

Polling place layout diagrams

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About these diagrams

From November 2012 to November 2013, our team of researchers observed poll workers as they opened and closed their polling places for 19 elections in 12 states.

These layouts were gathered as part of a project that aimed to fill a gap in the research and focus in a meaningful way on what must happen to make poll workers truly effective in their vital role in administering elections securely on Election Day.

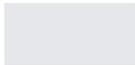
The diagrams create a normalized view of paper sketches, made in the field. They are not to scale!

Key to the diagrams

KEY:



voting booth



table



short voting booth



doorway/entrance/exit



automark



ballot scanner



poll worker

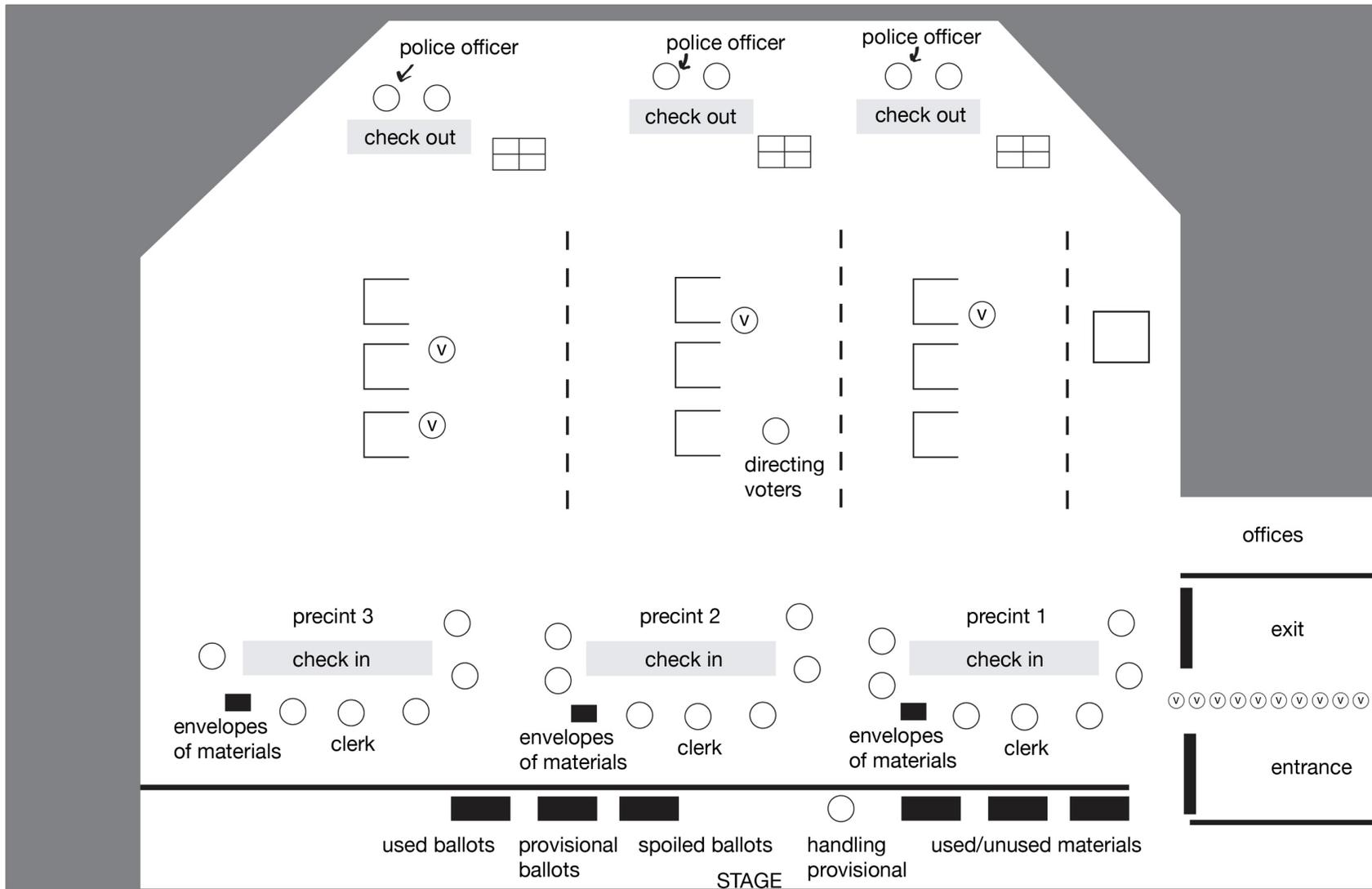


cone



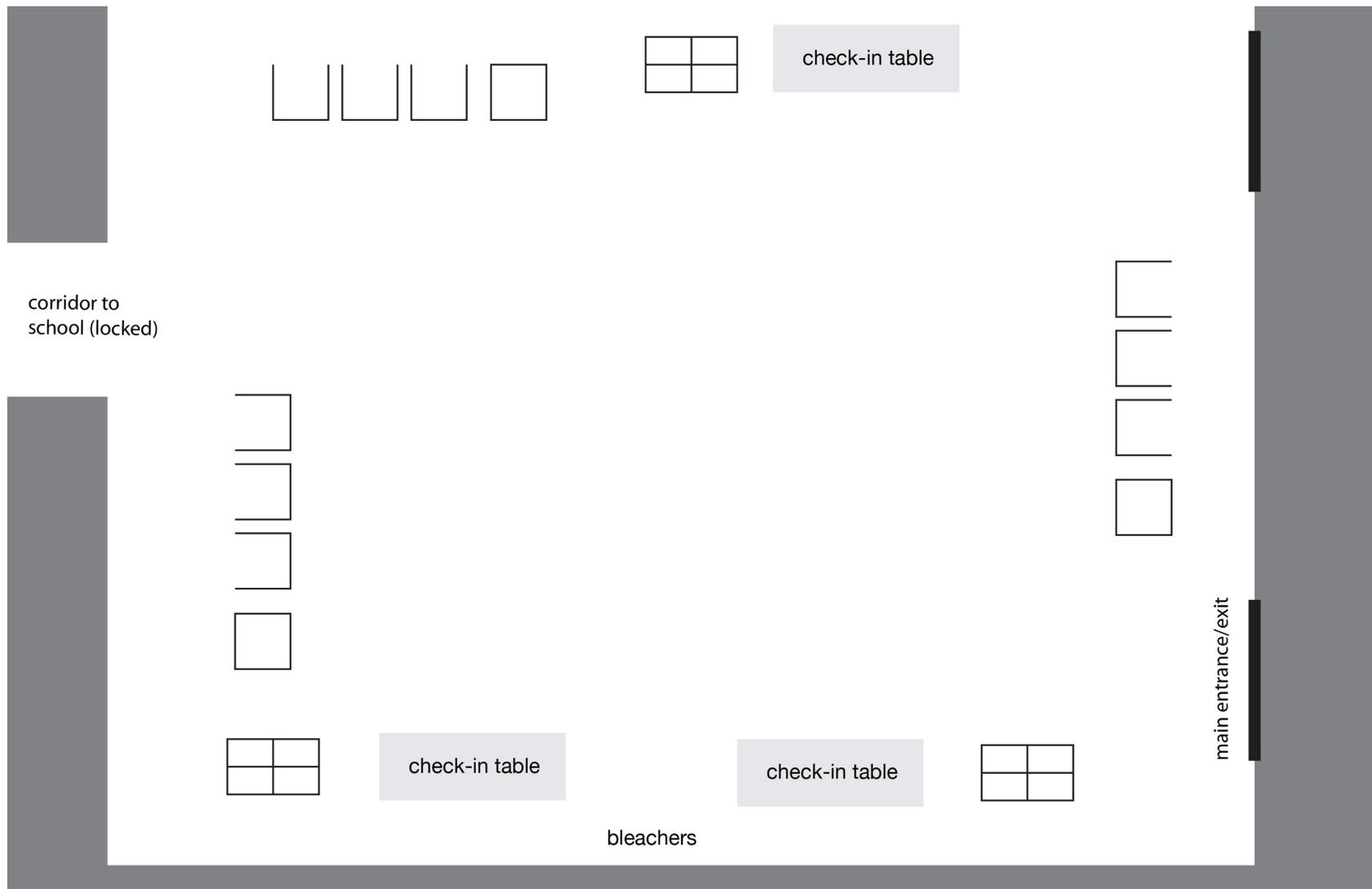
tape on the floor

*each unique occurrence noted on individual diagrams



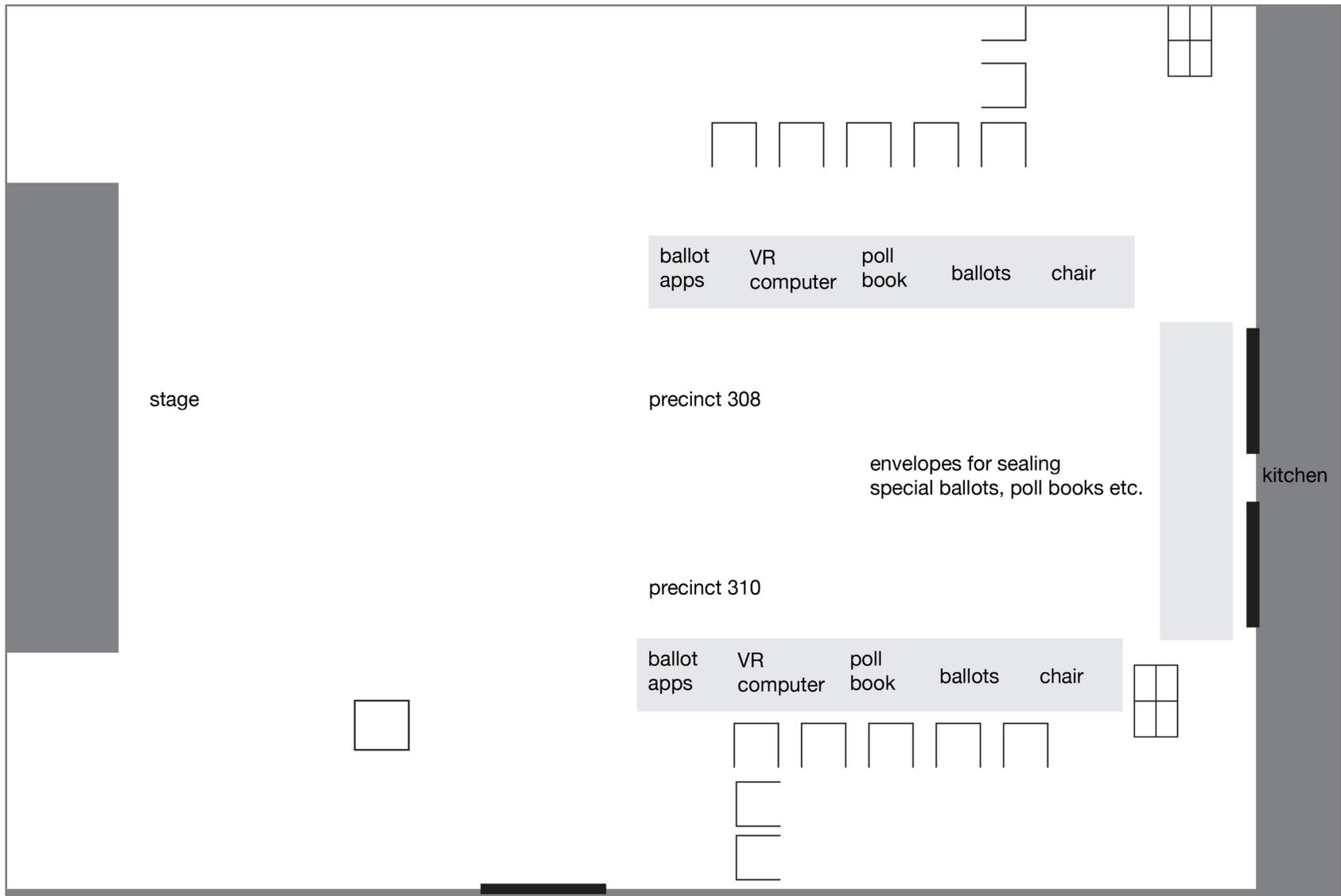
Boston, Massachusetts – November 2012

Boston polling places included a "check out" table, staffed by police officers.



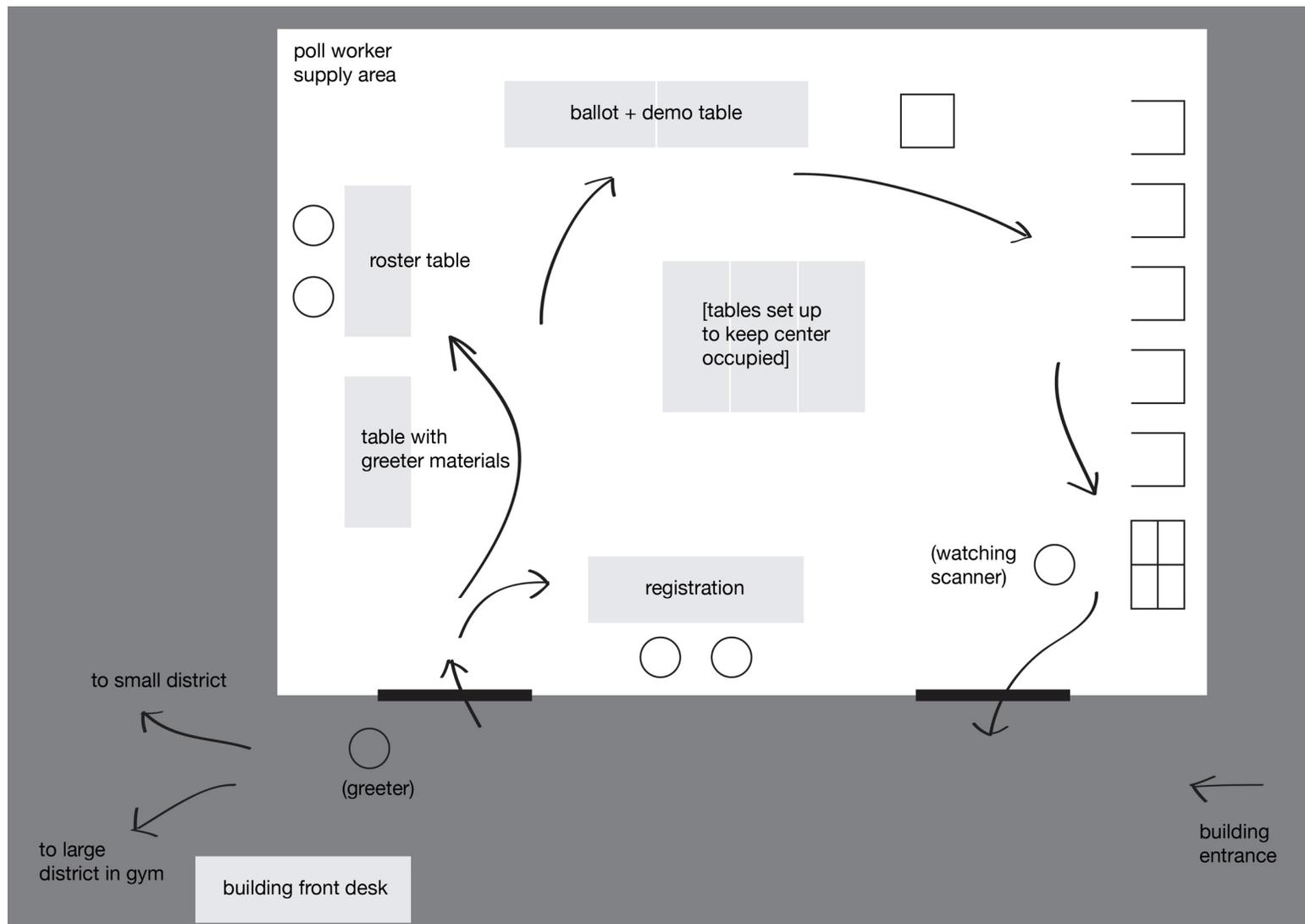
Cook County, Illinois - April 2013

Multiple precincts in one polling place are arranged with the same L-shaped layout. Poll workers can see the voting booths from their tables.



Detroit, Michigan – November 2013

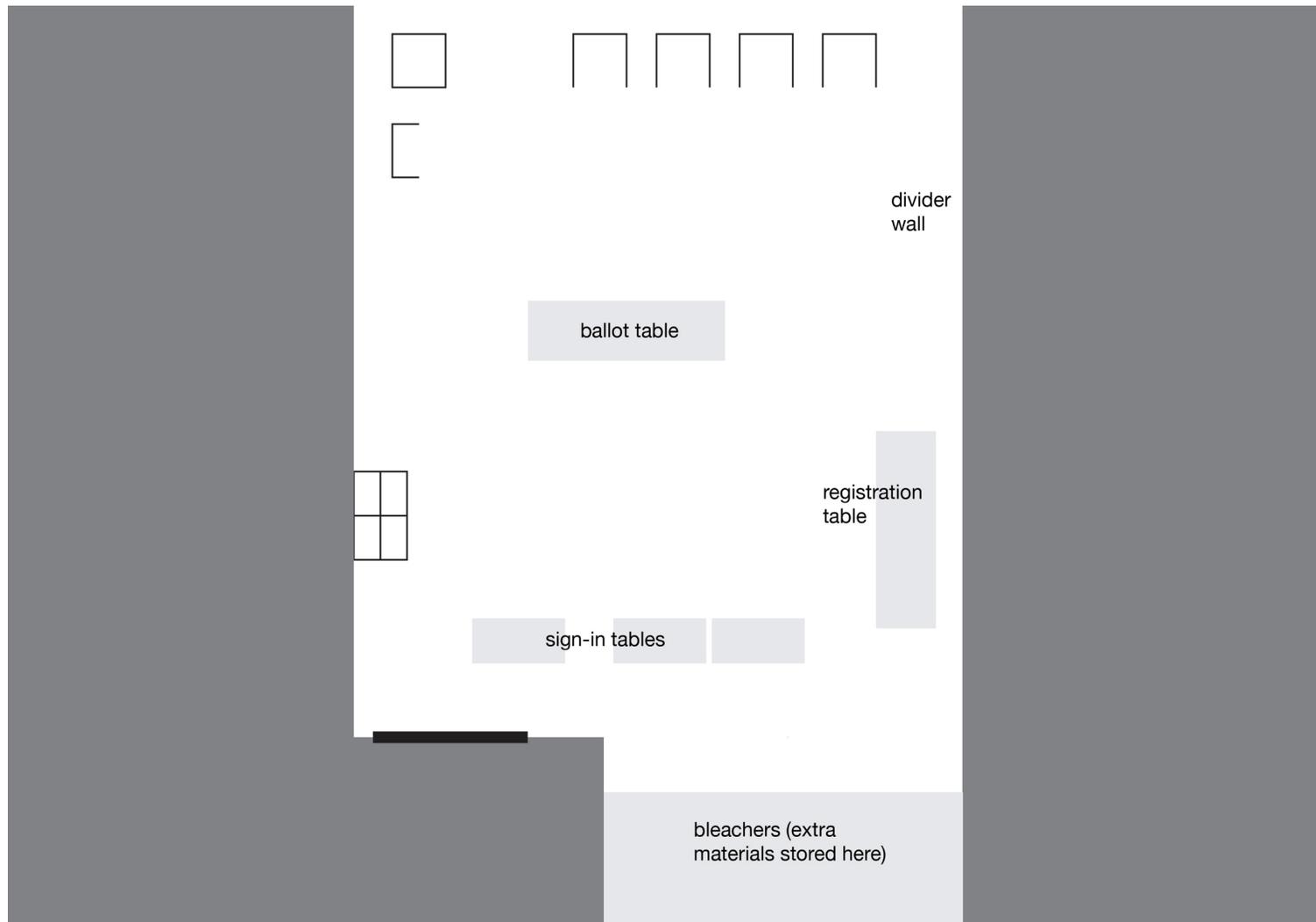
The two precincts in this polling place were laid out in mirror images of each other. Voters walk behind the registration table to mark their ballots.



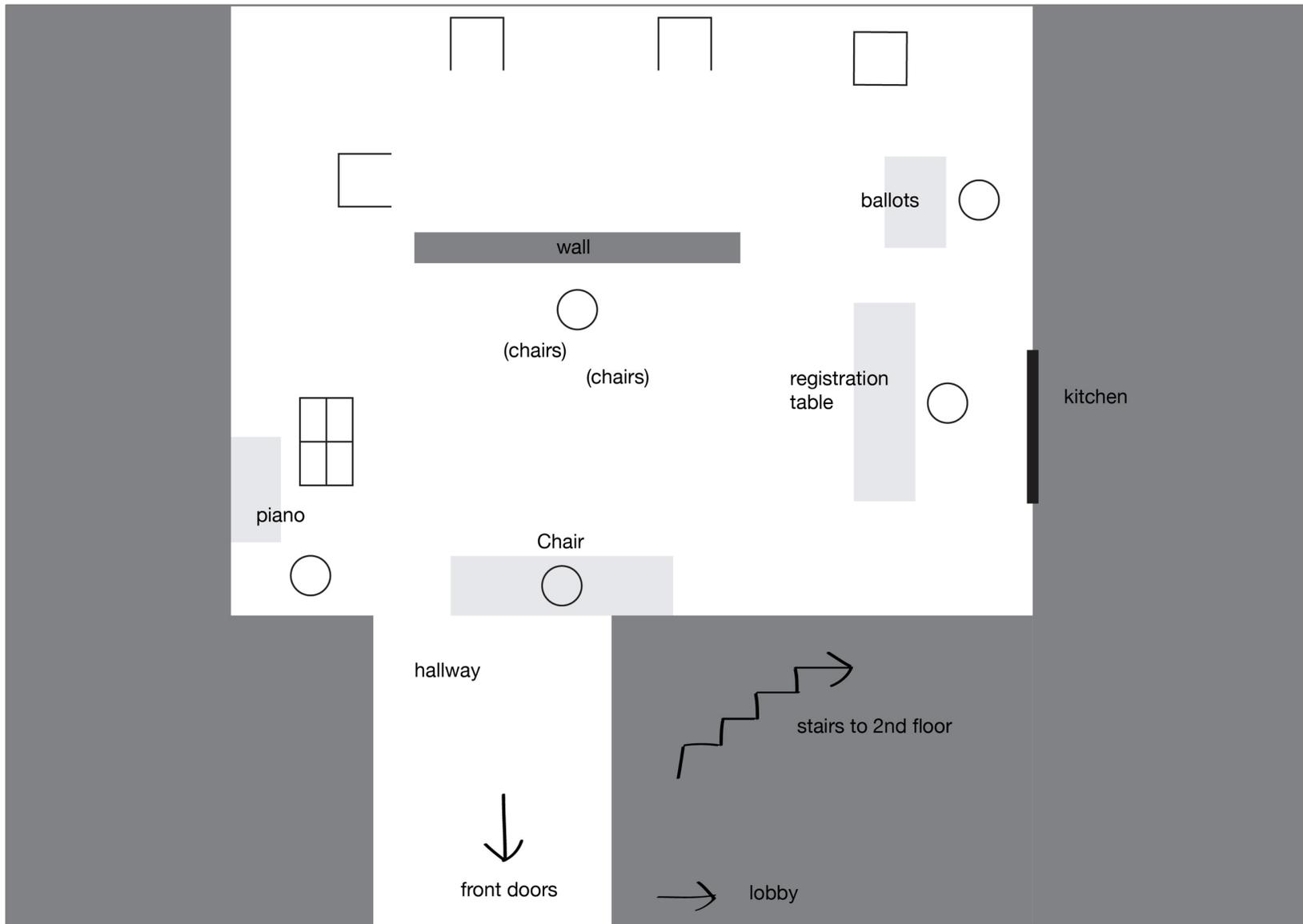
Minneapolis, Minnesota – November 2013

Three polling places all had their own rooms in this building.

This room allowed for a traffic flow entering and exiting through different doors.

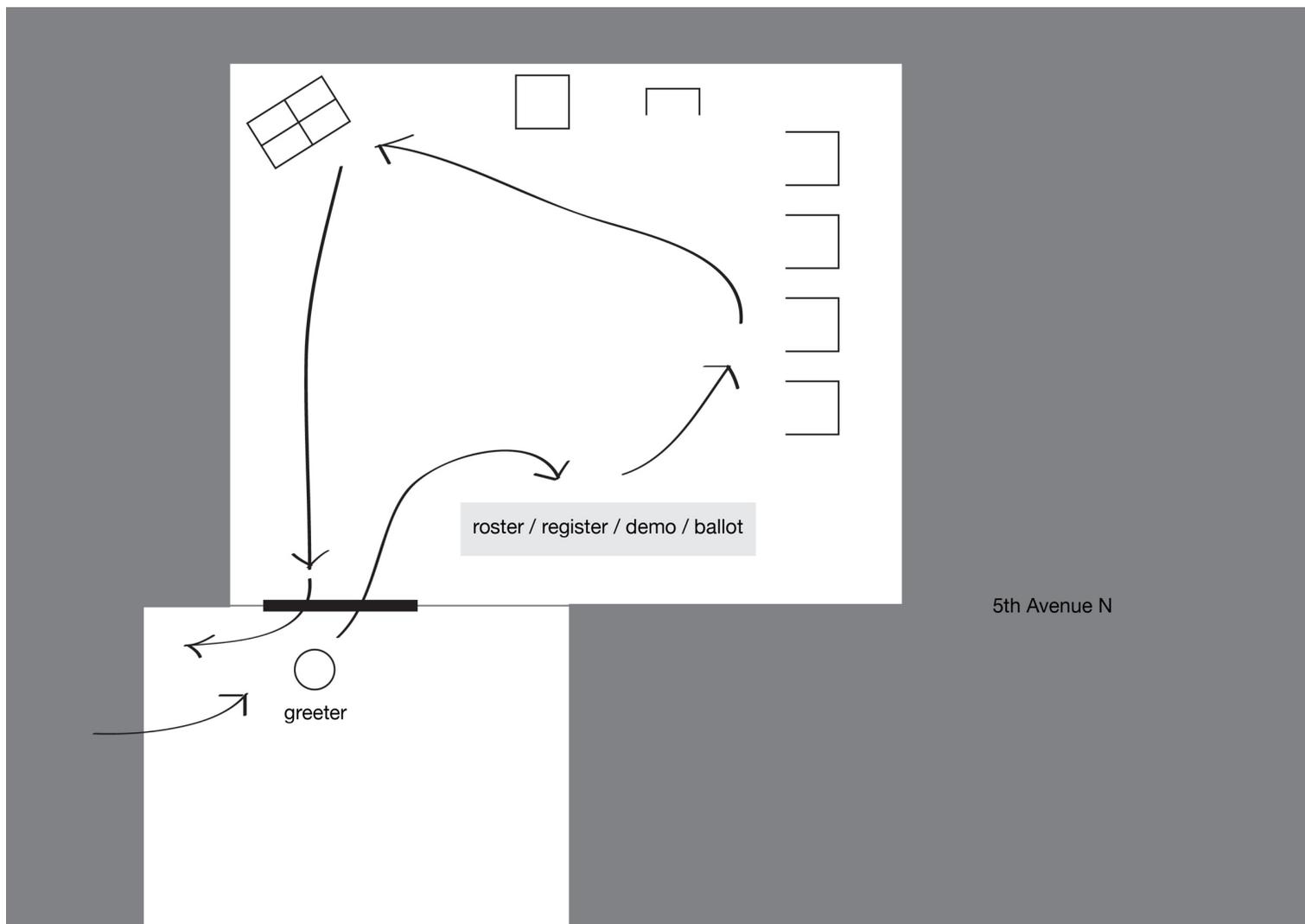


Minneapolis, Minnesota – November 2013



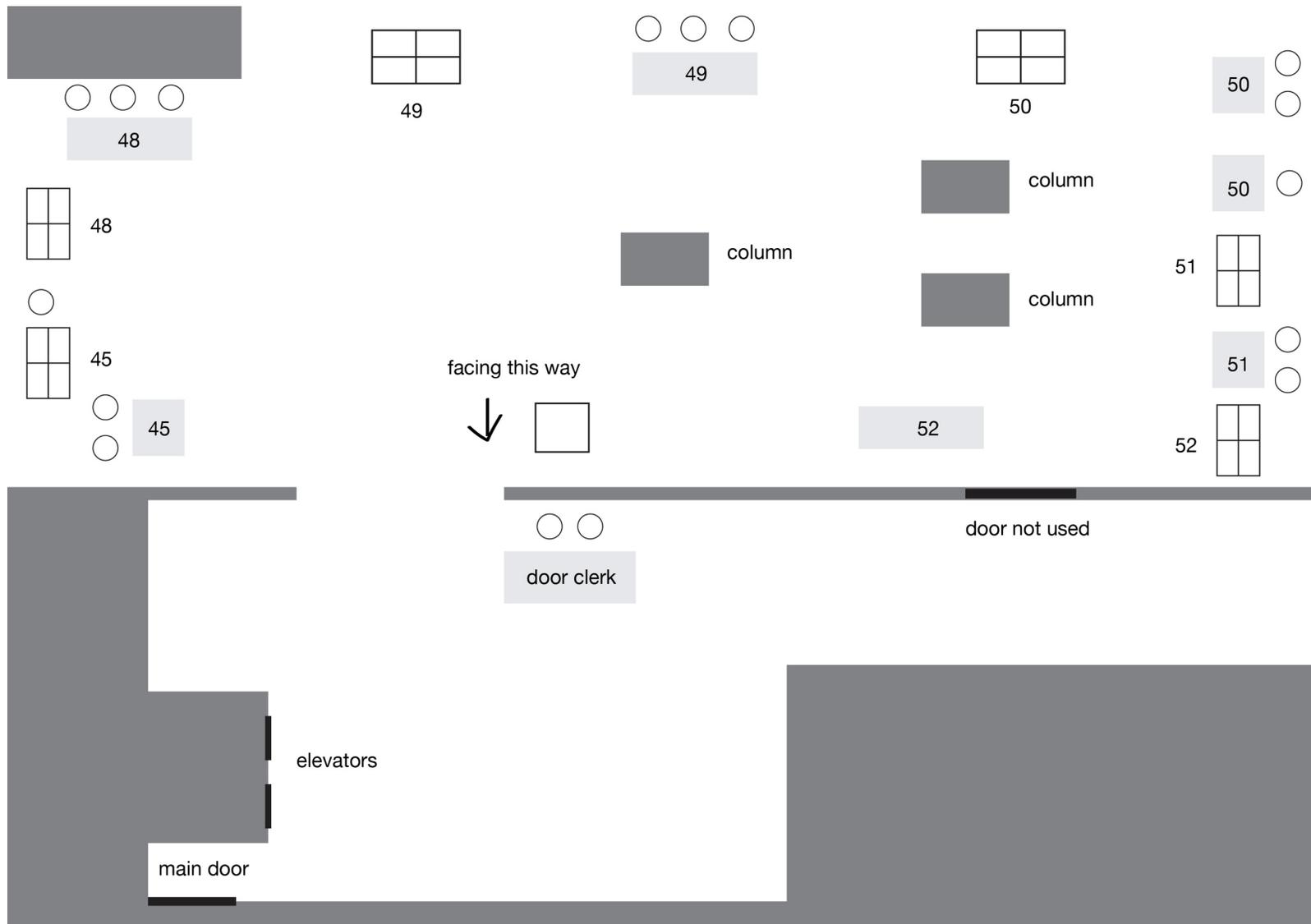
St. Paul, Minnesota – November 2013

This polling place was in the living room of an apartment building, with formal furniture and a piano in the space.



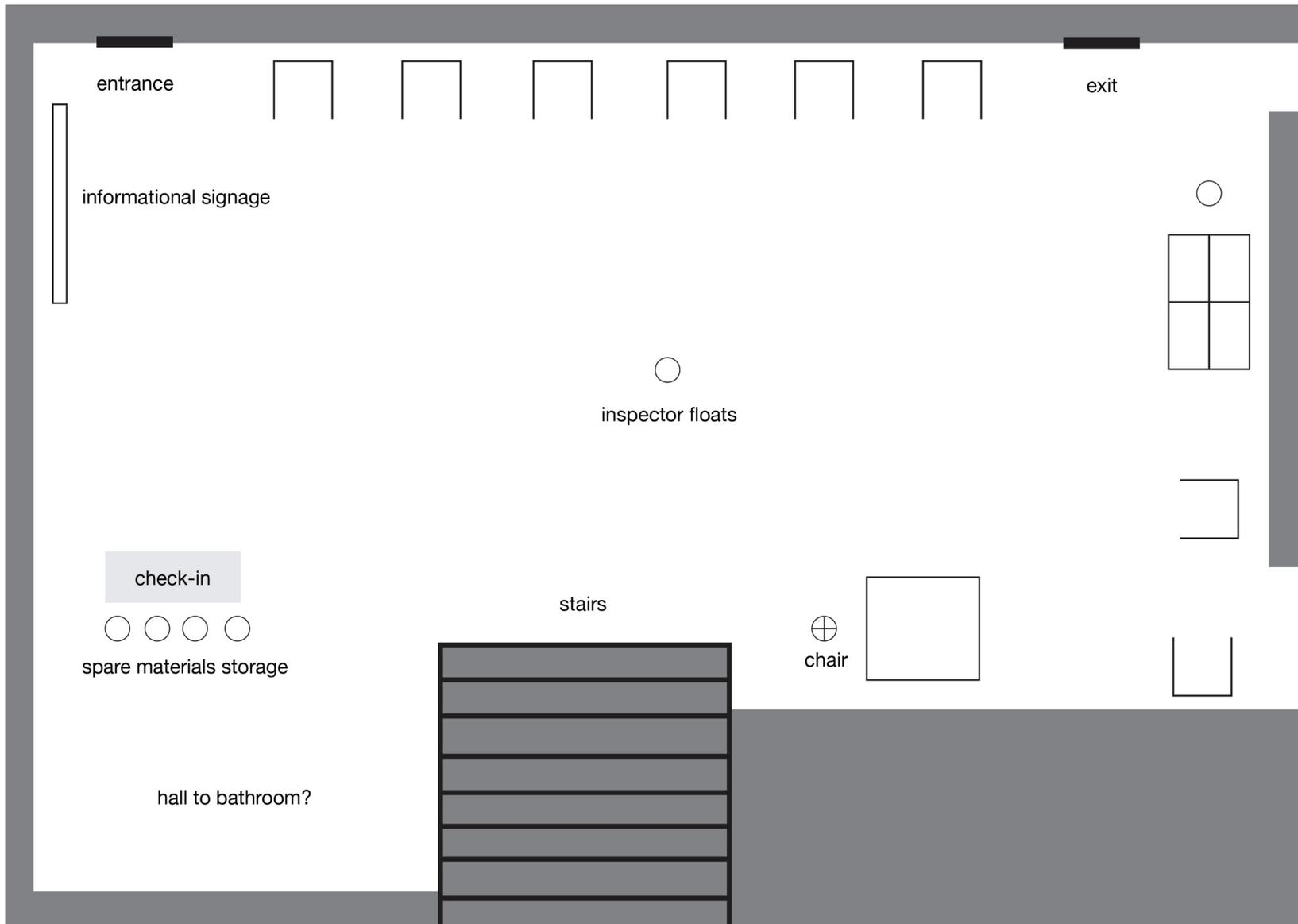
St. Paul, Minnesota – November 2013

A polling place with a circular path. Voters entering and leaving use the same door.

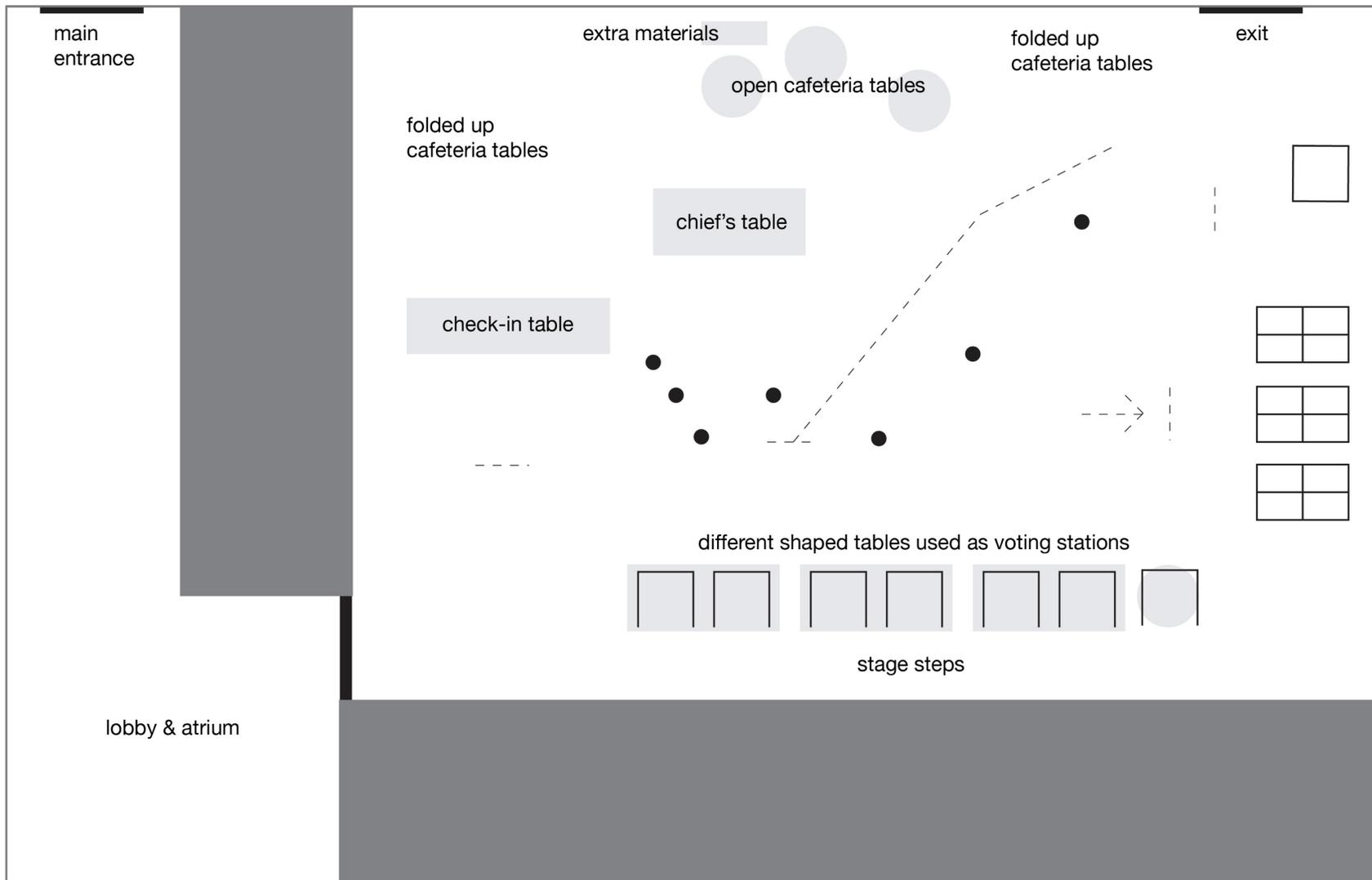


New York City – November 2013

Although the two elections used different voting systems in the primary and November election, the layout of the room was the same.

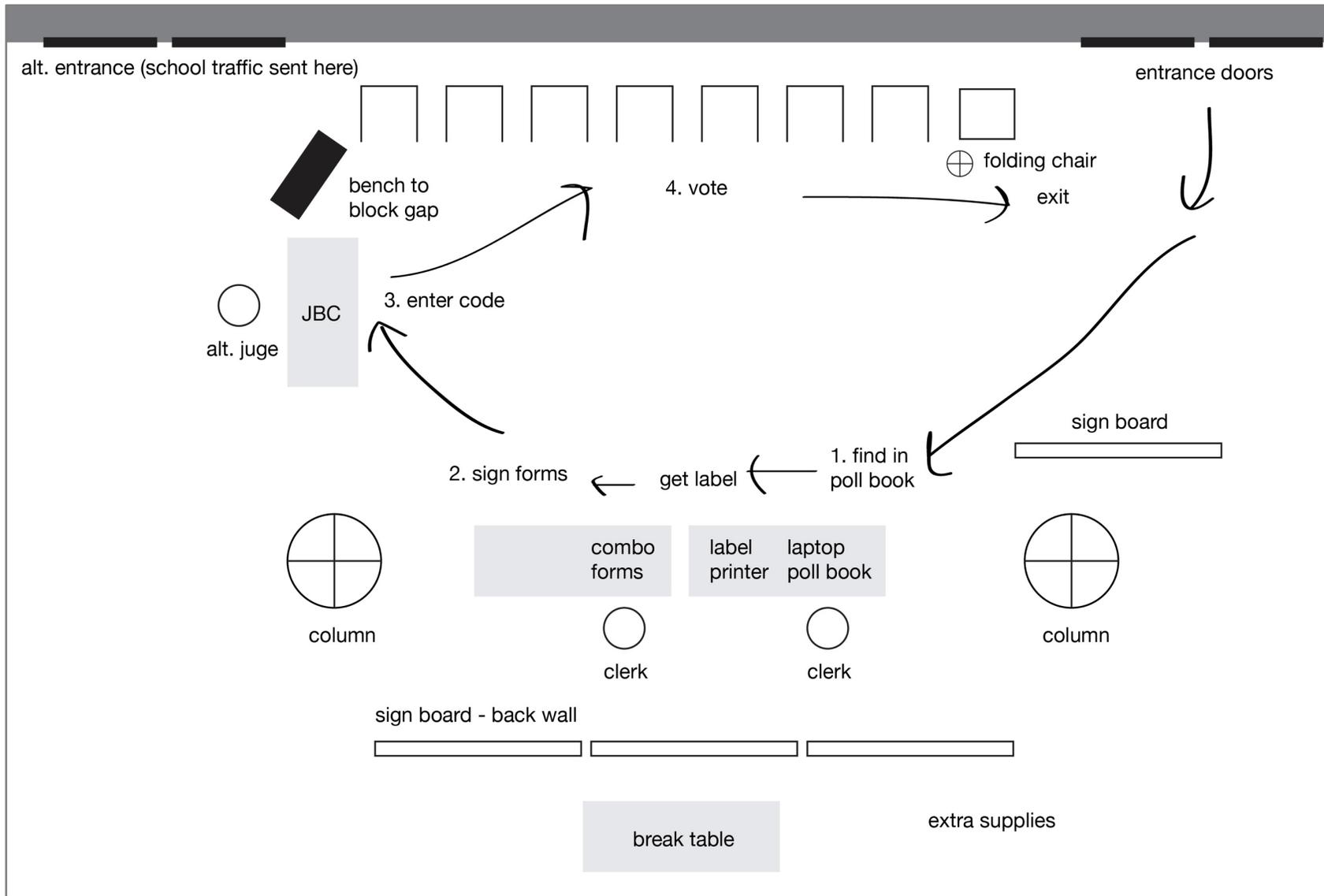


San Francisco, California – November 2012



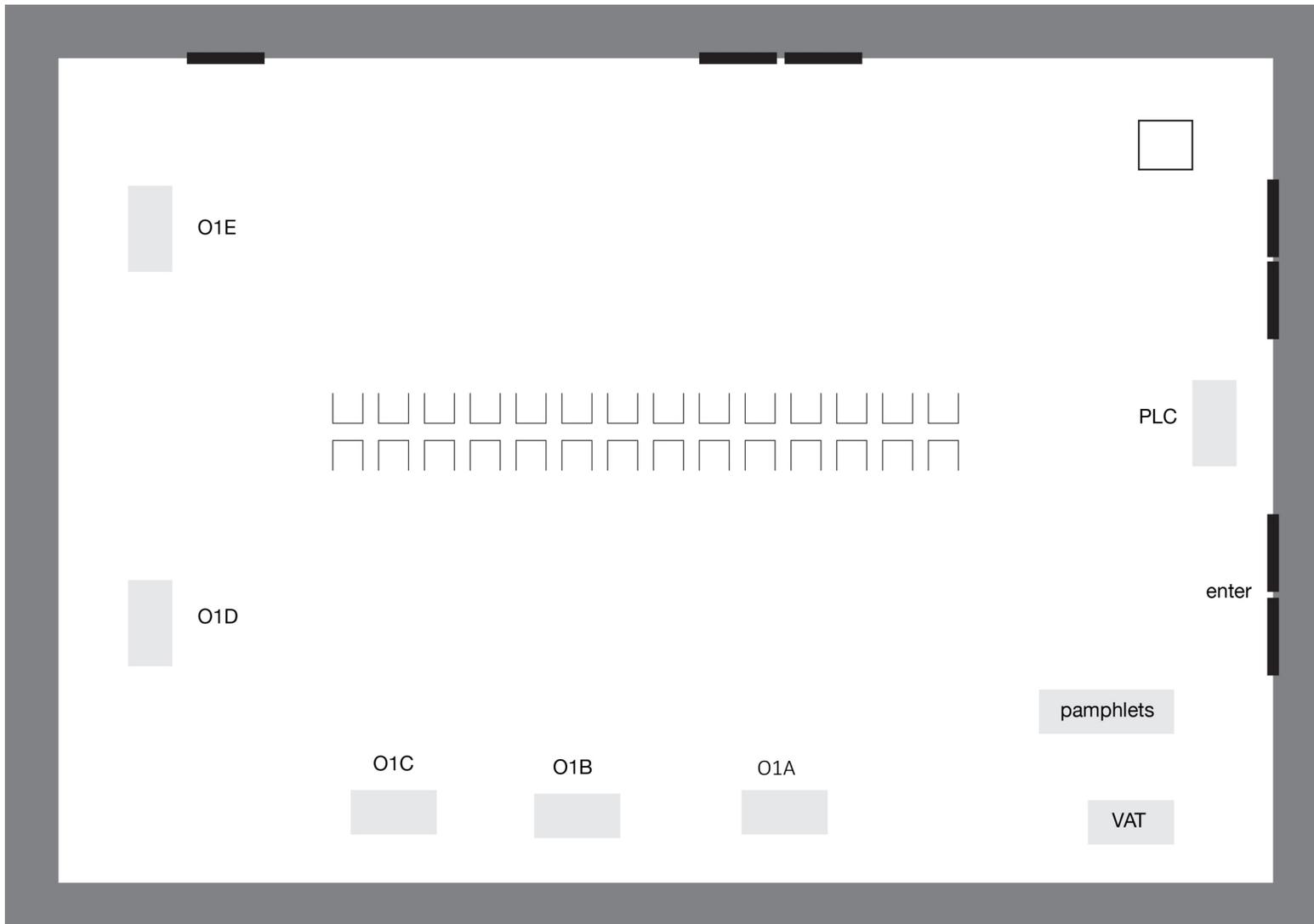
Fairfax County, Virginia – November 2013

A polling place in a large room, at least for the number of voters in a small election. For larger elections, lines can form in the hallway outside the room.



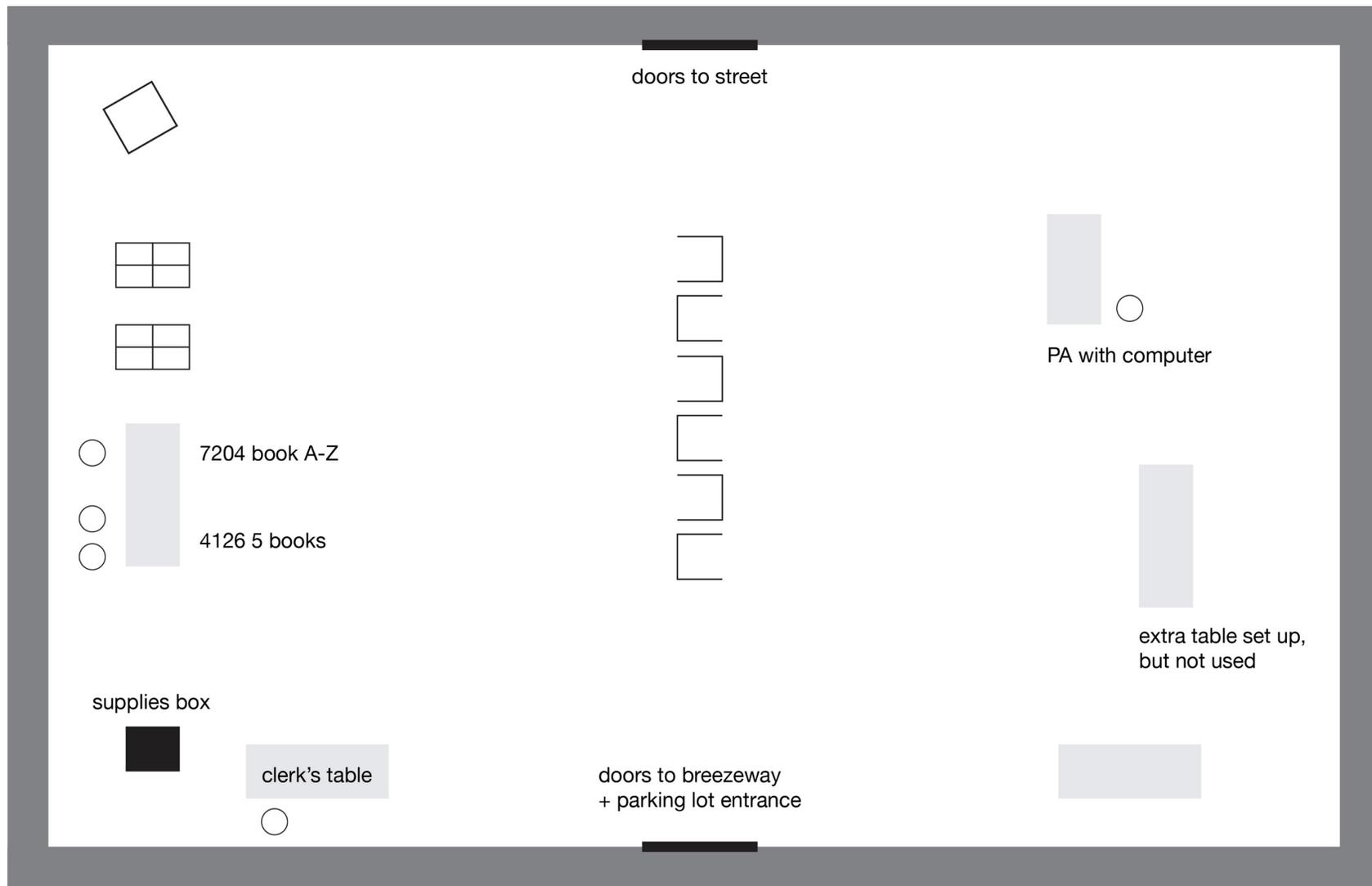
Travis County, Texas – May 2013

A polling place in an open lobby of a school. The election was held on a Saturday. Traffic for other activities passed to the left and right of the polling area.



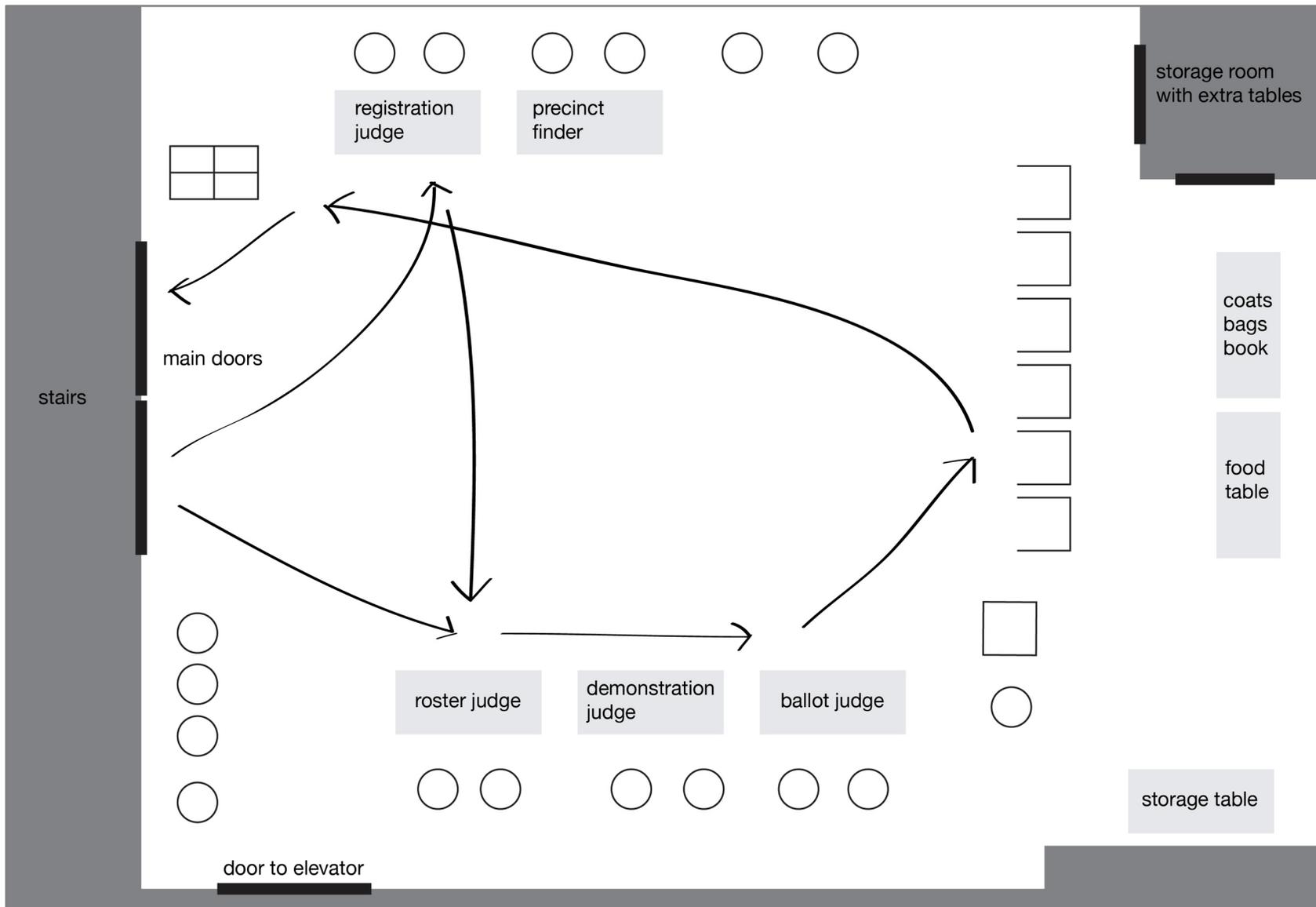
Cuyahoga County, Ohio – May 2013

There were 5 precincts in a large gymnasium.



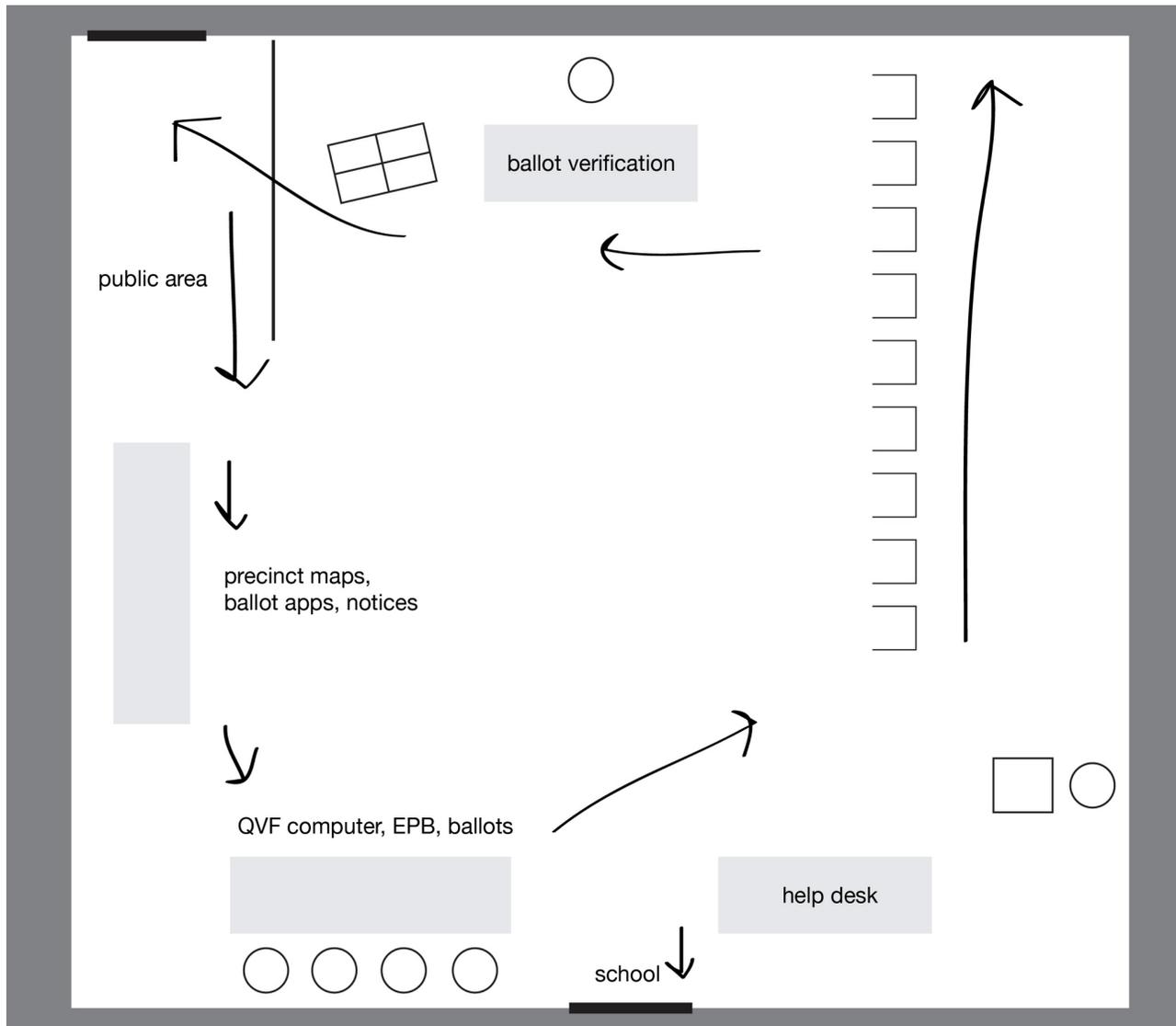
Palm Beach County, Florida – March 2013

This polling space was a long, narrow meeting room in a church. The original plan put the two precincts on opposite sides of the voting booths, but they were consolidated in anticipation of light turnout.

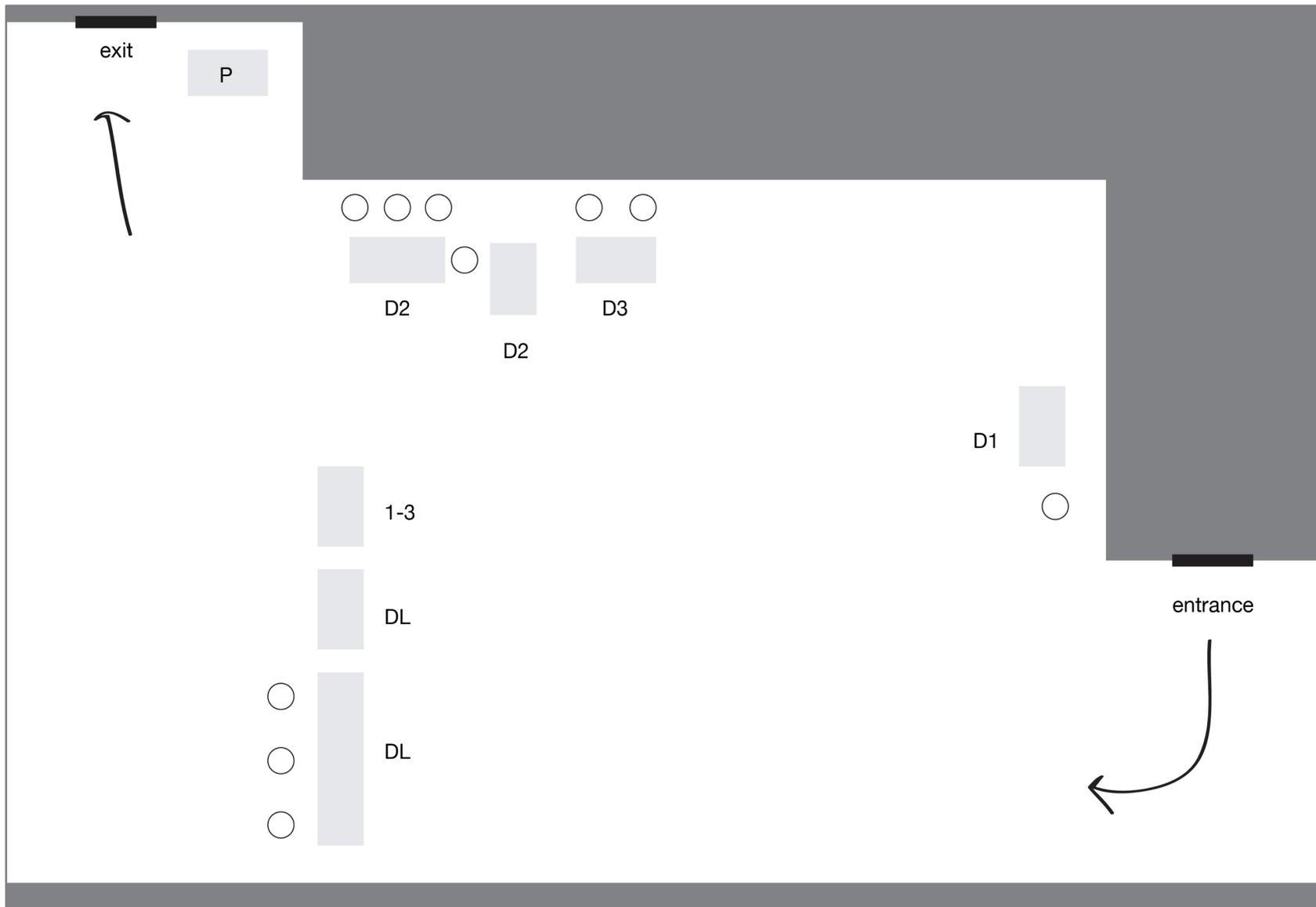


Hennepin County, Minnesota – November 2013

On entering the polling place, voters had to decide which way to turn. The Election Day registration table was on the left, and the flow for registered voters to the right.

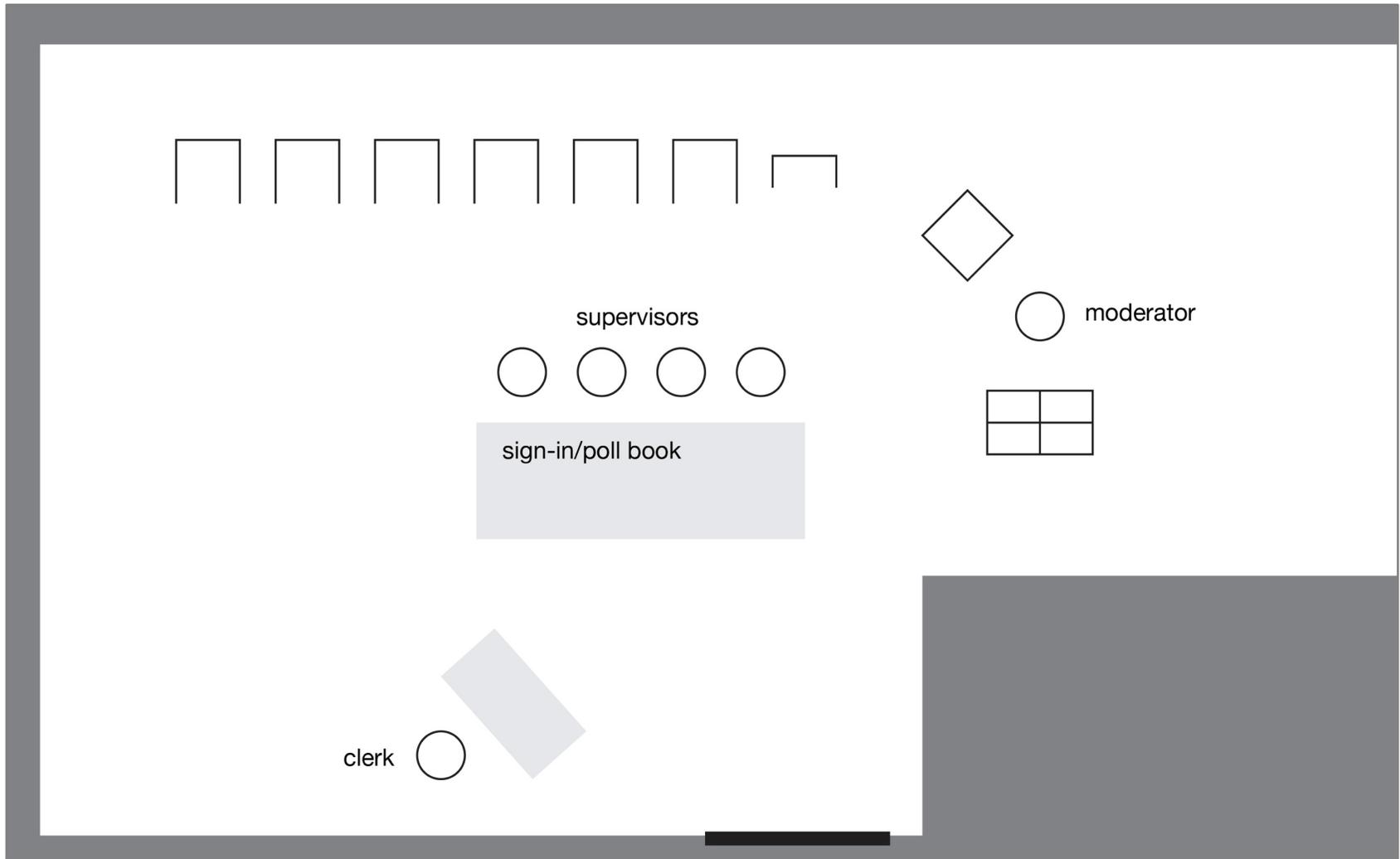


Oakland County, Michigan – November 2012



Hunterdon County, New Jersey – November 2012

The 3-district polling place was relocated from a community room that was being used as a shelter after SuperStorm Sandy to the emergency vehicle garage at the back of the building.



Rhode Island – November 2013

For more information about this project

civicdesign.org/projects/pollworkers-security

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