

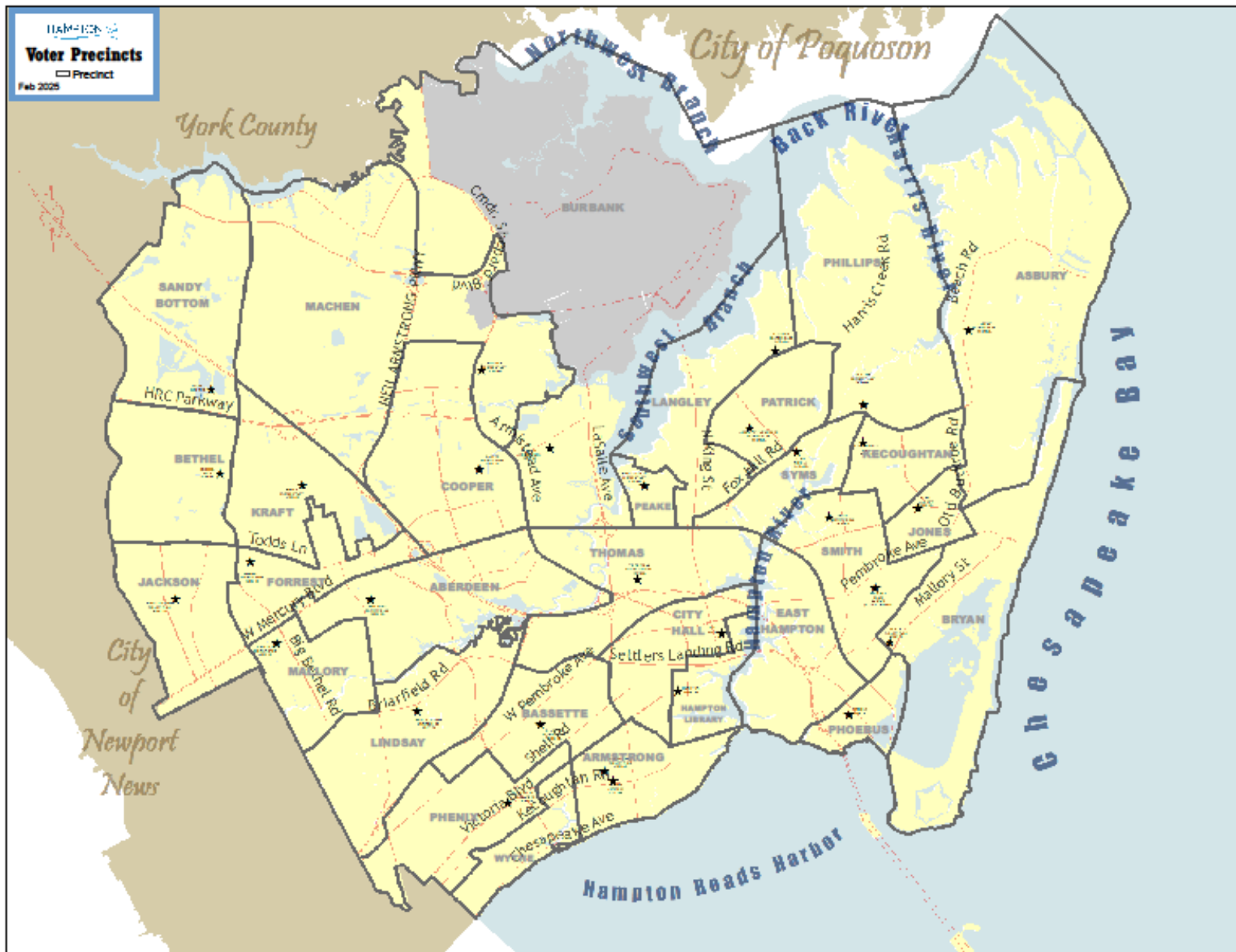
A Recap of Recommendations by Hampton Electoral Board Concerning Polling Place and Precinct Changes

Hampton City Council Work Session Briefing
March 26, 2025

Electoral Board Recommendations

On January 29, 2025, Electoral Board voted to:

1. Modify precinct boundaries “as proposed”
2. Relocate Polling Place for East Hampton precinct from Phoebus High School to Hampton University Convocation Center



Electoral Board Recommendation #1: Precinct Boundary Changes

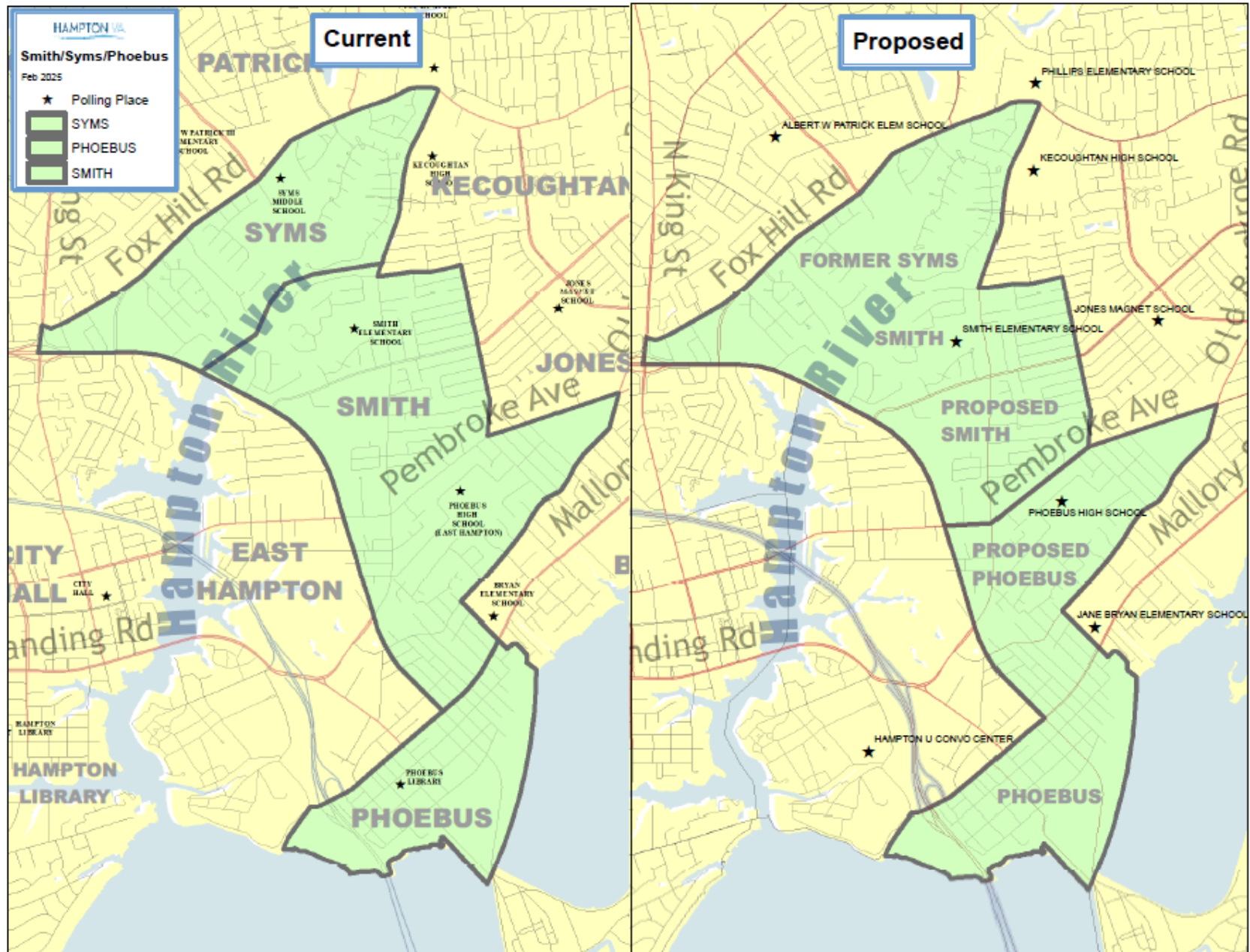
- Combine Syms and half of Smith precincts (voting at Smith)
- Combine Peake and Langley precincts (voting at Langley)
- Combine half of Smith and Phoebus (voting at PHS)
- Combine City Hall with Hampton Library (voting at Hampton Library)
- Move Bluebird Gap Farm into Lindsey (no voters affected)
 - May not be a correct statement; preliminary GIS mapping indicates 4 houses may be affected
- Shift portions of Machen (North of Commander Shepard Blvd) to Sandy Bottom
- Shift portions of Cooper into half of Machen (voting at Machen)
 - Preliminary GIS mapping indicates this would split the Hampton Club Community

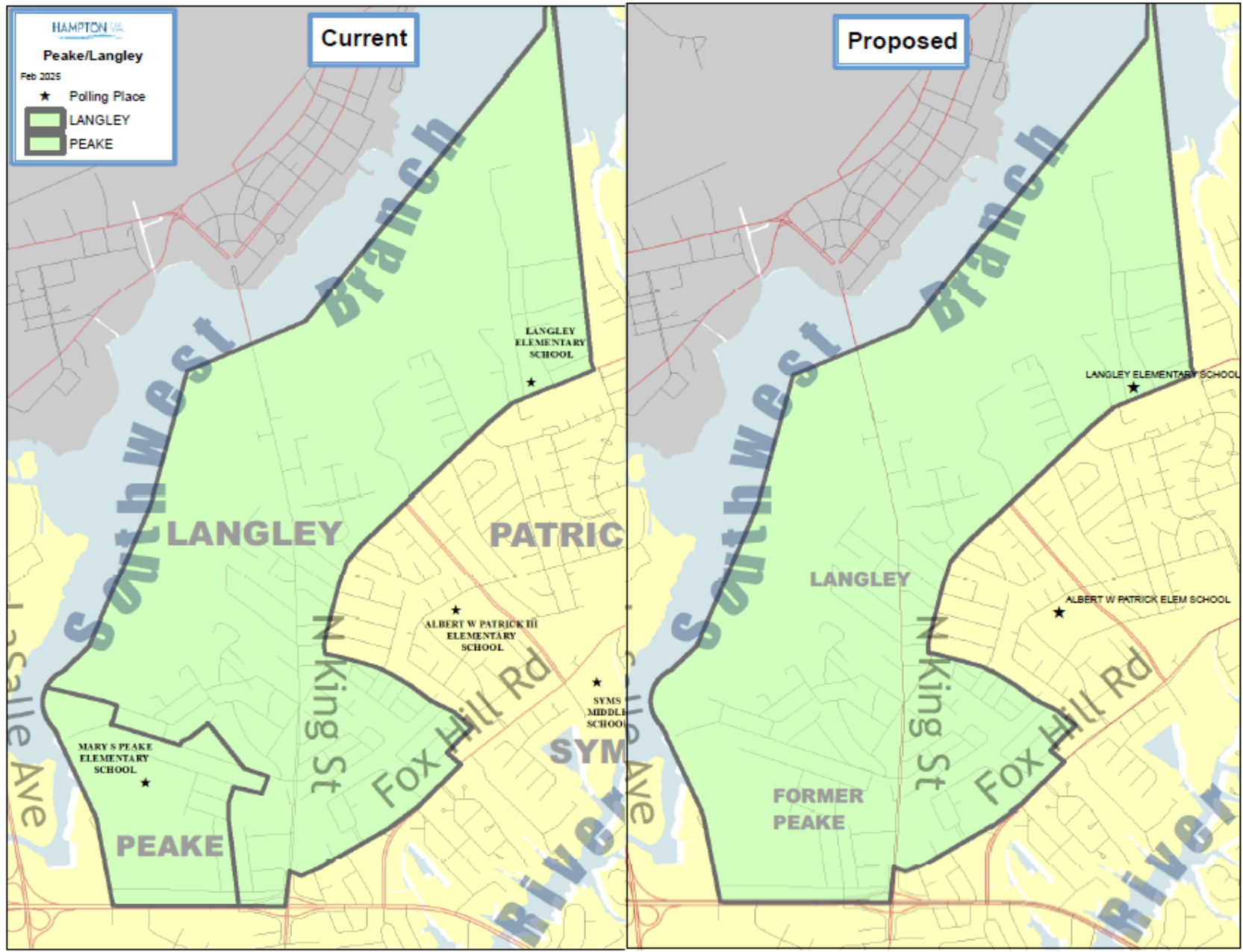
Polling Places Impacted by Proposed Precinct Changes

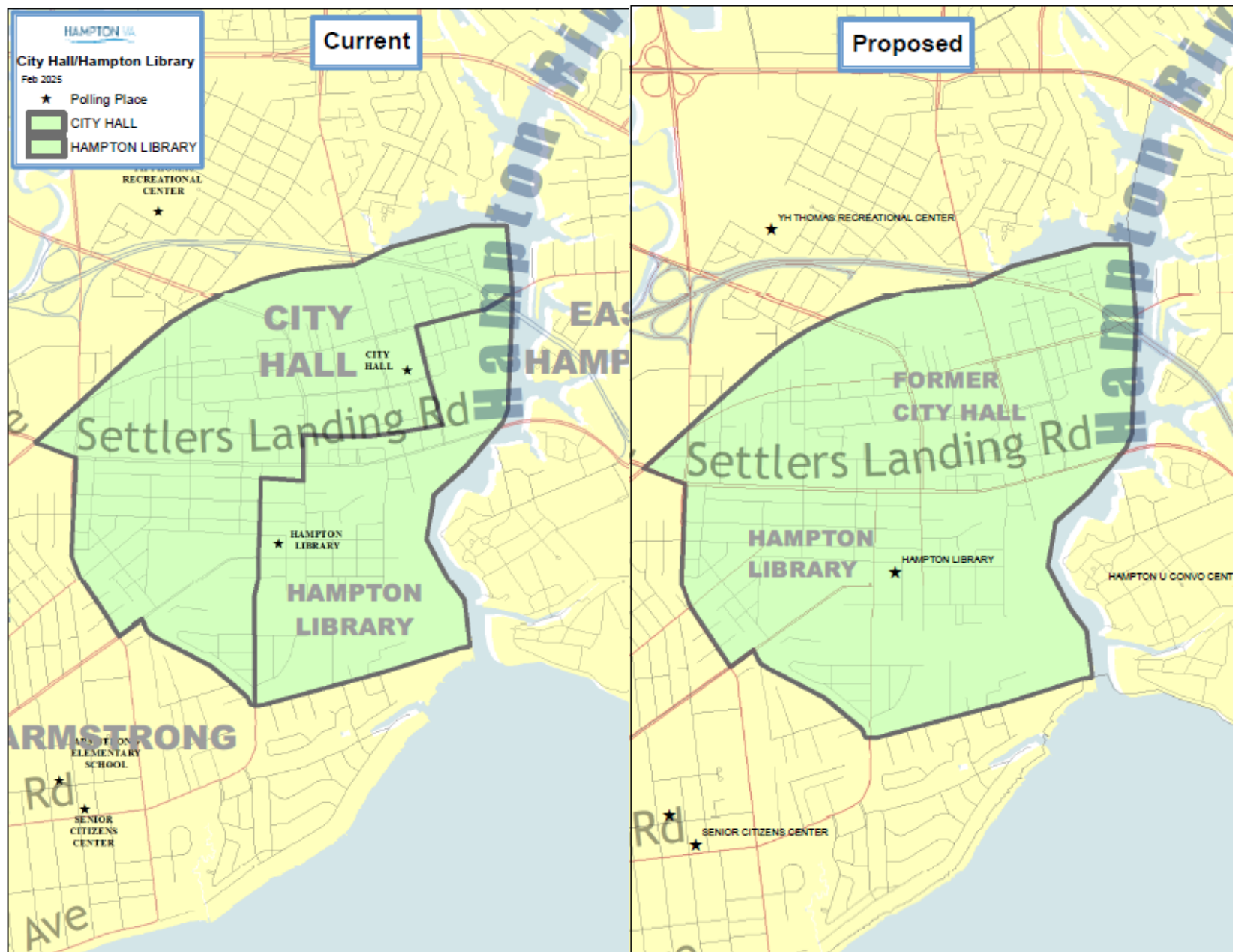
| Precinct (City Code §§ 12-21 through 12-50) | Current Polling Place (City Code §§ 12-56 through 12-85) | Effect for Voters |
|--|---|--|
| Syms | Benjamin Syms MS | Eliminate precinct and polling place; voters move to Smith |
| Smith | Captain John Smith School | Voters from Syms would move here; some voters from current Smith precinct would move to Phoebus precinct |
| Peake | Mary S. Peake ES | Eliminate precinct and polling place; voters move to Langley |
| Langley | Samuel P. Langley School | Voters from Peake would move here |
| Phoebus | Phoebus Branch Library | Relocate polling place to Phoebus HS; some voters from Smith would move here |

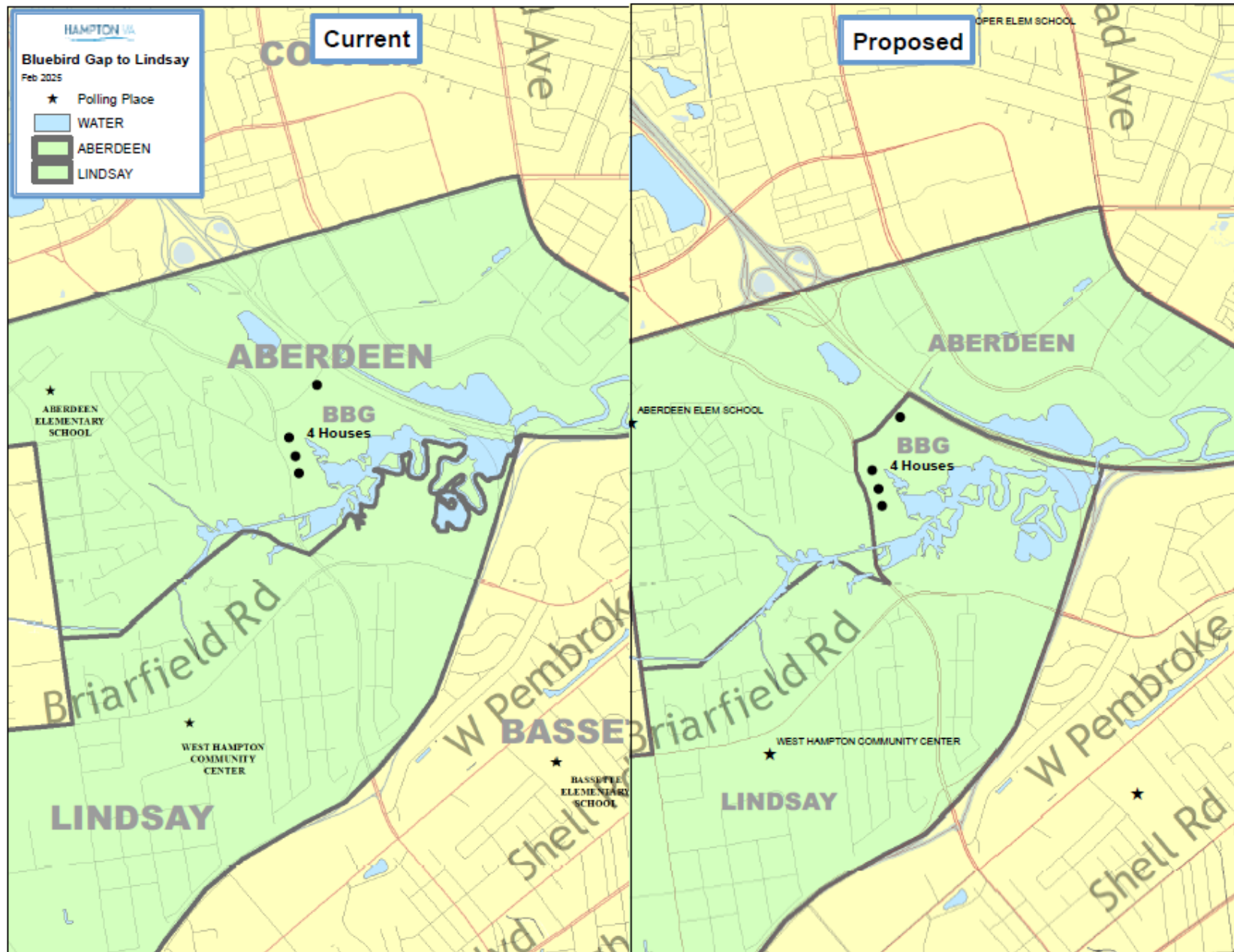
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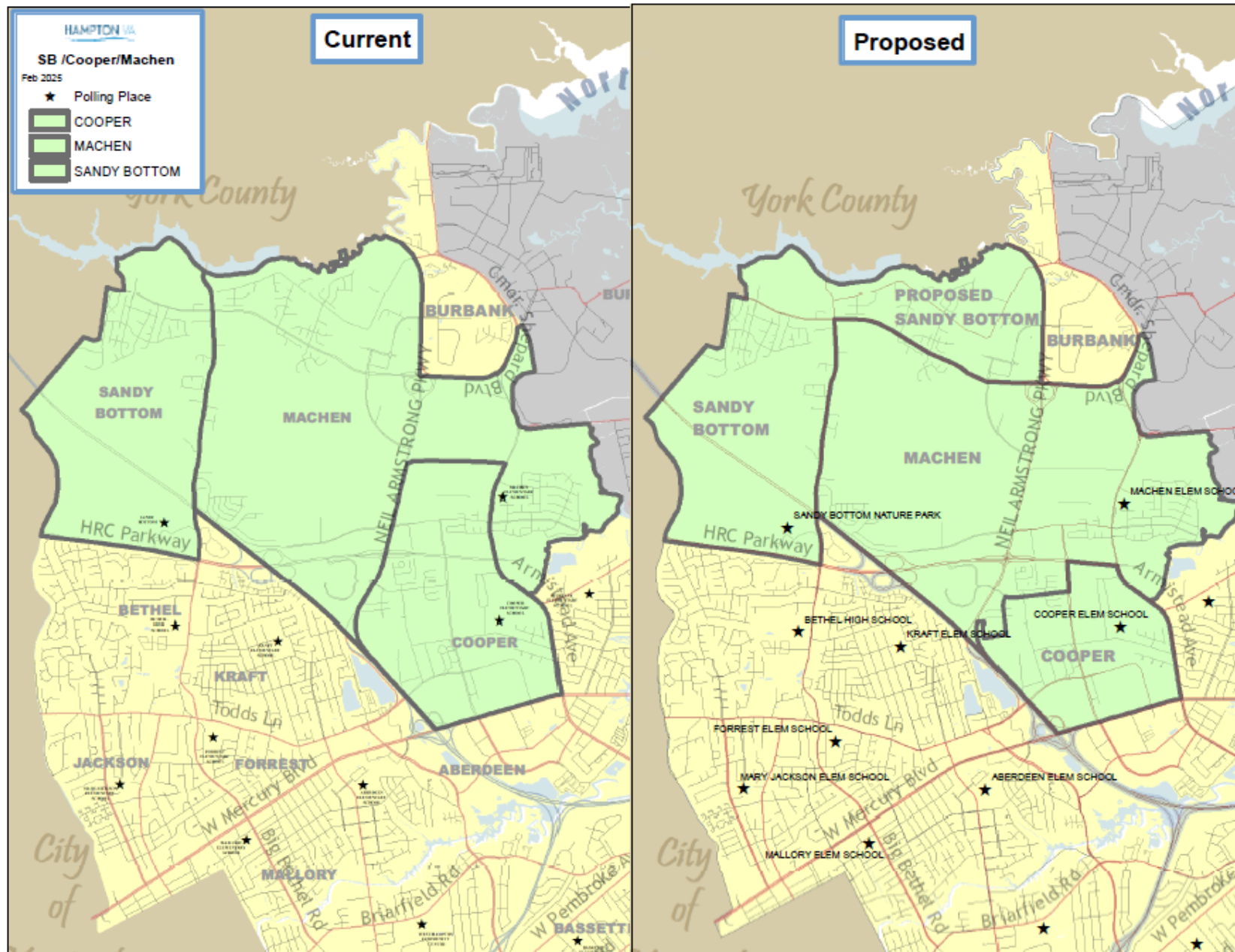
| Precinct (City Code §§ 12-21 through 12-50) | Current Polling Place (City Code §§ 12-56 through 12-85) | Effect for Voters |
|--|---|---|
| City Hall | City Hall | Eliminate precinct and polling place; voters would move to Hampton Public Library (Victoria Blvd) |
| Main Library Precinct | Hampton Public Library (Victoria Blvd) | Voters from City Hall would move here |
| Machen | Luther W. Machen School | Voters north of Commander Shepard Blvd would move to Sandy Bottom; some Cooper voters would move here |
| Sandy Bottom | Nature Center at Sandy Bottom Nature Park | Some Machen voters would move here |
| Cooper | William M. Cooper School | Some voters would move to Machen |







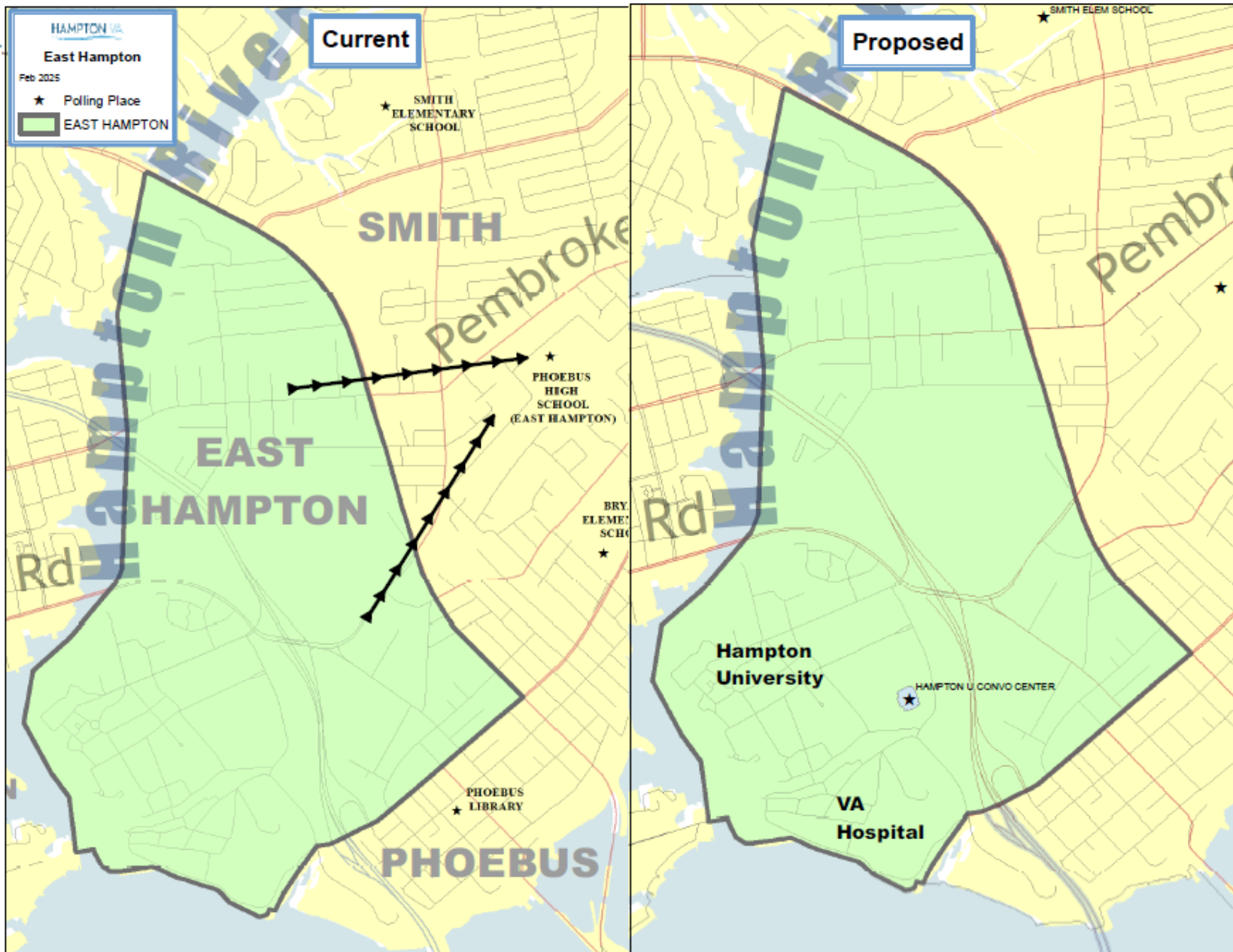




Electoral Board Recommendation #2: Relocation of East Hampton Polling Place

Proposed relocation from Phoebus High School to the Hampton University Convocation Center

- Legal Requirements (Va. Code §§ 24.2-310 & 24.2-310.1)
 - Polling places should be within precinct or within 1 mile of precinct boundary
 - Polling places should be located within public buildings “whenever practicable”; however, educational facilities are also acceptable
- Phoebus HS is outside the East Hampton precinct, but within 1 mile of the boundary
- HU Convocation Center is within the precinct boundary
- HU is apparently amenable to this change; City would need to secure an agreement with them if this change is desired by Council



Physical Requirements for Precinct Boundaries (Va. Code § 24.2-305)

Precincts must consist of compact and contiguous territory and have “clearly defined and clearly observable boundary,” which may include:

- Any named road or street
- Any road or highway that is part of federal or state highway system
- Any river, stream, or drainage feature shown as a polygon boundary on the TIGER/line files of the US Census Bureau
- Any other natural, constructed, or permanent physical feature shown on VDOT or US Geological Survey maps or US Census Bureau files

No property line or subdivision boundary shall be deemed a “clearly observable boundary” unless it is marked by a permanent physical feature shown on one of the resources listed above

Precinct Size Requirements (Va. Code § 24.2-307)

- Council may establish, increase or decrease the number of precincts as it deems appropriate, subject to Virginia Code requirements
- When a precinct is established, it shall have no fewer than 500 registered voters and no more than 5,000 registered voters
- If more than 4,000 people vote from a single precinct in a presidential election, the General Registrar must notify Council, and Council must revise precinct boundaries in accordance with law
 - General Registrar reports that we have not met this 4,000 voter threshold in any precinct; therefore Council may elect to modify precincts but is not required to do so at this time.
- Local precincts cannot be split across Congressional or General Assembly districts

Registration & Voter Numbers in Presidential Election Years

| Precinct No. | Precinct Name | Registered voters as of Feb. 24, 2024 | Registered Voters as of Nov. 5, 2024 | Nov 5, 2024 Voter Turnout | Registered Voters as of Nov. 3, 2020 | Nov 3, 2020 Voter Turnout | Registered Voters as of Nov. 8, 2016 | Nov 8, 2016 Voter Turnout | Registered Voters as of Nov. 6, 2012 | Nov 6, 2012 Voter Turnout | Registered Voters as of Nov. 4, 2008 | Nov 4, 2008 Voter Turnout |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0103 | 103 - CITY HALL | 2661 | 2810 | 1403 | 2459 | 437 | 2364 | 1134 | 2631 | 1460 | 2802 | 1605 |
| 0104 | 104 - COOPER | 5932 | 6374 | 3098 | 5800 | 874 | 5327 | 2592 | 5314 | 2763 | 4578 | 2570 |
| 0105 | 105 - EAST HAMPTON | 3833 | 4967 | 1854 | 5005 | 336 | 4836 | 2123 | 4624 | 2328 | 3196 | 2054 |
| 0107 | 107 - LINDSAY | 2750 | 2884 | 1897 | 2799 | 464 | 2661 | 1612 | 2637 | 1707 | 2430 | 1510 |
| 0110 | 110 - PHOEBUS | 865 | 903 | 574 | 937 | 263 | 902 | 531 | 925 | 595 | 814 | 570 |
| 0111 | 111 - HAMPTON LIBRARY | 1234 | 1363 | 848 | 1347 | 224 | 1263 | 763 | 1282 | 859 | 1149 | 783 |
| 0112 | 112 - SMITH | 4381 | 4646 | 2734 | 4398 | 854 | 4371 | 2381 | 4462 | 2593 | 4293 | 2664 |
| 0209 | 209 - LANGLEY | 3457 | 3586 | 2081 | 3366 | 826 | 3217 | 1879 | 3198 | 2003 | 3012 | 1948 |
| 0210 | 210 - MACHEN | 5588 | 5879 | 3573 | 5270 | 909 | 5021 | 2830 | 4759 | 2739 | 4420 | 2853 |
| 0215 | 215 - PEAKE | 1098 | 1192 | 633 | 1210 | 244 | 1196 | 611 | 1171 | 669 | 1132 | 699 |
| 0216 | 216 - SANDY BOTTOM | 2124 | 2202 | 1502 | 2107 | 512 | 2124 | 1374 | 2107 | 1420 | 2025 | 1370 |
| 0217 | 217 - SYMS | 1552 | 1590 | 1117 | 1538 | 416 | 1510 | 996 | 1576 | 1042 | 1594 | 1075 |

Other Legal Requirements for Precinct & Polling Place Changes (Code §§ 24.2-129, 24.2-306 & 24.2-307)

- Precincts and polling places must be established or amended by ordinance
 - Precinct ordinances consist of written legal descriptions of the precinct boundaries; amended descriptions must be reviewed and verified before Council could amend the ordinance
 - Draft legal descriptions have been received, but not yet reviewed for accuracy or legal compliance
- Requires published notice for two successive weeks prior to adoption
- Following adoption but prior to implementation, any polling place changes must receive a “certificate of no objection” from the Virginia Attorney General; process takes up to 60 days unless there is an issue

Other Legal Requirements for Precinct & Polling Place Changes (Code §§ 24.2-129, 24.2-306 & 24.2-307)

- No precinct or polling place changes permitted within 60 days before general election
- Notice of change must be mailed to all affected voters at least 30 days before the next general, special or primary election
- Notice of polling place change must also be posted at the prior polling place on election day

Next Steps

Council is not required to accept the Electoral Board's recommendations. Council may proceed with proposed changes in whole or in part, or Council may elect to take no action regarding these recommendations.

- If Council wants to proceed with precinct changes, Council should:
 - identify which precincts it wants to modify; and
 - direct staff to verify that the proposed boundary changes comply with all applicable legal requirements and return to Council with draft ordinance amendments for further consideration and/or action.

Next Steps

- Council may proceed with relocation East Hampton polling place from Phoebus HS to HU Convocation Center, independent of the proposed precinct boundary changes.
 - If so, Council should direct staff to contact Hampton University to confirm their consent and to develop an appropriate agreement for use of the Convocation Center as a polling place.
 - Agreement terms should be finalized before ordinance is presented to Council for vote and other legal steps are taken to formally change polling place.
- If precinct or polling place changes are pursued, they should not be made effective until 2026, so that voters do not experience any midyear changes between the 2025 primary and general elections.

Questions?