



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

Overview

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 54 percent on February 19, 2008. There were 87,992 votes cast. Election Officials registered approximately 25,000 voters at the polls.

Training

With the assistance of the County Clerk and the Deputy County Clerk, we offered 20 hands-on training sessions for Election Officials. Training sessions were offered at GEF-1, High Point Church, Warner Park, the City-County Building, and the Madison Water Utility. All Election Officials were required to attend a training session.

Accessibility Checks

City of Madison Building Inspectors, Assessors, Librarians, Civil Rights staff, and Election Officials inspected polling locations for accessibility on Election Day. The Clerk's Office is ordering additional bell calls, AutoMark tables, and accessible parking signage for future elections, based on the survey results. Clerk's Office and Civil Rights staff will revisit 16 polling locations on April 1 to help Election Officials position election equipment in a more accessible manner.

New Security Requirements

The state had new security requirements in place for this election. Everything had to be sealed, every seal had to have a number, and the seal numbers had to be documented and verified in numerous places. These new requirements added approximately 200 hours of work to the election process.

SVRS

We used the Statewide Voter Registration System to process all absentee ballots for this election. The State Elections Board/Government Accountability Board had two of its employees stationed in our office for three weeks to help with SVRS troubleshooting.

Preparations for Spring Election

Dozens of Administrative Clerks from other City of Madison departments are working overtime six days a week to process the Election Day Registrations. They were not able to work overtime this past weekend because the state shut down SVRS for maintenance. If the system is not shut down for maintenance again, they should be able to finish the project this upcoming Saturday, allowing us to generate the April 1 poll books next Monday.

There will be four types of training sessions offered before the April 1 Spring Election: training for beginners, voter registration training, absentee training, and training on the AutoMark and accessibility. A total of 13 training sessions are being offered.