



2012 Partisan Primary Debriefing for the Madison Election Advisory Committee

Overview

The City of Madison had a voter turnout of 23 percent on August 14, 2012. There were 40,623 votes cast. Election officials registered 817 voters at the polls. Fourteen eligible voters were not able to register on Election Day because they lacked an acceptable form of proof of residence.

Election Official Recruitment

Of the 1,035 individuals who worked at the polls, 3 were ages 16-17 (0.3%), 50 were ages 18-25 (4.8%), 87 were ages 26-40 (8.4%), 323 were ages 41-60 (31.2%), 328 were ages 61-70 (31.7%), and 244 were ages 71 or older (23.6%). Six hundred fifty-eight election officials were female and 377 were male. For comparison, 9.6 percent of Madison residents are age 65 or older.

Of our 1,035 election officials, 8 reported that they were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (0.8%), all on the east and north sides of Madison. Nine reported that they were Asian (0.9%), and 78 reported that they were African-American (7.5%). 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 Clerk's Office offered 45 training sessions for election officials from July 31 through August 13. Training took place at the City-County Building, Village on Park, Madison Police East District, Madison Water Utility, Sequoya Branch Library, Pinney Branch Library, Hawthorne Branch Library, and Lakeview Branch Library.

Absentee Ballots

The City Clerk's Office issued 7,116 absentee ballots for this election. There were 1,522 absentee ballots issued to voters at the counter (21.4 percent of absentees issued were issued to voters at the counter). 5,146 absentee ballots (72.3 percent) were returned to be counted.

Fourteen absentee ballots were rejected at the polls: 8 had no voter signature, 2 had no witness signature, 2 absentee voters moved without registering at their new address, and 2 voters had voted at the polls (these have been referred to the District Attorney). Of the ballots sent to the polls to be counted, 0.3 percent were rejected.

One hundred thirty-one absentee ballots arrived in the mail after Election Day but by 4 p.m. the Friday of election week. The Board of Canvassers counted all 131 absentee ballots at 4 p.m. that Friday.

Challenges

The Clerk's Office processed 18,981 voter registrations from the June 5 Recall Election between June 6 and August 5, the day poll books were run for the August Primary. The County Clerk's Office provided assistance as the City Clerk's Office also processed thousands of license renewals in June and July.

Preparations for November

Election official training will begin on October 8, with 111 training sessions available throughout the City of Madison. Approximately 60 percent of election official vacancies have been filled with five weeks remaining before the election.

Of the 5,648 absentee ballots issued so far, 767 have been returned to be counted.

Of the 423 voter registrations initiated through <https://MyVote.wi.gov>, 98 have been returned to the City Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office has been sending follow-up letters to voters who begin the registration process online but have yet to send their registration forms to the Clerk's Office.