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Special Supplement for James City County Citizens 2004 Voting Information



Election Day is Tuesday, November 2.

The deadline to register or change an address is October 4. To check your registration, call 253-6868. To determine your polling site, check www.sbe.state.va.us, and look under "Where Do I Vote?" or call 253-6868. The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All registered voters will vote for:

Electors for U.S. President and Vice President, which were certified after printing of FYI.
1st Congressional District – Jo Ann Davis (R) or William A. Lee (I).

Proposed Constitutional Amendments:

1. "Shall Section 6 of Article II of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide that members of the United States House of Representatives, Virginia Senate, and House of Delegates who are serving in the year following a new United States Census, when decennial redistricting is required, shall complete their terms of office and continue to represent the district from which they were elected for that term of office and that any vacancy during the term shall be filled from the same district that elected the member whose term is being filled?"

2. "Shall Section 16 of Article V of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide for additional possible successors to fill the office of Governor in the event of an emergency or enemy attack and until the House of Delegates is able to meet to elect a Governor?"

For more information on the Constitutional Amendments, see www.sbe.state.va.us, and look under "Election Information."

Bond Referendum:

"Shall James City County, Virginia, contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$39,820,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, for the purpose of financing a portion of the costs of the construction and equipping of a new high school that will serve the residents and students of James City County?" (For more information, see back page.)

Absentee voting:

Absentee ballots are available now. To vote absentee by mail, call for an application or look under "Absentee Voting," at www.sbe.state.va.us.

The completed application may be delivered by:

mailing to P.O. Box 3567, Williamsburg, VA 23187

faxing to 253-6875

scanning and sending to clarac@james-city.va.us

hand delivering to 101 Mounts Bay Road in the trailer behind Building A

To vote absentee in person, you may visit our office at the Mounts Bay address. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or Saturdays, October 23 and 30, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Important

Dates:

**October 28,
5 p.m.** *The last date to return an application for a ballot to be mailed.*

**October 30,
5 p.m.** *The last date to vote absentee in person.*

**November 2,
7 p.m.** *Deadline for ballots to be received at Voter Registrar's Office.*

Additional hours for absentee voting: Saturday, October 23 & 30 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information about the upcoming election, call the General Registrar, 253-6868.



Referendum on Bond Issue

On November 2, 2004, County citizens will be asked to vote YES or NO on the following ballot question:

“Shall James City County, Virginia, contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$39,820,000 pursuant to the Public Finance Act of 1991, as amended, for the purpose of financing a portion of the costs of construction and equipping of a new high school that will serve residents and students of James City County?”

Selected Questions and Answers:

Why is the County asking this question on the ballot? General obligation bonds that legally require the County to assess and collect taxes to pay them back are the least expensive and most flexible way for the County to borrow money. Obligating the County to repay these bonds requires voter approval.

Are there other ways to pay for this high school? Yes, there are ways for the County to borrow money without voter approval. These financing methods result in higher interest costs or bond insurance because there is more risk for the lender. The County could also increase taxes to generate the needed funds without borrowing. That would cause large increases in tax bills. Financing the high school with a bond issue spreads the cost over 20 or 25 years.

Do we need this high school? Current enrollment is above capacity at both Jamestown and Lafayette High Schools. Mobile classrooms are being added as a temporary solution. There are 150 new City and County residents expected each month over the next five years. When this new school has its first graduating class, enrollment at all three high schools is expected to exceed 90% of capacity. The Board of Supervisors has endorsed the need for a new high school.

Can you tell me more about this high school? This third high school to serve James City County and the City of Williamsburg will be located off Centerville Road near the intersection with Richmond Road. It has been designed to serve 1,250 students, similar to the design capacity of both the current high schools, but could be expanded to enroll 1,450 students. It is planned as a comprehensive high school with a focus on technology. The new high school is expected to be developed on the same site as the new campus of Thomas Nelson Community College. Plans are under way for the new \$44.2 million school and the community college to share programs and facilities.

Will a successful bond referendum require a tax increase? No, the County has developed a financing plan that will pay both bond principal and interest without increasing the tax rate.

How was the figure \$39,820,000 chosen? The Williamsburg-James City County School Board has hired architects and engineers that have provided cost estimates. The County's \$39.82 million share of building and equipping the school, with the remaining funds coming from the City, was calculated under the terms of a school contract based primarily on enrollment. The County can borrow less money than approved by voters if construction bids come in under estimates, but it cannot borrow more.

Will the City of Williamsburg also have a referendum? No, the City's Charter authorizes general obligation bonds without a referendum.

Who can I contact for additional information? For information about the referendum or the proposed bond issue, contact the County's Department of Financial and Management Services, 253-6630 or fms@james-city.va.us. For information about the third high school, contact the Williamsburg-James City County Schools at 253-6759 or bullist@wjcc.k12.va.us. Background reports, projections and other information can also be obtained from the School's Central Office at 253-6777 or www.wjcc.k12.va.us.