



2012 Spring Election Debriefing for the Madison Election Advisory Committee

Overview

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 28 percent on April 3, 2012. There were 46,452 votes cast. Election Officials registered 2,716 voters at the polls. Fifty-one eligible voters were not able to register on Election Day under the new registration requirements, and had to leave the polling place without voting.

Election Official Recruitment

Of the 1,159 individuals who worked at the polls, 1 was age 16-17 (0.1%), 31 were ages 18-25 (2.7%), 93 were ages 26-40 (8%), 369 were ages 41-60 (31.8%), 385 were ages 61-70 (33.2%), and 280 were ages 71 or older (24.2%). 778 Election Officials were female and 381 were male. For comparison, 9.6 percent of Madison residents are age 65 or older.

Of our 1,159 Election Officials, 11 reported that they were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (0.9%), 15 were Asian (1.3%), and 77 were African-American (6.6%). 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 City Clerk's Office offered 34 training sessions for Election Officials from March 22 through April 2. Training took place at the City-County Building, Madison Police East District, Madison Water Utility, Oakwood Village West, Warner Park, Olbrich Gardens, Alicia Ashman Branch Library, Sequoya Branch Library, Hawthorne Branch Library, Pinney Branch Library, and Lakeview Branch Library.

Absentee Ballots

The City Clerk's Office issued 6,665 absentee ballots for this election. There were 2,110 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter (31.7 percent of absentees issued were issued to voters at the counter). 5,190 absentees (77.9 percent) were returned to be counted.

Sixty absentee ballots were rejected at the polls: 17 had no voter signature, 16 had no witness signature, 5 absentee envelopes were not sealed, 2 absentee voters moved without registering at their new address, one absentee voter died after casting his absentee ballot, and 19 voters decided to vote at the polls instead of having their absentee ballot counted. Of the ballots sent to the polls to be counted, 1.2 percent were rejected.

One hundred thirty-five absentee ballots arrived in the mail after Election Day but by 4 p.m. the Friday of election week. The Board of Canvassers counted 134 of these absentee ballots and rejected one absentee lacking a voter signature.

Challenges

With a court injunction on portions of the Voter ID law, we were concerned about the possibility of the injunction being lifted right before the election. The Madison Fire Department arranged a conference call the night before the election so Chief Inspectors could find out from the Clerk's Office where there were any changes to the information presented at training.