

## **Excerpts from §24.2 of the Code of Virginia, Chapter 3, “Election Districts, Precincts and Polling Places.”**

The proposed precinct and polling place changes meet all requirements of the Code of Virginia, [§24.2, Chapter 3: Election Districts, Precincts and Polling Places.](#)

1. **Composition of election districts and precincts** ([§24.2-305](#)). The Code of Virginia requires that precincts be “composed of compact and contiguous territory” and that precinct lines consist of “clearly observable boundaries.”
  - a. The Olympus Condo precinct is bounded by named streets and highways.
  - b. The AlexRenew Precinct is bounded by named streets, highways and waterways (Hooff’s Run). Staff considered a variety of alternatives in proposing boundaries for the AlexRenew precinct. While other options would have resulted in a similar-sized precinct, these options were significantly less compact than the one proposed.
2. **Required Advertising** ([§24.2-306](#)). The Code of Virginia requires that no precinct or polling place changes be made within 60 days preceding any general election, and that notice of any precinct or polling place change “be published prior to enactment in a newspaper having general circulation in the election district or precinct once a week for two successive weeks.”
  - a. The City is advertising these proposed changes on January 3 and 10.
  - b. The published notice states where the public may inspect descriptions and maps of the changes.
3. **Notice Requirements** ([§24.2-306](#)). The Code of Virginia requires that “notice of any adopted change in any ... precinct or polling place be mailed to all registered voters whose ... precinct or polling place is changed at least 15 days prior to the next election in which the voters will be voting in the changed ... precinct or polling place.”
  - a. The Electoral Board will send the required notification by first class mail to all affected voters prior to any possible June Primary
  - b. The Electoral Board will send voters a second notice prior to the November 5, 2019 General Election.
4. **Requirements for county and city precincts** ([§24.2-307](#)). The Code of Virginia requires that at the time a precinct is established, it shall have no more than 5,000 registered voters and no fewer than 500 registered voters. Precincts may grow to over 5,000 voters if the number of Election-Day voters does not exceed 4,000.
  - a. The Olympus Condo precinct would have 2,443 voters.
  - b. The AlexRenew precinct would have 2,436 voters.
5. **Requirements for county and city precincts** ([§24.2-307](#)). The Code of Virginia prohibits precincts from being split between school board districts. In addition, with few

exceptions, the Code ([§24.2-304.1](#)) prohibits reapportionment at any time other than following the decennial census. The proposed changes will not affect any legislative districts, nor cause any precincts to be split between legislative districts.

- a. Voters in the new Olympus Condo precinct would remain within Virginia's 39<sup>th</sup> Senate District and 46<sup>th</sup> House of Delegates District, and within the City's School Board District C.
  - b. Voters in the new AlexRenew precinct would remain within Virginia's 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District and 45<sup>th</sup> House of Delegates District, and within the City's School Board District A.
6. **Prohibiting precinct changes for specified period** ([§24.2-309.2](#)). The Code of Virginia prohibits changing any precinct boundaries from February 1, 2019, to May 15, 2021 and requires any related ordinances to be adopted on or before February 1, 2019.
  - a. This proposed ordinance would be adopted on January 12, 2019.
  - b. Nothing in this code section prohibits the City from changing the location of a polling place within a precinct during this time period should such a change become necessary.
7. **Requirements for polling places** ([§24.2-310](#) and [§24.2-310.1](#)). The Code of Virginia requires that "each polling place shall be located in a public building whenever practicable."
  - a. Staff looked at dozens of polling place options in both areas of Alexandria and was not able to locate any other available locations, with suitable space.
  - b. The Olympus Condo would join Hermitage, Potomac Yard, South Port and Cameron Station as residential developments containing a polling place.
  - c. AlexRenew is a public entity that gets its authority through the Virginia Water and Waste Authority Act.
8. **Requirements for polling places** ([§24.2-310](#)). The Code of Virginia requires that "the polling place for each precinct shall be located within the county or city and either within the precinct or within one mile of the precinct boundary." Polling places must also be accessible as required by provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - a. Both recommended polling places are within their respective precincts.
  - b. Both recommended polling places are fully accessible.