



2012 General Election Debriefing for the Madison Election Advisory Committee

Overview

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 81 percent on November 6, 2012. There were 150,437 votes cast. The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 81 percent only once before: November 7, 2000, with 118,840 votes cast.

The total number of votes cast on November 6, 2012, exceeds any other election held in the City of Madison. Previously, the election with the most votes was November 4, 2008, when 141,456 votes were cast in the City of Madison.

Election officials registered 22,064 voters at the polls on Election Day. One hundred sixty-four eligible voters were not able to register on Election Day because they lacked an acceptable form of proof of residence.

Election Official Recruitment

Of the 1,634 individuals who worked at the polls, 50 were ages 16-17 (3.1%), 75 were ages 18-25 (4.6%), 185 were ages 26-40 (11.3%), 513 were ages 41-60 (31.4%), 504 were ages 61-70 (30.8%), and 307 were ages 71 or older (18.8%). 1,169 election officials were female and 470 were male. For comparison, 9.6 percent of Madison residents are age 65 or older.

Of our 1,634 election officials, 26 reported that they were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (1.6%). Twenty-four reported that they were Asian (1.5%), and 133 reported that they were African-American (8.1%). 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 Clerk's Office offered 111 training sessions for election officials from October 8 through November 6. Eleven of these training sessions had to be cancelled due to a presidential visit outside the City-County Building the day before the election.

Training took place at the City-County Building, Madison Police East District, Oakwood Village University Woods, Lussier Community Education Center, Olbrich Gardens, Madison Water Utility, Sequoya Branch Library, Hawthorne Branch Library, Lakeview Branch Library, and Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

Absentee Ballots Issued

The City Clerk's Office issued 31,548 absentee ballots for this election. There were 18,752 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter (59 percent of absentees issued were issued to voters at the counter). 29,199 absentee ballots (93 percent) were returned to be counted.

For comparison, the City Clerk's Office issued 32,012 absentee ballots for the 2008 presidential election, including 17,808 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter (56 percent of absentees were issued to voters at the counter). 28,669 absentee ballots were returned to be counted.

Seventeen hospitalized voters cast absentee ballots on November 6, 2012. Only one hospitalized voter cast an absentee ballot on Election Day in November 2008.

Two hundred thirty-five military voters requested absentee ballots for the November 6, 2012, election. One hundred thirty-eight military absentee ballots (59 percent) were returned to be counted. For comparison, 134

military voters requested ballots in November 2008, and 71 of those ballots (53 percent) were returned to be counted.

Six hundred forty-three Madison voters permanently residing overseas received federal ballots for the November 2012 election. Four hundred ninety-seven of these ballots (77 percent) were returned to be counted. In November 2008 we sent federal ballots to 800 voters permanently residing overseas. Four hundred twenty of these ballots (53 percent) were returned to be counted in 2008.

Absentee Ballots Rejected

Eighty-six absentee ballots were rejected at the polls: 18 had no voter signature, 28 had no witness signature, 8 absentee voters moved without registering at their new address, 3 absentee voters had died since casting their absentee ballots, 3 Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots were not requested, 8 Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots were not sealed in envelopes, 16 Federal Write-In Absentee voters had original ballots counted instead, and two absentee envelopes appeared to have been opened and resealed. Of the ballots sent to the polls be counted, 0.3 percent were rejected.

Five hundred fifty-five absentee ballots arrived in the mail after Election Day but by 4 p.m. the Friday of election week. The Board of Canvassers met that Friday from 4 p.m. to 1:20 a.m. They counted 548 absentee ballots and rejected seven (two had no voter signature, four had no witness signature, and one showed evidence of having been opened and resealed).