

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 22-33 OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON,
VIRGINIA, TO ESTABLISH A VOTER SATELLITE OFFICE FOR ABSENTEE VOTING IN PERSON
PRIOR TO THE ELECTION**

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 24.2-701.2, which became effective on July 1, 2020, enabled the governing bodies of any county, by ordinance, to establish as many voter satellite offices as needed to be used in the locality for absentee voting in person;

WHEREAS, state law requires that such offices shall be in a public building owned or leased by the county, city, or town within the county and may be in a facility that is owned or leased by the Commonwealth and used as a location for Department of Motor Vehicles facilities or as an office of the general registrar; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Electoral Board and the Washington County Director of Elections and General Registrar anticipate significant increase in the number of voters who will absentee vote in the 2020 general election in person or by mail due to changes in state law and the COVID-19 pandemic and, therefore, has requested that the Washington County Board of Supervisors adopt this ordinance to establish a voter satellite office for absentee voting in person in time for implementation during the 2020 general election.

NOW, THEREFORE, ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING, and in consideration of the best interests of the public health, welfare, and safety, and having held a public hearing on this proposed ordinance, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Washington, Virginia hereby ordains the following:

1. That this ordinance shall be effective immediately;
2. That should any section or provision of this ordinance be decided to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section or provision of this ordinance or the Washington County Code;
3. That Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-33 of the Code of the County of Washington, Virginia (2002, as amended) shall be revised as set forth herein, subject to Article, Division, Section, and Subsection titles and numbers amendment by the Editor as necessary for Code consistency. New language is indicated by underline, and deletions are indicated by strikethrough, as follows:

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CODE OF COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, VIRGINIA (2002, as amended)

Chapter 22 – ELECTIONS

ARTICLE II – ELECTION DISTRICTS

Sec. 22-33. –Absentee ~~voter precinct~~ voting locations

(a) Central absentee voter precinct. There is hereby established for the county in the Government Center Building at 1 Government Center Place, in Abingdon, Virginia, a central absentee voter precinct, which precinct shall be used for all elections held in the county including the municipal elections held in the various towns located within the county and primary elections. Such precinct shall be established and operated in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 24.2-700 et seq.

(b) Satellite voter location. There is hereby established for the county in the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia, a voter satellite office, which may be used for absentee voting in person in advance of all elections held in the county including the municipal elections held in the various towns located within the county and primary elections in accordance with Code of Virginia, §§ 24.2-701.1 and -701.2, as amended from time to time. Such location shall be deemed the equivalent of the office of the general registrar for the purposes of completing the application for an absentee ballot in person pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 24.2-701 and 24.2-706. Not later than 55 days prior to any election, the general registrar shall post notice of all voter satellite office locations in the county and the dates and hours of operation of each location in the office of the general registrar and on the official website for the county for the duration of the period during which absentee voting in person is available.

State law reference – Absentee voting, Code of Virginia, § 24.2-700, et seq.