



Benefits of the Consolidation

The Supervisor of Elections has a dual responsibility to the public. The first is to assure an honest election in which every registered voter has an opportunity to cast a ballot and every vote is counted accurately. The second is to provide an election in a manner that is the most efficient and least costly to the taxpayers.

Since the start of Early Voting elections, Sumter County voters have chosen this method over, both, Election Day voting at the Precinct(s) and Vote-by-Mail. In 2016, Early Voting was 49.42% of those who voted. Also, Election Day voting, at the precinct(s), was 13.58% and Vote-by-Mail was 21.42%. Due to the continuing change in the method of voting from Election Day at the Precinct to Early Voting we are able to reduce the number of Precincts for our county.

This helps us keep our precincts in a uniformed manner, regarding equipment, instead of new equipment being implemented at a few precincts at a time, which incurs more training, supplies and equipment types. This will, too, lower the number of *ballot styles*, to decrease the chance of Poll Worker(s) making an error when issuing out the ballots. Also, this reduces printing costs for printing the ballots needed for an election.

The precincts chosen to merge/dissolve precinct(s) 116, 122, 124, and 126, have buildings with ample parking, while some are new construction sites that offer increased accommodations (parking and interior space) for persons with disabilities. In addition, with these fewer precincts, we have quicker response for our team(s) to handle the needs at each precinct. Lastly, by merging these precincts and having fewer splits, it lowers the amount of ballot styles needed during the election season.

With all of this considered, fewer precincts allow our office staff to address questions and concerns more quickly, for the public. Also, we will be able to take the time to do more in depth training which leads to a more efficient and accurate election. This will, too, allow provisional ballot concerns to be addressed at the precinct level more quickly.

These changes give a reduction of required Poll Workers, supplies, and equipment delivery costs. In addition, a reduction of printing costs, related to Elections, and a fast transmission of results on Election Night.

The goal of the Supervisor of Elections is to be able to provide the voters with all the available forms of voting at a cost savings to all taxpayers. Keeping the cost down allows the Supervisor

of Elections to offer more than the minimum number of days for Early Voting in a General Election.

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This address does not receive mail.