

# Recommendations by Hampton Electoral Board Concerning Polling Place and Precinct Changes

Hampton City Council Work Session Briefing  
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# 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

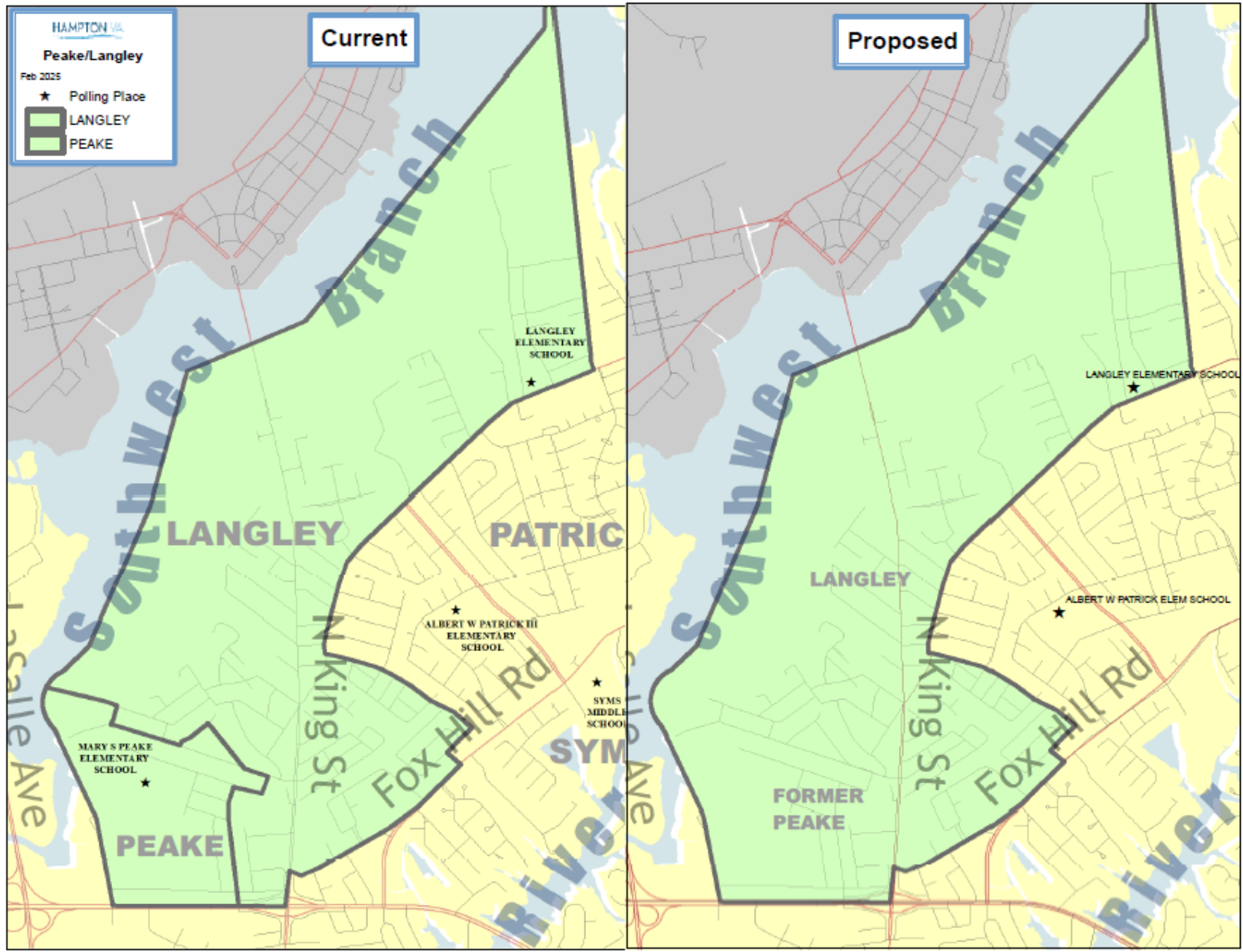
Precinct (City Code §§ 12-21 through 12-50)	Current Polling Place (City Code §§ 12-56 through 12-85)	Effect for Voters
Syms	Benjamin Syms MS	Eliminate precinct and polling place; voters move to Smith
Smith	Captain John Smith School	Voters from Syms would move here; some voters from current Smith precinct 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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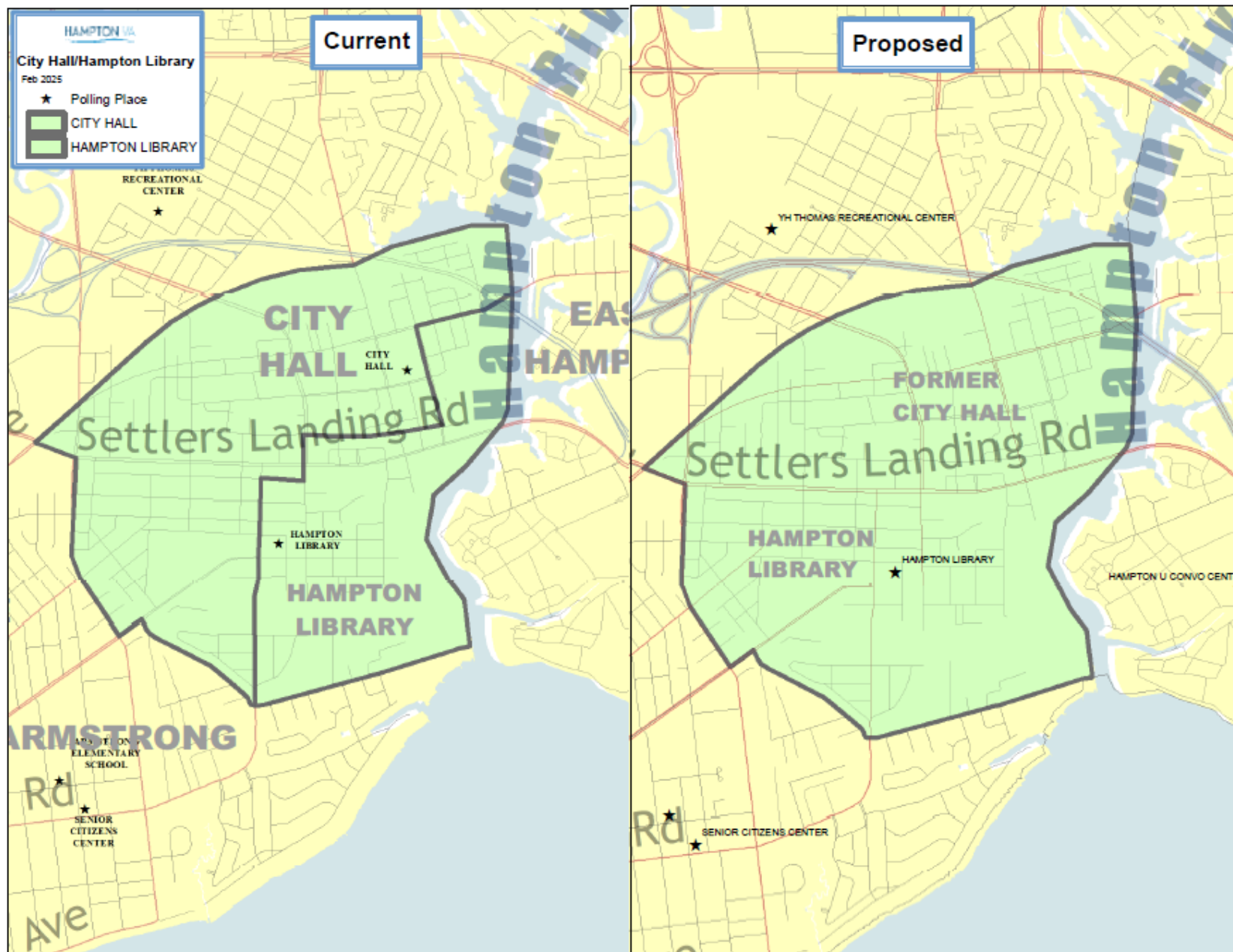
Precinct (City Code §§ 12-21 through 12-50)	Current Polling Place (City Code §§ 12-56 through 12-85)	Effect for Voters
City Hall	City Hall	Eliminate precinct and polling place; voters would move to Hampton Public Library (Victoria Blvd)
Main Library Precinct	Hampton Public Library (Victoria Blvd)	Voters 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

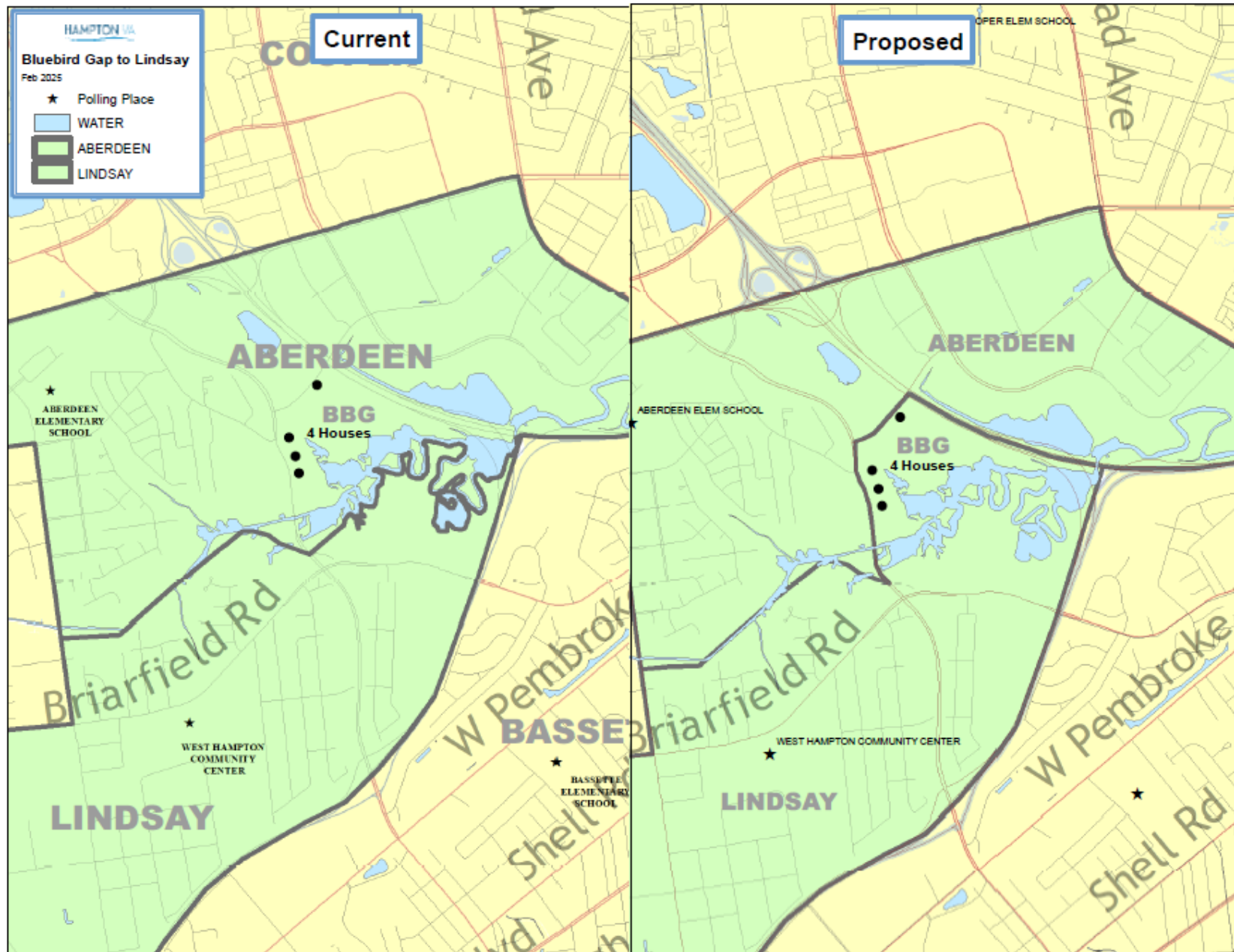


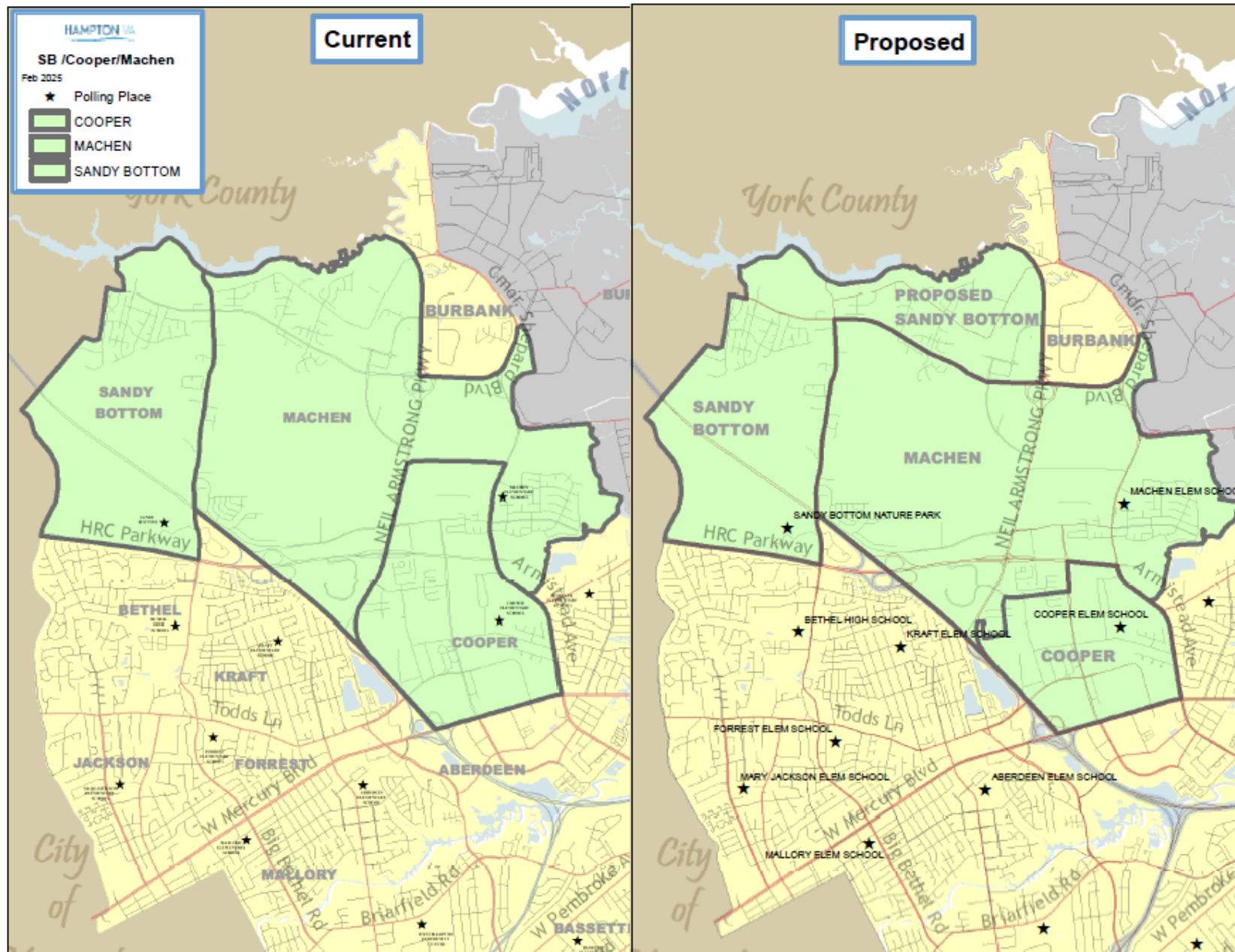












# Summary of Rationale (as provided by Electoral Board)

- Eliminates three precincts saving taxpayer dollars (Syms, City Hall and Peake)
- Fewer officers of election needed; more efficient utilization of officers of election
- Less equipment to be purchased in future
- Eliminates problematic locations
  - Phoebus Library (tiny)
  - City Hall (security risk)
  - Syms (no handicap parking)
  - HU students voting at PHS

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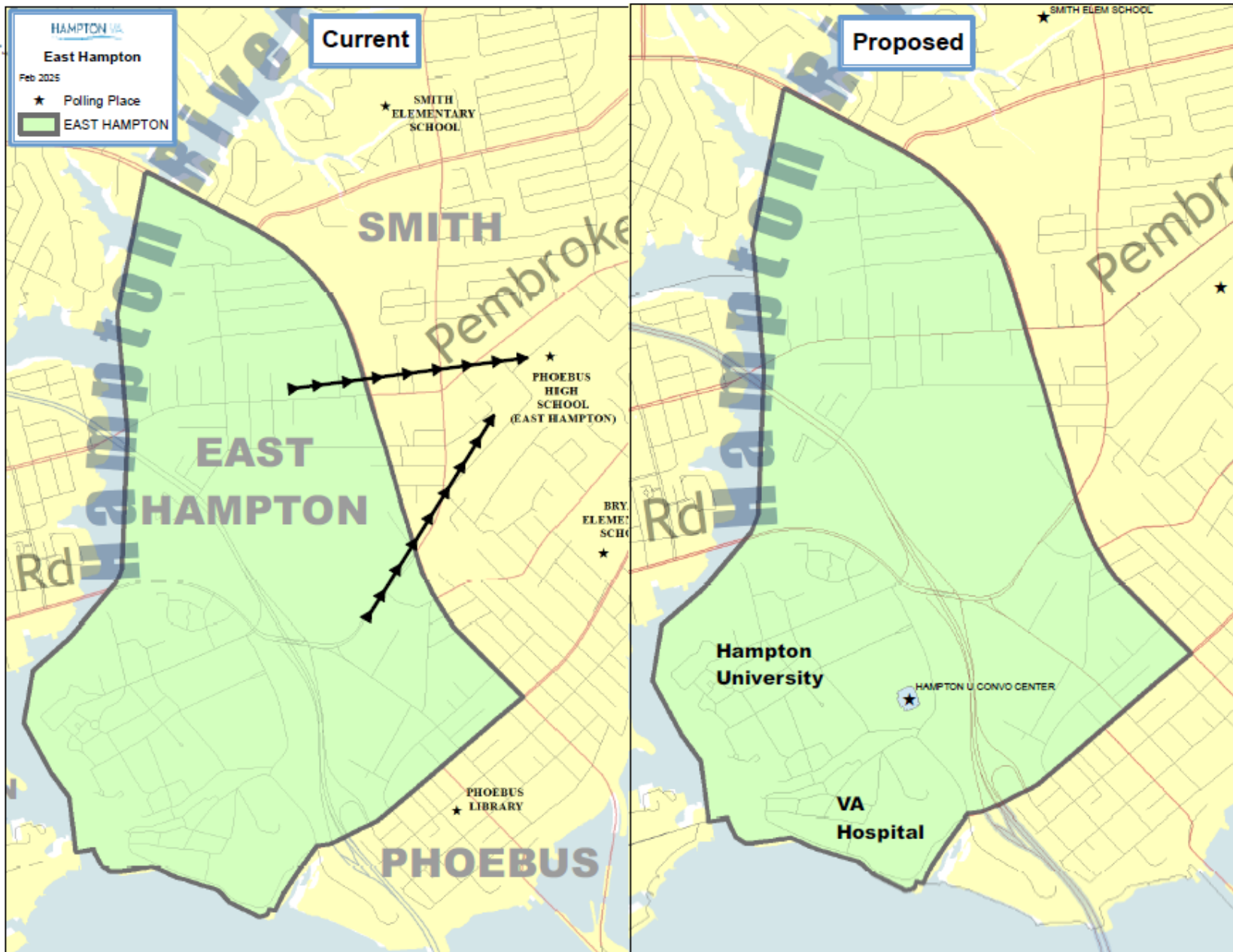
- No voters change representation (same legislative districts)
- Keeps bigger precincts under the limit for voters (4,000) in presidential election for longer time



# 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

- For precinct changes, Council may direct staff to:
  - Do a full analysis of Electoral Board proposal (e.g., legal descriptions and Code compliance) and report back at a future briefing; may include a request for staff to obtain additional information; or
  - Develop alternate proposal for possible precinct changes and report back at a future briefing; or
  - Take no action to change any precinct boundaries at this time.

# Next Steps

- For East Hampton polling place, Council may proceed with relocation 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?