



Office of the Town Manager  
Frank Cassidy

**Warrenton Town Council**  
Carter Nevill, Mayor  
Heather Sutphin, Ward 1  
William Semple, Ward 2  
Brett Hamby, Ward 3  
James Hartman, Ward 4 Vice Mayor  
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5  
Paul Mooney, At Large  
David McGuire, At Large

# STAFF REPORT

<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	February 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.
<b>Agenda Title:</b>	Modification to Town Code section 2-22 WARD 2 Polling place
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Hold the public hearing and move the Polling Location for Ward 2
<b>Department / Agency Lead:</b>	Town Council
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Stephen Clough, CMC, Town Clerk.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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Fauquier County Staff have identified issues with the construction at Taylor Middle School that will prohibit its use as a polling location for the upcoming March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Presidential Primary. The building is unable to be occupied. As such, the Ward 2 Polling Location will need to be changed to accommodate the construction. The Town Code section 2-22 will need to be modified with a new location for Ward 2 and preclearance from Va ELECT will need to be sought. Because we are within 60 days of the election, we will need to make the change for the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Primary as a temporary "emergency" measure and then apply for the preclearance CNO and polling place change to be more permanent for the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Primary Elections. Depending on the suitability of the chosen location, it may become a permanent change, or the County may look to move back to Taylor after the construction is completed. The change will need to remain in place for the foreseeable future because of the planned construction at the school.

The County team determined that they would like to use 33 North Calhoun Street as the new Polling Location. This is the site of the County Wellness Center. The Wellness Center will close on election days to accommodate the use. Extensive work has been done at this location in accordance with the Americans with disabilities act to make this location suitable with a minimal amount of effort.

## **BACKGROUND**

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At the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors meeting, a resolution was passed authorizing the staff to advertise for a public hearing on moving the Ward 2 Polling Location due to issues with the Current voting location.

At the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board of Supervisors Meeting a Public hearing was held on the item.

A public hearing is required as this item would modify the Town Code.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Hold the public hearing and review the proposed location change for the polling location.

### **Service Level/Collaborative Impact**

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This is a high service level impact across multiple departments including Legal, Public Works, the Clerk's office, Community Development, and county resources like the County Legal, County Clerk, County Administration, Board of Supervisors, and Registrar's Office.

### **Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040**

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Voting, at its core, affects all aspects of the Warrenton Plan 2040.

### **Fiscal Impact**

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The fiscal impact is primarily associated with legal costs and advertising costs to facilitate the location change.

### **Legal Impact**

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Ensuring compliance with the Town Code.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Wellness Center Town of Warrenton 202 Ward 2 Polling Location
2. Sec. 2-22 Voting or Polling Place Code section.
3. Sec. 2-22 Voting or Polling Place Code section redline.