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### County to consider vote centers *Election board seeks public input on vote style*

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#### Staff report

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The Shelby County Board of Elections plans to have a public meeting next month for discussion about moving the county toward having vote centers instead of precinct-based locations for elections at a meeting Thursday.

A new Indiana law in 2011 allowed each county to chose if it will stay in the traditional voting system with many small precincts or adopt a plan to offer fewer but larger vote centers. The system has worked well in some places where, for example, higher concentrations of jobs are offered

Having four or five vote centers instead of 40 county precincts would mean residents could vote at any center, not just the one designated for their residence, precinct council member Dick Fero said.

A specific date for the meeting was not set Thursday, however the public is invited to contribute ideas for researching the possibility before presenting the option to the public.

"Right now, we don't have enough information to present to the public" about vote centers, County Clerk Vicki Franklin said.

Contact the election board through the clerk's office at (317) 392-6320.

Now that the City of Shelbyville has redistricted the city's voting wards based on the completion of the 2010 census, the board approved submitting its own ward recommendations to the state Thursday also.

Franklin said the election board's recommendations follow the new city ward perimeters as set forth in an ordinance by the Shelbyville Common Council in December 2012. The city is divided into five wards, each electing a representative to the council, and the seven-member council is completed by two at-large members.

Each ward is divided into three to five voting precincts and those boundaries were adjusted so that the populations of each would come within 3 percent of each other, according Fero, who works at the Shelby County Clerk's office and also is the elected Shelbyville Common Council member from Ward 1.

The biggest shifts occurred in Ward 1, where 315 people were added, and Ward 5, where 416 people were moved to other districts.

County commissioners have already approved the election board's proposed election boundaries.

Jody Olinger and Kyle Baker were sworn into office during the meeting and Baker was elected chairman of the board.

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