

VOTE CENTER PLAN

November \_\_\_, 2021

Election Board Members

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Sylvia Abshire, Vice President  
Patricia Perry, Secretary

Warrick County Clerk of Circuit Courts

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Angela Nussmeyer  
Brad King  
Co-Directors  
Indiana Election Division  
Indiana Government Center South  
Room E204  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Co-Directors,

Please accept the following Vote Center Plan of behalf of the Warrick County Election Board. It means a great deal to the Board and I to be involved in this opportunity for our county.

It is our intention to continuously modify this plan to fit current Indiana legislation and to revise it 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.

Respectfully,

Patricia "Patty" Perry  
Clerk of the Warrick County Courts

## INTRODUCTION

### What is Vote Center?

A Vote Center is a polling location where any eligible voter in the county may vote on Election Day. The Vote Center model is intended to give voters more flexibility on Election Day as they will no longer be required to go to a specific polling location.

Vote Centers are equipped with Electronic Poll Books, networked through secure internet connections to servers that maintain real time information for all registered voters. Each Vote Center has numerous voting machines that are independent from each other and NOT connected to the internet for security purposes. As voters check in at a Vote Center, the electronic poll books across the County are instantaneously updated so that poll workers at every location know if a prospective voter has already cast a ballot at another location.

A study conducted by Ball State University's Bowen Center found that Vote Centers:

- Improve Voter convenience by permitting voters to vote at any of the multiple locations thus reducing wait time.
- Reduce the number of poll workers needed, elimination of the wasteful pre-printing of precinct-specific ballots thus a savings to the county, and increases flexibility of the staffing, locations, and number of machines thus decreasing the cost of voting.

### Process Overview

The Warrick County Election Board ("CEB"), along with the Vote Center Advisory Committee, has developed this plan after much thought and discussion. The CEB has tried to be accommodating of the unique needs across Warrick County of the many types of communities. During the deliberations, the CEB and Advisory Committee have followed these guiding principles:

- Voter Accessibility
- Voter Convenience
- Cost efficiency
- Election Security

## Demographics of Warrick County

Warrick County is a mixed rural and urban county, with the majority of the population nestled in the southern portion of the County along the Ohio River. Warrick County is one of the geographically largest counties in Indiana at 384 square miles. It has a population of approximately 63,898 people. Warrick County's 46,701 registered voters are split among 10 townships and 58 precincts, as follows:

<b>Township</b>	<b># of Precincts</b>	<b>% of Registered Voters</b>
Anderson	1	1.8%
Boon	12	20.4%
Campbell	1	1.7%
Greer	2	2.9%
Hart	2	2.3%
Lane	1	0.3%
Ohio	34	65.5%
Owen	1	0.9%
Pigeon	1	1.5%
Skelton	2	2.4%

An average of 60% of registered voters participated in the last four (4) general elections.

## **VOTING OPPORTUNITIES**

All registered and eligible voters in Warrick County will have numerous opportunities by which to cast their vote. The various alternative manners of casting a vote include the following:

- Early In-Person Voting at three (3) separate locations
- Request an Absentee Ballot (if qualified)
- Request a visit from the Travel Board (if qualified)
- Visit any Vote Center on Election Day

## Early In-Person Voting

In addition to the early voting opportunity at the Clerk's office in the Boonville Judicial Center, there will be two (2) satellite early voting locations. All three early voting locations will operate much like a Vote Center, inasmuch as any eligible voter may cast their vote at any of the three early voting locations. These early in-person voting locations are as follows:

1. County Clerk's Office in the Boonville Judicial Center  
(1 County Square, Boonville, IN 47601)
2. Lynnville Community Center  
(416 W ST Rd 68, Lynnville, IN 47619)
3. First Christian Church of Newburgh  
(4544 IN -261, Newburgh, IN 47630)

## Travel Board & Absentee Ballot

If a voter meets certain qualifications, a voter may request a paper ballot be mailed to his/her residence. The voter may then complete the ballot and mail it back to the Election Office in the enclosed return envelope.

Alternatively, a voter may be eligible to request a Travel Board bring a voting machine to the voter's residence to permit the voter to vote in a more secure manner. Voters who select this option will benefit from an experience similar to Election Day, but in the comfort of their own home. The travel board will be equipped with an Epollpad and voting machine.

## Election Day Vote Centers

Indiana law requires at a minimum one (1) Vote Center for every 10,000 registered voters. Based on Warrick County's number of registered voters, a minimum of five (5) Vote Centers is required. However, a review of all Vote Center Counties in Indiana reveals that Counties of similar voter population as Warrick County have an average of 11.5 Vote Centers, which translates to approximately 4,200 voters per

Vote Center. On Election Day, the following seventeen (17) locations will be available to ANY registered and eligible voter in Warrick County. Voters may visit whichever location is most convenient for them. This translates to an average of approximately 2,750 voters per Vote Center for Warrick County.

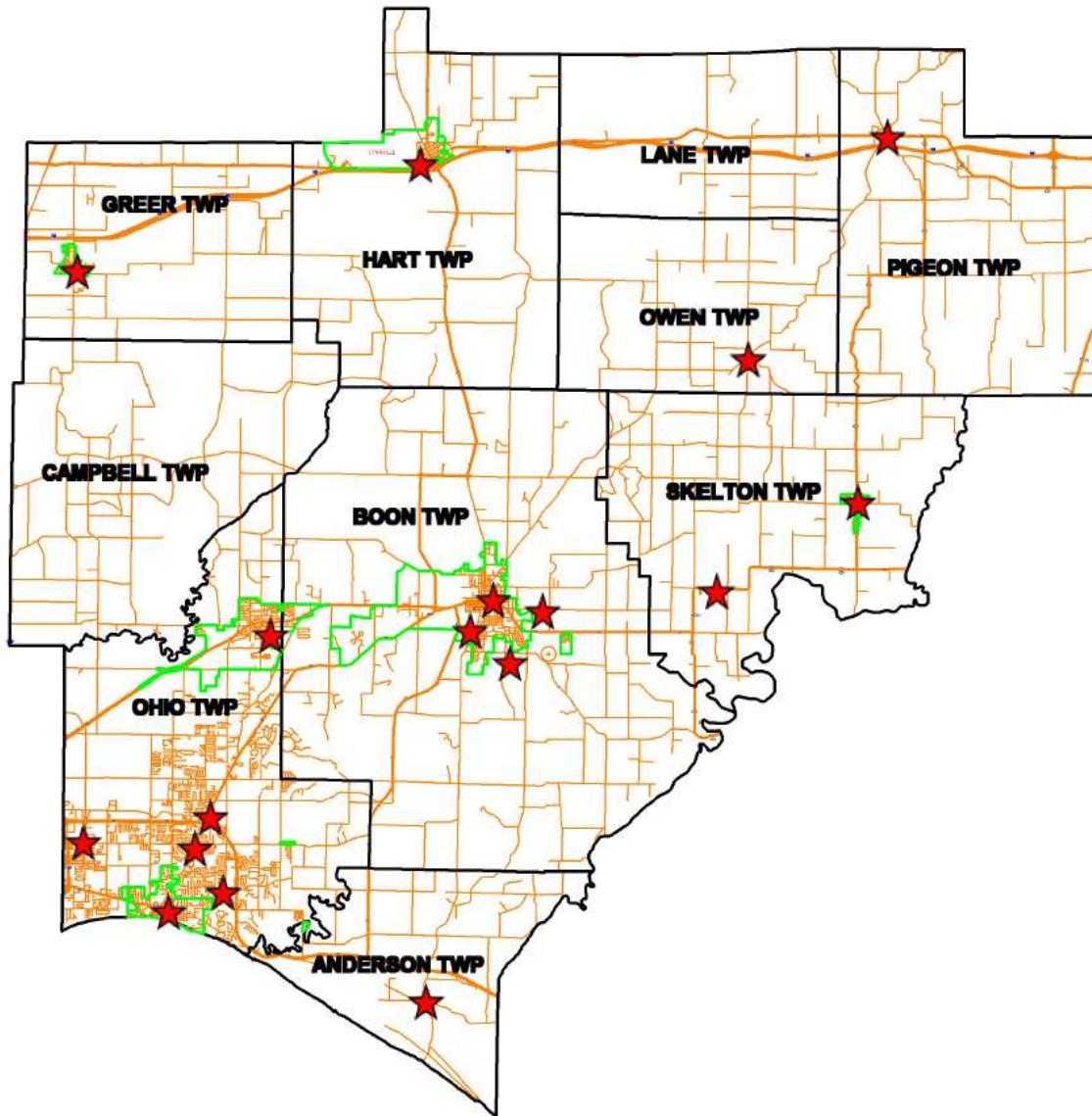
The CEB and VCAC used the following criteria to select the Election Day Vote Center locations:

- proximity to voters
- familiarity to voters
- placement on well-traveled corridors
- capacity to handle large volume of voters at a time
- ADA compliance
- Long-term use

After much consideration and deliberation, the following seventeen (17) Vote Center locations were selected:

1	Elberfeld Fire Station	25 Front St, Elberfeld, IN 47613
2	Lynnville Community Center	416 W ST Rd 68, Lynnville, IN 47619
3	Pigeon Township Community Center	11888 Yellowbanks Trail, Dale, IN 47523
4	Folsomville Fire Department	4011 Bright St, Folsomville, IN 47637
5	Tennyson Community Center	112 N Main St, Tennyson, IN 47637
6	Boonville Middle School	555 Yankeetown Rd, Boonville, IN 47601
7	Boonville St. John's UCC	123 N 6 <sup>th</sup> St, Boonville, IN 47601
8	Warrick County 4-H Center	133 County Rd 100 N, Boonville, IN 47601
9	Warrick County FOP	300 S Owensboro Rd, Boonville, IN 47601
10	Chandler Community Center	231 Community Center Dr, Chandler, IN 47610
11	Epworth United Methodist Church	4455 Epworth Rd, Newburgh, IN 47630
12	Living Word Christian Church	3888 IN-261, Newburgh, IN 47630
13	First Christian Church of Newburgh	4544 IN-261, Newburgh, IN 47630
14	Newburgh Elementary School	306 State St, Newburgh, IN 47630
15	Sharon Elementary School	7300 Sharon Rd, Newburgh, IN 47630
16	Yankeetown Fire Department	2600 Old State Rd 66, Newburgh, IN 47630
17	Baker Chapel UMC	3495 E State Route 62, Boonville, IN 47601

The CEB may utilize fewer locations as needed depending on the election and expected turnout. The CEB will work with the various municipalities to determine how many vote centers each municipality desires for Municipal Elections, with the minimum being one (1) location inside a municipality's corporate territory.



Each Vote Center will contain no less than five (5) election workers, including but not limited to one inspector, two judges (Republican and Democrat), and two clerks (Republican and Democrat). Additional election workers will be added to each Vote Center, in an even number, as needed based on expected turnout at each location. The additional election workers will serve as floaters and will fill whatever role is needed as assigned by the Inspector. The inspector will also serve as a greeter and

verify that each voter has his/her government issued ID. Voters will then proceed to a team of clerks who will access the individual's voter profile via an Electronic Pollbook equipped with a scanner to read the voter's ID card. The clerks will also have the ability to type in the voter's name to access the correct profile. Once the voter's address has been verified/updated through the ePollbook, as required by statute, a vote card will be programmed with that specific voter's ballot style and will be given to the judge. The judge will direct the voter to an available voting machine and assist the voter with pulling up the ballot and instruct the voter on how to use the voting machine.

Warrick County has 200 voting machines. Each travel board team will be provided a voting machine. Each early voting location will be provided with no less than four (4) voting machines. Each Election Day Vote Center will have no less than two (2) voting machines, with heavier expected turnout locations having more voting machines. The Election Office will have additional machines programmed and available to deliver to any site that is experiencing heavier turnout than expected.

### Voter Technology

ePollbooks are the cornerstone of how vote centers function. ePollbooks allow a voter to cast their ballot at any vote center they choose, while making sure the integrity of the election process is maintained by not allowing a voter to cast their ballot at more than one location. All ePollbooks are connected to a central server which allows for real-time updates to each of the other individual vote centers as well as the ability to receive data without unreasonable delay at the Warrick County Election Office, provided the person has the necessary credentials to do so.

ePollbooks have the ability to scan the barcode that is on the back of your Indiana ID/Driver's License, thereby increasing the ability to check-in voters and move lines along in an efficient and timely manner. Voters will sign their name on the ePollbook digitally. Once this is done, the ePollbook will create the voter access card. This will ensure that each voter is given the correct ballot for the precinct in which they are registered.

Warrick County utilizes KnowInk Poll Pads for our ePollbooks. The system is certified by the Indiana Secretary of State's office. The software runs on an Apple iPad and is capable of running on battery power in the event of a power outage.



Continuous internet is provided via Verizon hot spots at each location to ensure the most up-to-date data is synced with each iPad throughout the day.

Lastly, Warrick County uses the Infinity voting machine from MicroVote. MicroVote professionals program the voting machines for each election and assist in retrieving and verifying all ballots are received from each machine at the end of Election Day and reported by Precinct.

In the event of a complete power outage or emergency, each Vote Center will have paper ballots available for voters. In addition, the CEB may elect to extend voting hours in the event of an emergency as permitted by statute.

### Voter Education Plan

The CEB, County Commissioners, County Council, Clerk's Office, and Election Office will work together to inform Warrick County voters of the new Vote Center paradigm. The concept of a Vote Center will be familiar to most voters, as several surrounding counties, including Vanderburgh County, have already adopted and implemented the Vote Center concept. The local media has been covering the new Vote Center paradigm in neighboring Vanderburgh County for several election cycles and Warrick County voters are generally aware of the ability for Vanderburgh County voters to visit any vote center on election day. The CEB will utilize several available communication methods including social media, signage/flyers, mailings, and public forums to inform voters of the vote center locations on election day as well as other voting options. Information will also be available on the Election Office's website and Facebook page, as well as SVRS. The CEB will also rely upon local media and the Democratic and Republican parties for additional support in informing voters.

The dates, locations, and hours for Election Day voting will be posted in the local newspaper two (2) consecutive weeks prior to voting. The Democratic and Republican parties will be encouraged to assist with placing signs on Election Day in 2022 at past polling locations that are not being used at Vote Centers, indicating where the Vote Centers are located.

## Voters with Disabilities

The Help America Vote Act Of 2002 (HAVA) requires at least one accessible voting machine be placed in each polling place in addition to making the facility physically accessible.

Voters that require assistance or are experiencing mobility issues are welcome at the polls on Election Day where poll workers will assist them throughout the voting process. A voter may designate a relative or friend to assist them at the polling place. If the voter requests assistance but does not designate someone else to help them, two poll workers (one from each political party) will be available to assist. Those assisting a voter must complete the Affidavit of Voter Assistance at the Polls, available at the polling station, before entering the voting booth. If a voter is uncomfortable receiving assistance at the polls, the voter may request an absentee ballot from his/her local county clerk's office.

Lastly, every Vote Center has been certified by the CEB as ADA compliant.

## Security

The ePollbooks will include enhanced security measures in which they will only be accessible when a member of each party enters his/her undisclosed password. The number of voters will be checked and balanced each day of use with the number of ballots cast on the voting machines. In the event of a power failure at one or all of the Vote Centers, the voting machines and ePollbooks will be switched to battery backup. At the point in which power is restored, the ePollbooks will re-synchronize and provide an alert should potential voter fraud exist. The Warrick County Election Board will be notified in this situation to take appropriate action into the matter.

The Warrick County Election Board will also work in unison with the Warrick County Commissioners, Warrick County Sheriff's Department, and Warrick County Emergency Management Agency in the event voters or poll workers should be at risk to mitigate the issue at hand.

Following each election, the equipment will be stored and locked in a secure location at the Warrick County Judicial Center which is accessible by members of the Warrick County Election Board and Warrick County Election Office.

## I.C. 3-11-18.1-4 Compliance Checklist

The following 17 items are the requirements for a vote center plan as defined in Indiana Code 3-11-18.1-4. Following each of the 17 requirements are page number listed references where in this Warrick County Vote Center Plan the particular requirement(s) is met.

- (1) The total number of vote centers to be established. **Page 6**
- (2) The location of each vote center. **Pages 6-7, Attachment D**
- (3) The effective date of the order. **The order shall take effect immediately upon the filing of the order with the Indiana Election Commission, pursuant to Indiana Code.**
- (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. **Attachment C**
- (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. **Pages 7-8**
- (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 [[IC 3-11-18.1-13](#)] of this chapter for an election that is not being held in each precinct of the county. **All Precincts identified in Attachment C will be entitled to vote at every Vote Center.**
- (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. **Pages 7-8**
- (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. **Pages 8-9**
- (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. **Pages 8-9**
- (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. **Pages 10-11**

**(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. **Not applicable**

**(12)** 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. **(B)** Ensure that the election is properly conducted if a disruption occurs. **(C)** 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. **Page 10**

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

**(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. **Attachment E**

**(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. **Page 5**

**(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. **Page 8**

**(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. **Not applicable**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. County Commissioner Resolution
- B. County Council Resolution
- C. Current Precincts, Total Voters, Total Active Voters, Total Inactive Voters
- D. Vote Centers/Satellite Voting locations
- E. Vote Center Flow Chart Example
- F. Resolution Certifying Accessibility of Vote Centers
- G. Warrick County Election Board Resolution Approving Vote Centers

Attachment A  
County Commissioner Resolution

Attachment B  
County Council Resolution

Attachment C  
Current Precincts, Total Voters, Total Active Voters, Total Inactive Voters



Attachment D  
Vote Centers/Satellite Voting locations

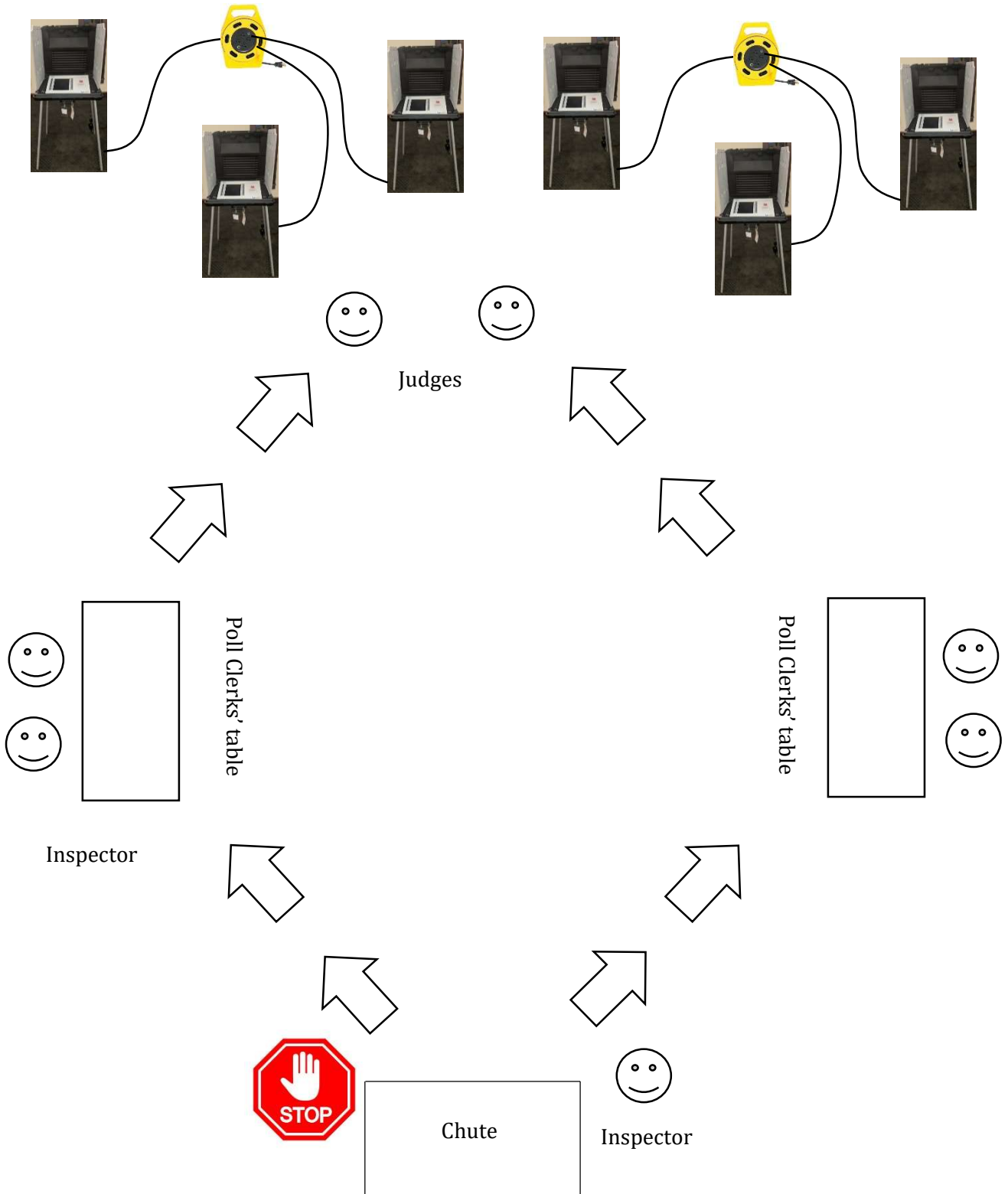
Early Voting Locations

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Vote Centers on Election Day

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# Attachment E Vote Center Flow Chart Example



Attachment F  
Resolution Certifying Accessibility of Vote Centers

Attachment G  
Warrick County Election Board Order Approving Vote Centers