



2011 Spring Primary Election Debriefing for the Madison Election Advisory Committee

Overview

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 22 percent on February 15, 2011. There were 38,589 votes cast. Election Officials registered 731 voters at the polls.

For comparison, the City of Madison had a voter turnout of 17 percent in February 2007, with 27,232 votes cast. Election Officials registered 660 voters at the polls in February 2007.

Election Official Recruitment

Of the 557 individuals who worked at the polls, 16 were ages 18-25 (3%), 39 were ages 26-40 (7%), 133 were ages 41-60 (24%), 185 were ages 61-70 (33%), and 184 were ages 71 or older (33%). 347 Election Officials were female and 210 were male.

Of our 557 Election Officials, 3 were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (0.5%), 2 were Asian (0.4%), and 28 were African-American (5%). For comparison, 6.5% of City of Madison residents are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 7.5% are Asian, and 5.9% are African-American.

Training

The City Clerk's Office offered 35 training sessions for Election Officials from January 24 through February 16. Training took place at the City-County Building, the Village on Park, Madison Water Utility, Attic Angels, Oakwood Village West, Warner Park, and Olbrich Gardens. Randy Black, chairperson of the Commission on People with Disabilities, gave a great presentation at our AutoMark training sessions.

We also offered training sessions on our website. Fifty Election Officials completed the online Election Day Paperwork training. Forty Election Officials completed the online Processing Absentee Ballots training. And fifty-six Election Officials completed the online Election Official Training for Beginners.

Absentee Ballots

The City Clerk's Office issued 3,133 absentee ballots for this election. There were 686 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter (22 percent of absentees issued were issued to voters at the counter). 2,457 absentees (78 percent) were returned to be counted.

Thirty-nine absentee ballots were rejected at the polls: 26 had no voter signature, 6 had no witness signature, 3 were not registered at their current address, 1 was deceased, and 3 decided to vote at the polls instead of absentee. Of the ballots returned to be counted, 1.6 percent were rejected.

For comparison, the City Clerk's Office issued 2,435 absentee ballots for the February 2007 Spring Primary. Fifty-three percent of absentees were returned to be counted in February 2007, including 301 absentees issued to voters at the counter.