

From: Paul Malischke
To: Sharon Christensen
Cc: Jean MacCubbin
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2004 6:39 AM
Subject: review of ballot numbers

Hello Sharon Christensen,
Please consider reviewing the number of ballot you will have available.
According to my calculations below, 198,000 are needed to meet the
recommendation of the SEB.

Saturday I learned from Richard Rasmussen of the State Elections Board that
the SEB recommends having ballots equal to 110% of the voting age population.
Another way to calculate ballots needed is 125% of registered voters.

I did some research on the web and found this data:

From <http://madisonwi.areasconnect.com/statistics.htm>, Madison 2000 population
was 208,054, and 170,793 were 18 and over (82%).

According to the community profile sheet available at
<http://www.cityofmadison.com/econdev/economic.html>,
the 2000 Madison population was 207,248; the 2002 population was 213,679.
Let's assume that during the last two years we grew by the same amount as
during 2000 to 2002. This would mean 6,431 more people. This brings us to
220,110 people. 82% of this is 180,490 people age 18 and over.

To meet the recommendation of the SEB: 110% of the 18-and-over
population is 198,539 ballots.

Thanks,
Paul Malischke
malischke@yahoo.com

From Sharon Christensen, October 14:

Please forward this reply to Paul. I ordered 100% of the registered
voters as of August 25, 2004. I also have an additional 10% of the
ballot ordered by header code here in the City Clerk's Office that can
be delivered if needed. The County Clerk indicated that I ordered
160,000 plus (can't remember the number) ballots. I would never
guarantee anything, but feel I have adequate ballots ordered. When the
Election Officials call in at 11:00 a.m. we can then look to see where
there may be problems and get ballots delivered with the absentee
ballots.



Thank you for using our printer friendly story page.

Record City Turnout Marred By Long Delays

Voter Turnout, Poll Problems

Wisconsin State Journal :: Front :: A1

Thursday, November 9, 2000

Dee J. Hall Wisconsin State Journal

Some voters in Madison waited two hours or more to cast their ballots Tuesday as city poll workers struggled to cope with a record 81.3 percent turnout.

Workers at some polls in Madison also had to order or photocopy additional registration cards as tens of thousands of new voters were signed up, Mayor Susan Bauman said. Madison Ald. Mike Verveer said he literally took volunteers off the street to manage the long lines at the UW-Madison's Gordon Commons, where he was a poll worker. Some students left because of two-hour waits. "I'm not sure if they returned," Verveer said.

Dane County also set a record for a presidential election with a roughly 75 percent turnout -- a full 10 percent above what Dane County Clerk Joe Parisi had predicted a few days ago.

Parisi said Middleton poll workers were forced to photocopy ballots to avoid running out. The county clerk's office is responsible for filling orders placed by municipal clerks and in Middleton, Parisi said.

The state Elections Board estimated Tuesday's statewide turnout at 66.2 percent of eligible voters. That's not a record for a presidential election, said George Dunst, the board's legal counsel, but it far exceeds the 51 percent average turnout nationwide.

Intense campaigning in Wisconsin, and particularly Dane County by Democrat Al Gore and Green Party candidate Ralph Nader -- along with a hotly contested congressional race -- were likely reasons for the high turnout, Parisi said.

Vice President Gore had labeled Wisconsin as "ground zero" in his quest for the presidency. Gore squeaked past Republican Texas Gov. George Bush in the state in unofficial results not available until Wednesday morning.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., was critical of the lengthy waits that her supporters found at Madison polls, particularly on the Isthmus. Baldwin beat Republican challenger John Sharpless in a close race.

Said Baldwin: "It is something that causes concern because I would be

the candidate most disadvantaged by people who had to leave long lines to get back to appointments, to get back to work. We understand that happened."

Some voters waiting in line for more than two hours at Madison's Lapham Elementary School witnessed two men with "Bush 2000" jackets challenging poll workers to make sure no one got in after the 8 p.m. poll closing, said Jim Dunn, a voter.

Dunn said there was some "nasty back and forth" between the long line of voters and the pair, who eventually retreated to a corner to quietly observe the election.

At 4 p.m. Tuesday, Bauman said she was visited by a representative of the Gore campaign, who also was concerned about the long lines. Bauman said she urged the campaign to send volunteers to the most heavily trafficked polls.

Ben Manski, Nader's Wisconsin coordinator, said he fears the poll problems may have depressed the Nader vote. He said some Green Party volunteers photocopied registration cards at the Olbrich Botanical Garden poll site.

"Many of our voters are first-time voters," Manski said. "Anyone going to the polls for the first time and having to wait 1 1/2 hours to 2 hours to vote would certainly find it an alienating experience."

Bauman defended the city clerk's office, saying that the problems resulted from a much larger than predicted turnout, a shortage of poll workers and a short-staffed clerk's office, which currently has two vacancies.

However, others, including Parisi, said Madison should've been better prepared. Verveer noted that in 1998, some Madison polls ran out of ballots. Police had to run copies to polling places, Verveer said.

Said Parisi, "If they have staffing problems, they should get on top of it."

Parisi also was critical of the fact that Madison has one person, Ray Fisher, serving as clerk, treasurer and assessor. Fisher did not return a phone call from the State Journal. Deputy Clerk Sharon Christensen, who runs the office's day-to-day operations, was out Wednesday on a family emergency, her staff said.

"I do think the mayor and the City Council need to take a serious look at the way the City Clerk's office is organized," Parisi said. "I don't think the mayor understands the gravity of the situation."

Bauman disagreed, saying that the city simply needs to lure more poll workers, who earn \$85 for a sometimes grueling, 13-hour day. "I don't see it as we need to be realigning people," Bauman said.

Despite the problems, Parisi said he was pleased with the high turnout.