

Getting to Know Your Elected Officials:

A Prerequisite to Voting in Future Elections

The purpose of this article is to provide you with the information you need to approach the ballot box with confidence next time we have a national or local election. The information provided here includes who your elected officials are and how to reach them.

Getting Started

If you are new to Pine Ridge you will need to know and do some things in advance so that when election time rolls around you are ready to vote.

Throughout the United States there are only three criteria for voting:

- ✚ You must be a U.S. citizen,
- ✚ At least 18 years old, and
- ✚ You must have been a resident for at least 30 days in the state where you plan to vote. You must also register using your current address [if you have not done so in previous years] 30 days in advance of the General or Primary elections and 13 days before Special elections.

A handy website for obtaining all the information you need in order to vote is provided by the Virginia Department of Elections at: <https://elections.virginia.gov/index.html> . Some of the things you can do here are:

- Check your voter registration information
- Find your polling place
- Apply for an absentee ballot
- Identify photo ID requirements
- See what's on your voting ballot
- See a list of upcoming elections and their registration deadlines
- Obtain info on how to become a candidate

You may also contact the Fairfax County Registrar at:

12000 Government Center Parkway – Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035-0001
703-222-0776 - Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

How Our Government is Organized

After you are familiar with the general voter information and deadlines that would enable you to vote, it is useful to gain some perspective on:

- how the federal, state, and county governments are organized
- how we in Pine Ridge fit into the overall structure and
- why Pine Ridge residents vote at four different polling places.

(Get to know the names of the officials below - ***they represent you***. We encourage you to contact them directly regarding issues that concern you. Full contact information for these officials is available at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/sites/elections/files/assets/documents/pdf/elected.pdf>

Note: Other Fairfax county officials also are listed on that site, and we in Pine Ridge do not endorse any one candidate.

CURRENT NATIONAL OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT – Joe Biden (D)

VICE PRESIDENT – Kamala Harris (D)

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

U.S. SENATE

Comprised of two senators from each of the 50 states
Tim Kaine (D) and **Mark R. Warner (D)** – represent Virginia

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Comprised of 435 members, each representing groups of people in districts throughout the U.S.

The Pine Ridge neighborhood is in the 11th Congressional District
Gerry E. Connolly (D) is our Representative

VIRGINIA STATE OFFICIALS

GOVERNOR - **Ralph Northam (D)** LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - **Jason E. Fairfax (D)** ATTORNEY GENERAL
Mark Herring (D)

VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Similar to the U.S. Congress, which is made up of a Senate and a House of Representatives, the Virginia General Assembly is made up of a Senate and a House of Delegates.

VIRGINIA SENATE

Comprised of 40 districts (not to be confused with the Congressional Districts).
The Pine Ridge neighborhood is in the 34th District.
J.C. "Chap" Petersen (D) is our state Senator .

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Comprised of 100 districts (again, not to be confused with Congressional Districts at the federal level or the Virginia Senatorial Districts at the state level). Three of those districts encompass residents in our Pine Ridge community.

39th District 41st District 53rd District
Vivian Watts (D) **Eileen Filler-Corn (D)** **Marcus B. Simon (D)**

FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICIALS

The Fairfax County government is run by the **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors [BofS]**.

Chairman, Jeffery C. McKay (D)

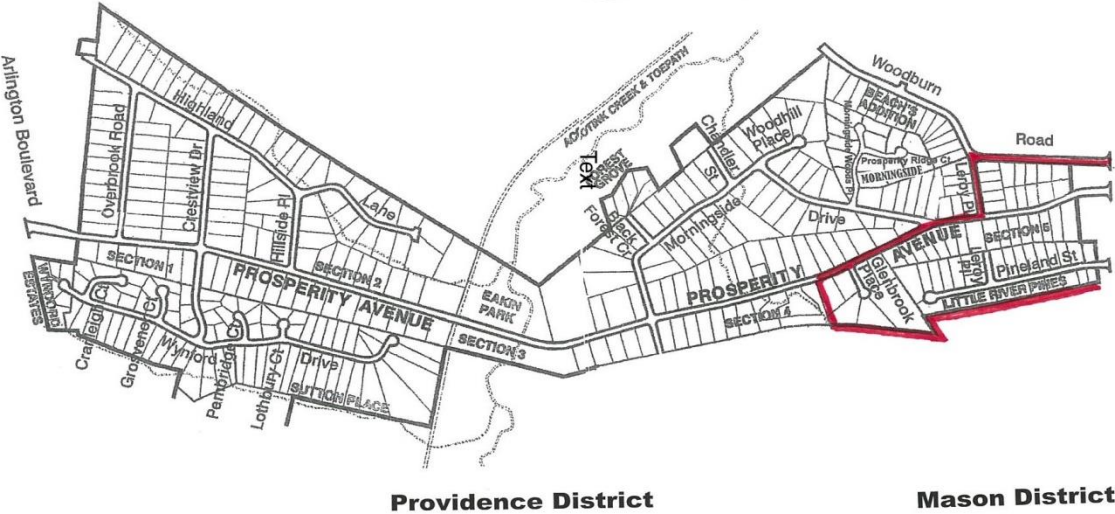
The BofS oversees nine districts, two of which encompass residents in our community:

Providence District Mason District
Dalia A. Palchik (D) **Penelope A. Gross (D)**

The map that follows shows which residents of Pine Ridge belong to which county district.

PINE RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

GEOGRAPHIC AREA and MAP of STREET NAMES and SUB DIVISION NAMES



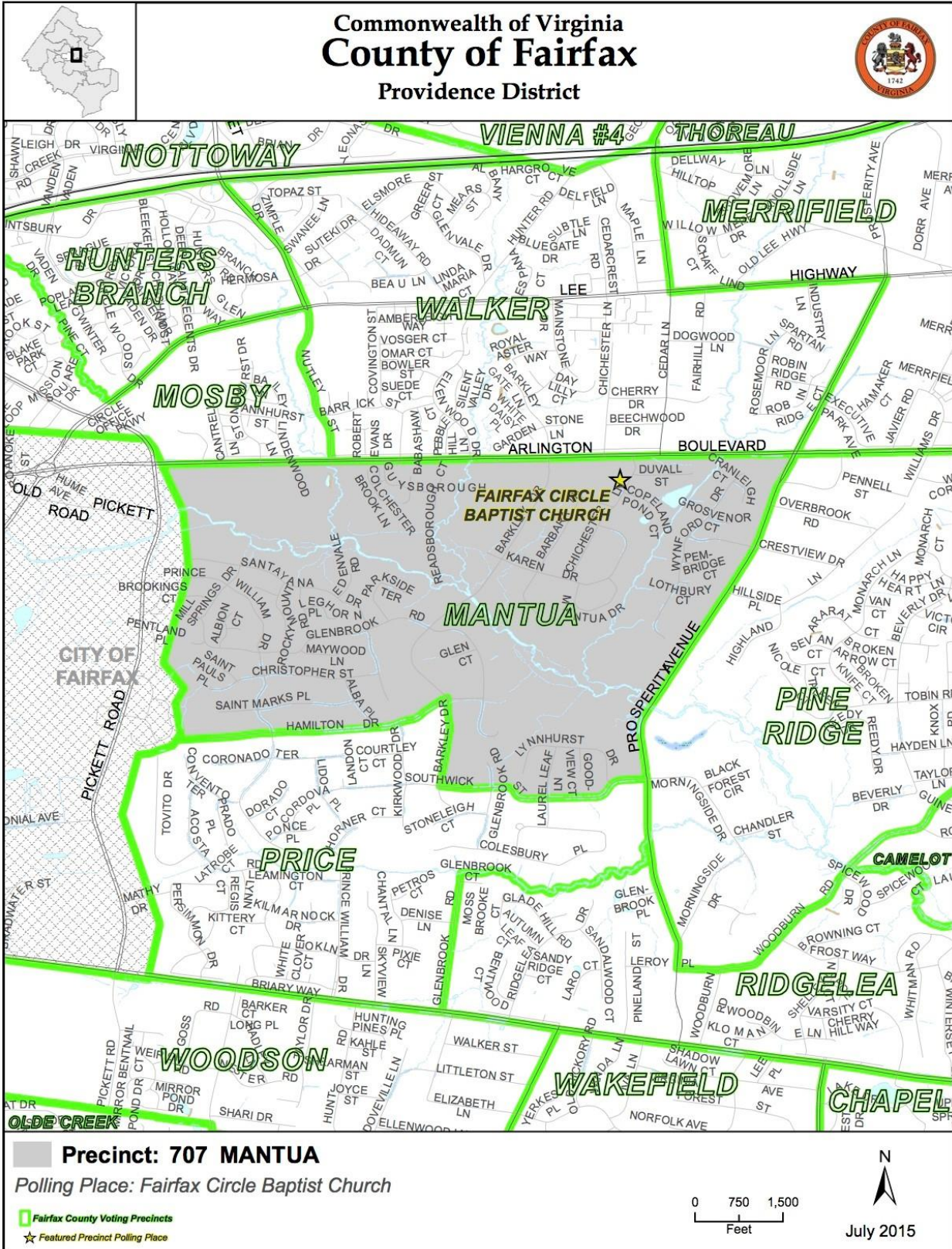
Why Pine Ridge Residents Vote at Different Polling Places

Voting precincts determine a voter's ballot composition and polling location. Voting precinct boundaries take their shape from the boundaries of all political districts, including U. S. Congress, State Senate, StateHouse, School Board District, local council districts, special districts etc. However, voter precincts must be drawn so that they contain less than the maximum number of voters as specified by state law.

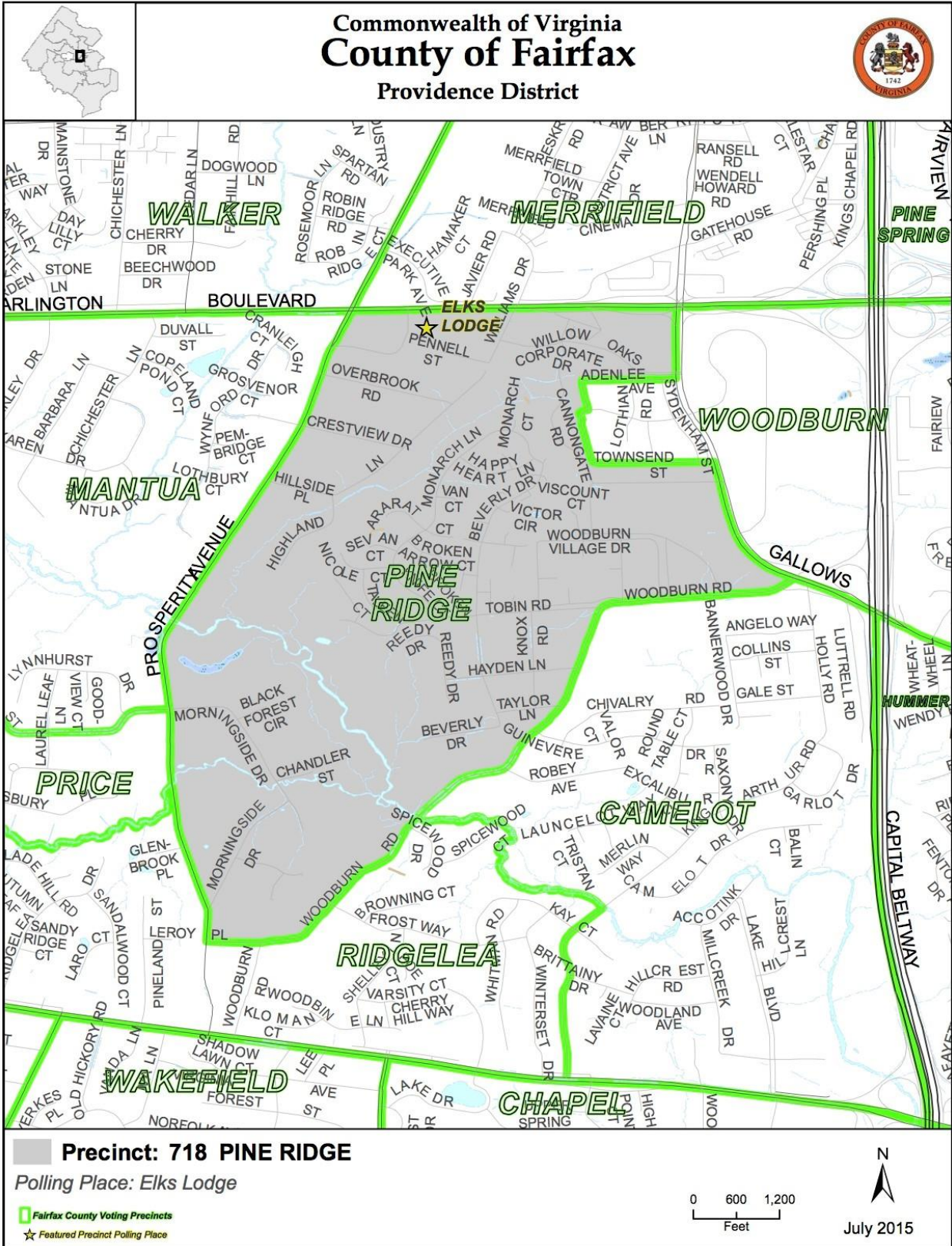
The chart below and the four maps that follow show the four Voting Precincts in Pine Ridge.

VOTING PRECINCTS IN OUR PINE RIDGE COMMUNITY

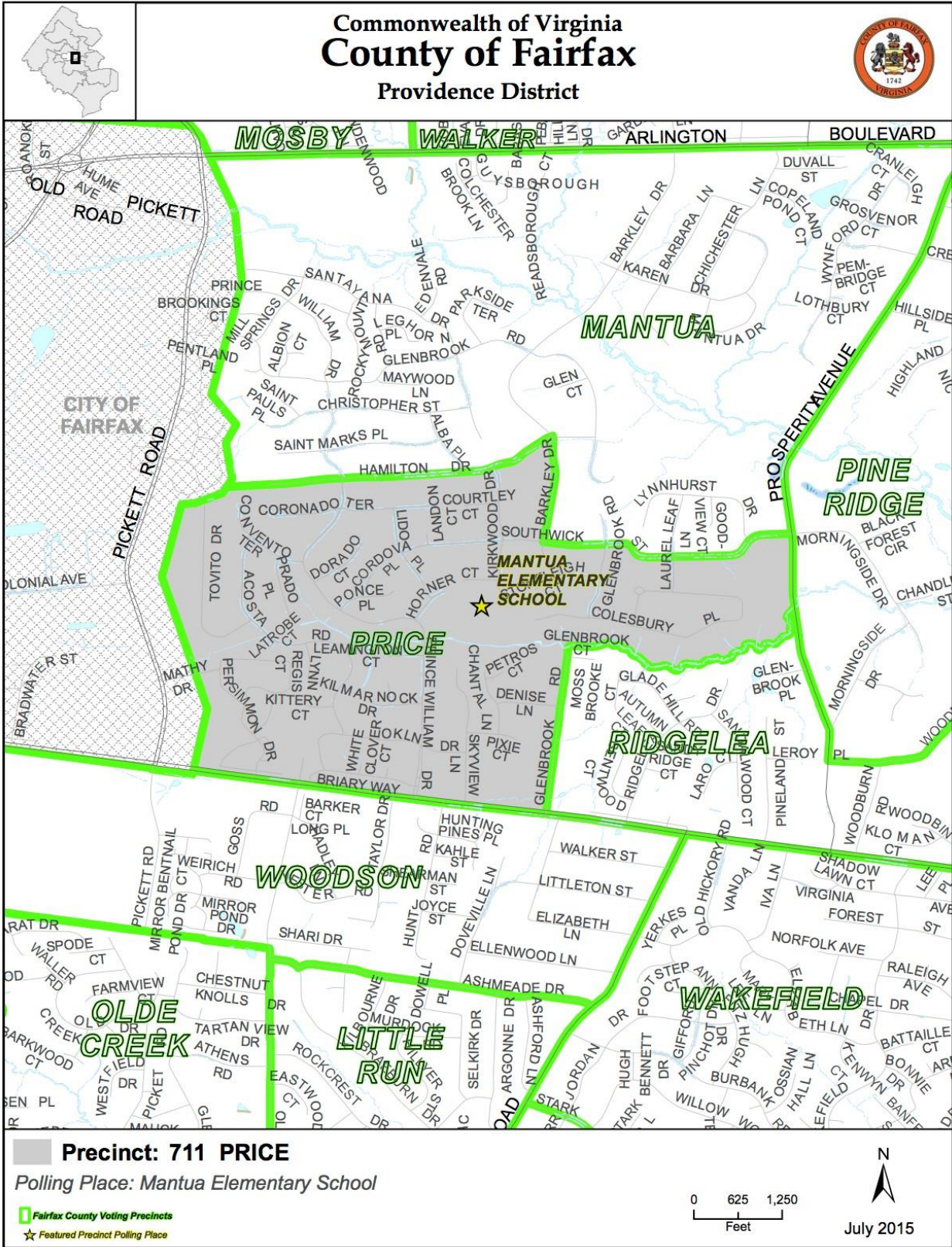
Voting Precinct # and Name	Location on neighborhood map	Polling Place
707 Mantua	NW quadrant	Fairfax Circle Baptist Church 3110 Chichester Lane -
718 Pine Ridge	NE quadrant	Elks Lodge 8421 Arlington Blvd.
711 Price	SW quadrant	Mantua Elementary School 9107 Horner Court
528 Ridgelea	SE quadrant	Bethlehem Lutheran Church 8922 Little River Turnpike Fairfax, VA



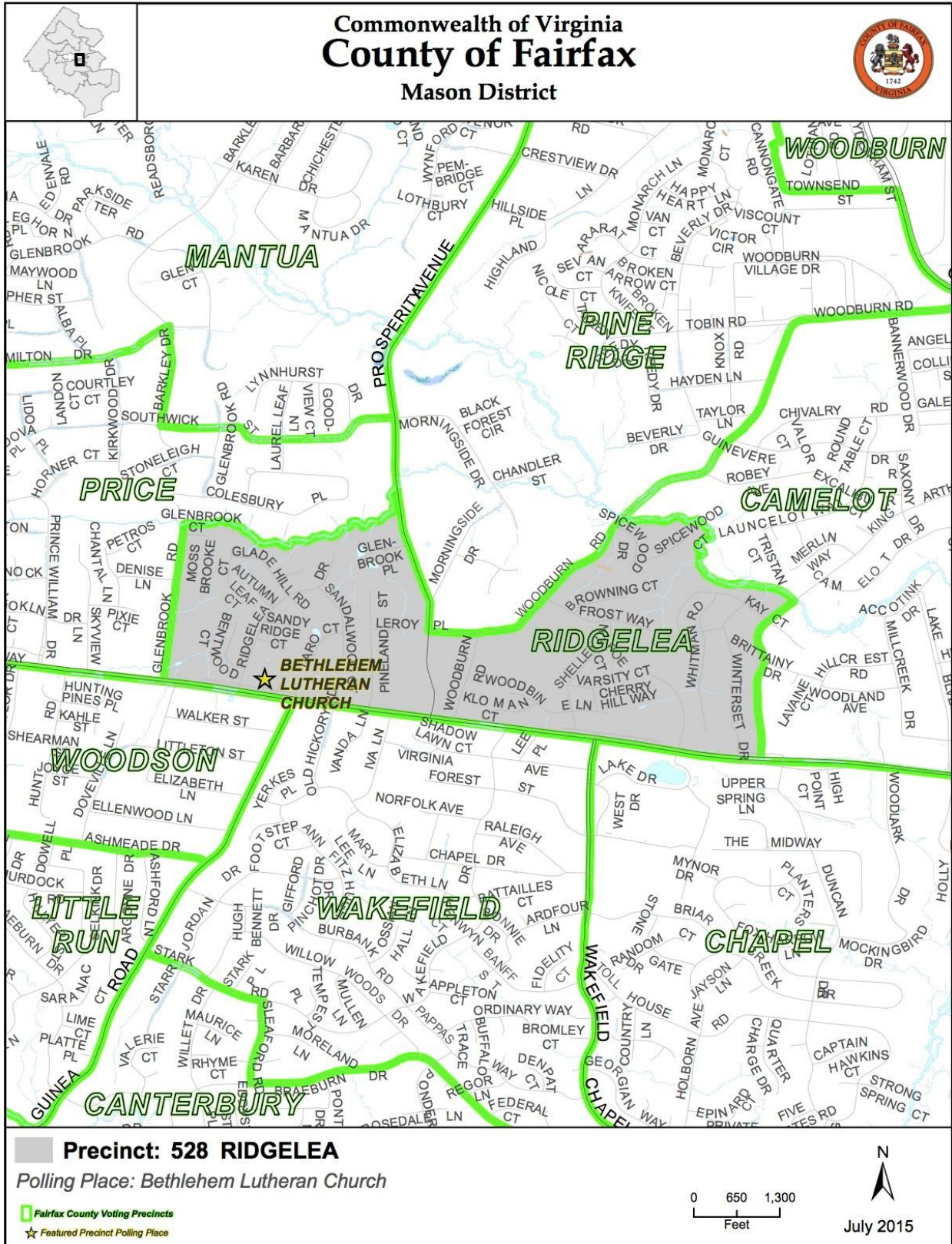
Map of Precinct 707 extracted from Providence District Precincts, p.17



Map of Precinct 718 extracted from Providence District Precincts, p.35



Map of Precinct 711 extracted from Providence District Precincts, p.25



Map of Precinct 528 extracted from Mason District Precincts, p.59

To find the location of the polling place where YOU will be voting, go to

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PollingPlaceLookup> and enter your address to see your polling place.

Once you know the polling place, glance back at the list of Voting Precincts in our community and note the precinct # and name that corresponds to your polling place.

(A shortcut to finding your polling place is to look on your voter registration card. See sample Voter Card shown on the right.)

Now, you are ready to identify which federal, state, and local districts you live in so you can vote for the officials in those districts.

The chart that follows, Voting at Federal, State, & County Levels, identifies the districts in which Pine Ridge residents live and vote.

Here's how to use the chart: If, for example, you found your street name on the Mantua Voting Precinct map (provided earlier), you would read across the first line and discover that you live in the—

- 11th Congressional District of the United States
- 34th District of the Virginia Senate
- 41st District of the Virginia House of Delegates
- Providence District of Fairfax County

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Voter Card
Date issued: 4/27/2012 ID #: 304038134

3301 PROSPERITY AVE
FAIRFAX VA 22031-2823

Voting location:
ELKS LODGE
8421 ARLINGTON BLVD

Locality: FAIRFAX COUNTY
Precinct: 718 - PINE RIDGE
Districts: CONG 11 SEN 034 HSE 053
Local: PROVIDENCE DISTRICT

Voter Registration Office
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PKWY
FAIRFAX VA 22035-0081
703-222-0776

Town:
Town Precinct/
District:

Town Election:

Voting Location:

Language Pref: ENGLISH

Use back of form if your address and/or your name has changed.
SBE 13 REV 03/12

VOTING AT FEDERAL, STATE, & COUNTY LEVELS

<u>Voting Precincts</u> <u>For our community</u>		<u>U.S.</u> <u>Congressional</u> <u>Districts</u>	<u>Virginia</u> <u>Senatorial</u> <u>Districts</u>	<u>Virginia</u> <u>House of Delegates</u> <u>Districts</u>	<u>Fairfax County</u> <u>Board of Supervisors</u> <u>Districts</u>
707	Mantua	11 th	34 th	41 st	Providence
711	Price	11 th	34 th	41 st	Providence
528	Ridgelea	11 th	34 th	39 th	Mason
718	Pine Ridge	11 th	34 th	53 rd	Providence

When it is time to vote, look for the candidates that are up for election in *your* federal, state, and local districts.

For detailed information and access to the county’s “mapgallery” showing Congressional Districts, Virginia Senate Districts, and Virginia Delegate Districts in Fairfax County, click on the link below: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/county

Additionally, from time to time, you will be voting for the county school board members. Here’s how the Fairfax County School Board is organized.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL OFFICIALS

The schools in Fairfax County are overseen by a 12-member Fairfax County School Board. The Pine Ridge community has two designated representatives [one for Providence District and one for Mason District] plus three at-large representatives on the School Board:

Providence District: **Karl Frish** Mason District: **Ricardy Anderson**

At-Large members: **Karen Keys-Gamarra - Abrar Omeish – Rachna Sizemore Heizer.**

OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICIALS

Periodically, we also vote for three constitutional offices in Fairfax County (Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff) as well as three representatives to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District.

For detailed contact information on each of your federal, state, and county representatives click on this link: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/elected.pdf

Summary.

Your vote on who holds office and *your voice* on what issues need to be addressed does matter. For that reason, we hope you have found this article useful in identifying your elected officials—so you can contact them directly with your concerns. We also hope that understanding how the government is organized at the federal, state, and local levels will enable you to approach the ballot box with more confidence when voting in future elections.