



## **City Clerk 2007 Spring Primary Election Debriefing for the Madison Election Advisory Committee**

### **Overview**

---

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 16.71 percent on February 20, 2007. There were 27,232 votes cast; 993 of those votes were by absentee ballot. Election Officials registered 617 voters at the polls.

Chief Inspectors had some new items in their supply totes for this election:

- ♦ A sign to put on the tabulator when the emergency bin is in use, to notify voters that City Clerk staff is coming to service the tabulator, and an Election Official will feed ballots through the tabulator momentarily.
- ♦ An "Ask Me About the AutoMark" table tent for at the check-in table.
- ♦ A string to measure that the AutoMark is high enough to meet accessibility requirements.
- ♦ Blocks to make a table higher, if necessary.

### **Training**

---

I offered Election Official Training sessions at 8:30, 10:30, and 5:00 the Thursday before the election. All Election Officials were encouraged to attend. Training focused on the voter registration application, the inspector's statement and incident log, supplemental poll books, and accessibility. I encouraged Election Officials to view this election as an opportunity to become more comfortable with the state voter registration application form.

Eight Election Officials attended a Chief Inspector Baseline Training session offered by County Clerk Bob Ohlsen the Thursday before the election. The City of Madison had ten new Chief Inspectors for the Spring Primary—four of them completed Baseline Training the week before the election, and the other six had completed Baseline Training previously. All of the new Chief Inspectors did a wonderful job.

### **Election Official Calls**

---

It was incredibly helpful to have a phone line dedicated to Election Officials, with voice mail available when everyone in the office was on the telephone. We had three people answering calls and six people in the field on Election Day.

There were problems with icy sidewalks on election morning. Some of our Election Officials and City Clerk staff fell on the way in to a polling place. Salt was purchased to melt the ice.

Six Election Officials did not show up at the polls or cancelled the morning of the election.

Five AutoMark machines were not working, requiring the attention of City Clerk staff.

### **Voter Registration**

There was a significant improvement in the completeness of the voter registration applications returned on election night. The City Clerk's Office was able to process all of the Election Day Registrations within one week.

### **Election Official Survey**

Election Officials completed a survey from the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin.

The results were as follows:

- ♦ 5 were working at the polls for the first time.
- ♦ 247 had worked at the polls for 1-10 years.
- ♦ 95 had worked at the polls for more than 10 years.
  
- ♦ 7 were recruited by the League of Women Voters.
- ♦ 67 were recruited through the City Clerk's Office.
- ♦ 183 were recruited by talking with poll workers.
- ♦ 28 were recruited by a friend.
- ♦ 12 were recruited through the newspaper.
- ♦ 16 were recruited through the voter registration application form.
- ♦ 4 were recruited by a UW e-mail message.
  
- ♦ 117 work at the polls because of the compensation.
- ♦ 265 work at the polls because it is an opportunity for community service.
- ♦ 150 work at the polls because it is a chance to participate in and learn more about the electoral process.
  
- ♦ 251 said the training session made them feel well prepared to answer voters' questions.
- ♦ 43 said the training session made them feel well prepared to set up and take down equipment.
- ♦ 211 said the training session made them feel well prepared to deal with other situations that arose at the polling place.

### **Changes for Spring Election**

There will be two types of training sessions offered before the April 3 Spring Election. Training for Chief Inspectors and experienced Election Officials will be offered at Olbrich Gardens at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. the Thursday before the election. Training on election basics will be offered for relatively new Election Officials in the City-County Building at 5:30 p.m. the Wednesday before the election, and at Olbrich Gardens at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. the Thursday before the election.

## **Shows, Rebecca**

---

**From:** Schmidt, Debra  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 28, 2007 2:30 PM  
**To:** Shows, Rebecca  
**Subject:** Survey

### **Poll Worker Survey**

#### **Was this your first time working at the polls?**

Yes: 5  
No (1-10 years): 247  
No (over 10 years): 95

#### **How did you hear about becoming a poll worker?**

League of Women Voters Flyer: 7  
Through the City Clerk's Office: 67  
Talking with poll workers: 183  
Friend: 28  
Newspaper: 12  
Voter registration: 16  
UW email: 4  
Other: 30

#### **What made you decide to work at the polls?**

Compensation: 117  
Opportunity of community service: 265  
Chance to participate in and learn more about electoral process: 150  
Other: 15

#### **Training sessions made you feel well-prepared to...**

Answer voters' questions: 251  
Set up and take down equipment: 43  
Deal with other situations that arose at the polling place: 211  
No training: 17

**Comments:**

Officials have become much better trained in recent years – repetition valuable

Please see if you can alternate trainings between Olbrich and a west side location.

Could you make a short video of different steps and jobs (i.e. registration process)

Some training sessions have become too focused on a few topics-there should be more general overviews.

Training was focused on handling issues with little time for general issues. Pay was limited to one hour but sessions lasted 2.5 hours, plus the time and cost of transportation to distant sites.

There is an excessive amount of information needed to properly administer the whole process.

More ‘hands-on’ training needed for the new auto-mark machine for all poll workers.

To perform any needed task and to answer voter questions-Maribeth is outstanding

There were a couple of people who dictated the extremely slow pace of the training. They interrupted a lot.

There needs to be separate training for new officials.

Good training sessions this year

Training was useless for a ‘newbie’

You’re doing the best job you can; can’t think of what else you could do

Training sessions were very valuable

Most questions were not relevant to my experience at the polls

This last session with Maribeth was the best and clearest I’ve attended

Maybe you could reserve questions for the end of the session

Training sessions and instruction manuals are very complete and well organized

Training sessions remain challenging due to barrage of questions from indignant and disrespectful poll workers

Maribeth is working diligently to improve our voting process. She’s using overheads to focus training discussions, simplifying and color-coding forms, and marinating a problem-solving process. Much appreciated along with hard work of entire Clerk’s office staff.

2/28/2007

Separate sessions for new poll workers with a sample set up for a polling place would be fabulous- including some Civics 101 to frame our job of facilitating, not obstructing, voting. Experienced poll worker (Chief Inspector) could assist with small groups.

Question and Answer at training should be after training

There should be a picnic/celebration/recognition for poll worker contribution

Training was informative but the questions that arose later at the polling place were not covered

The only good training was at the polls themselves

More hands-on training

More time should be given to new equipment

Disorganized – did not find helpful – did not make me feel prepared

Working at some polls can be a lot more difficult than at others (i.e. campus) due to high turn over of workers. Special emphasis should be made to keep good poll teams together at the UW or provide special training to all new workers.

Wish chief inspector would rotate poll workers during their shift. It would help workers to learn all jobs, thus seeing the big picture.

It is helpful that training is provided for all poll workers now

The Sept 06 added little to my poll workers knowledge.

The city clerk is really on top of things. However I think it would be useful to have separate training sessions for first time poll workers.

Isn't it possible to have an on-line training we can watch on our own schedule? The public Q&A is a drain of time.

I learned a lot 'on the job'

I learned at 'job' site from other poll workers

Separate training sessions for east/west side and for UW student polling places  
Training seemed geared only toward those with previous experience.

Training poor and disorganized. Good idea to split new worker/previous worker training.

Well-informed, confident presentation.

Sessions are very well organized and informative.

I like the hands-on experience with the Auto-Mark. I feel confident at setting it up and using it.

Training not particularly useful-very important to have knowledge of Chief Inspector.

Training is disjointed and not particularly useful

Training sessions have too much repetition to have to attend more than one session.

At training I learn about mistakes to avoid

Need to divide training by level of experience

Good except for Auto-Mark – too big of a group at meeting.

Still not sure of Auto-Mark

People asking questions at the training don't seem to be paying attention very well.

Extremely well done – very organized and thorough

Training sessions and election day guide along with election materials provided are very instructional

Have some training on West side

Not comfortable with Auto-Mark

I have never been told of meetings. I would attend if I knew when they were held.

Training sessions helped but the actual experience and working with trained experienced workers was the best teacher

A great learning experience

I'm glad training sessions are new for everyone.

Written handout helpful. It's nice to know we can call city clerk with questions