



# EARLY VOTING ORDINANCE

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2024 UPDATE

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

# OFFICE OF ELECTIONS



- Have evaluated current early voting locations and voting patterns
- Have recommendations for adoption of a new ordinance

# CONSIDERATIONS & GOALS



# EARLY VOTING



Required at the Main Office  
by 45 days before the election

Counties and cities can establish additional  
satellite locations with varied days and hours



# CONSIDERATIONS

Early Voting satellite offices must be established by local ordinance

Most counties do not have satellite locations, but it is more common in large counties



# CONSIDERATIONS

Mail voting has become popular and is growing

More data now exists to examine early voting participation and patterns



# EARLY VOTING SITE REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Accessibility of facilities
- ✓ Adequate parking available
- ✓ Public building (own or lease)
- ✓ Adequate room size
- ✓ Security of equipment/materials

*VA Code § 24.2-701.2 lists requirements*





# PWC CHALLENGES

- Limited space at each early voting site
- Limited number of PWC locations appropriate for early voting





# OVERALL GOALS



- Sufficient access to early voting for all voters
- Geographic balance across the county
- Cost effective use of public funds
- Give voters consistency

# CURRENT ORDINANCES



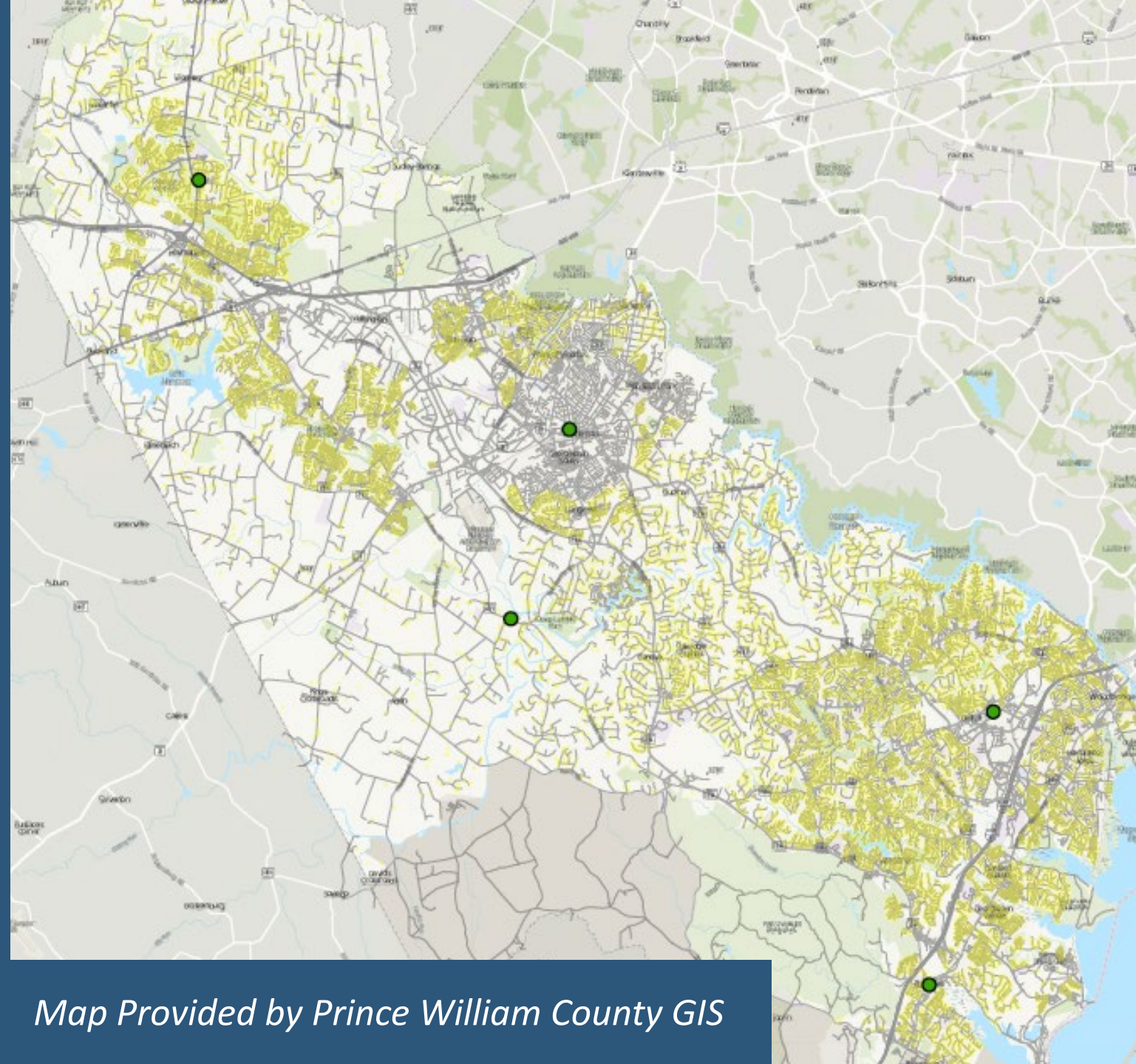
# EARLY VOTING CURRENT ORDINANCE



<u>Location</u>	<b>Primary</b> <u>Opens # of Days Before Election</u>	<b>General</b> <u>Opens # of Days Before Election</u>
<b>Office of Elections*</b>	<b>45*</b>	<b>45*</b>
Haymarket Gainesville Library	45	45
A J Ferlazzo Building	45	-
DMV (Caton Hill Rd)	-	45
Brentsville Courthouse (Historic)	-	14
Dumfries Community Center	-	14

\*Required by VA Code

# 2022 GENERAL ELECTION EARLY VOTERS



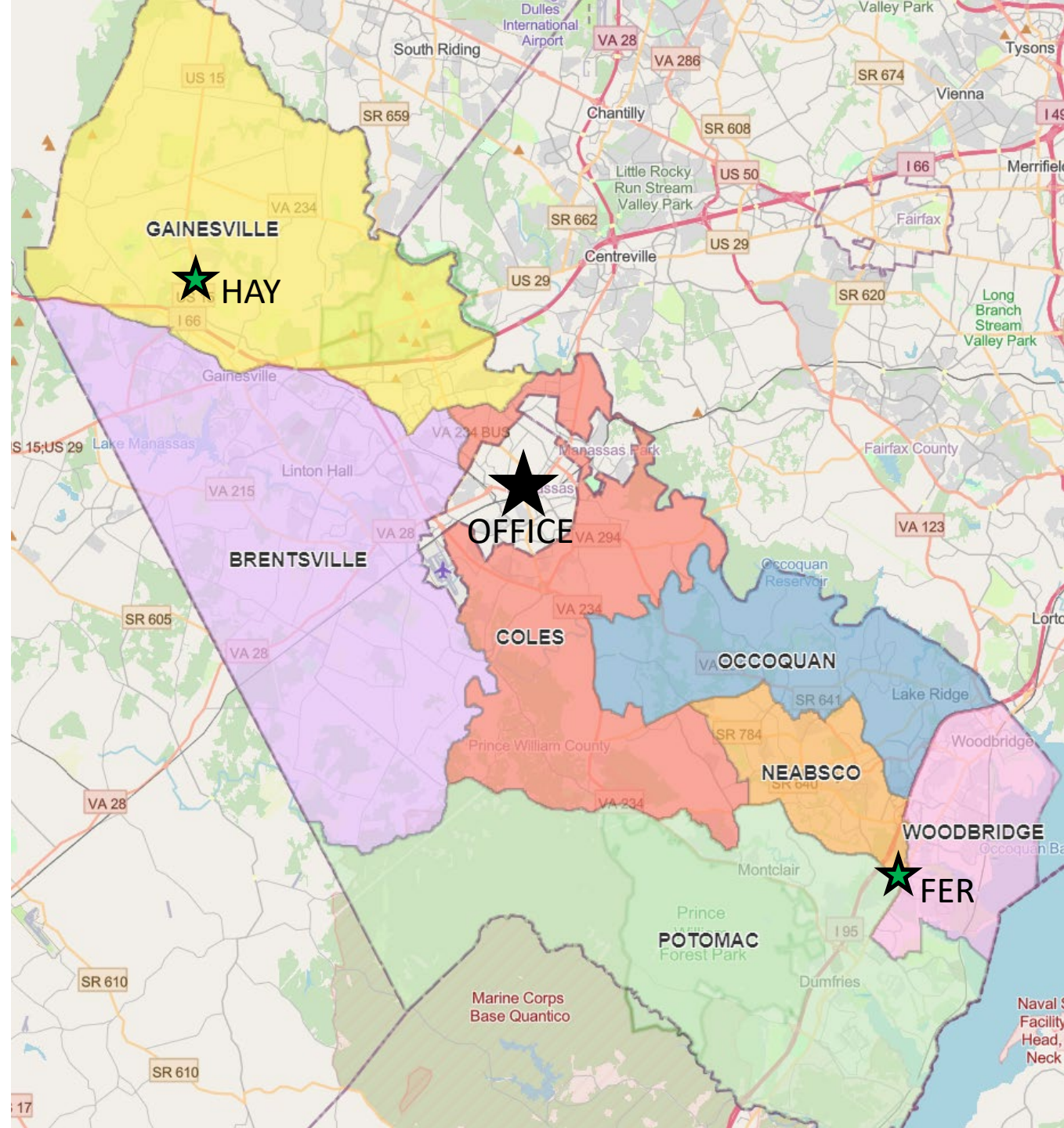
*Map Provided by Prince William County GIS*



# ACCESS



**Primary:**  
Few sites,  
active in  
2 of 7  
districts

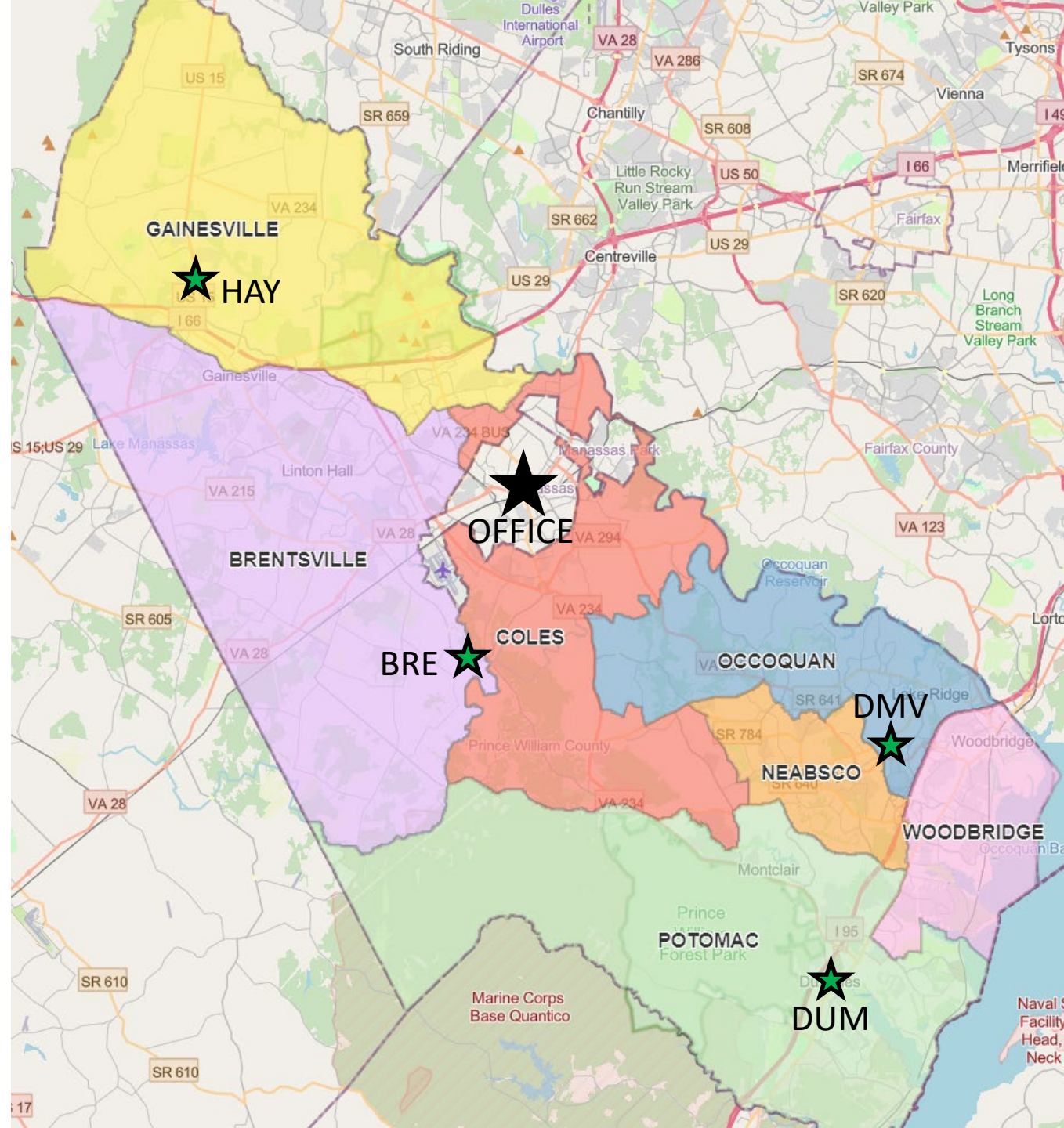




# ACCESS



**General:**  
More  
locations,  
not too far  
from most

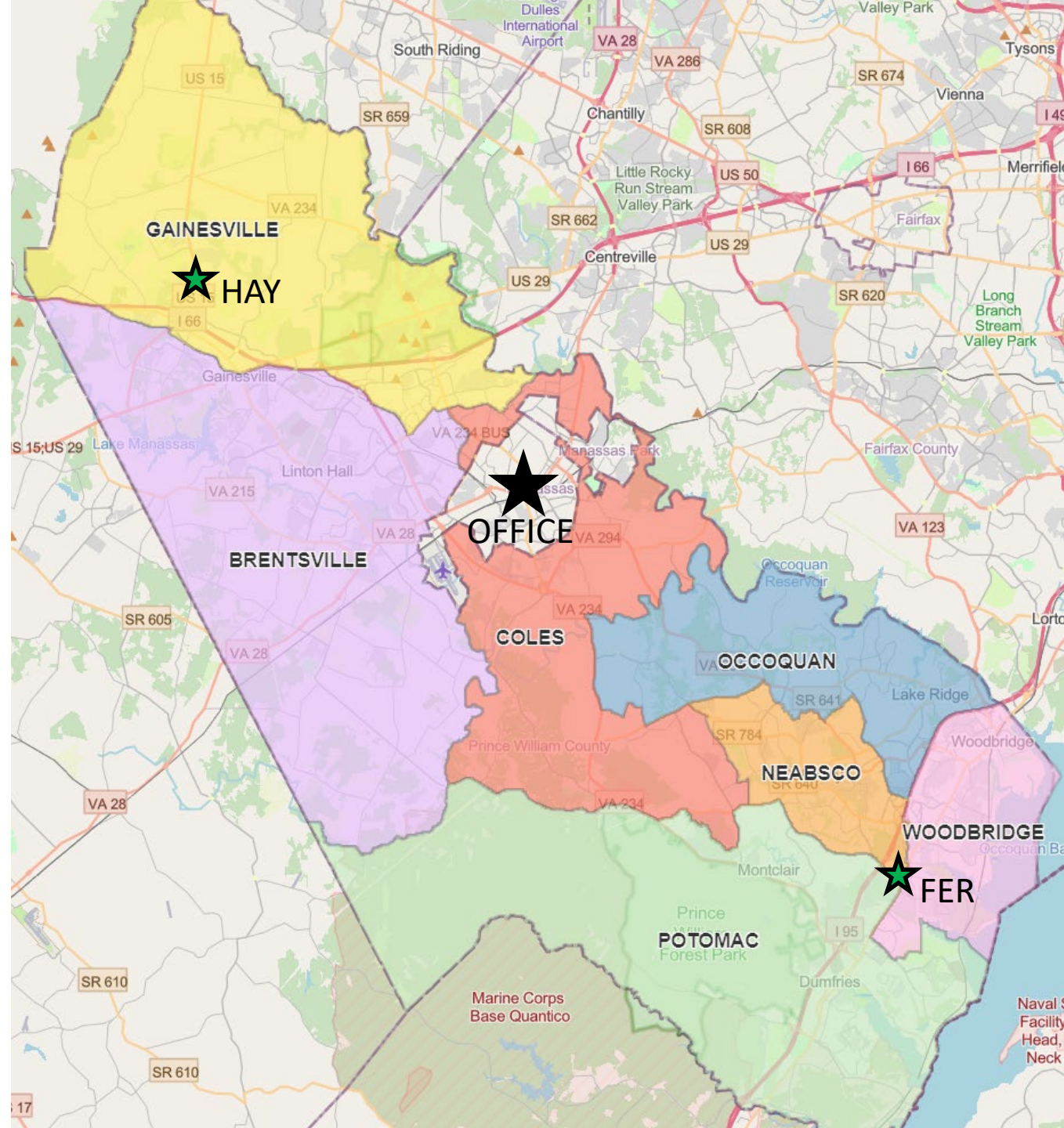




# BALANCE



**Primary:**  
Good spread  
geographically  
but few sites





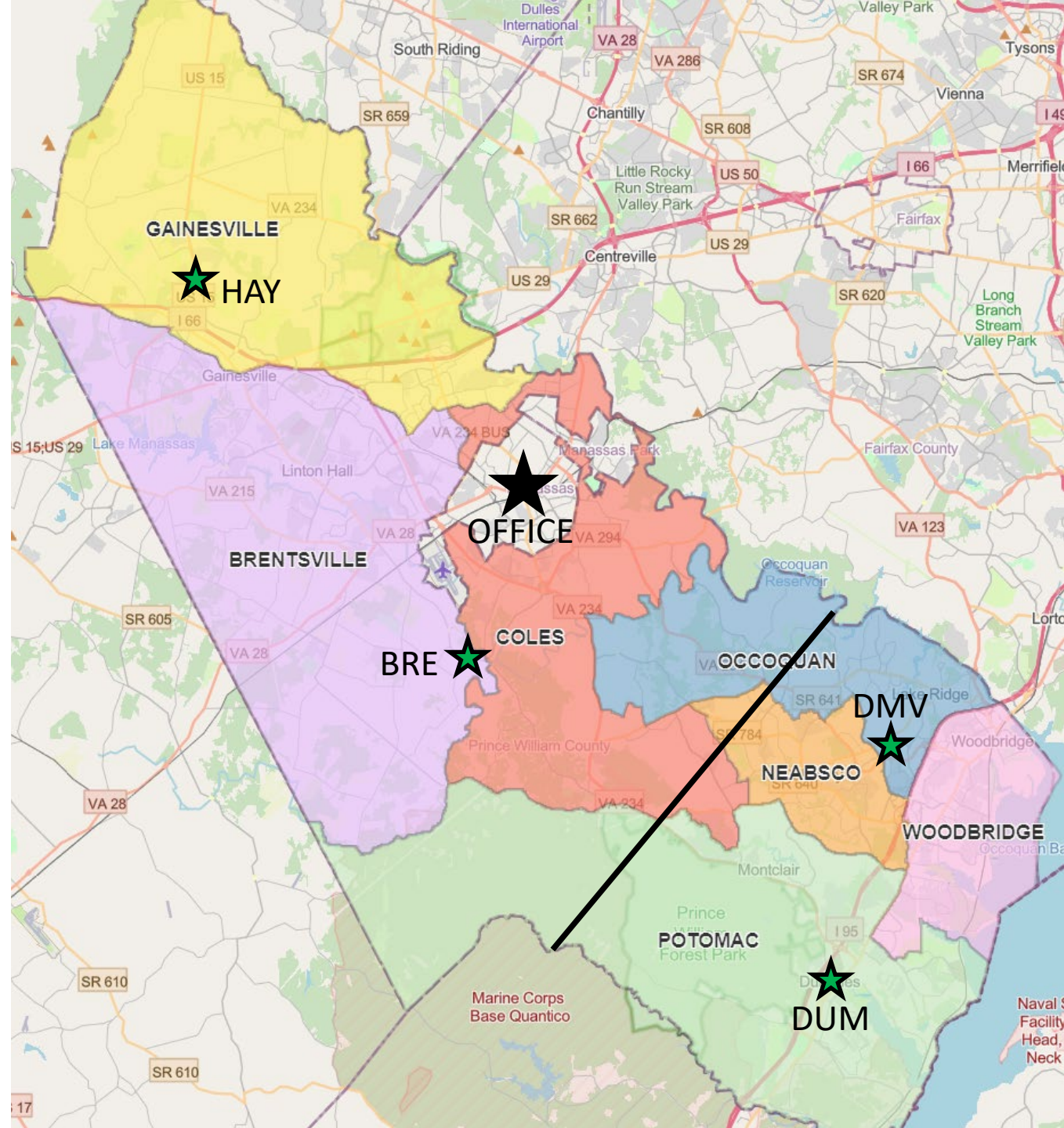




# BALANCE



**General:**  
More sites  
shows some  
balance



# COST EFFECTIVE



## 2023 Primary Election

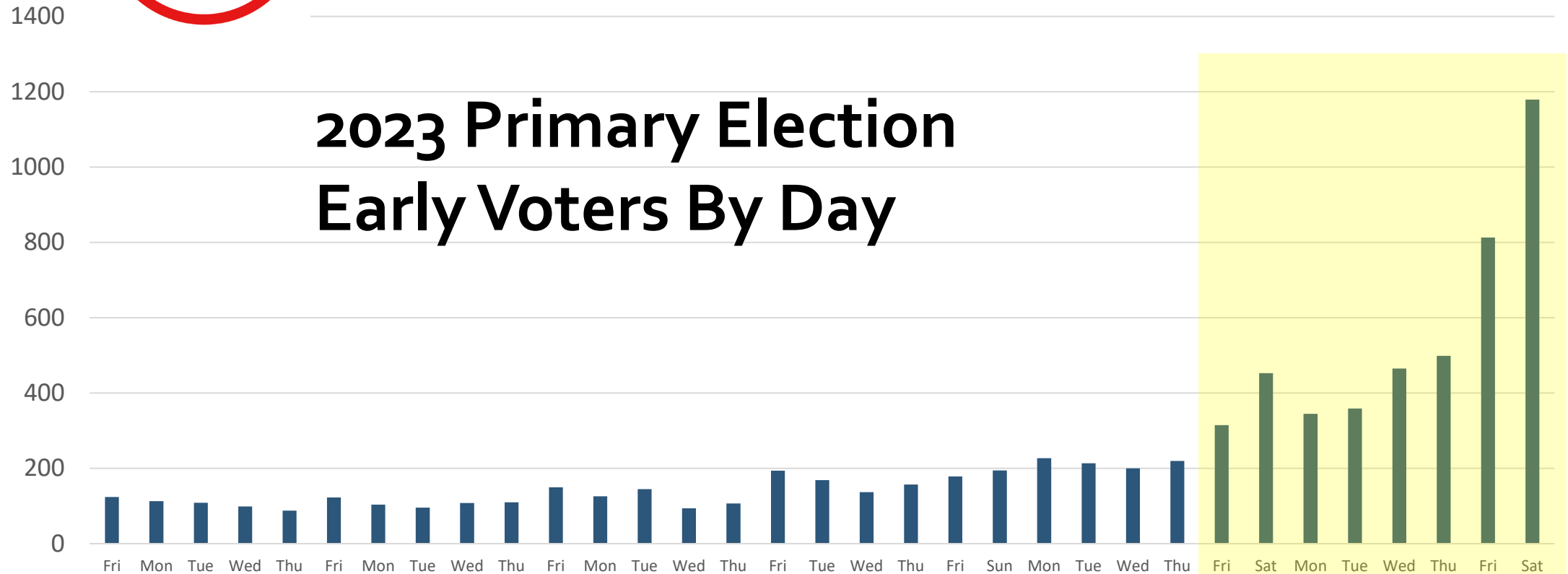
First 4 Weeks = 2,532 total voters  
Last 4 Days = 2,956 total voters

**Costs more than \$35,000 in staffing, only 42 voters per site per day**

# COST EFFECTIVE



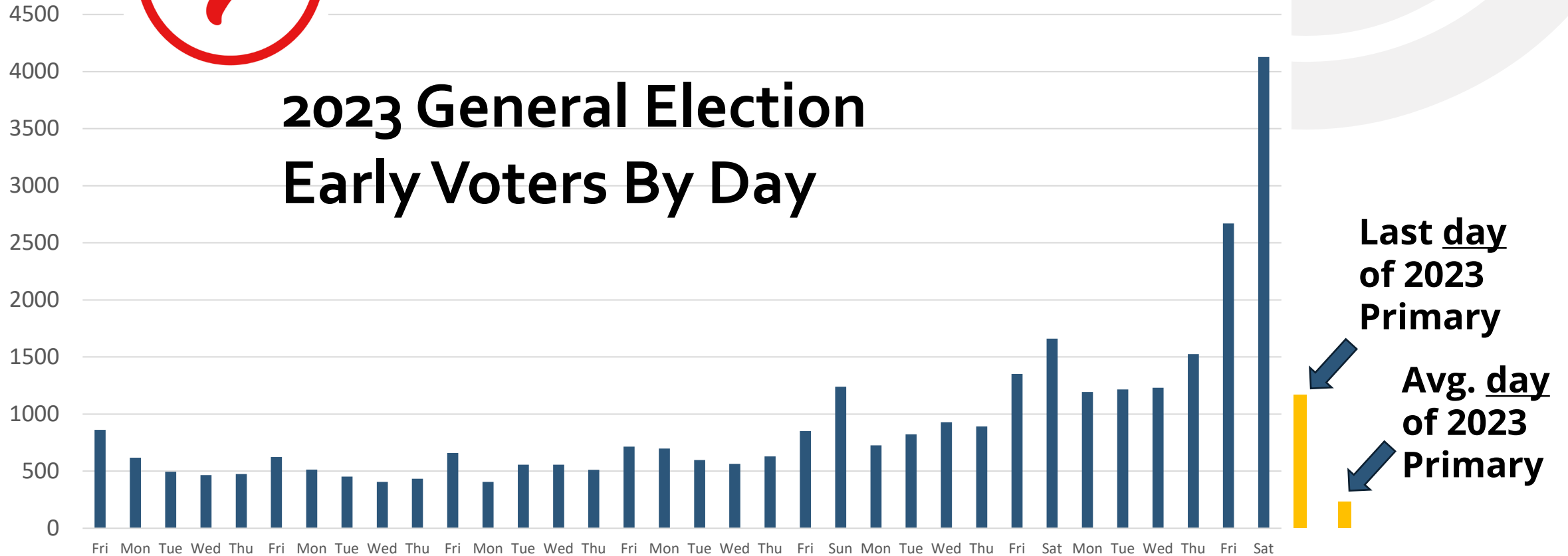
## 2023 Primary Election Early Voters By Day



# COST EFFECTIVE



## 2023 General Election Early Voters By Day



# CONSISTENCY



## Location

### **Required - Office of Elections**

Haymarket Gainesville Library

A J Ferlazzo Building

DMV (Caton Hill Rd)

Brentsville Courthouse (Historic)

Dumfries Community Center

Primary  
# of Days

**45**

45

45

-

-

-

General  
# of Days

**45**

45

-

45

14

14

**]** **Voters  
Can't  
Build  
Habits**





First drafts  
require review,  
input, and  
revisions



# DATA INPUTS



***Most large localities  
offer more satellite  
locations than PWC***



# COMPARATIVE DATA – CURRENT PRIMARY



	<b>Open All 45 Days</b>	<b># of Satellites</b>	<b>Satellite Days Open</b>	<b>Sunday Voting</b>
Fairfax County	Office + 2 (PM)	13	7 (PM)	No
Loudon County	Office only	3	7	No
Virginia Beach	Office only	5	7	No
Prince William	Office + 2	2	45	<u>Yes</u>

*Primary elections are not only much smaller than general elections, but fewer voters use early voting*

# PWC VOTER TURNOUT



	<b>Party Primary</b>	<b>Primary Turnout</b>	<b>General Turnout</b>	<b>On the Ballot</b>
2020	Dem (Prez)	24%	79%	President/Federal
2020	Both (Cong)	12%		
2021	Both	8%	50%	Gubernatorial/State
2022	Rep	2%	47%	Federal
2023	Both	12%	39%	County/State

# PWC VOTER TURNOUT

## Primary Elections

25,000- 40,000 voters

## General Elections

120,000 – 160,000 voters

200,000+ for presidential years



# % OF VOTERS USING EARLY VOTING



	<b>Primary % Early</b>	<b>General % Early</b>
2021	13%	28%
2022	8%	25%
2023	20%	25%

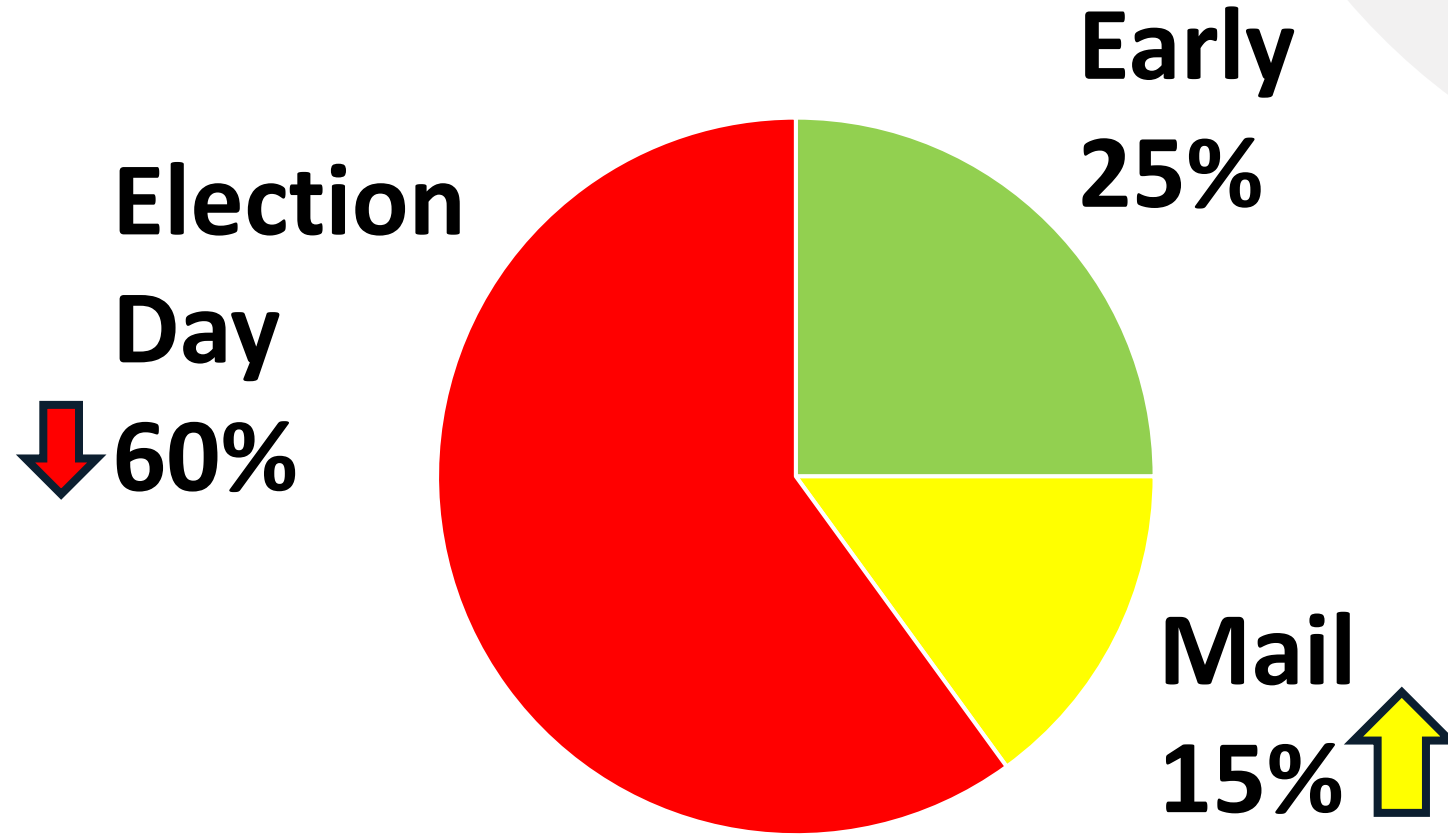


**Fewer voters use early voting in elections with lower voter turnout**



***Mail voting is not only growing faster than early voting, it is the choice of “early early” voters***

# PWC – VOTING TYPE



# 2024 PRIMARY



*First two weeks of early voting:*

541 in-person voters at early voting

**2,474** mail voters have returned  
their ballots

# NEW ORDINANCE



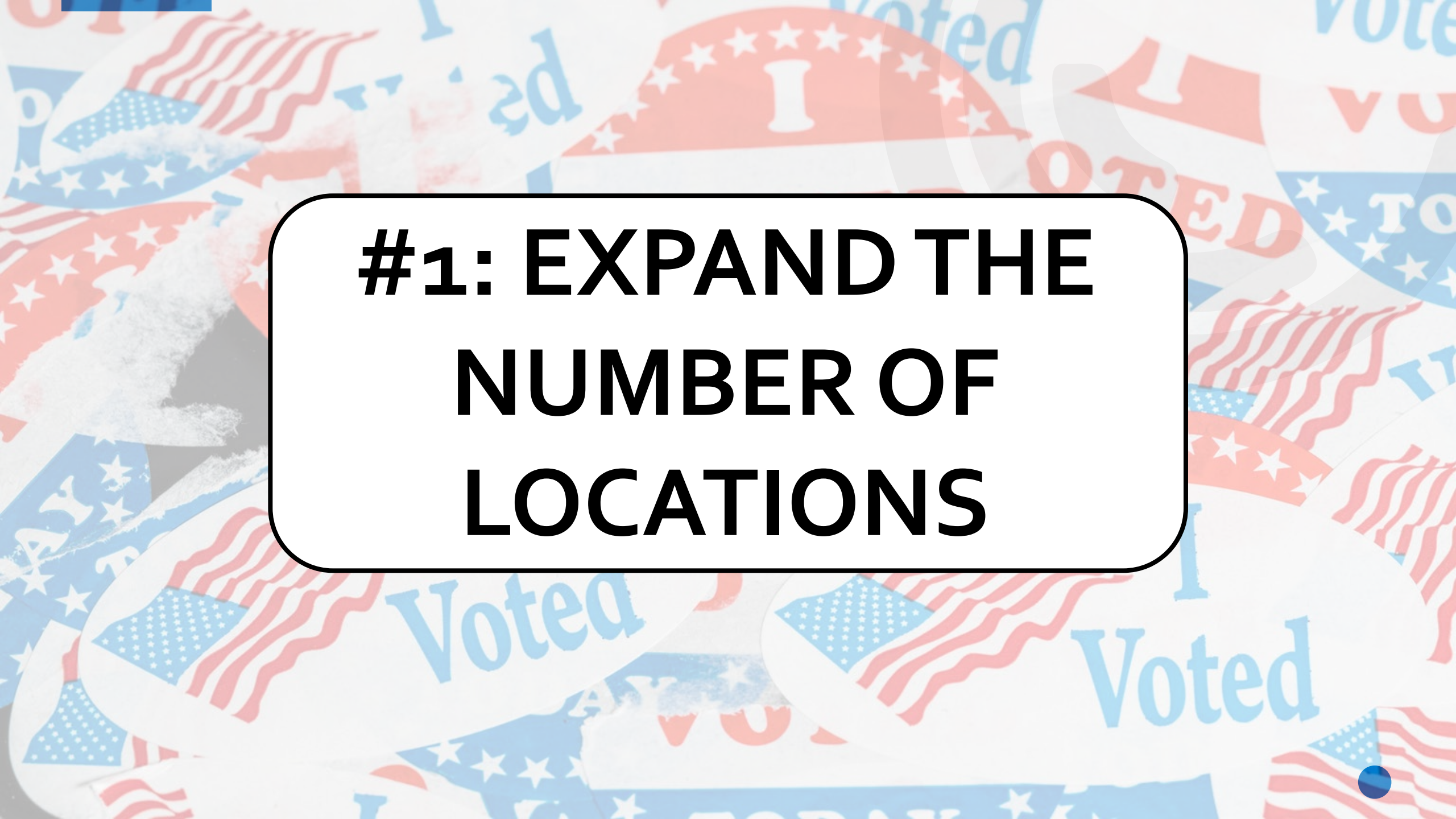
# RECOMMENDATIONS



*Adopt a new early voting ordinance for all elections by this summer effective for this fall's presidential election*

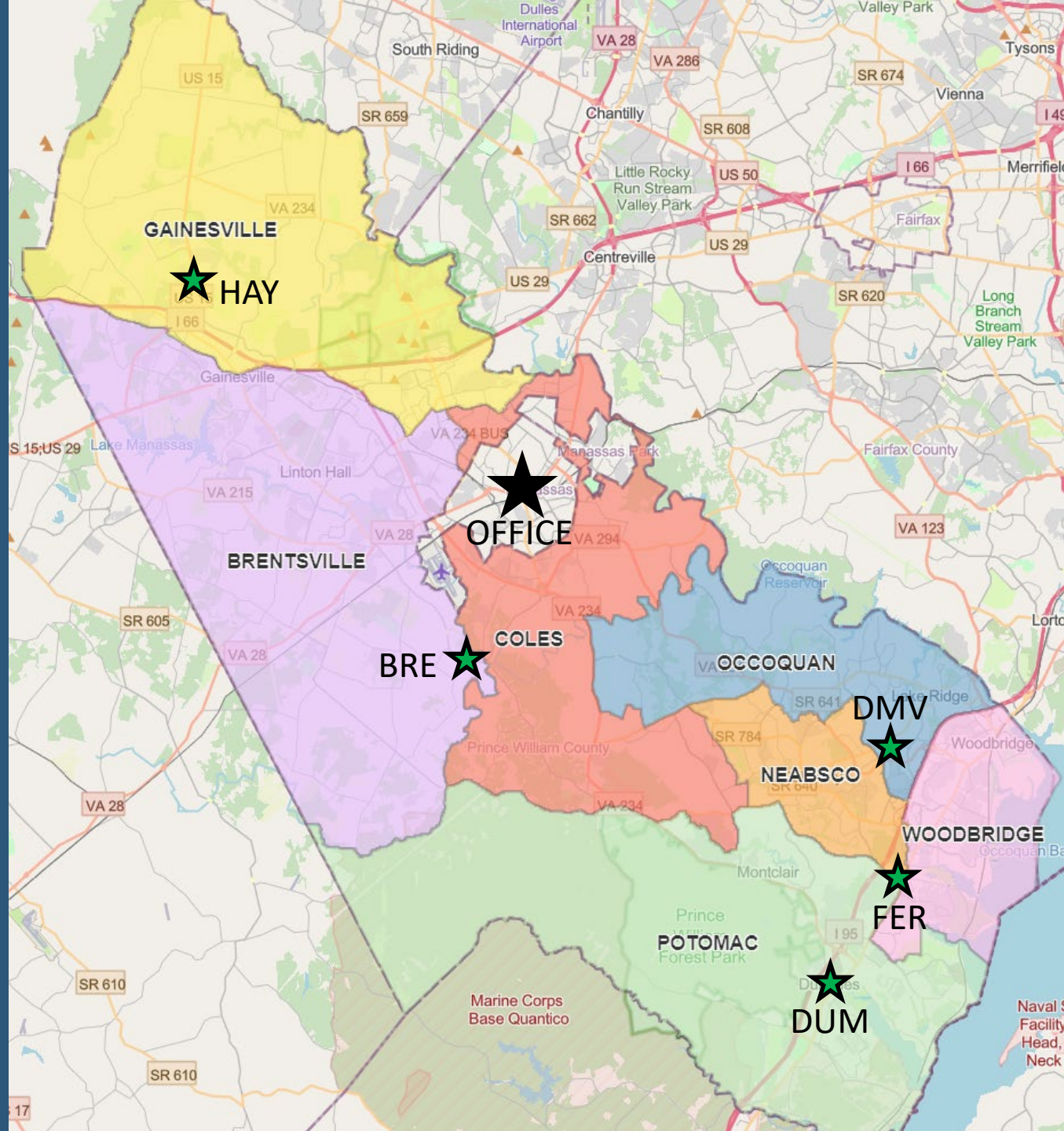
1. **Expand** the number of satellites for access/balance
2. Use the **same locations** for all elections for consistency
3. Adjust the **start date** of satellite location opening
4. Define satellite locations for **special elections**



The background features a collage of American flags and 'I Voted' stickers. The flags are in various orientations and colors (red, white, blue). The 'I Voted' stickers are white with blue text and a blue star. The text is centered in a white rounded rectangle with a black border.

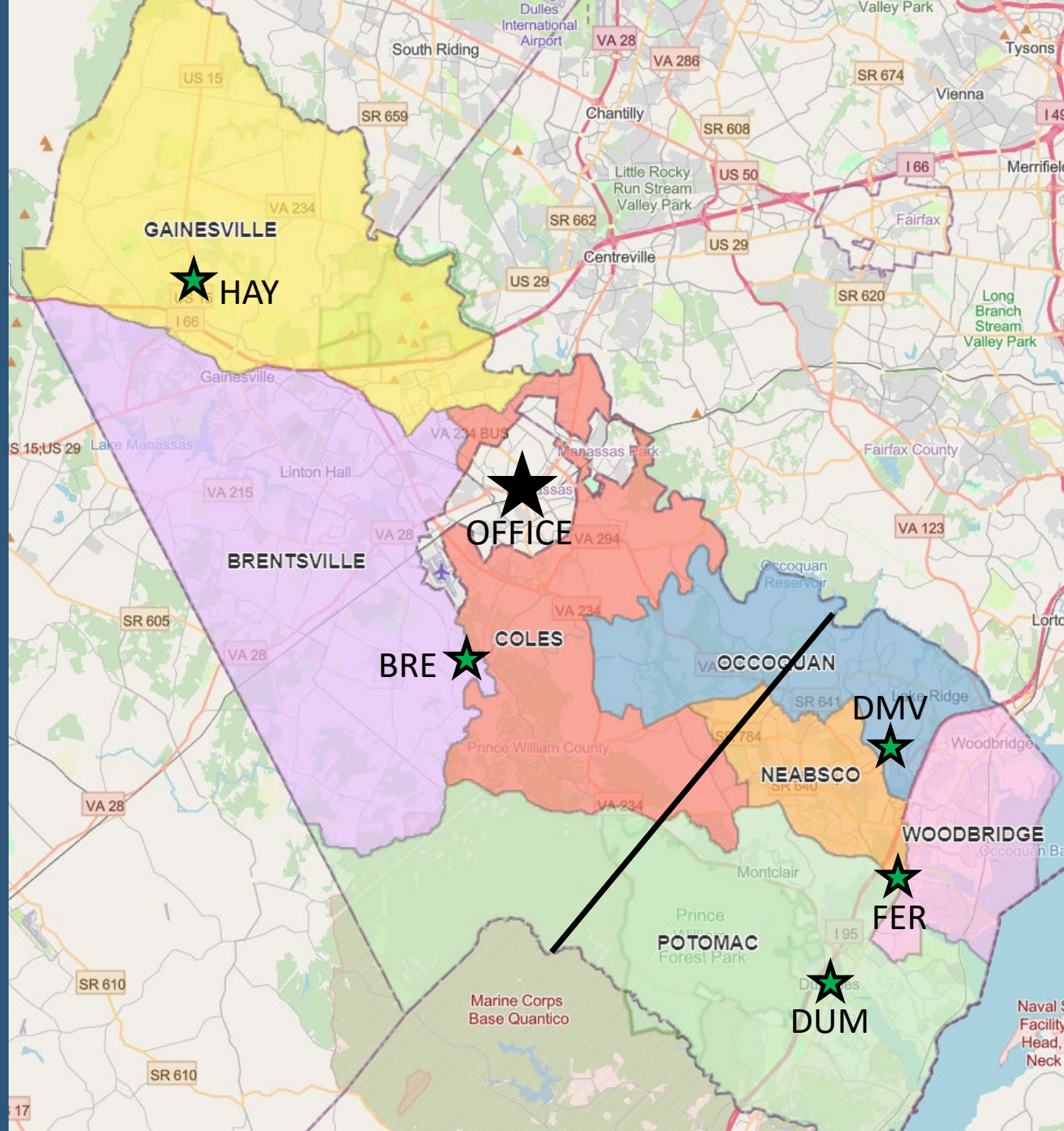
**#1: EXPAND THE  
NUMBER OF  
LOCATIONS**

USE ALL  
CURRENT  
EARLY  
VOTING  
SITES  
FOR ALL  
ELECTIONS





- Uses locations known to voters
- Provides 3 sites for each half of county population
- All magisterial districts close to two early voting sites





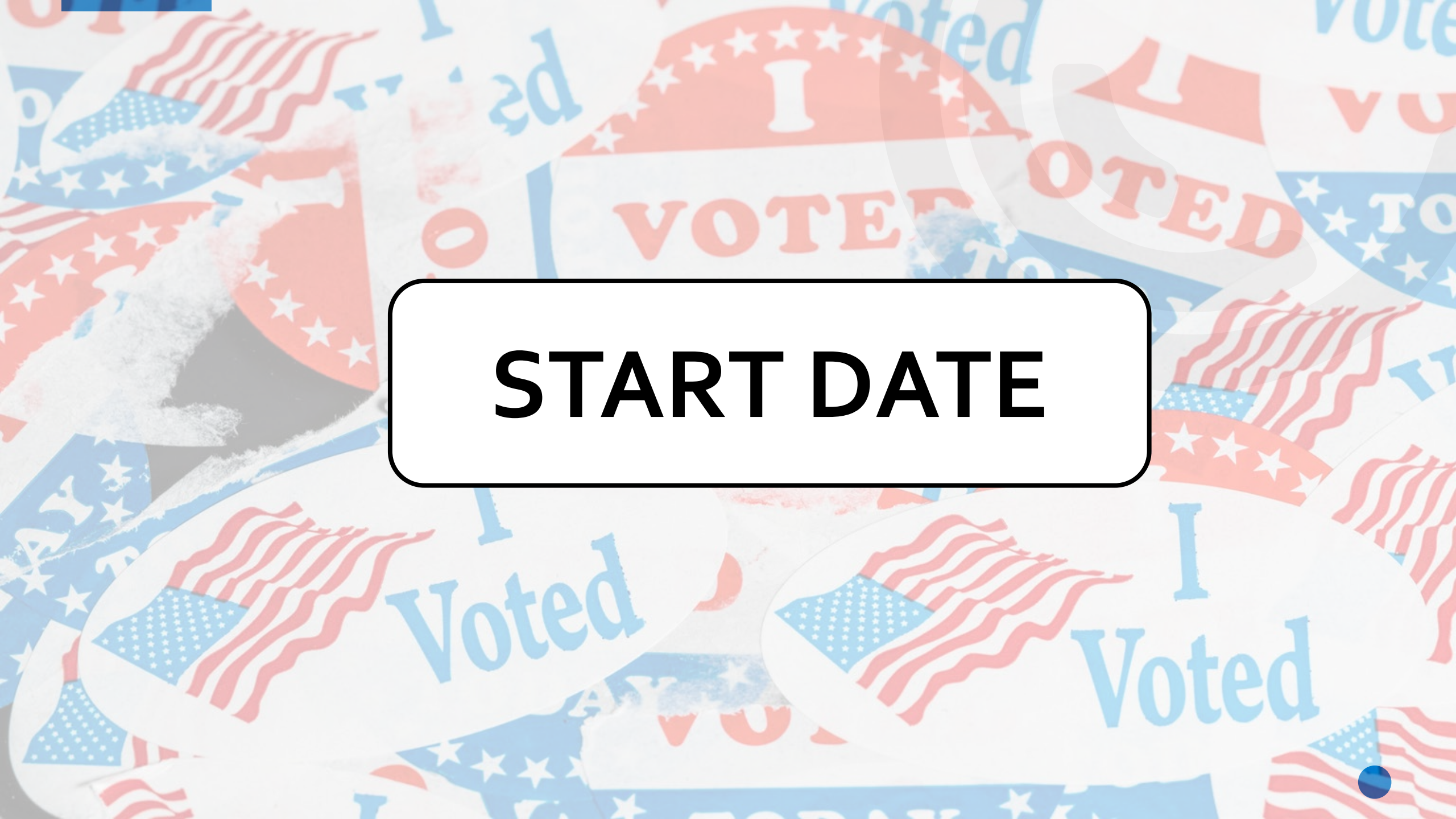
The background features a collage of American flags and 'I Voted' stickers. The flags are in various orientations and colors (red, white, blue). The 'I Voted' stickers are also in various orientations and colors, with some showing the word 'Voted' in blue and others in red. The overall theme is patriotic and election-related.

**#2: USE THE SAME  
LOCATIONS FOR  
ALL ELECTIONS**







The background is a dense collage of 'I Voted' stickers and American flags. The stickers are in various colors (red, blue, white) and orientations, some overlapping. The American flags are also in various colors and orientations, some appearing as if they are part of the stickers or separate elements. The overall theme is civic participation and patriotism.

**START DATE**

# CURRENT PRIMARY



## Office

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				



34 Days Open

## Hay/Fer

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

34 Days Open  
x 2 sites

### KEY

-  45-Day Mark
-  Day Site is Open





# CURRENT GENERAL

## Office

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

34 Days Open

## Hay/DMV

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

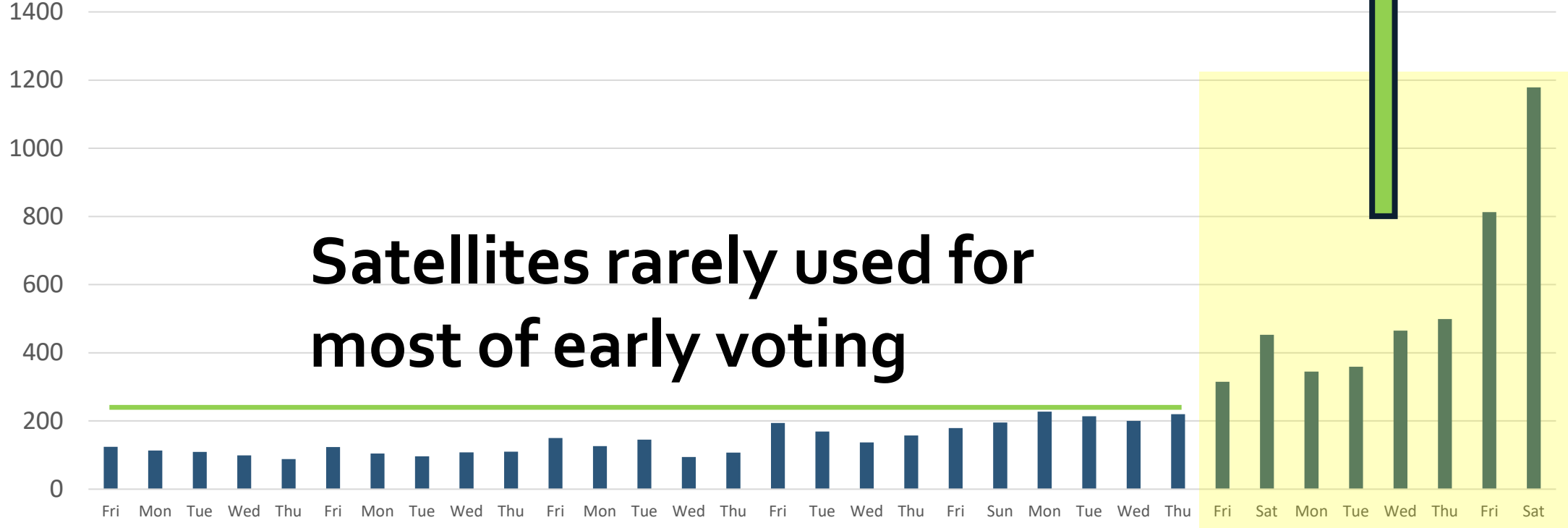
34 Days Open  
x 2 sites

## Brent/Dum

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

11 Days Open  
x 2 sites

# Satellites rarely used for most of early voting



# NEW STARTING DATES: 1-2-3 SYSTEM

Office Open For Full  
45 Days by Statute

## **All satellite sites:**

1 week for Primary

2 weeks for General

3 weeks for Presidential General



# NEW PRIMARY (& SPECIALS)

## 1 WEEK

### Office

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

**34 Days Open**

### 5 Locations

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

**8 Days Open  
x 5 Sites**

### BENEFITS

- Broader access for the public to early voting during its most popular times
- 3 weekend days for voting
- Main Office and mail voting can handle “early early” voters





# NEW GENERAL 2 WEEKS

## Office

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

**34 Days Open**

## 5 Locations

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

**13 Days Open  
x 5 sites**

## BENEFITS

- Sunday start unique and can draw media attention to inform the public, only county open that day
- Covers highest voting period without having line issues
- 3 different weekends of voting, more than nearly all jurisdictions

# NEW PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL

## 3 WEEKS



### Office

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

**35 Days**

### 5 Locations

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
S	M	★				

**20 Days Open  
x 5 sites**

### BENEFITS

- Creates more voter capacity than current presidential elections
- Increases costs only for busiest election in 4-year cycle when its appropriate
- 5 weekend days of voting at all locations means broad access

# ELECTION OFFICER STAFFING COST COMPARISON



	<b>Current</b>	<b>New</b>
<b>Primary</b>	\$73,440	\$53,280
<b>General</b>	\$89,280	\$71,280
<b>Pres. General</b>	\$99,200	\$116,100

*Saves nearly  
\$120,000  
over every  
4-year cycle  
while  
broadening  
access to  
early voting*

# SUGGESTED HOURS



**Sunday** 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Weekdays** 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Saturday** 8:30 am – 5:00 pm



The background is a dense collage of 'I Voted' stickers and American flags. The stickers are in various orientations and colors, including red, white, and blue. Some stickers feature a large 'I' above the word 'Voted', while others show a full American flag. The overall theme is civic participation and patriotism.

# SPECIALS

# SPECIAL ELECTIONS



Codify in new ordinance

Specify the use of any satellite locations in the district if not a countywide election





# GOALS



Voter access



Geographic balance



Cost effective use of funds



Give voters consistency

**FOR VOTING INFORMATION:**

**[WWW.PWCVOTES.ORG](http://WWW.PWCVOTES.ORG)**