



2012 Recall Primary Debriefing for the Madison Election Advisory Committee

Overview

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 41 percent on May 8, 2012. There were 67,730 votes cast. Election Officials registered 6,111 voters at the polls. One hundred thirty eligible voters were not able to register on Election Day under the new registration requirements, and had to leave the polling place without voting.

Election Official Recruitment

Of the 1,202 individuals who worked at the polls, 2 were ages 16-17 (0.2%), 33 were ages 18-25 (2.7%), 97 were ages 26-40 (8%), 364 were ages 41-60 (30.3%), 442 were ages 61-70 (36.8%), and 264 were ages 71 or older (22%). 808 Election Officials were female and 394 were male. For comparison, 9.6 percent of Madison residents are age 65 or older.

Of our 1,202 Election Officials, 11 reported that they were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (0.9%), 17 were Asian (1.4%), and 77 were African-American (6.4%). For comparison, 6.8% of City of Madison residents are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 7.4% are Asian, and 7.3% are African-American.

Training

The City Clerk's Office offered 35 training sessions for Election Officials from April 27 through May 7. Training took place at the City-County Building, Madison Police East District, Madison Water Utility, Oakwood Village West, Warner Park, Olbrich Gardens, The Jefferson, Sequoya Branch Library, Hawthorne Branch Library, and Lakeview Branch Library.

Absentee Ballots

The City Clerk's Office issued 5,358 absentee ballots for this election. There were 1,648 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter (30.8 percent of absentees issued were issued to voters at the counter). 4,477 absentees (83.6 percent) were returned to be counted.

Seventeen absentee ballots were rejected at the polls: 5 had no voter signature, 6 had no witness signature, 1 absentee envelope was not sealed, 3 absentee voters moved without registering at their new address, one absentee voter died after casting his absentee ballot, and 1 voter had voted at the polls (this has been referred to the District Attorney). Of the ballots sent to the polls to be counted, 0.3 percent were rejected.

One hundred thirty-eight absentee ballots arrived in the mail after Election Day but by 4 p.m. the Friday of election week. The Board of Canvassers counted 135 of these absentee ballots and rejected three absentees lacking a voter signature.

Challenges

On April 20 a new law went into effect, making it a felony to vote at the polls after sending an absentee ballot back to the Clerk's Office. Because this law was enacted after absentee ballot had been mailed, the absentee ballot instructions did not reference this new law.