Currently can I vote anywhere in DeKalb County?

Under the current precinct model the answer is no. Currently, you must vote at your designated polling precinct which is determined by your home address. With the vote center model you could vote anywhere in DeKalb County as long as you are a registered voter in DeKalb County.

Who decides where the voting centers will be located?

The DeKalb County Election Board by unanimous vote decides where the vote centers are located. The Election Board is made up of three members; a member from the Democrat and Republican party with each being appointed by the county political party chair and the elected Circuit Court Clerk of DeKalb County.

How did the Election Board determine the vote center sites?

All polling sites must meet the accessibility requirements for people with disabilities as mandated by federal laws; for example, paved parking with designated handicap parking spaces is one requirement. Click here to view the ADA requirements.

The property owner of compliant facilities must be willing to allow us to use their facility.

The site needs to be easy to get to and if at all possible on a main road or highway that is highly traveled.

What will the hours be at the vote centers?

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. which is mandated by state statute IC 3-11-8-8. Counties do not have the authority to extend or reduce the voting hours on Election Day.

Why don't we use our schools for voting sites?

We used to use schools but unfortunately in this day and age of enhanced security it isn't sensible for the safety of our students.

Are voting centers only open on Election Day?

There will be a few that will be open for early voting on specified days and times which will be determined by the County Election Board but not all of them. All voting centers will be open on Election Day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Will there be early voting in the Courthouse?

Yes, IC 3-11-10-26 requires that early voting must be available in the office of the circuit court clerk regardless of whether a county votes by the precinct model or the vote center model.

Can I go to any location to early vote?

No. There will be a few designated voting centers that will be open for early voting on designated days and specified times prior to Election Day. The DeKalb County Election Board will decide which vote centers will be used for early voting and the days and times they will be open. Once again it must be by unanimous vote of the Election Board.

What counties use Voting Centers now and have they worked?

There are currently 38 counties in Indiana that use the vote center model. The information collected from the counties that use vote centers shows that the mere presence of vote centers does not, by itself, spur turnout. However, when vote centers are used for early voting and a positioned properly, more voters will take advantage of the early voting period, thereby relieving pressure on vote centers on Election Day.

You can view the counties and their vote center plans on the Indiana Secretary of State's website at this link https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/4493.htm

Would voting centers save the county money?

With fewer locations to staff with poll workers the county's expenses could possibly be reduced.