0	121
	1	6
	2	565
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 17	0	946
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 18	0	630
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 19	0	529
		Precinct Subtotal

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
CONCORD 20	0	591
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 21	0	199
	1	240
	2	568
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 22	0	596
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 23	0	292
	1	573
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 24	0	920
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 25	0	658
	1	407
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 26	0	636
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 27	0	1,030
		Precinct Subtotal
CONCORD 28	0	1,010
		Precinct Subtotal

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
CONCORD 29	0	855
		Precinct Subtotal
		855
CONCORD 30	0	539
		Precinct Subtotal
		539
CONCORD 31	0	618
		Precinct Subtotal
		618
CONCORD 32	0	88
	1	308
		Precinct Subtotal
		396
CONCORD 33	0	167
	1	275
		Precinct Subtotal
		442
ELKHART 01	0	24
	1	783
		Precinct Subtotal
		807
ELKHART 02	0	238
		Precinct Subtotal
		238
ELKHART 03	0	106
	1	753
		Precinct Subtotal
		859
ELKHART 04	0	354

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
ELKHART 04	1	642
	Precinct Subtotal	996
ELKHART 05	0	813
	Precinct Subtotal	813
ELKHART 06	0	586
	Precinct Subtotal	586
ELKHART 07	0	856
	Precinct Subtotal	856
ELKHART 08	0	578
	1	380
	2	13
	Precinct Subtotal	971
ELKHART 09	0	290
	1	40
	2	385
	Precinct Subtotal	715
ELKHART 10	0	888
	1	76
	Precinct Subtotal	964
ELKHART 11	0	292
	1	29
	Precinct Subtotal	321

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
ELKHART 12	0	652
	1	261
		Precinct Subtotal 913
ELKHART 13	0	924
		Precinct Subtotal 924
ELKHART 14	0	932
	1	93
		Precinct Subtotal 1,025
ELKHART 15	0	1,040
		Precinct Subtotal 1,040
ELKHART 16	0	950
		Precinct Subtotal 950
ELKHART 17	0	766
		Precinct Subtotal 766
ELKHART 18	0	638
	1	194
		Precinct Subtotal 832
ELKHART 19	0	1,060
		Precinct Subtotal 1,060
ELKHART 20	0	509
	1	63
		Precinct Subtotal 572

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
ELKHART 21	0	581
	1	1
		Precinct Subtotal 582
HARRISON 01	0	845
	1	3
		Precinct Subtotal 848
HARRISON 02	0	444
	1	9
		Precinct Subtotal 453
JACKSON 01	0	796
		Precinct Subtotal 796
JACKSON 02	0	766
		Precinct Subtotal 766
JACKSON 03	0	724
		Precinct Subtotal 724
JEFFERSON 01	0	948
		Precinct Subtotal 948
JEFFERSON 02	0	859
		Precinct Subtotal 859
JEFFERSON 03	0	594
		Precinct Subtotal 594

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
JEFFERSON 04	0	1,082
		Precinct Subtotal
JEFFERSON 05	0	639
		Precinct Subtotal
JEFFERSON 06	0	979
		Precinct Subtotal
LOCKE 01	0	346
		Precinct Subtotal
LOCKE 02	0	1,093
		Precinct Subtotal
MIDDLEBURY 01	0	689
		Precinct Subtotal
MIDDLEBURY 02	0	8
	1	652
		Precinct Subtotal
MIDDLEBURY 03	0	16
	1	534
		Precinct Subtotal
MIDDLEBURY 04	0	715
		Precinct Subtotal

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Active Voters for Precinct  
Size Purposes

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
MIDDLEBURY 05	0	968
		Precinct Subtotal 968
OLIVE 01	0	719
		Precinct Subtotal 719
OLIVE 02	0	970
		Precinct Subtotal 970
OSOLO 01	0	1,187
		Precinct Subtotal 1,187
OSOLO 02	0	884
		Precinct Subtotal 884
OSOLO 03	0	634
		Precinct Subtotal 634
OSOLO 04	0	551
	1	294
		Precinct Subtotal 845
OSOLO 05	0	966
	1	3
	1	52
		Precinct Subtotal 1,021
OSOLO 06	0	442
	1	507
		Precinct Subtotal 949

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes	
OSOLO 07	0	253	
	1	626	
	Precinct Subtotal		879
OSOLO 08	0	1,058	
	Precinct Subtotal		1,058
OSOLO 09	0	650	
	1	291	
	Precinct Subtotal		941
OSOLO 10	0	4	
	1	964	
	Precinct Subtotal		968
OSOLO 11	0	1,138	
	Precinct Subtotal		1,138
	OSOLO 12	0	1,122
Precinct Subtotal		1,122	
OSOLO 13		0	968
	1	6	
	Precinct Subtotal		974
OSOLO 14	0	19	
	1	960	
	Precinct Subtotal		979
OSOLO 15	0	528	
	Precinct Subtotal		528

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Active Voters for Precinct  
Size Purposes

Precinct	Split	Precinct Subtotal	Precinct Subtotal
OSOLO 16	0	956	956
UNION 01	0	746	746
UNION 02	0	825	825
UNION 03	0	782	782
UNION 04	0	437	437
	1	43	480
WASHINGTON 01	0	943	943
WASHINGTON 02	0	1,088	1,088
WASHINGTON 03	0	904	904
WASHINGTON 04	0	780	780
YORK 01	0	851	851

# State of Indiana Voter Status Counts for Reprecincting

Precinct	Split	Active Voters for Precinct Size Purposes
YORK 02	0	1,020
		1,020
		94,309

Split

0

Precinct  
YORK 02

1,020

1,020

Precinct Subtotal

94,309

**ELKHART County Totals**