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## **PWC Office of Elections Unveils 11 “I Voted” Sticker Design Contest Nominees**

**Manassas, VA** - For its inaugural “I Voted” Sticker Design Contest, the Prince William County Office of Elections received nearly 600 design submissions from students, designers, and citizens around the county. This is the most submissions received for any voting sticker contest conducted in the state of Virginia.

It took nearly a month for office staff and the PWC Electoral Board to evaluate and narrow down the top 11 nominees. Thalia Simpson, the Communications Specialist, stated:

*“When we set out to run this contest, we looked at contests from other jurisdictions and optimistically projected 100 entries. We did not realize just how many talented artists call Prince William County home and how many amazing designs we would receive.”*

Over 75% of contest entries were designed by Prince William County students. Four of the eleven nominees are high schoolers from Colgan and Forest Park High Schools, and two additional nominees graduated from the FPHS Graphic Design Program. All nominees live here in Prince William County and include both citizens and professional graphic designers.

Designs represented many aspects of PWC, with entries highlighting PWC’s tourism, plant and animal life, outdoor spaces, and the diverse citizens that call this county home. All corners of the county were represented as well. Of the 40 finalists, 12 featured the National Museum of the Marine Corps, 5 depicted the Manassas National Battlefield, and 10 featured other landmarks, historic sites, and parks including Rippon Lodge Historic Site, Silver Lake Regional Park, and the South Valley Trail bridge in Prince William Forest Park.

Prince William County's nearly 2,000 election officers who make elections happen every year will now have the honor of selecting the winners with the top 3 designers getting cash prizes of up to \$3,000.

Winners will be announced in July at the meeting of the PWC Electoral Board and sticker designs will be adopted for first use during the November General Election.

While the sticker contest is exciting, this is also a reminder that voting is currently underway for federal Congressional and Senate primary races in Virginia with voting active for both parties in PWC. More details on voting and this contest at [pwcvotes.org](http://pwcvotes.org).

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### **Bold Marine Museum**

A bold rendering of one of PWC's most famous landmarks, this design combines a patriotic color theme with a prominent county attraction, the National Museum of the Marine Corp. Modeled after the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, the museum welcomes half a million visitors each year. With stars around the border that delicately frame the spire of the museum structure, this sticker blends nostalgic aspects of conventional voting stickers into a design unique to PWC.



### **Hands In for PWC**

An Americana color scheme and the prominent shape of Prince William County together meet with diverse hands to illustrate the diversity and teamwork that comes with exercising your civic duty in Prince William County. As the nation has evolved, the right to vote has been accessed by more and more diverse groups of people, all coming together to build the great democracy that we all enjoy, support, and benefit from today.



### **Colorful Cannon**

Bold colors and a unique style bring one of Prince William County's most famed landmarks, the Manassas National Battlefield, to life. Step back in time and feel the energy of the swaying wheat and the stormy skies. A bold cannon and log shelter stand firm against the natural landscape while a tree waits with bated breath. In this design, history is not just preserved, but revered.



## Prince William Forest

Red and blue are symbolic to voters across the country, but this sticker brings that zeal home with representation of our county's identity. Driving through Prince William, one would notice the National Museum of the Marine Corps lifting itself up behind the trees of Prince William Forest Park, the largest natural park in the metropolitan area. The PWC identity is completed with its outline incorporated into the design.



## PWC Landmarks List

With a strong Americana color theme, this design lists eight prominent landmarks and gives acknowledgement to all corners of the county. Simple in execution, this sticker nods to PWC's beauty, history, and tourism. The noted attractions span the eastern, central, and western parts of the county, so most voters have likely visited at least one of the places and have a connection to the sticker. If not, it provides a wonderful checklist for exploring your own hometown.



## Cartoon Cardinal

By featuring a cardinal and a blue border, this design expertly incorporates an American color theme with uniquely state and county-centric symbolism. Perched on the Neabsco Boardwalk, this anthropomorphized version of the Virginia state bird sports a wide grin, a thumbs up, and is wearing his own voting sticker to convey the fun and joy that comes with completing your civic duty.



## Neabsco Boardwalk

A peaceful landmark in a natural setting, this design features the Neabsco Boardwalk at sunrise. A beloved and beautiful attraction, the Neabsco Creek Boardwalk has become a staple for the county, allowing residents to walk on it to see and enjoy the wildlife and nature of their community. The Americana border perfectly blends the expected conventions of an "I Voted" sticker with the unique beauty of one of PWC's outdoor attractions.



## Impressionist Bluebells

This sticker design features Virginia Bluebells, the official flower of PWC. Hand drawn elements, from the image to the font, perfectly capture the ethereal energy of these famed blooms. Though a lesser-known symbol of the county, bluebells are a source of excitement and pride for residents, attracting visitors to the county when they bloom each spring. They are even the namesake of the annual Bluebell Festival held each year at Merrimac Farm's Wildlife Management Area in Quantico.



## PWC Water Tower

This unique and playful design features one of the many water towers that dot the county's landscape. Bright colors bring a sense of levity to what can be a very sobering public duty. The design is full of hidden gems including the red, white, and blue stripes of the water tower's supports and the tree in the foreground that subtly mimics the shape of the state of Virginia. Voters can wear this sticker with pride for the resources that make PWC a comfortable place to live... and vote!



## **County Montage 1731**

This design that denotes the year of the county's founding (1731) gives reverence to two famous landmarks - the National Museum of the Marine Corp and the Manassas National Battlefield. The museum stands as a beacon of history to all who visit; its allure captivates not only the onlookers but also countless commuters passing by daily. Recollections of bygone eras, like the Battle of Manassas, give deference to our nation's transformative journey.



## **Dogwood Blossoms**

In this design, a red background and blue text combine with the white petals of dogwood blooms, Virginia's state flower, to create an image that at once is cognizant of both Virginia and the USA. The delicate blooms frame the phrase "I Voted" creating a composition that is a perfect balance of delicate and esteemed.