

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

Chatham County Board of Elections Office

984 Thompson Street, Suite D

Pittsboro, NC 27312

GoToMeeting

May 18, 2021 – 5:30 P.M.

The Chatham County Board of Elections met at the Chatham County Board of Elections office at 984 Thompson Street Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312 on May 18, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. via GoToMeeting. Citizens were given the opportunity to submit comments or concerns about precinct changes and other election related matters via email to the Director by 5:00 p.m. to be addressed during citizens input on the agenda.

The following people were present: Chair Laura Heise, Secretary Charles Ramos, Member Amy Meek, Member Frank Dunphy II, Member Mark Barroso (remote), Director Pandora Paschal, Deputy Director Steve Simos (remote), Election Specialist Chance Mashburn and temp employee Donald Lyerly. Secretary Charles Ramos led everyone in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Call to Order

Chair Laura Heise called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed the public. She stated that a quorum was present at this meeting. She also explained why we were not wearing mask because of the new CDC guidelines, and that everyone in the room was fully vaccinated. Citizens were invited to make comments through the chat feature.

Approve Minutes

Chair Heise asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There were none. Secretary Charles Ramos made the motion to approve the minutes. Member Amy Meek seconded the motion. All were in favor (Unanimous vote).

Public input

Chair Heise asked if there were any public input for this meeting. There were three public comments received from citizens to be addressed.

1. Republican Party Chair Terry Schmidt – Please address how temporary workers for early voting and for the MAT teams are selected for employment by Chatham County. Election Specialist Chance Mashburn stated that early voting workers are hired as Temporary employees by the Board of Elections through the county. When they are hired party affiliation is not a factor, but when scheduling is done, we do take that into consideration for balance at the sites. They go through background checks the same as regular county employees. Director Pandora Paschal stated that we look at the poll

Chatham voters on that eighteen-day interval. Election Day is becoming a minority of voters.

Director Pandora Paschal stated that the hiring of early voting workers is something you will need to take up with the legislators because that is the law. Frank Dunphy II stated he saw nothing on the State Board of Elections website, the Chatham County Board of Elections website, and there is nothing documented about how to become an early voting worker. Director Pandora Paschal stated they are temporary employees. Frank Dunphy II stated he looked in the North Carolina election law book there is nothing in there about early voting workers. Director Pandora Paschal stated she would get more information on where it is found. This was a public input question, and we should not focus on discussing this tonight, this is just my opinion, but it is up to Chair Heise.

Chair Heise stated that she agrees with what Director Pandora Paschal said, and that Frank Dunphy II is bringing up a topic that we are not going to be equipped to deal with tonight nor we are not clear enough on what the law is. I think we should ask the staff to research this question and come back to us with it at our next meeting. I think it would be inappropriate for us to try and vote on something that would change the way we do things here without a little more information.

Member Frank Dunphy II responded that he wants to make sure this is an agenda item for the next meeting, and I have at least four motions that I was going to make tonight. Member Frank Dunphy II asked Chair Heise if she wanted the motions to be made tonight? Member Amy Meek stated that we do not know if they are legal. Director Pandora Paschal stated that this is the way we have been getting early voting workers since I have been here. I have been here for 17 years. These are the guidelines the state has asked us to use. I will get documentation for the next meeting. Frank Dunphy II stated he imposed to the body that the elections landscape is changing. Director Pandora Paschal stated that this is a conversation that you should have with the legislature this is law. Member Frank Dunphy II stated the law needs to be changed. Director Paschal stated that the Board of Elections duty is not to change the law.

Member Frank Dunphy II stated for the public who is listening, Election Day is becoming where the minority of voter's vote. The majority of voters vote at early voting and the eighteen days before the election, so the workers who interact with the voters should be approved by the voting members of this body. It should not be delegated, in my opinion to the Director and the Assistant Director. Director Pandora Paschal stated she was not saying that she disagreed, but currently this how the process works. Chair Heise said to get guidance from the State Board of Elections for better understanding of hiring early voting workers. Member Amy Meek asked if this matter could be tabled. Chair Heise agreed.

Oakland Precinct

Chair Laura Heise opened the discussion to merge Oakland Precinct which currently has 1,002 registered voters and currently vote at the Pittsboro Fire Station with Three Rivers Precinct which currently has 1,196 registered voters and currently vote at Liberty Chapel Church. The alternative is to split Oakland Precinct at US 15-501 with the eastern half of Oakland going to the Three Rivers Precinct, and the western half of Oakland voters going to the Goldston Precinct. Three Rivers precinct would be called the Moncure Precinct and vote at Moncure Elementary School. The reason for the move from the fire station is parking is not good, poll workers can't set up the night before because the trucks cannot be moved out of the bay and they vote in the bay. There are no other alternatives in Oakland. Johnny Shaw who is a resident of Oakland precinct stated he did not see a problem at the community center when they voted there, nor does he see a problem at the fire station where they currently vote. Donald Lyrly who is an Oakland Resident and a former Chief Judge at the Oakland Precinct stated that he understood how Johnny Shaw felt, but it was challenging setting up that site. Member Amy Meek stated that seems be the problem at all the fire stations. Director Pandora Paschal stated that is why we are looking for other spaces to vote. Secretary Charles Ramos stated every time he went to one of the polling places in a fire station, he always had an uncomfortable feeling.

Chair Heise asked the board if they were ready to move forward with a vote after hearing all points of view about the matter.

Amy Meek made the motion to split Oakland precinct along highway 15-501 with the eastern half of Oakland going to Three Rivers precinct, which will change to Moncure precinct. The polling place will be Moncure Elementary school. The western half of the Oakland precinct voters going to the Goldston precinct to vote at the Goldston Town Hall. Mark Barroso seconded the motion. All were in favor (Unanimous vote).

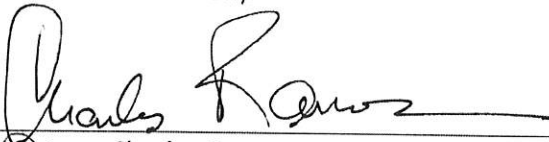
Bennett /Harpers Crossroads

The board considered the merger of the Bennett precinct with Harpers Crossroads. Bennett has a total of 779 voters and Harpers Crossroads has a total of 759, which would be a total of 1,538 voters. Bennett currently votes in the Bennett fire station which has the same barriers as other precincts that vote in fire stations. The board agrees it would be better to merge the two for safety, security, and efficiency in the elections process. Frank Dunphy II suggested the name Bennett Crossroads for the precinct. Director Pandora Paschal suggested Crossroad's precinct. There was no further discussion. Chair Heise asked for a motion to move forward with the merge. Amy Meek made the motion to merge Bennett precinct with Harpers Crossroads precinct. The precinct name will be Crossroad's precinct, and the polling place will be the Harpers Crossroads Community Center. Member Frank Dunphy II seconded the motion. All were in favor (Unanimous vote).

Deputy Director Steve Simos reminded the board members to please send any items for discussion to the Director to put on the agenda prior to each meeting. Chair Laura Heise asked for any motions made to be sent to other members prior to the meeting. Director Pandora Paschal stated she did not think that was a good idea because these motions would need to be discussed by the full board. If there is a topic for discussion at the meeting it would be fine to share with other members.

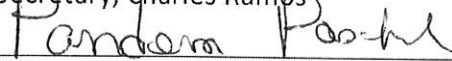
At the June meeting Director Pandora Paschal will provide information about how early voting workers are selected and hired, and how MAT teams are selected. Supporting documentation will be provided.

Secretary Charles Ramos made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm. All were in favor (Unanimous decision).



Secretary, Charles Ramos

6/22/21



Pandora Paschal, Attest

6/22/21

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING

Chatham County Board of Elections Office

984 Thompson Street, Suite D, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Regular Meeting/GoToMeeting

Tentative Agenda May 18,2021

1. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Call to Order – Chair, Laura Heise
3. Approve Minutes – April 20, 2021
4. Public Input – emailed to Director before 5:00 pm or comments from the GTM chat list
5. **Discuss Merging Precincts**
 - a) Hadley/Albright – Silk Hope Precinct - Silk Hope Ruritan Club
 - b) Oakland/Three Rivers – Moncure Elementary School
 - c) Bennett/Harpers Crossroads – Harpers Crossroads Community Center
6. **Discuss Precinct Split - Manns Chapel**
 - a) Manns Chapel – Perry Harrison Elementary School
 - b) Briar Chapel – Chatham Grove Elementary School
 - c) Hadley/Albright (Alternative) – Silk Hope Ruritan Club /Perry Harrison Elementary School
 - d) Oakland/Goldston (Alternative) – Goldston Town Hall
 - e) Oakland/Three Rivers (Alternative) – Moncure Elementary School
7. **Discuss Moving Voting Places**
 - a) Bonlee to Bonlee Elementary School Gym
 - b) Bennett to Bennett Elementary School Multi-Purpose room
 - c) Pittsboro to Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center
 - d) East Siler City to National Guard Armory
 - e) North Williams to North Chatham Elementary School

Pandora Paschal

From: Laura Heise <lheise.chathamboe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 7:12 PM
To: Pandora Paschal
Subject: Fwd: Oakland

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Hi—hopefully Johnny Shaw is also sending this comment to you, concerning combining precincts

Begin forwarded message:

From: Liz Guinan <liz.b.guinan@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Oakland
Date: May 3, 2021 at 7:05:17 PM EDT
To: mbarroso@mindspring.com, Laura Heise <lheise.chathamboe@gmail.com>, arobenameek@gmail.com
Cc: Johnny Shaw <johnnyshaw@earthlink.net>

Mark, Laura & Amy: Please see Johnny's comments below. Johnny is currently the Dem precinct chair.



Liz Guinan
(M) 602.690.7605

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Johnny Shaw <johnnyshaw@earthlink.net>
Date: Mon, May 3, 2021 at 4:56 PM
Subject: Oakland
To: Liz Guinan <liz.b.guinan@gmail.com>

In the past we have enjoyed joint precinct meeting with Pittsboro. We have worked early voting jointly. The people of Oakland associate with Pittsboro. Our voting site this past election was Horton Middle School. The students in Oakland attend Pittsboro schools. From a voting site stand point why would you send a voter 15 plus miles to vote when he could drive 5 miles to Pittsboro. I am a life long Oakland resident and cannot support merging with Three Rivers. It would make more sense to split Oakland into half with one half to Pittsboro the other to Goldston. Please forward my thoughts to our representatives on Board of Elections.

Johnny Shaw

Pandora Paschal

From: T Schmidt <schmidt.terry@pm.me>
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Pandora Paschal
Subject: Question for Board of Elections Meeting May 18, 2021

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Hi Pandora -

At the May 18, 2021 BOE meeting please address how temporary workers for early voting and for the MAT teams are selected for employment by Chatham County.

Thanks,

Terry Schmidt
Chair, Chatham County Republican Party

Pandora Paschal

From: Charles Ramos <cramos10514@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Pandora Paschal
Cc: 'frank dunphy'; cramos10514@gmail.com
Subject: FW: 5/18/21 BOE Meeting Agenda & Information
Attachments: Meeting Agenda May 18 2021.docx; General Statues Governing Precincts and Voting Places.pdf; List of Precinct Changes 2021.xlsx; ElectionsMap1A.pdf; ElectionsMap1B.pdf; April 20 2021 minutes.docx

Importance: High

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Pandora,

For the 5/18/21 regular BOE meeting under "other elections business", I propose discussing the following items:

1. Based on the recent announcements from the CDC and Governor Cooper, when will the BOE allow citizens to attend BOE meetings in person and what are the required protocols if any (masks or no masks, etc.).
2. Similar to what the Board of Commissioners (BOC) does for their meetings, I suggest the BOE start posting all meeting notices and the related attachments on the BOE website. This information should be easily available for look up by all county citizens. All county citizens may not subscribe to the county government emails or they may have deleted their BOE meeting notice issued by the county. In addition, when the BOC posts their final approved minutes for each meeting, the minutes follows the agenda structure. See the BOC website for examples.

Thanks,
Charles Ramos
919-904-7020
cramos10514@gmail.com

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From: Pandora Paschal <pandora.paschal@chathamcountync.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Laura Heise <lheise.chathamboe@gmail.com>; Charles Ramos <cramos10514@gmail.com>; Robena Meek <arobenameek@gmail.com>; frank dunphy <frank.dunphy1@gmail.com>; Mark Barroso <markinchatham@gmail.com>
Subject: 5/18/21 BOE Meeting Agenda & Information
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Pandora Paschal

From: Phillip Gilfus <ncpublicservant@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 7:03 PM
To: Pandora Paschal
Subject: Public Comments - Albright/Hadley Potential Merger

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To the Board of Elections:

I am Phillip Gilfus, chair of the Albright Precinct Democrats. Our precinct met on Sat., May 15, and discussed (among other topics) the potential merger of our precinct with our eastern neighbor, Hadley. Those in attendance were enthusiastic about the proposed polling station change from the fire station to the Ruritan Club. The greater availability of parking, the ease of accessibility offered by the front covered porch, and the greater space for "electioneering" make the proposed change attractive. We support the proposal for this new Silk Hope precinct.

There were some questions about how this additional role for the Ruritan Club would make them more publically accessible or not, outside of election days, for precinct gatherings. We also wondered whether it might be premature to modify precincts before the county receives the official census numbers in the fall - wouldn't the Board be in a position to change precincts again after those numbers come in?

But on the broad proposal, we believe the proposed Silk Hope precinct offers a wide array of benefits for the voters in Albright precinct.

Thanks for your consideration and service,

Phillip Hunter Gilfus,
Precinct Chair,
Albright Democrats

--
Phillip Hunter Gilfus

"For in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's futures. And we are all mortal." - JFK

CHATHAM COUNTY POLLING PLACES

Precinct

ID #

Polling Place

Address

(Click on Polling Place Name for Picture/BUFFER ZONE Information)

(Click on Address for Directions)

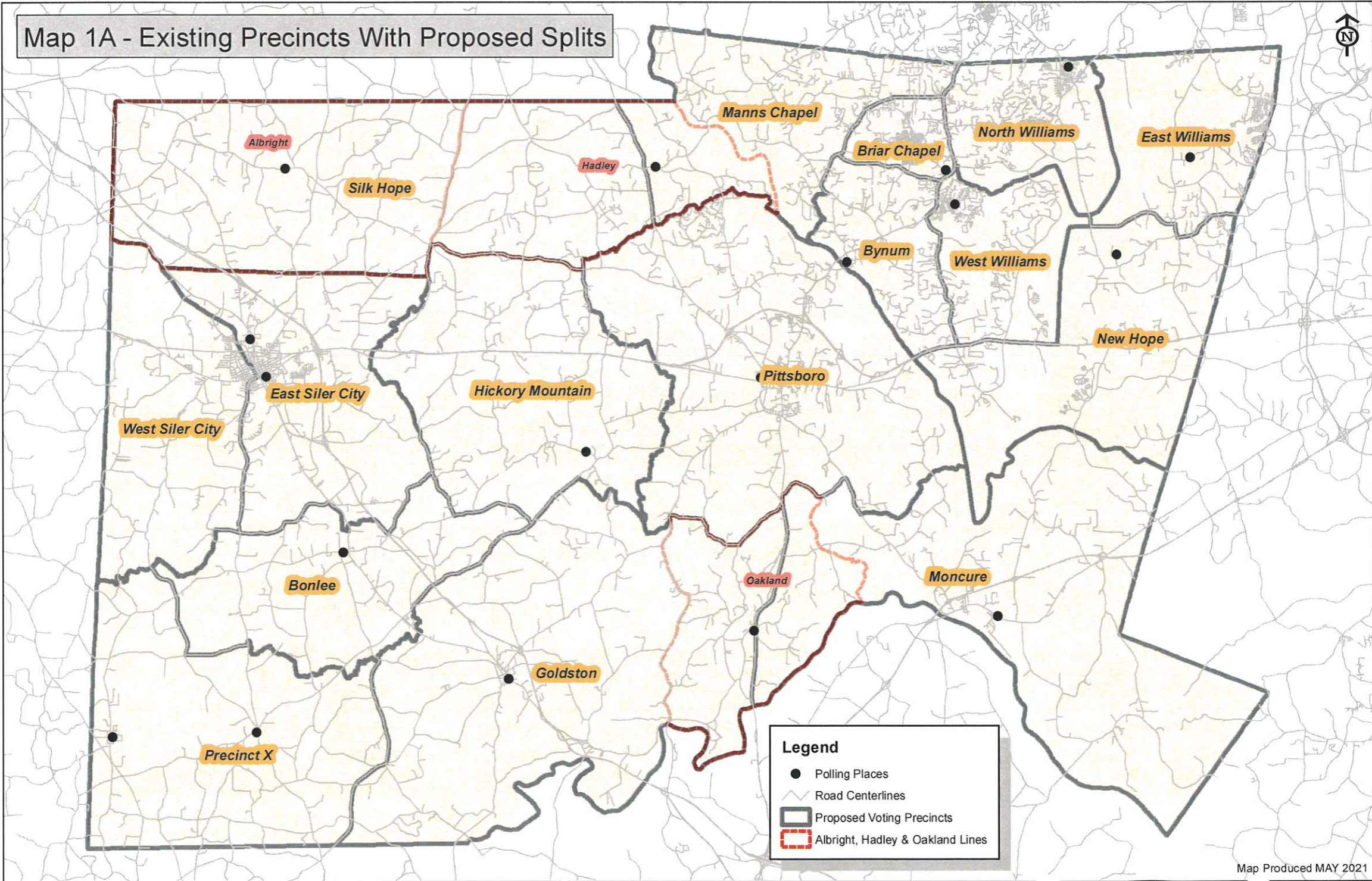
Albright	3	Silk Hope Fire Station	5226 Silk Hope Liberty Rd. Siler City, NC. 27344
Bennett	6	Bennett Fire Department	55 East Raleigh St., Bennett, NC, 27208
Bonlee	9	Bonlee Fire Department	185 Bonlee Bennett Road, Bonlee, NC, 27213
Bynum	15	Bynum Ruritan Club	28 Charlie Fields Road, Pittsboro, NC, 27312
Goldston	18	Goldston Town Hall	40 A Coral Ave., Goldston, NC. 27252
Three Rivers	20	Liberty Chapel Church	1855 Old US Hwy 1, Moncure, NC, 27559
Hadley	21	Brown's Chapel Church	355 Chicken Bridge Rd, Pittsboro, NC, 27312
Harpers Crossroads	24	HXR Community Center	20079 Hwy 902, Bear Creek, NC. 27207
Hickory Mountain	30	Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church	7019 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Pittsboro NC, 27312
Manns Chapel	MCH110	CCCC Health Science Building	75 Ballentrae Ct, Pittsboro, NC, 27312
New Hope	42	Holland Chapel AME Zion Church	360 Burgess Rd, Apex, NC, 27523
Oakland	45	Pittsboro #3 Fire Station	60 Walter Bright Rd., Sanford, NC. 27330
Pittsboro	PITT113	CCCC Multipurpose Rm.	764 West Street, Pittsboro, NC, 27312
East Siler City	ESC114	Earl B. Fitts Community Center	111 South Third Ave., Siler City, NC, 27344
West Siler City	85	West Chatham Senior Center	112 Village Lake Rd, Siler City, NC. 27344.
East Williams	75	New Hope Church	581 New Hope Church Rd, Apex, NC, 27523
North Williams	NWMM117	Carolina Meadows Club Center Auditorium	100 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, NC, 27517
West Williams	78	The Gathering Place in Fearrington Village	26 Swim and Croquet, Pittsboro, NC. 27312

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

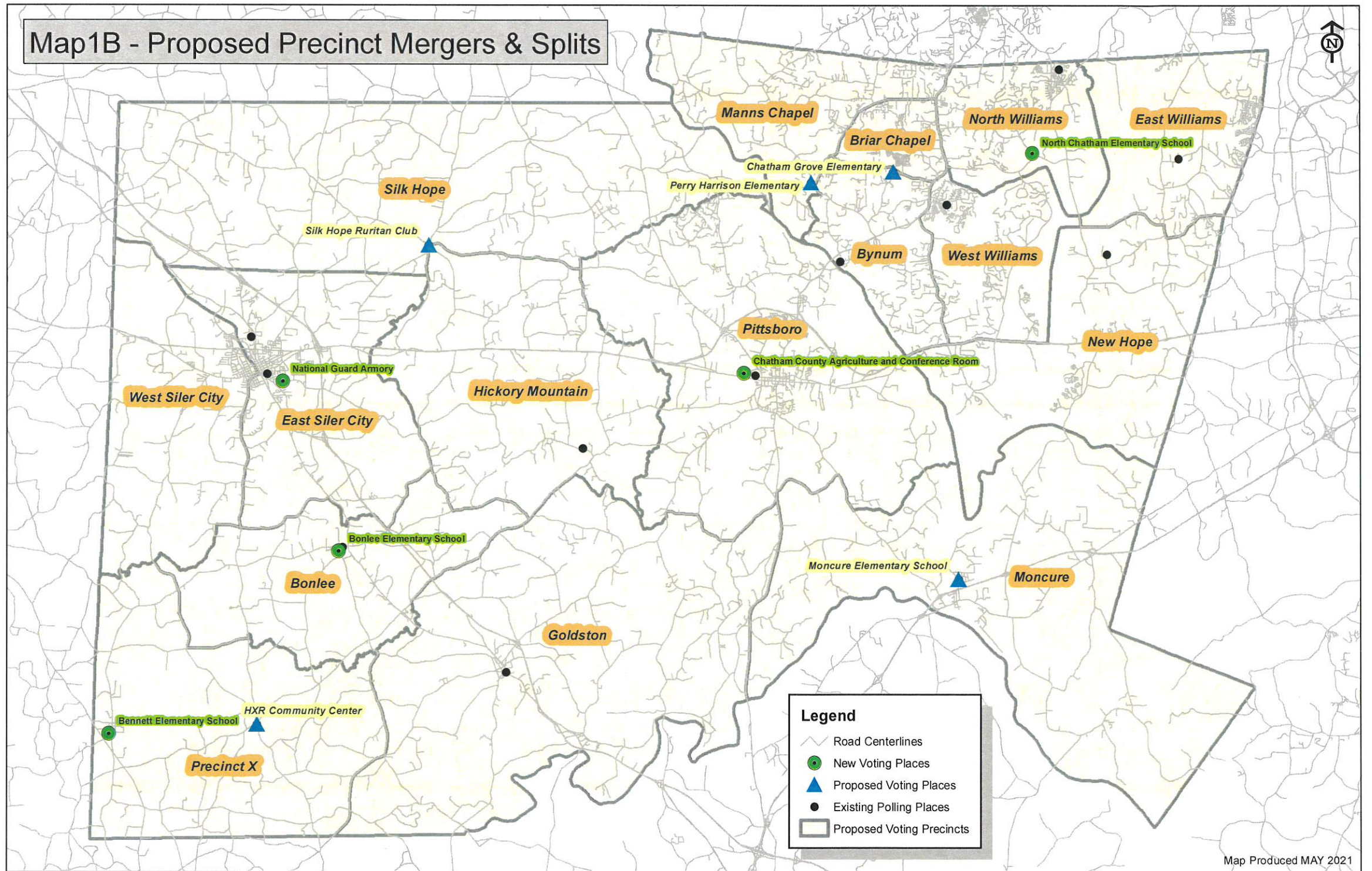
VR STATISTICS BY PRECINCT

PRECINCT	TOTAL VOTERS	Dem	Rep	Lib	Gre	Cst	Una	Rim	Black	White	Am. Ind.	Asian	Multi Race	Other Pacific Isl	Undesig	Female	Male	Undesig	
15 BYNUM	2,294	928	428	11	1	2	924	0	241	1,696	4	22	9	33	0	289	1,051	975	268
18 GOLDSTON	2,293	832	696	16	0	2	747	0	441	1,613	4	3	7	24	0	201	1,108	999	186
20 THREE RIVERS	1,961	568	644	7	0	0	742	0	292	1,320	12	8	4	18	0	307	879	811	271
21 HADLEY	1,569	464	410	11	1	1	682	0	28	1,338	1	5	5	18	0	174	725	675	169
24 HARPERS CROSSROADS	759	158	337	3	0	0	261	0	13	677	0	0	0	7	0	62	352	352	55
3 ALBRIGHT	1,782	477	702	9	0	2	592	0	138	1,363	7	5	2	25	0	242	808	770	204
30 HICKORY MOUNTAIN	1,755	558	536	13	0	0	648	0	218	1,320	4	5	6	26	0	176	835	756	164
42 NEW HOPE	2,163	534	726	9	0	1	893	0	100	1,553	5	30	10	43	0	422	899	873	391
45 OAKLAND	1,002	346	285	8	0	1	362	0	113	749	1	1	1	9	0	128	449	430	123
6 BENNETT	779	161	382	1	0	0	235	0	37	661	0	3	0	6	0	72	375	334	70
75 EAST WILLIAMS	4,660	1,329	1,325	17	2	3	1,984	0	232	3,436	6	167	19	109	0	691	2,199	1,812	649
78 WEST WILLIAMS	5,292	1,986	1,161	22	0	0	2,123	0	156	4,318	12	73	16	81	0	636	2,622	2,078	592
85 WEST SILER CITY	2,688	1,180	697	21	0	0	790	0	582	1,492	9	18	23	157	0	407	1,364	1,083	241
9 BONLEE	1,447	459	498	9	1	0	480	0	145	1,144	1	0	1	17	0	139	687	633	127
ESC114 EAST SILER CITY	4,007	1,935	900	20	1	7	1,144	0	1,091	1,992	6	21	33	242	0	622	2,011	1,668	328
MCH110 MANNIS CHAPEL	8,754	3,491	1,416	45	6	3	3,793	0	342	6,589	16	162	50	142	1	1,453	4,005	3,400	1,349
NWM117 NORTH WILLIAMS	6,203	2,406	1,233	24	3	2	2,535	0	415	4,506	12	142	36	141	0	951	2,923	2,473	807
PIT113 PITTSBORO	7,433	3,032	1,422	44	4	4	2,927	0	1,201	4,956	18	61	41	145	0	1,011	3,596	2,893	944
GRAND TOTAL	56,841	20,844	13,798	290	19	28	21,862	0	5,785	40,723	118	726	263	1,243	1	7,983	26,888	23,015	6,938

Map 1A - Existing Precincts With Proposed Splits



Map1B - Proposed Precinct Mergers & Splits



CHATHAM COUNTY
PROPOSED PRECINCT CHANGES

Merge Precincts	New Name	Current Polling Place	New Voting Place	Address	Miles from Current Polling Place	Time
Hadley/Albright	Silk Hope Precinct	Albright - Fire Station Hadley - Browns Chapel Church	Silk Hope Ruritan Club	4221 Silk Hope Rd, Siler City, NC 27344	Albright 5.3 Hadley 9.4	7 mins 13 mins.
Oakland/Three Rivers	Moncure Precinct	3 Rivers - Liberty Chapel Church Oakland -Pittsboro Fire Station	No Change Moncure Elementary School	600 Moncure School Rd, Moncure NC 27559	Three Rivers 1.7 Oakland 9.9	3 mins. 13 mins
Bennett/Harpers Crossroad	Crossroads Precinct	Harpers X roads Bennett - Fire Station	No Change Harpers Crossroads Community Center	20079 NC Hwy 902 Bear Creek, NC 27207	Bennett 5.8	8 mins.
Split Precincts	Name	Current Polling Place	New Voting Place	Address	Miles	Time
Manns Chapel	Manns Chapel	Perry Harrison Elementary School	Perry Harrison Elementary School	2655 Hamlets Chapel Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312	5.5	9 mins.
Briar Chapel	Briar Chapel	Perry Harrison Elementary School	Chatham Grove Elementary School	1301 Andrews Store Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312	6.7	11 mins
Hadley (Alternative Split)	Manns Chapel	Browns Chapel Church	Perry Harrison Elementary School	2655 Hamlets Chapel Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312	7.1 mi	13 mins
Hadley (Alternative split)	Silk Hope	Browns Chapel Church	Silk Hope Ruritan Club	4221 Silk Hope Rd, Siler City, NC 27344	9.4 mi	13 mins
Oakland (Alternative Split)	Goldston	Pittsboro Fire Department	Goldston Town Hall	40 A Coral Avenue, Goldston, NC 27252	11.6	17 mins
Oakland (Alternative Split)	Three Rivers	Three Rivers - Liberty Chapel Church Oakland - Pittsboro Fire Department	Moncure Elementary School	600 Moncure School Rd, Moncure NC 27559	Three Rivers 1.7 Oakland 9.9	3 mins. 13 mins
Move Polling Places	Current Voting Place		New Voting Place	Address	Miles	Time
Bonlee (if not Merged)	Bonlee Fire Department		Bonlee School Gym	152 Bonlee School Rd, Bear Creek, NC 27207	0.1	
Bennett (If not Merged)	Bennet Fire Department		Bennett Elementary School Multi Purpose Room	61 Randolph St, Bennett, NC 27208	0.1	
Pittsboro	CCCC Multi Purpose Room		Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center	1192 US-64 BUS, Pittsboro, NC 27312	0.5	1 min.
East Siler City	Earl B Fitts Community Center		National Guard Armory	801 Alston Bridge Rd, Siler City, NC 27344	0.8	1 min.
North Williams	Carolina Meadows		North Chatham Elementary School	3380 Lystra Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27517	4.5	7 mins.