

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: County Commissioners Denounce Rejection of Vote Centers

BLOOMINGTON – On May 19, 2025, the Monroe County Election Board failed to implement vote centers with a 2-1 vote in support. A dissenting minority vote came from the Republican member, depriving the Election Board of the unanimity needed to approve the plan. Despite widespread support in testimony at two public meetings, in electronic and written comments, a minority on the board rejected commonsense policy that would have made voting more accessible for all in Monroe County. The Board of Commissioners previously approved [Resolution 2023-19](#), declaring its support for vote centers.

Board of Commissioners President Julie Thomas said, **“This decision is incredibly disappointing. Across Indiana, 65 other counties already use vote centers. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue: it’s a voting issue. Allowing voters to vote anywhere they choose makes the process easier, eliminates complications, and would permit greater turnout. Despite the clear benefit, a minority of the Election Board chose to maintain the status quo, which means continued obstacles for voters across Monroe County.”**

Commissioner Lee Jones said, **“At a time with incredibly low voter turnout, we should ensure voting procedures are simple and efficient. Vote centers represent inclusive voting processes that would have enabled all of Monroe County to have easier access to voting. A minority of the Election Board chose the opposite.”**

Commissioner Maderia said, **“The rejection of vote centers is unacceptable. The precinct-based voting system creates significant hurdles for voters, especially students. During the 2024 election, around 280 provisional ballots cast by voters at the Indiana Memorial Union were rejected simply because the voter was at the wrong location within Monroe County. That those otherwise valid, lawful votes were rejected points to a systematic failure of precinct-based voting, one that the Election Board should have corrected.”**

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