



## 2013 Spring Election Debriefing for the Madison Election Advisory Committee

### **Overview**

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The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 23.9 percent on April 2, 2013. There were 45,407 votes cast. For comparison, the City of Madison had a voter turnout of 23 percent in April 2009.

Election officials registered 729 voters at the polls on Election Day.

### **Election Official Recruitment**

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Of the 1,106 individuals who worked at the polls, two were ages 16-17 (0.2%), 35 were ages 18-25 (3.2%), 79 were ages 26-40 (7.1%), 324 were ages 41-60 (29.3%), 410 were ages 61-70 (37.1%), and 256 were ages 71 or older (23.1%). 695 election officials were female and 411 were male. For comparison, 9.6 percent of Madison residents are age 65 or older.

Of our 1,106 election officials, 13 reported that they were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (1.2%). Fourteen reported that they were Asian (1.3%), and 100 reported that they were African-American (9%). 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.

Although the number of Hispanic election officials doubled from February to April, we are not even close to approaching our goal of recruiting an election official workforce that is reflective of the community. The Clerk's Office will seek help from the Department of Civil Rights to develop a recruitment plan for 2014.

The Clerk's Office began tracking these demographics in February 2010. Here are the statistics we gathered at that time: Of our 510 election officials, 5 were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (1%), 2 were Asian (0.4%), and 19 were African-American (4%). We had four election officials ages 18-25 (0.8%), 41 ages 26-40 (8%), 124 ages 41-60 (24%), 166 ages 61-70 (33%), and 175 ages 71 or older (34%).

### **Training**

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The Clerk's Office offered 34 training sessions for election officials from March 12 through March 28. Training took place at the City-County Building, Madison Police East District, Oakwood Village University Woods, Olbrich Gardens, Madison Water Utility, Sequoia Branch Library, Hawthorne Branch Library, and Lakeview Branch Library.

### **Absentee Ballots Issued**

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The City Clerk's Office issued 5,354 absentee ballots for this election. There were 1,300 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter. 4,096 absentee ballots (76.5 percent) were returned to be counted.

For comparison, the City Clerk's Office issued 6,364 absentee ballots for the April 2009 election, including 1,657 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter. 3,825 absentee ballots (60.1 percent) were returned to be counted.

### **Absentee Ballots Rejected**

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Thirty-five absentee ballots were rejected at the polls: 23 had no voter signature, 11 had no witness signature, and 1 envelope was unsealed. Of the ballots sent to the polls to be counted, 0.9 percent were rejected.

One hundred seventy-one 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 8:30 p.m. They counted 170 absentee ballots and rejected one (no voter signature).

### **Challenges**

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The ineffective flu shot was our biggest challenge this year, leaving us short-handed in the office.