

The Tipton County Vote Center Plan

Office of The Circuit Court Clerk

Christine L. Crawford



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Introduction

What is a Vote Center?

A Vote Center is a place where any registered voter in the county they are registered in can vote on Election Day. Instead of traditional precinct- based polling locations on Election Day, voters can now go to one of the 6 locations that Tipton County has chosen and cast their ballot. No longer do you have to vote in the precinct you live in. Every precinct ballot will be available at each location. In addition, we are now using E poll books, which means when a voter signs in at one Vote Center, each the Vote Centers electronic poll books will automatically be updated to reflect that the voter has cast their ballot. This will prevent the chance for duplicate votes. Vote Centers create a convenience for the voters and a level of security for the poll workers.



Announcement From the Tipton County Circuit Court Clerk

Citizens of Tipton County,

Since taking office in 2019, I have spent a great deal of time studying and learning about the benefits of Vote Centers. Vote Centers effect not only the Voter, but also the county budget and the election process. The Vote Center concept, which became a reality in Indiana Elections in 2007, is now prominent in 48 counties and that number continues to grow every year.

I have since asked leaders in our community to join me in my efforts and in doing so, have created the following plan as a layout to make Vote Centers a reality in Tipton County. The Vote Center concept allows any voter in Tipton County the opportunity to cast a ballot at any Vote Center location within Tipton County. No one is restricted to one polling place on Election Day. In addition to making it easier for voters on Election Day, the Vote Center concept also allows for additional early voting opportunities through satellite vote centers, that will be open prior to Election Day. We will continue to have early voting at the Courthouse, but now we can offer other locations as well.

The most common question a voter asks is where is my polling location? Now that answer will be simple. One common reason people do not vote is because they do not make it back to their polling location before it closes. Now that solution is made easier. If you live in Sharpsville but work in the City of Tipton, you can vote at the Vote Center location that is closest to you.

The financial impact that a Vote Center concept will have on Tipton County is substantial. Having to staff fewer locations and provide less equipment on Election Day will save the County money. After the Election in 2020, we also found it was very difficult to retain and find Poll workers. By utilizing Vote Centers, we will go from staffing and supplying 12 Polling Locations to 6 Vote Centers.

The reality of Tipton County moving forward with the Vote Center concept will improve the convenience for the voter while improving the county s long-term financial stance. This will allow Tipton County to make a major step forward and bring elections into the 21st Century.

I would like to thank the various people in the community who worked in a bipartisan manner to move our county forward with Vote Centers. Tipton County should be proud of these leaders who worked together for what will be best for all citizens. In the coming months, more information will be provided in regards to the location of each Vote Center.

Regards,

Christine Crawford

Christine L. Crawford
Tipton County Circuit Court Clerk

August 27, 2021

Co-Directors
Indiana Election Division
302 West Washington Street
Room E204
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Tipton County Vote Center Plan

Dear Directors,

Please accept the following vote center plan on behalf of the Tipton County Election Board. It means a great deal to the Board and to myself, as the Clerk, to be involved in this innovative, progressive change for our county.

It is our intention to continually modify this plan to fit the current Indiana Legislature and also to revise based on our experiences with vote centers, e poll books and the needs of our voters.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding any of our documentation.

Regards,

Christine L. Crawford
Tipton County Circuit Court Clerk

RESOLUTION BOC 2021-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE TIPTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF TIPTON COUNTY AS A VOTE CENTER COUNTY

WHEREAS, Indiana Code Section ("IC") 3-11-18.1 allows counties to adopt a vote center model; and,

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of Tipton County, Indiana desire to approve the designation of Tipton County as a vote center county; and,

WHEREAS, the Tipton County Election Board has the responsibility for properly drafting a vote center plan for Tipton County, which will take effect upon unanimous vote of the County Election Board and having the plan properly filed with and approved by the Indiana Election Division.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TIPTON COUNTY, INDIANA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that Tipton County is approved as a vote center county upon the required approval and filing of the county vote center plan.

SO RESOLVED THIS 19th DAY OF JULY, 2021. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BY:



Dennis Henderson
President

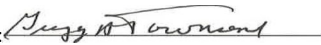


Tracey Powell
Vice President


Nancy Cline

Board Member

Nancy Cline

ATTEST: 

Gregg A. Townsend

Tipton County Auditor Prepared by: Mark R. Regnier Tipton County Attorney 120 South West St. Tipton, Indiana 46072 765-675-2211
markregnierattv@gmail.com

RESOLUTION CC 2021-15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TIPTON COUNTY
COUNCIL OF TIPTON COUNTY, INDIANA, APPROVING
THE DESIGNATION OF TIPTON COUNTY AS A VOTE CENTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code Section ("IC") 3-11-18.1 allows counties to adopt a vote center model; and,

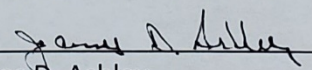
WHEREAS, the Tipton County Council of Tipton County, Indiana , Indiana desires to approve the designation of Tipton County as a vote center county; and,

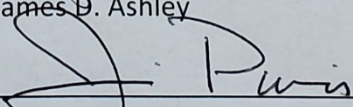
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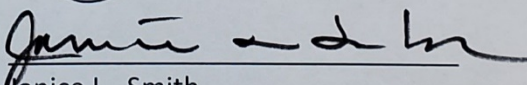
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL OF TIPTON COUNTY, INDIANA that Tipton County is approved as a vote center county upon the required approval and filing of the county vote center plan.

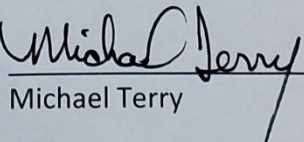
SO RESOLVED THIS 20th DAY OF JULY, 2021.

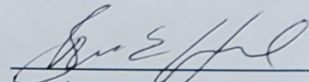
TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL

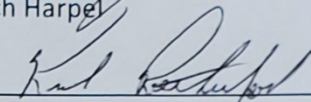

James D. Ashley

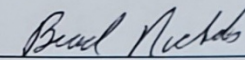

Jim Purvis


Janice L. Smith

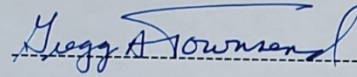

Michael Terry


Butch Harpel


Kirk Retherford


Brad Nichols

Attest:



Gregg A. Townsend, Secretary and Count

Prepared by:

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Tipton County Attorney
120 South West St.
Tipton, Indiana 46072
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Vote Center Study Committee

Mark Regnier, President Election Board (R)
Christine Crawford, Secretary Election Board, Circuit Court Clerk (R)
Tracey Powell, County Commissioner (R)
Brad Nichols, County Council (D)
Michael Nasser, Political Science Major, Ball State University (D)
Linda Smeltzer, Sharpsville Town Board (D)
Theresa Ehman, Election worker (R)
William Steen, IT Director (R)
Amanda Kinney, Precinct Committeeman (D)
Heather Dowler, Election Deputy, (R)

Tasks of committee:

Engage Community interest
Review and choose Voting Center Locations
Availability for Public meetings

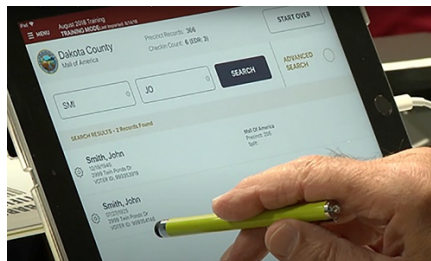
Vote Center Plan Requirements as Defined In IC 3-11-18.1-4

1. The total number of vote centers to be established at the locations
2. The effective date of the order establishing Tipton County as a vote center county
3. The following information according to the computerized list (as defined in IC 3-7-26.3-20 as of the date of order:
 - (A) The total number of voters in the County
 - (B) The Number of active voters in the County
 - (C) The number of inactive voters within the County
4. For each vote center designated under subdivision (2), the number and title of the precinct election boards who will be appointed to serve at the Vote Center
5. A description of any hardware, firmware, or software used:
 - (A) To create an electronic poll list for each precinct whose polls are to be located at a Vote Center; or
 - (B) To establish a secure electronic connection between the county Election Board and the precinct election officials administering a Vote Center
6. A description of the equipment and procedures to be used to ensure that information concerning a voter entered into any electronic poll list used by precinct election officers at a Vote Center is immediately accessible to:
 - (A) The County Election Board; and
 - (B) The electronic poll lists used by precinct election officers at all other vote centers in the county
7. The number of electronic poll lists to be provided for the precinct
8. The security and contingency plans to be implemented by the county to do all of the following:
 - (A) Prevent a disruption in the Vote Center process
 - (B) Ensure that the election is properly conducted if a disruption occurs
 - (C) Prevent access to an electronic poll list without the coordinated action of two (2) precinct election officers who are not members of the same political party
9. A sketch depicting the planned layout of the Vote Center, indicating the location of :
 - (A) Equipment; and
 - (B) Precinct election officers within the Vote Center
10. The total number and locations of satellite offices to be established under IC 3-11-10-26.3 at the Vote Center locations designated under subdivision (2) to allow voters to cast absentee ballots in accordance with IC 3-11. However, a plan must provide for at least one (1) vote center to be established as a satellite office under IC 3-11-10-26.3 on the two (2) Saturdays immediately preceding and election day
11. A certification that the Vote Center complies with the accessibility requirements applicable to polling places under IC 3-11-8
12. Method and timing of providing voter data to person who are entitled to receive the data under this title. Data shall be provided to all persons entitled to the data without unreasonable delay

Voting Equipment

Tipton County will continue to use MicroVote Infinity voting systems and just as in traditional elections, at the end of Election Day, votes will be tallied and reported by precinct. The voting machines are at no point ever connected to the internet.

An Electronic Poll Book will be used at each Vote Center location. This will allow voters the option to vote at any location in Tipton County. Tipton County has chosen KNOWiNK Innovative Election Solutions as the vendor for the E-Poll Books. The E-Poll Books will meet all standards set out by Indiana law under IC 3-11-8-10.3. A minimum of two (2) electronic poll books will be available at each Voting Center. The hardware, software and firmware used for the E-poll pad, will be supplied by KnowInk as well. The Poll Pad e-poll book application software runs on an Apple iPad tablet. This system is certified by the Indiana Secretary of State's Office.



Satellite Vote Centers

The following is the suggested satellite vote center location to be open for Early Voting the two (2) Saturdays prior to the Election: (The satellite location will be reviewed and may be amended and added to prior to each election cycle)

Tipton County Courthouse, 101 East Jefferson Street, Tipton, IN 46072 (By IC code the Clerk location is open for the 28 days including the 2 Saturdays prior to the Election)

Sharpsville Fire Station, 158 W Vine Street, Sharpsville, IN 46068

Poll Workers

The following individuals will work as a poll worker at each Vote Center location:

- *Inspector*
- *Two (2) Judges (Bi-partisan)*
- *Four (4) Clerks*

Training procedures for Poll workers will continue to be conducted before each election. The number of workers, electronic poll books, and voting machines sent to each location will be determined and may be changed by the County Clerk at her/his discretion.

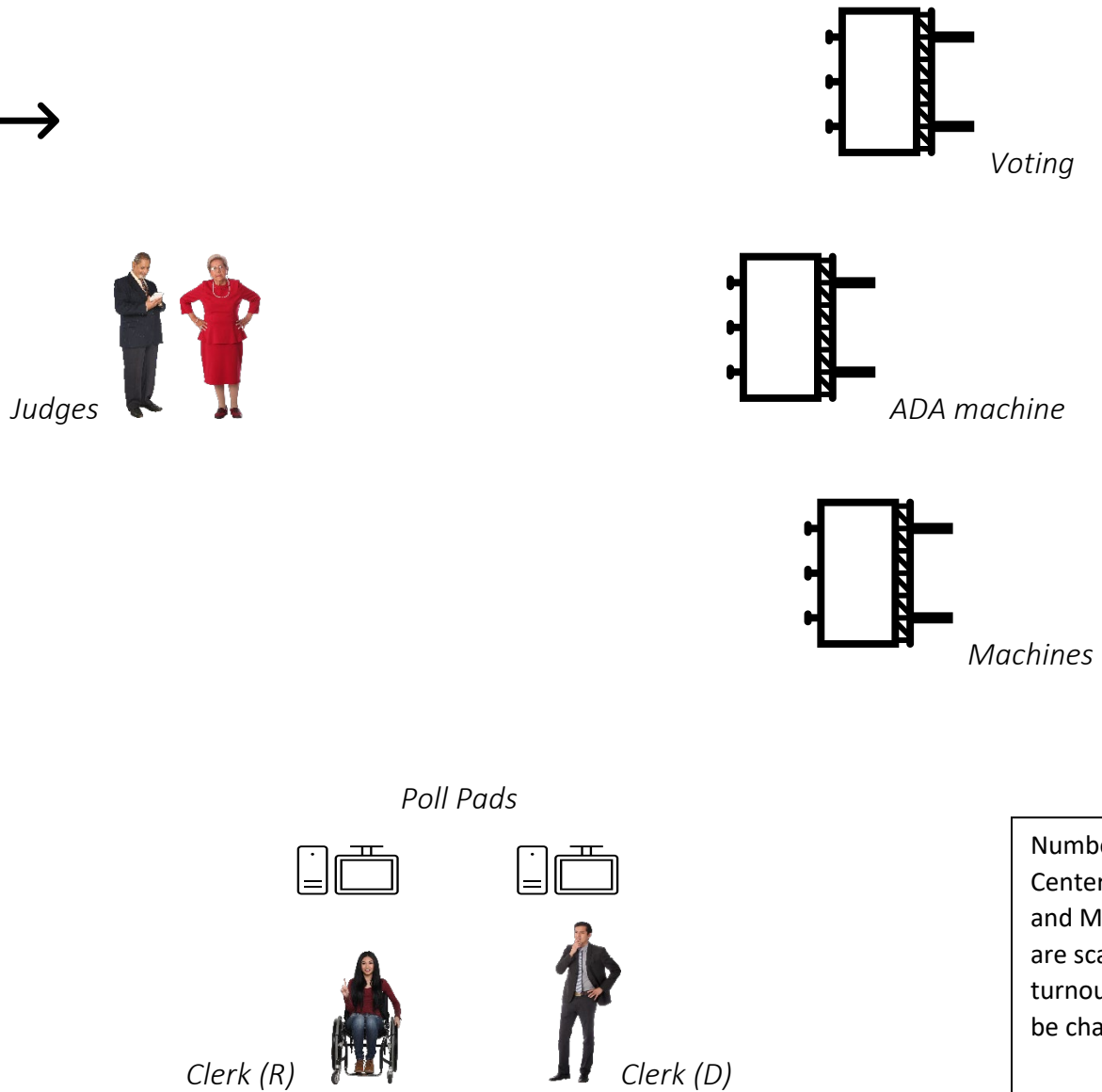
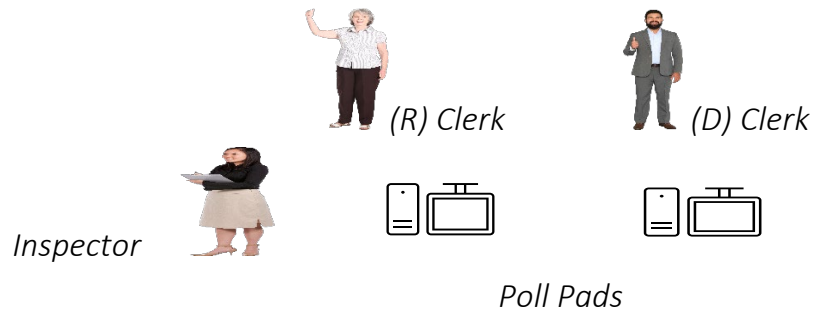


Vote Center Locations

The following six (6) locations have been chosen as Vote Center locations to be open on Election Day: Tipton County plans to utilize 6 vote center locations at this time. Indiana Code 3-11-18.1-6 only requires one vote center per 10,000 active voters, but the Tipton County Election Board plans to provide more for efficiency and convenience. This number can be amended if needed. Each location meets or will be modified to meet ADA compliance plans, is handicap accessible and has adequate parking.

- 1. Tipton 4H Building 1200 South Main Street, Tipton, Indiana 46072*
- 2. Kempton Christian Church 202 W Washington St, Kempton, Indiana 46049*
- 3. Sharpsville Fire Station 158 W Vine Street, Sharpsville, Indiana 46068*
- 4. Madison Township Fire Station 3398 E 150 S, Hobbs, Indiana 46047*
- 5. Liberty Baptist Church 3530 N 1000 W, Kempton, Indiana 46049*
- 6. Windfall Community Center 210 South Independence Street, Windfall, Indiana 46076*

Vote Center Layout



Number of Vote Center Officials and Machines are scale to turnout and can be changed.

Voter Education and Outreach

Tipton County has a full media and community outreach strategy that will involve press releases to newspapers and any media outlets. In addition, we will use our county website and social media outlets to prepare the citizens of Tipton County for this change. Moreover, each registered voter will receive a postcard in the mail prior to the initial elections, informing them of this change and where each vote center is located. The Clerk and/or her staff will also be available to attend community events to explain the changes. Signage will be displayed at various events in the county and at voter registration drives at various times. The Clerk will also work with local schools in offering her time in the classroom to bring more knowledge of the Vote Centers.

Current Precincts, Total Voters, Total Active Voters, Total Inactive Voters

Tipton County has 15 precincts. They are as follows:

Cicero 1

Cicero 2

Cicero 3

Cicero 4

Cicero 5 0

Cicero 6

Cicero 7

Liberty 1

Liberty 2

Wildcat

Jefferson 1

Jefferson 2

Prairie 1

Madison 1

Madison 2

Tipton County: Data provided from 2020 Presidential Election

The total number of registered voters in Tipton County 11,692

The total number of active voters in Tipton County 10,686

The total number of inactive voters in Tipton County 1,006

Security and Emergency Plan

A variety of situations can happen at any time and this includes Election Day. We have met with local officials and discussed several scenarios and have the following plans in place;

Loss of Power:

Microvote Voting machines are supplied with back up battery units that will be enabled if we lose power. If the power is over the course of a longer period that anticipated, the County Election Board will meet with the Tipton County Emergency Management Director to decide on an alternate location that is both safe and accessible. Voters will be instructed to go to that location. We will utilize all sources of media, including social media formats and local television stations for announcements.

Loss of connectivity:

For our cloud- based E Poll Books, if the Vote Center loses its connectivity, we have worked on a plan with our IT department on establishing a hot spot to connect to. During poll worker training we will stress the importance of communication between the Vote Center and the Election Office in case of any connectivity failures.

Disaster:

If an unforeseen disaster were to happen in Tipton County that would affect the election, the Election Board will work very closely with the Emergency Management Director, local Law enforcement, our Circuit Court Judge and the media to determine our best course of action for a secure and safe election.

Tipton County Election Board

Order 2021-01

Whereas, Indiana Code 3-11-1-.1 grants permission for any Indiana County that so chooses to implement vote centers in its county and,

Whereas, the Tipton County Election Board so approves, after meeting and offering the public thirty (30) days notice for public comment, the Tipton County plan for the implementation of the vote center model in Tipton County, Indiana.

The Election Board of Tipton County adopts this Order to approve the County Vote Center Plan which is incorporated in this order by reference

Adopted this 27th Day OF August, 2021

Tipton County Election Board

Mark P. Regnier

Mark Regnier, President

Ray E. Noble

Ray Noble, Member

Christine Crawford

Christine Crawford, Secretary

