



2008 Spring Election Debriefing prepared by the City Clerk for the Madison Election Advisory Committee

Overview

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 22 percent on April 1, 2008. There were 35,087 votes cast. Election Officials registered 396 voters at the polls.

For comparison, the City of Madison had a voter turnout of 22 percent in April 2006, with 36,662 votes cast. Election Officials registered 3,241 voters at the polls in April 2006.

Training

We offered 13 training sessions for Election Officials the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before the election. Voter Registration, Absentee Processing, Accessibility, and Beginner Training Sessions were offered at Olbrich Gardens, the City-County Building, and the Madison Water Utility. All Election Officials were required to attend a training session.

Quality Assurance Team

The Quality Assurance Team conducted polling place accessibility checks and helped Election Officials improve the accessibility of their polling place layouts on April 1.

Members of the Quality Assurance Team also helped prepare the absentee ballots for delivery to the polls, giving the Clerk additional time to determine which polling places would need to receive an additional supply of ballots with their absentee delivery.

Preparations for the Fall Elections

Our Records Clerk/Director of Election Equipment Testing has taken a position with another city agency because the physical demands of testing election equipment, delivering equipment to the polls, and retrieving the equipment after each election have become too strenuous. We will need to hire someone to fill this crucial position, and then train them as we prepare for the fall elections.

The Clerk's Office is working with the Disability Rights Coordinator from the Civil Rights Department and staff from the Government Accountability Board to evaluate accessibility and parking issues at our polling places. We have ordered additional bell calls, and will need to order additional signage and AutoMark tables this spring.

We are once again verifying the accuracy of the address ranges in the Statewide Voter Registration System, to ensure that voters are listed on the proper poll books.

We currently have three light duty workers organizing election supplies for the fall. The vinyl chloride emitted by the election supply totes has been triggering asthma attacks and migraines in the office, so the Health Department has suggested that we find an alternate location to store the supply totes between elections. The supply totes are three years old.

Before fall, we need to split the wards voting at Heritage Congregational Church into two polling locations. We also need to find new polling places for Ward 99 (Elver Park), Gates of Heaven (Ward 39), Fire Station #8 (Wards 16 & 17), and Fire Station #1 (Ward 42). Fire Station #8 has been added to this list at the request of the Fire Department.

We will be working with the Government Accountability Board this summer to explore the possibility of using the Statewide Voter Registration System to keep track of our Election Officials. I also would like to revise the process we use to schedule Election Officials to make it more efficient.

I will be meeting with Chief Inspectors from campus polling locations this summer to develop a comprehensive strategy for issues that are specific to student voters. I also will be meeting with Chief Inspectors from across Madison to discuss training, security, and best practices for elections.