

March 8, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting

PROPOSED ADDENDUM ITEM

Proposed Item to be Added to Agenda (New Business Item #14 A)

On March 4, General Registrar/Director of Elections Kathy McVay advised staff that the Virginia Board of Elections approved the County's request for a waiver to allow a split precinct in the Port Royal District. Without a waiver, a new precinct would have been required at Wright's Chapel United Methodist Church.

However, the approval applies only to elections held in 2022. To administer a split precinct for any election held in 2023 or later, Caroline County must request a new waiver from the State Board each year.

Recommended Action: The new precinct at Wright's Chapel United Methodist Church is already included in the amendments to Chapter 5 (Election Districts) of the Code of Caroline County adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 8, 2022.

To implement the waiver and remove the new precinct would require another ordinance amendment and additional public hearing. According to Ms. McVay, the Wright's Chapel precinct will be ready to go for the November 2022 elections and will not be needed for the June 2022 primaries.

As previously indicated, the waiver must be approved by the Virginia Board of Elections every year. In addition, any time the ordinance changes the County must go through the pre-clearance process with the Attorney's General Office in Richmond.

Taking all this into consideration, staff recommends declining the waiver and proceeding with the new precinct at Wright's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Staff and County Attorney Chris MacKenzie will provide additional discussion at the March 8, 2022 Board meeting.