

A LESSON ON HOW TO LESSEN THE LINE on Election Day

Michele L. White, Prince William County Director of Elections
mwhite@pwcgov.org



Prince William County Office of Elections



Voters in Line at Stadium Precinct at 7:15am, Presidential 2012

Congressmen Hear Testimony from Prince William Voters who Waited in Long Lines on Election Day

Potomac Local on January 15, 2013

“The special hearing comes after long lines formed on Election Day at Potomac Middle School in Woodbridge, **where the last vote was recorded at 10:46 p.m.**”



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What data did we look at?

- Demographics of Prince William County
- Number of voters who utilize Absentee Voting
- Which precincts were the largest



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Voter Registration Count

- 255,247 Registered Voters in 2012
- 274,174 Registered Voters in 2016
- Statewide there were 35% more voters registered in June of 2016 than were registered in June of 2012
- As of July 2018 there are now 279,554 voters in PWC



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History of Absentee Voting in Prince William County

- In 2008 -- 28,189 voters voted absentee
- 26,256 voted absentee in Presidential 2012
- Only 10 to 12% of voters take advantage of absentee voting



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The Solution

**Inform Voters on how to Lessen the
Election Day Line by Voting Absentee**



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Prince William County

In Prince William County, the goal for Presidential 2016 became shifting 68,000 voters to vote absentee.

**68,000 voting absentee would be just over 25%
of the number of registered voters in
Prince William County.**



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An estimated 148,756 citizens commute out of Prince William County.

Commuting or having business outside of Prince William County is a qualifying reason for voters to vote absentee!



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Prince William County

68,000 voting absentee is about half of the 148,756 citizens who commute out of Prince William County.

**The expected voter turn out for the election was 75%.
Shifting 25% to absentee will lessen the line on
Election Day.**



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Myths about Absentee Voting

“Voters think that they have to ‘qualify’ or fit certain criteria to vote absentee.”

This is a true statement, however there are numerous qualifying reasons that entitle voters to vote absentee.



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Myths about Absentee Voting

“Absentee votes are not counted.”

In Virginia, by law, voters are entitled to vote by absentee ballot and these absentee ballots must be counted by Officers of Election on Election Day.

Virginia Code Chapter 24.2-700



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Communicating to the Commuters

- Set up electronic boards in all commuter lots
- Placed ads in the commuter train magazine
- Placed ads in HOA magazines
- Virginia Department of Elections placed ads on busses and additional signage in commuter lots



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Text PWCVOTES
to 94253 ...
to get Voting
Updates
and Election
Reminders!



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COMMUTERS: VOTE IN ADVANCE OF ELECTION DAY.

**Absentee Vote Center Locations: DMV, Ferlazzo, McCoart
Evening Hours M-F until 7:00pm and Saturdays 8:30am to 5:00pm
www.pwcvotes.com**



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Congressmen Hear Testimony from Prince William Voters who Waited in Long Lines on Election Day

Potomac Local on January 15, 2013

“...lines of people waiting to cast their vote filled school hallways and snaked outside the building for at least three hours. Some who testified Monday said **pregnant women were forced to stand for hours ...**”



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BUN IN THE OVEN?

VOTE ABSENTEE

Reason
Code 2C

*Expectant Dads can
vote absentee too!*

★ Did you know?

In Virginia, by law, voters are entitled to vote by absentee ballot and these absentee ballots must be counted by Officers of Election on Election Day.

Virginia Code Chapter
24.2-700



@ PWC Office of Elections

vote.virginia.gov



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TOO
OLD TO STAND IN LINE?

Surgery?
Illness?
Disabled?

VOTE ABSENTEE

Reason
Code 2A

*Caretakers of family members
can vote absentee using
Reason Code 2B!*

★ Did you know?

In Virginia, by law, voters are entitled to vote by absentee ballot and these absentee ballots must be counted by Officers of Election on Election Day.

Virginia Code Chapter
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Ride **VRE?**
OmniRide?

VOTE ABSENTEE

Reason Code
1C or 1E

*All Commuters
can vote Absentee!*

★ **Did you know?**

In Virginia, by law, voters are entitled to vote by absentee ballot and these absentee ballots must be counted by Officers of Election on Election Day.

Virginia Code Chapter
24.2-700



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FIRST RESPONDER?

VOTE ABSENTEE

Reason
Code 1F

*As a first responder, you
don't have to be scheduled
to work on Election Day -
you can vote in advance!*

★ Did you know?

In Virginia, by law, voters are entitled to vote by absentee ballot and these absentee ballots must be counted by Officers of Election on Election Day.

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ACTIVE DUTY Military?



VOTE ABSENTEE

Reason
Code 6A

*Active Duty Spouses
can vote absentee too!*

★ Did you know?

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Virginia Code Chapter
24.2-700



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Can't make it on Election Day? Vote by absentee ballot before November 8.

Student away? Long work hours?
Illness or Disability? Vacation or travel?
Military or Overseas? Pregnant?

+ 14 more reasons to vote absentee!

To have an absentee ballot mailed to you, request yours at vote.virginia.gov before 5pm, Tuesday November 1.

Or to vote your absentee ballot in person, go to one of Prince William County's Absentee Vote Centers. Locations and hours at pwcvotes.com. Last day to vote absentee Saturday November 5.



**Prince William County
Office of Elections**

Main Office of Elections:
9250 Lee Avenue, Suite 1
Manassas, VA 20110

DMV Office of Elections:
2731 Caton Hill Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

703-792-6470
pwcvote@pwcgov.org
www.pwcvotes.com

**Text PWCVOTES to 94253
to get Voting Updates and
Election Reminders!**

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First Responder Emergency Video



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Data doesn't lie...

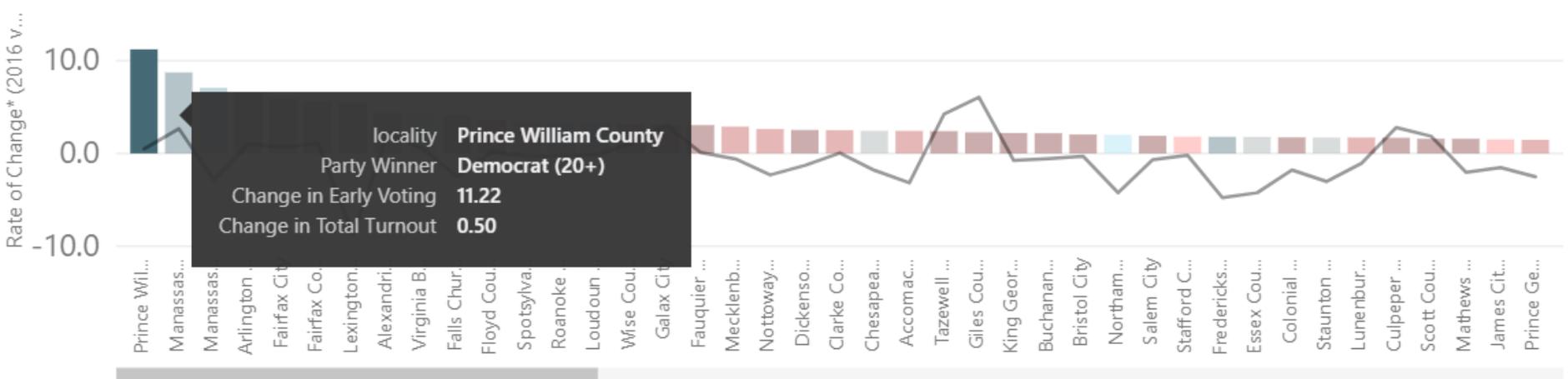
**Data Visualization by the
Virginia Public Access Project
vpap.org**



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Back to Report

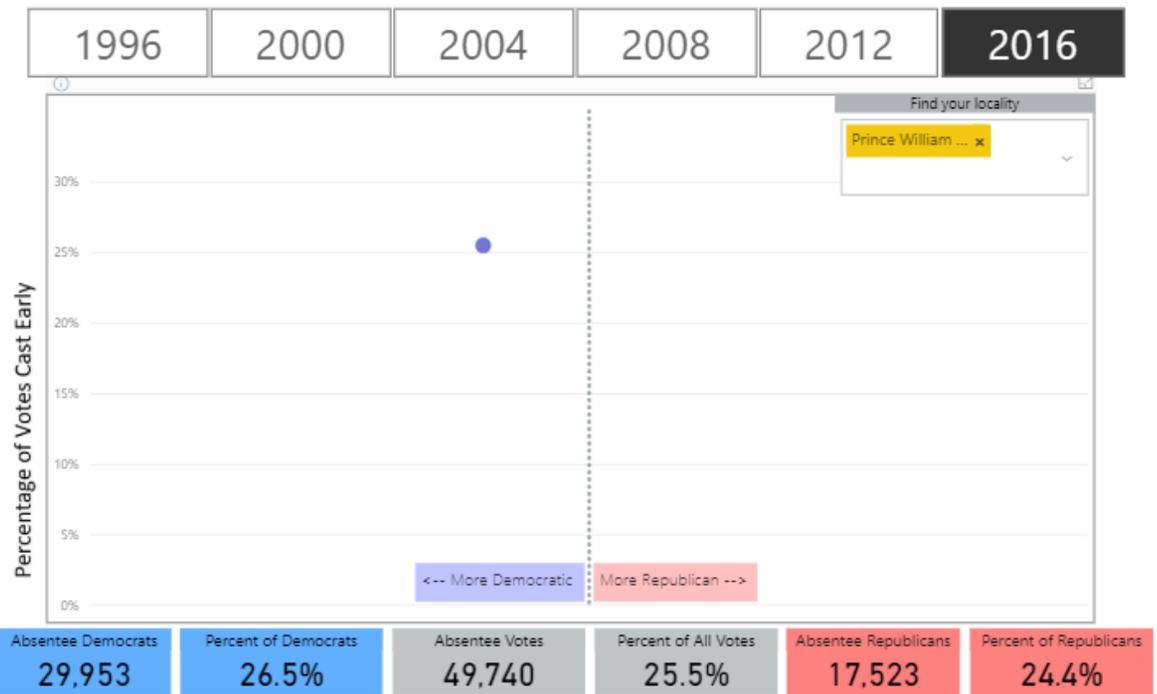
CHANGE IN EARLY VOTING, CHANGE IN TOTAL TURNOUT AND CHANGE IN TOTAL TURN... BY LOCALITY AND PARTY WINNER



Party Winner	Democrat (10+)		Democrat (20+)		Democrat (5+)		Less than
Locality	Change in Early Voting	Change in Total Turnout	Change in Early Voting	Change in Total Turno...	Change in Early Voting	Change in Total Turnout	Change in
Prince William County			11.22	0.50			
Manassas Park City			8.73	2.66			
Manassas City	7.07	-2.86					
Arlington County			6.53	1.02			
Fairfax City			5.90	0.64			
Fairfax County			5.61	1.11			

Trends in Early Voting

It has become more common -- particularly in Democrat-leaning localities --- for Virginia voters to cast absentee ballots before Election Day.



Does not include write-in ballots.
Source: [Virginia Department of Elections](#)

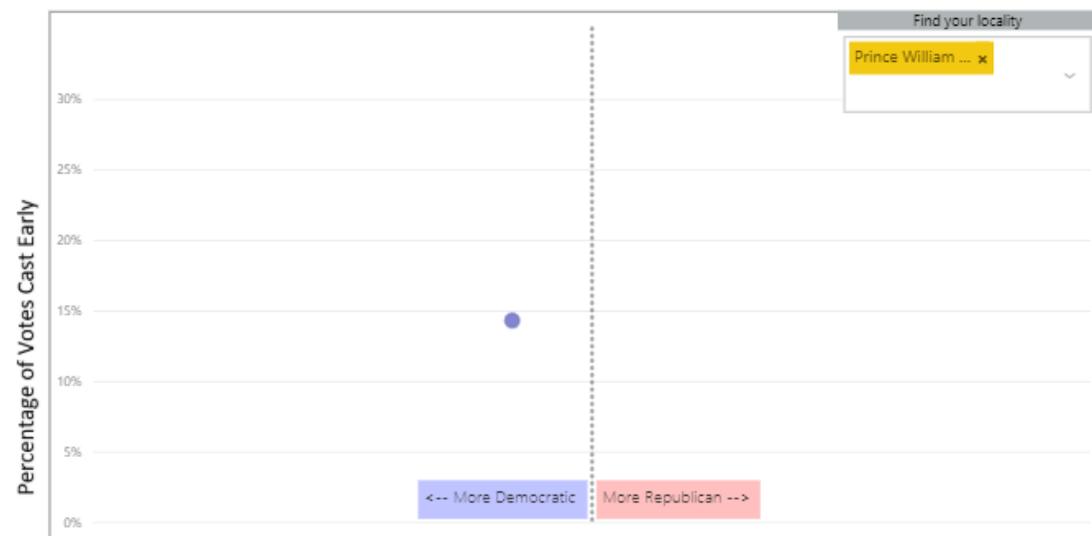
vpap.org

Microsoft Power BI [in](#) [twitter](#) [facebook](#) [share](#)

Tags: [Early Voting](#) [President](#)

Trends in Early Voting

It has become more common for voters in Democrat-leaning localities to use Virginia's system to cast absentee ballots before Election Day.



Absentee Democrats	Percent of Democrats	Absentee Votes	Percent of All Votes	Absentee Republicans	Percent of Republicans
14,821	14.3%	25,816	14.3%	10,786	14.5%

Does not include write-in ballots.
Source: [Virginia Department of Elections](#)



Tags: Early Voting President

Trends in Early Voting

It has become more common, particularly in Democrat-leaning localities, for Virginia voters to cast absentee ballots before Election Day.

1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016
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Absentee Democrats	Percent of Democrats	Absentee Votes	Percent of All Votes	Absentee Republicans	Percent of Republicans
4,111	6.7%	9,132	6.9%	4,948	7.1%

Does not include write-in ballots.
Source: [Virginia Department of Elections](#)



Reasons for Early Voting in Virginia

Absentee Votes Cast

16,636

Data as of 11/7/2016 4:40:00 PM
provided by the [Virginia Department of Elections](#).

Find Your Locality

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY x



The Secure Online Citizen Portal

- More voters were using the Secure Online Citizen Portal
- This first quarter of 2016, more people registered to vote using the portal than registering to vote through the DMV.



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The Secure Online Citizen Portal

Voters can use the Virginia Department of Elections Online Citizen Portal at www.vote.virginia.gov to do the following transactions:

- check their voter record
- update their voter record
- confirm their polling place
- **apply for an absentee ballot**
- see their sample ballot



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6 tips every voter should know before they go

Know before you go...that your voter registration is up to date.

Know before you go...where your polling place is.

Know before you go...to bring Photo ID.

Know before you go...what will be on the ballot.



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6 tips every voter should know before they go

Know before you go...that you will be marking your votes on a paper ballot and then you will be scanning your ballot into new voting equipment.

Know before you go...that you can avoid long lines on Election Day by having an absentee ballot mailed to you.



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

**Or ... how to prepare your
Officers of Election
to avoid the “Elbow of Death”
courtesy of the BPC and MIT**



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

**Looking at our line data collection
we prepared our precincts
to be ready for a line when
polls opened at 6:00am.**



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

Line Chaser Tablets used early morning hours

**High School Pages asked
each voter to have ID out and ready
before getting to check in table**



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

**At the Check In table:
Provided more Officers and laptops
in larger precincts
Ballot given directly and immediately
to each voter (no more voting permits)**



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

At the Marking Booth:

Provided majority of stand up marking booths

**This allows the voter to move more quickly
instead of having to sit down to mark ballot**



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

The “Mighty” Ballot Marking pen

Considering using felt tip “Official Ballot Marking Pens” that mark with a broader stroke, meaning less time marking ballot instead of the standard ballpoint pen



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

The optical Scan voting equipment

Placed two Scans in larger precincts

Instructed voters to watch for American Flag



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Election Day: Shaving Seconds

**Chief HQ connected EOC
Radio Communications**



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We Did It!!!!

**No voters in line at 7:00pm, 91 polling
locations closed on time in Prince William
County in Presidential 2016**



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