2026
General Election
Early Voting

Proposed
Implementation Plan

Overview

Buncombe County Board of Elections will hold several public meetings to consider the proposed early voting implementation plan for the 2026 General Election. Input will be taken in person and via an online survey. The proposed plan will be posted online on Thursday, May 21 for the public to view and have an opportunity to provide feedback. All meetings will be held in person and virtually.

Early Voting Survey:

https://engage.buncombecounty.org/2026generalearlyvotingsurvey

Implementation Plan Review and Meeting Schedule:

- Tuesday, May 19 (3:30 p.m.) – Present proposed implementation plan
- Thursday, May 21 (8 a.m.) – Online survey opens
- Friday, June 19 (5 p.m.) – Online survey closes
- Tuesday, June 23 (5:30 p.m.) – Public input
- Tuesday, July 14 (3:30 p.m.) – Final review and vote by Board

The Board must approve a plan by making a unanimous decision. It is up to the Board to determine the number of early voting sites and weekend hours for the 2026 General Election. Current statutory[1] requirements mandate specific hours for weekdays and for the last Saturday. Under the same law, county board of elections are permitted to choose a site other than its office if the site is "reasonably proximate" to the office. These sites are typically referred to as "in lieu of sites". The State Board provided additional guidance in the form of a numbered memo[2] which specifies how to determine if a site is reasonably proximate to the county board of elections. The early voting plan must be submitted by July 24 to the NC State Board of Elections for review and final approval.

State-Required Hours of Operation:

- Weekdays - 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Last Saturday - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Must maintain uniform hours for all sites
- If one site is open, then all one stop sites must be open for the same number of hours (applies to weekdays and weekends)

[1] §163-227.6
[2] Numbered Memo 2020-13

Proposed Plan

2026 General Election

Staff are recommending the 12 early voting sites listed below. We also recommend that the Board approve weekend hours that would allow for only one shift to work per day instead of the two shifts that poll workers normally work on weekdays. This will ensure poll workers can rotate days and have time off during the two and half weeks we are open.

Proposed Sites:

1. Bee Tree Fire Station: 510 Bee Tree Rd, Swannanoa 28778
2. Black Mountain Library: 105 N. Dougherty St., Black Mountain 28711
3. East Asheville Library*: 3 Avon Rd, Asheville 28805
4. Enka-Candler Library*: 1404 Sand Hill Rd, Candler 28715
5. Fairview Library: 1 Taylor Rd, Fairview 28730
6. Leicester Community Center: 2979 New Leicester Hwy, Leicester 28748
7. North Asheville Library*: 1030 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28804
8. South Buncombe Library*: 260 Overlook Rd, Asheville 28803
9. Weaverville Community Center: 60 Lakeshore Dr., Weaverville 28787
10. Wesley Grant Southside Center (in lieu of BOE): 285 Livingston St., Asheville 28801
11. West Asheville library*: 942 Haywood Rd, Asheville 28806
12. Former County Permits & Inspections Office: 30 Valley St., Asheville 28801
    or Friendship Center: 142 Shiloh Rd, Asheville 28803

*Unless a more suitable site is found by July 14, then we propose using these libraries.

Early Voting Dates:

- October 15 – 31, 2026

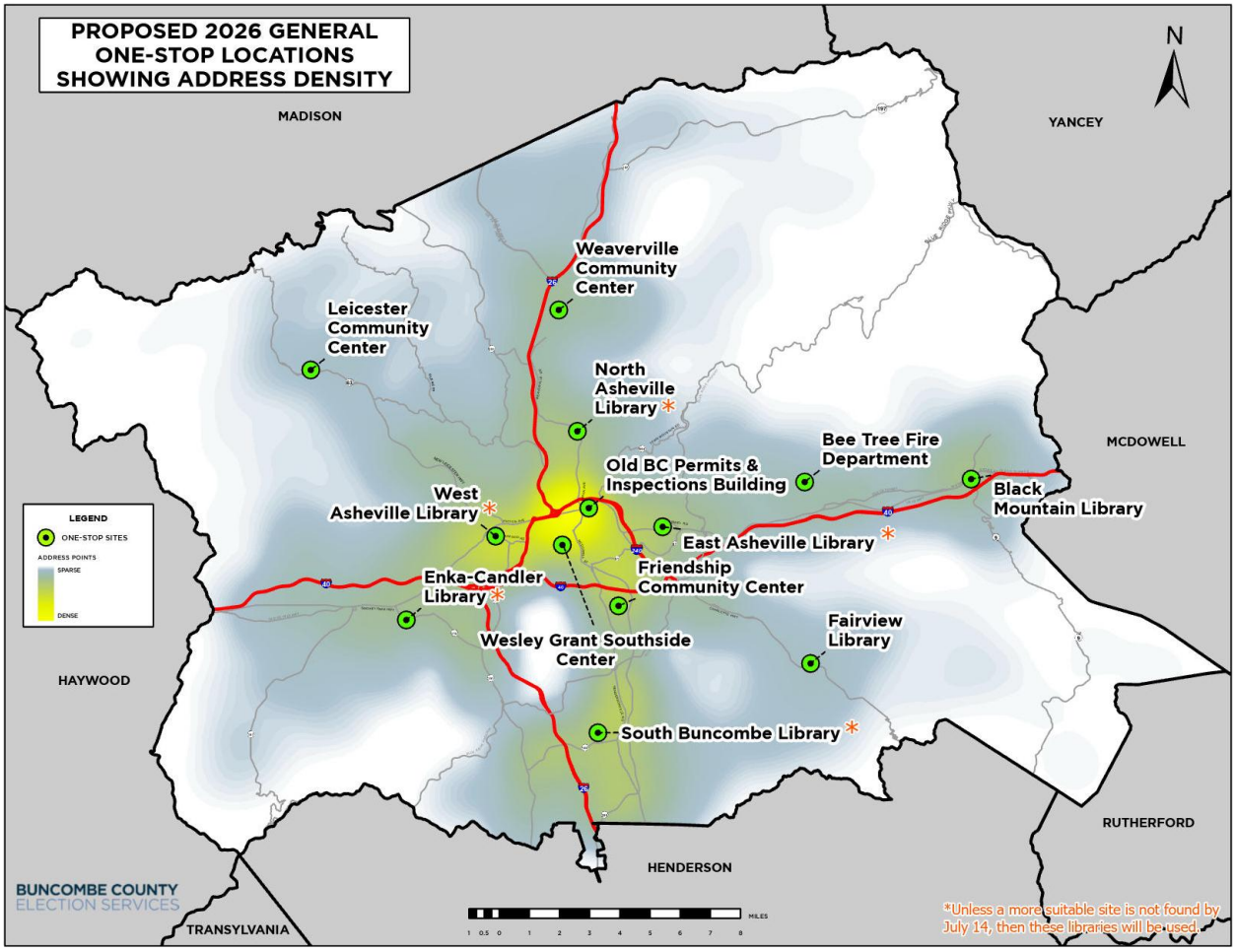
Recommended Weekend Hours:

- One shift on Saturday and/or Sunday
- Closed first weekend (Oct. 17-18)
- Open second weekend – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
    - Saturday, Oct. 24
    - Sunday, Oct. 25

Sunday 10/11	Monday 10/12	Tuesday 10/13	Wednesday 10/14	Thursday 10/15	Friday 10/16	Saturday 10/17
				All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	**Closed**
Sunday 10/18	Monday 10/19	Tuesday 10/20	Wednesday 10/21	Thursday 10/22	Friday 10/23	Saturday 10/24
Closed	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	**All Sites 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**
Sunday 10/25	Monday 10/26	Tuesday 10/27	Wednesday 10/28	Thursday 10/29	Friday 10/30	Saturday 10/31
All Sites 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

2026 General Election

Proposed Sites (12)

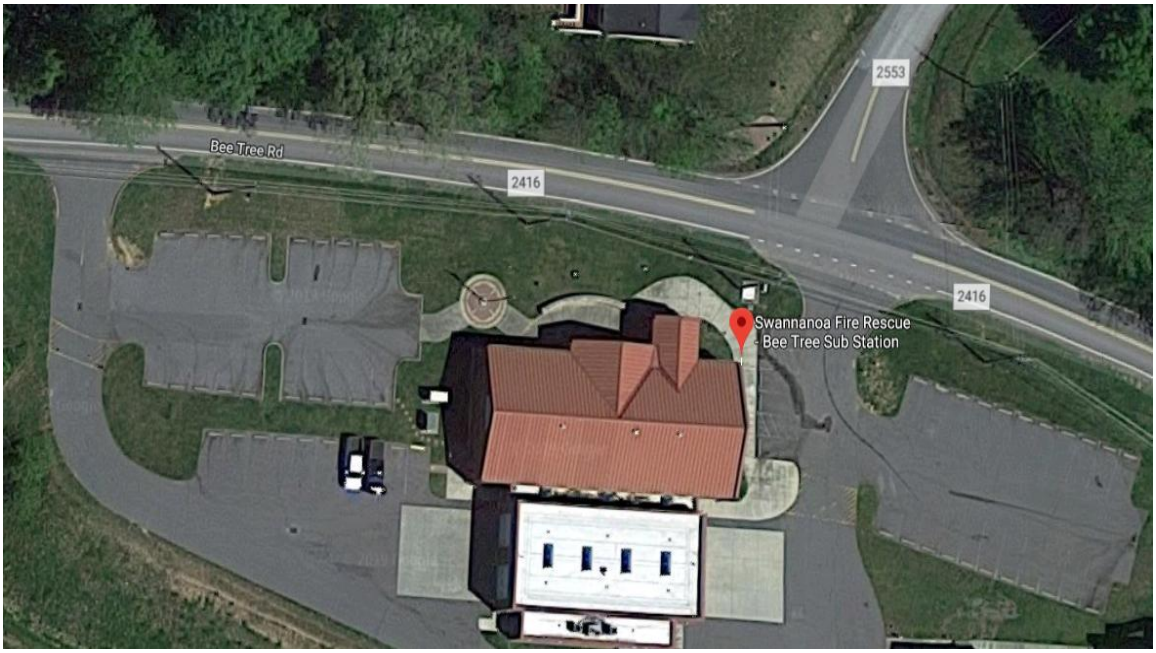


*If a more suitable site is not found by July 14, then we propose using these libraries.

Proposed Site Information

1. Bee Tree Fire Station - 510 Bee Tree Rd, Swannanoa 28778





Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Meeting Room	42	1	Yes

2. Black Mountain Library - 105 N. Dougherty St., Black Mountain 28711





Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	24	1	Yes

3. East Asheville Library* - 3 Avon Rd, Asheville 28805





Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	54	1	No

*If a more suitable site is not found by July 14, then we propose using this site.

4. Enka-Candler Library* - 1404 Sand Hill Rd, Candler 28715



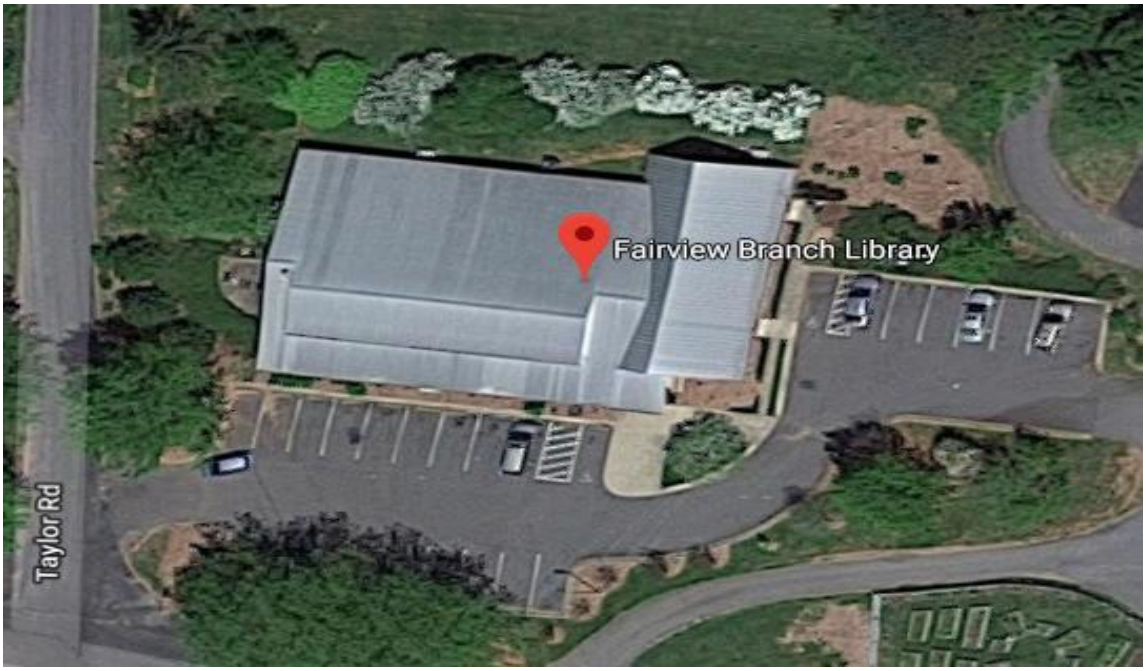


Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	27	1	Yes

*If a more suitable site is not found by July 14, then we propose using this site.

5. Fairview Library - 1 Taylor Rd, Fairview 28730

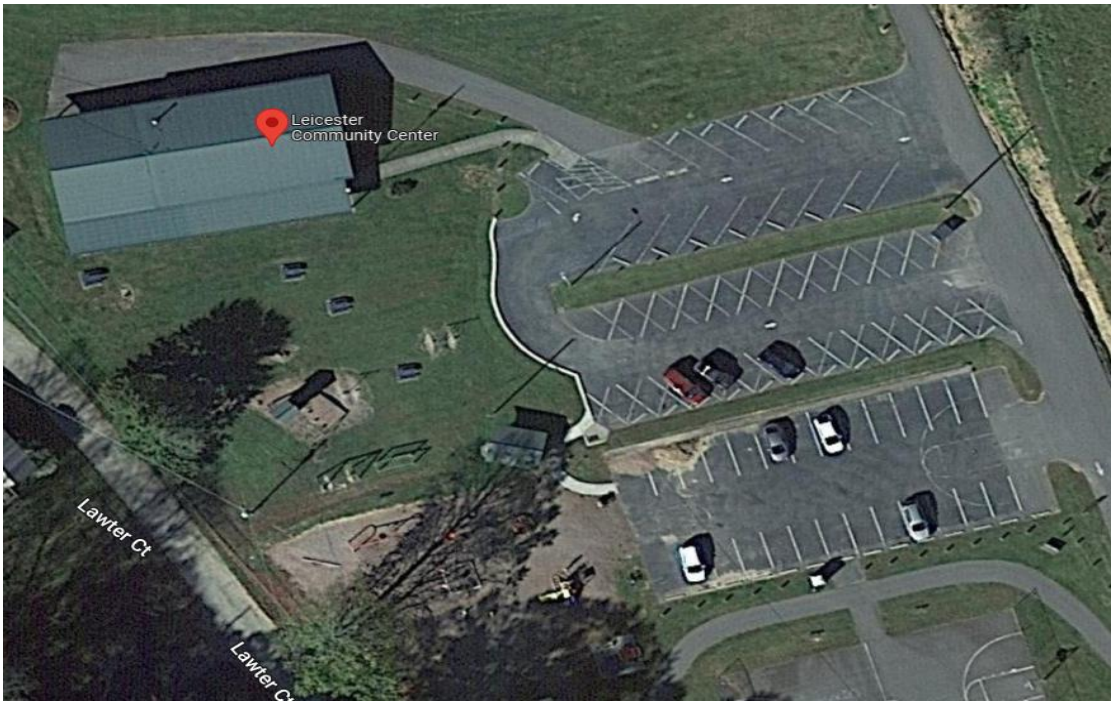




Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	28	1	Yes

6. Leicester Community Center - 2979 New Leicester Hwy, Leicester 28748





Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	60	1	Yes

7. North Asheville Library* - 1030 Merrimon Ave., Asheville 28804





Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	26	1	Yes

*If a more suitable site is not found by July 14, then we propose using this site.

8. South Buncombe Library* - 260 Overlook Rd, Asheville 28803



Additional Parking (behind library)

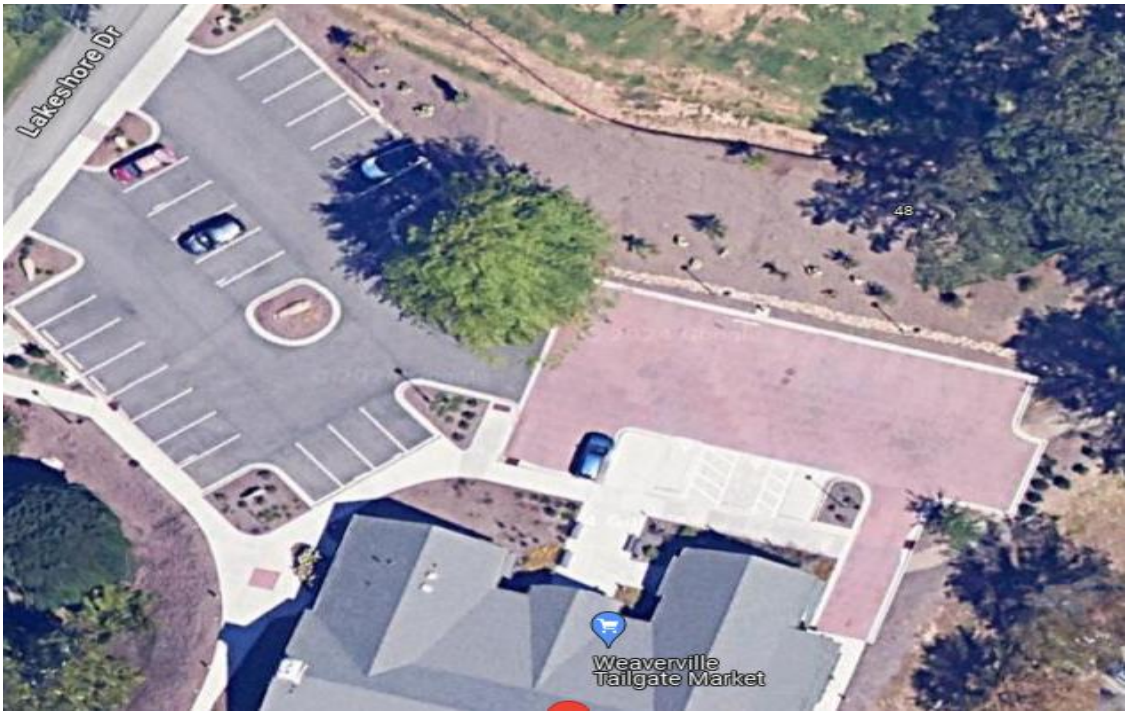


Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	37	1	Yes

*If a more suitable site is not found by July 14, then we propose using this site.

9. Weaverville Community Center - 60 Lakeshore Dr., Weaverville 28787

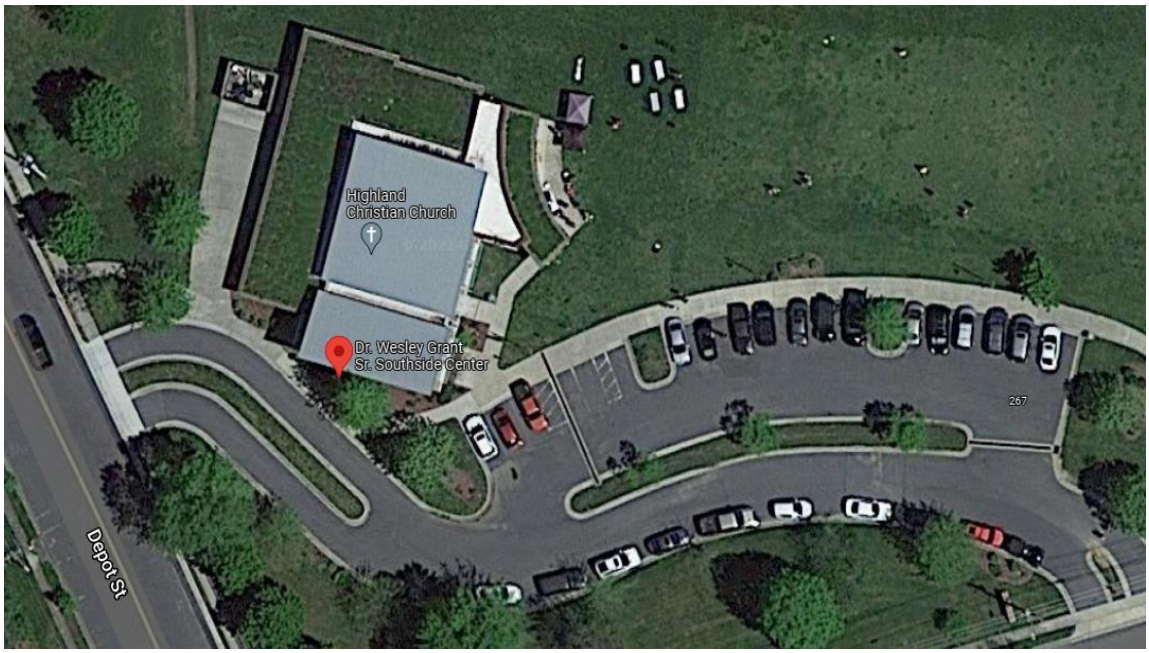




Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	45	1	Yes

10. Wesley Grant Southside Center - 285 Livingston St., Asheville 28801

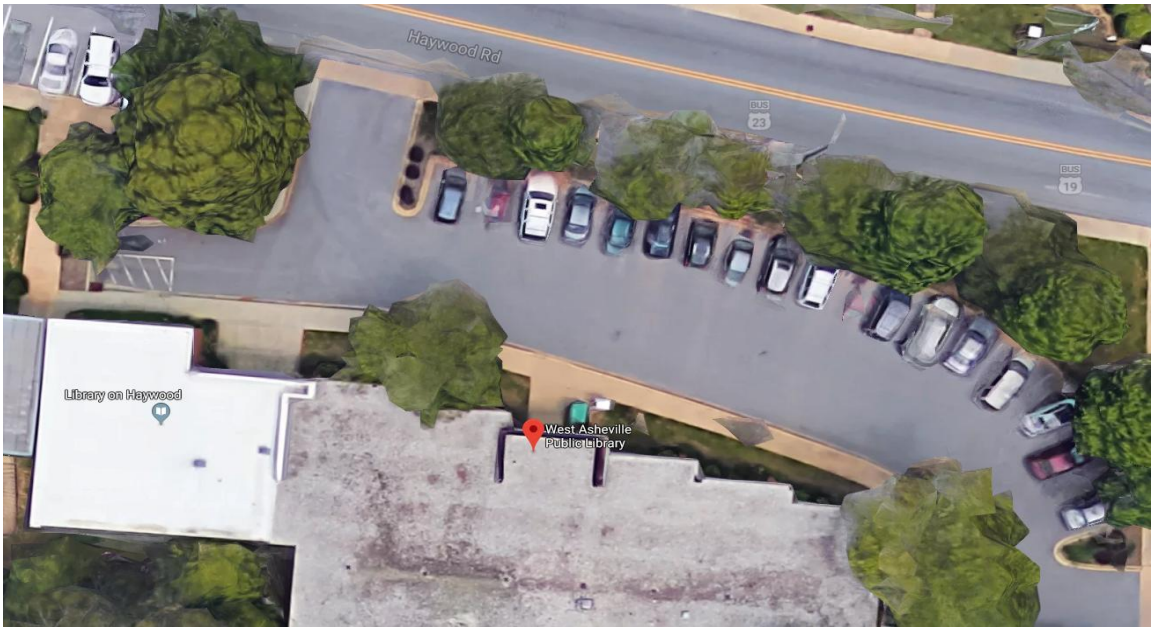




Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	25	1	Yes

11. West Asheville Library* - 942 Haywood Rd, Asheville 28806

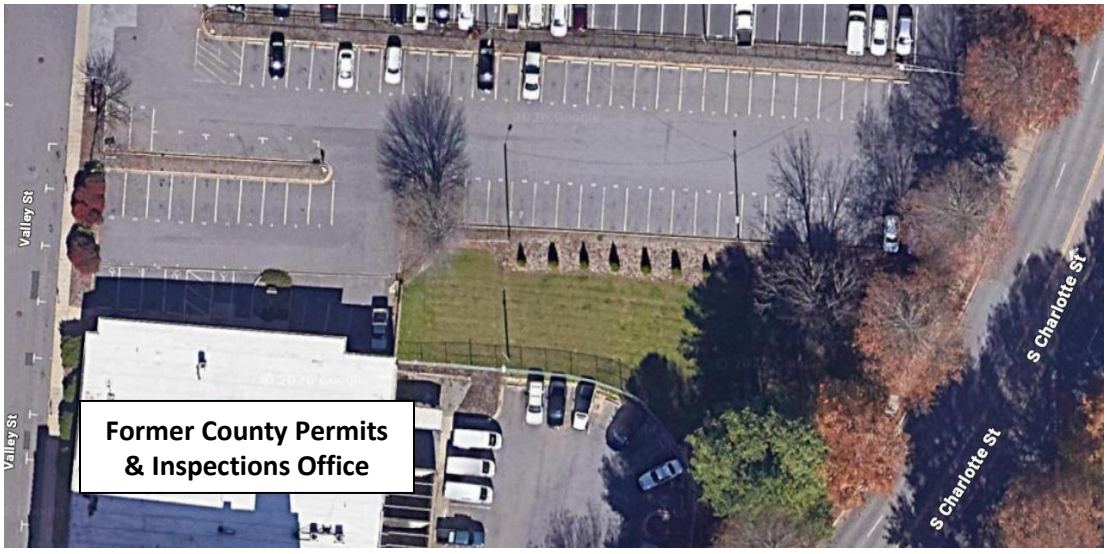




Voting Enclosure	Voter Parking Spaces	Curbside Parking Spaces	Prior Early Voting Site
Community Room	21	1	Yes

*If a more suitable site is not found by July 14, then we propose using this site.

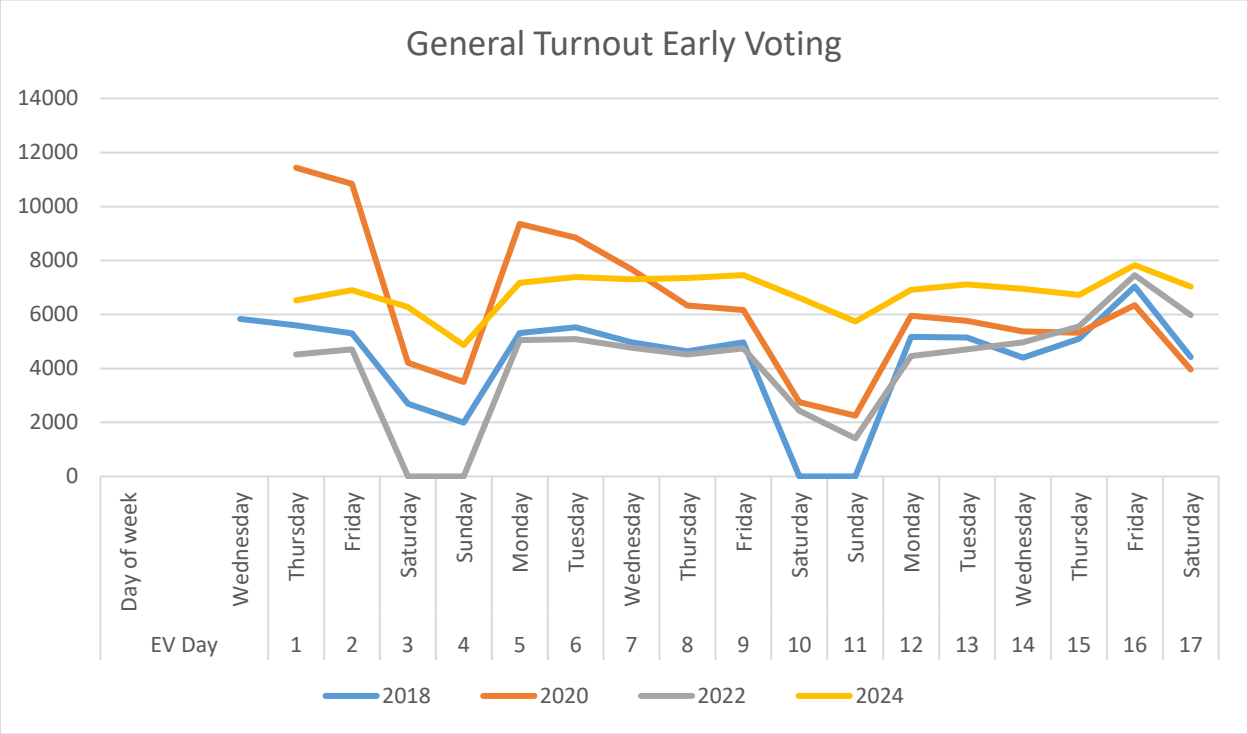
12. Former County Permits & Inspections Office - 30 Valley St., Asheville 28801
or Friendship Ctr - 142 Shiloh Rd, Asheville 28803





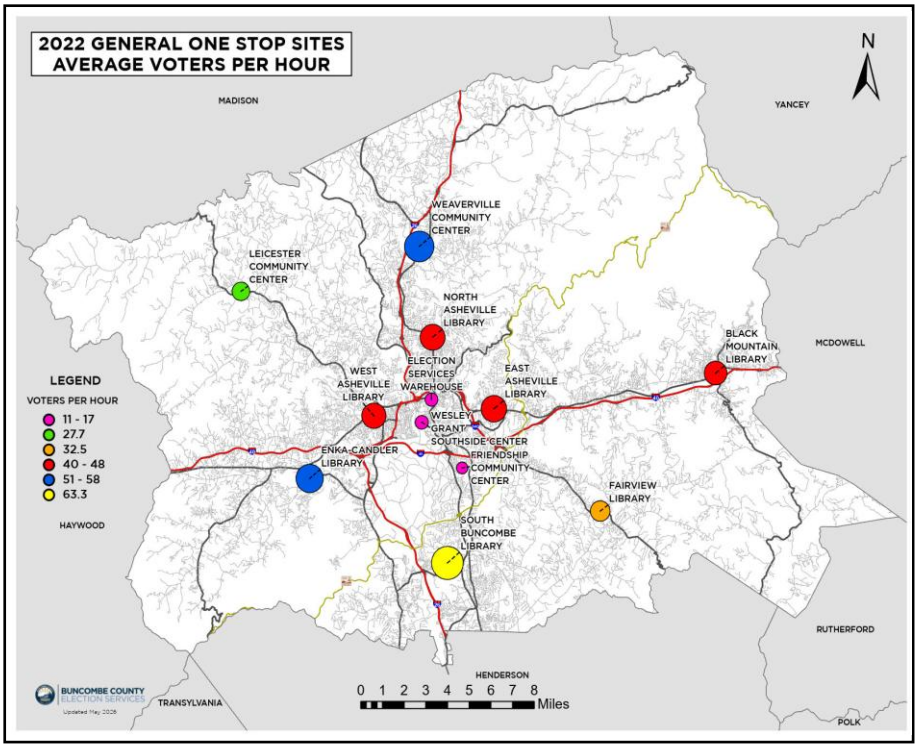
Historical Data

General Election Turnout Trends



2022 Early Voting Sites (12) & Ballots Cast

Site Name	Ballots Cast	Voters Per Hour	Days Open
Black Mountain Library	6270	40.45	15
East Asheville Library	7342	47.37	15
Elections Warehouse (in lieu of BOE)	2396	15.46	15
Enka-Candler Library	8014	51.70	15
Fairview Library	5050	32.58	15
Friendship Community Center	1800	11.61	15
Leicester Community Center	4299	27.74	15
North Asheville Library	7138	46.05	15
South Buncombe Library	9812	63.30	15
Weaverville Community Center	8886	57.33	15
Wesley Grant Southside Center	2545	16.42	15
West Asheville Library	6861	44.26	15
Total Voters	**70,413**		
Average Voter Per Hour/Per Site	**37.86**		
Cumulative Hours	**1,860**		



Total turnout for the 2022 General Election = 120,558 (57.55%)

Early Voting total turnout = 70,413 (58.4% of total voter turnout)

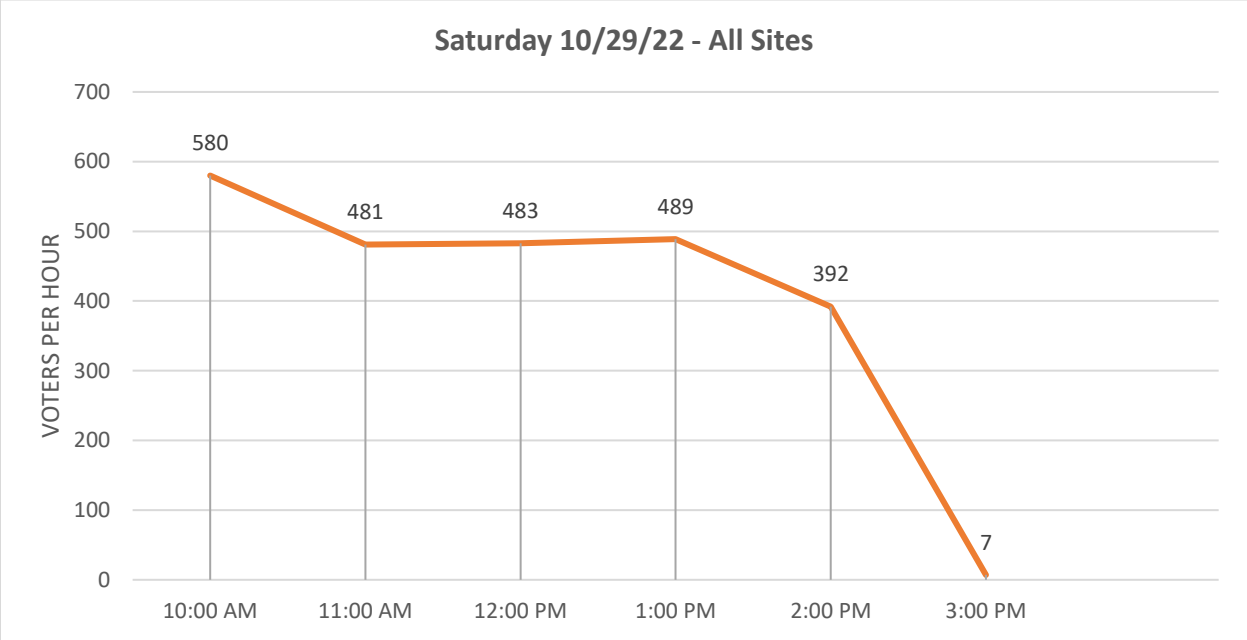
2022 General Election

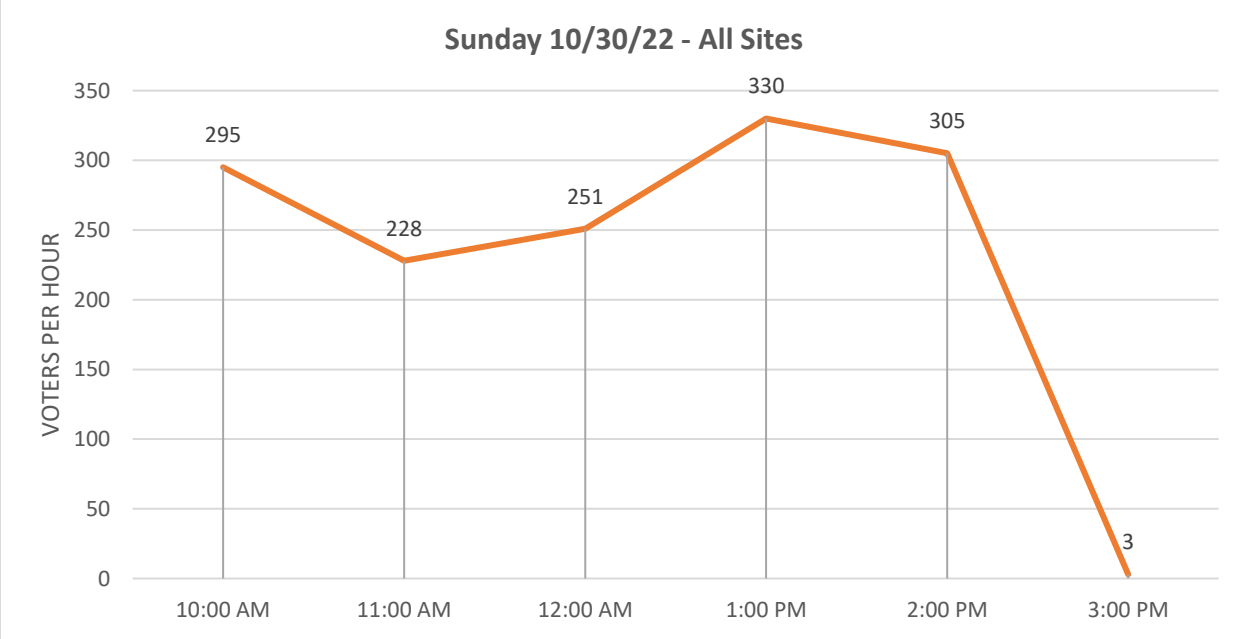
Hours of Operation

- Weekday hours - 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Weekend hours and numbers of sites decided by board
- Last Saturday - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Must maintain uniform hours for all sites
- If one site is open, then all one stop sites must be open for the same number of hours (applies to weekdays and weekends)

				Thursday 10/20	Friday 10/21	Saturday 10/22
				All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	Closed
Sunday 10/23	Monday 10/24	Tuesday 10/25	Wednesday 10/26	Thursday 10/27	Friday 10/28	Saturday 10/29
Closed	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sunday 10/30	Monday 10/31	Tuesday 11/1	Wednesday 11/2	Thursday 11/3	Friday 11/4	Saturday 11/5
All Sites 10:00 am - 3:00 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am - 7:30 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

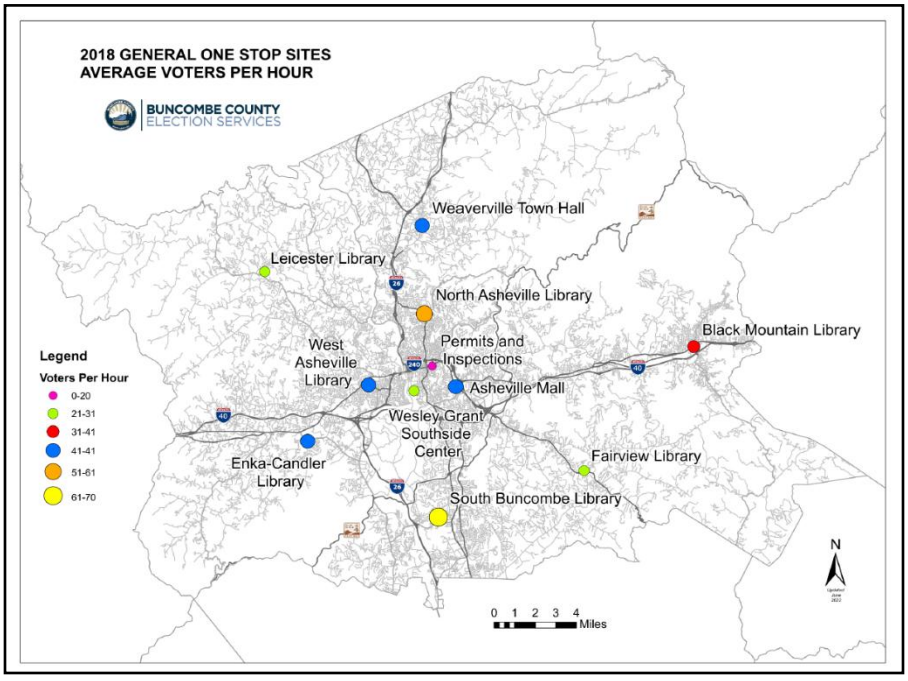
2022 Saturday and Sunday Turnout





2018 Early Voting Sites (11) & Ballots Cast

Site Name	Ballots Cast	Voters Per Hour	Days Open
Asheville Mall	8,248	48	16
Black Mountain Library	6,950	41	16
Buncombe Permits & Inspections Bldg.	3,152	18	16
Enka-Candler Library	8,023	47	16
Fairview Library	5,160	30	16
Leicester Library	4,325	25	16
North Asheville Library	9,615	56	16
South Buncombe Library	11,158	65	16
Weaverville Town Hall	8,328	49	16
Wesley Grant Southside Center (in lieu of BOE)	4,152	24	16
West Asheville Library	8,692	51	16
Total Voters	**77,803**		
Average Voter Per Hour Per Site	**41**		
Cumulative Hours	**1881**		



Total turnout for the 2018 General Election = 119,798 (60.41%)

Early Voting total turnout = 77,803 (64.9% of total voter turnout)

2018 General Election

Hours of Operation

- For this election, all counties were required to start early voting on Wednesday vs. Thursday[3]
- All sites had to operate on the same days/hours
- Weekday hours - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Board decided on the number of sites and weekend hours

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 10/17	Thursday 10/18	Friday 10/19	Saturday 10/20
			All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Sunday 10/21	Monday 10/22	Tuesday 10/23	Wednesday 10/24	Thursday 10/25	Friday 10/26	Saturday 10/27
All Sites 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	Closed
Sunday 10/28	Monday 10/29	Tuesday 10/30	Wednesday 10/31	Thursday 11/1	Friday 11/2	Saturday 11/3
Closed	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 7:00 am – 7:00 pm	All Sites 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

[3] Numbered Memo 2018-06 (Session Law 2018-12)

2018 Saturday and Sunday Turnout

