

Montgomery County Board of Elections

Acting Election Director's Report – September 2022

Notice and Distribution of Materials

The agenda was posted to the website on September 8, 2022. Draft minutes for the following meetings were provided to the Board on September 9, 2022: June 27, July 11, July 19, and August 12.

The agenda for the meeting was posted to the website on September 10, 2022. The Acting Director's report and attachments were provided to the Board on September 18, 2022.

Action Items from Previous Meetings

Affidavit Regarding Earlier Opening of Vote by Mail Ballots. As discussed at the August Board meeting, the Acting Election Director submitted an affidavit on September 1, 2022, attesting to the process of canvassing Vote by Mail ballots and the challenges facing the Board due to the compressed timetable for the November election. A ruling on the State Board's petition to seek earlier opening of the ballots is expected on September 23, 2022.

Polling Place Changes. On August 15, 2022, the State Board of Elections approved the polling place changes that the Montgomery County Board of Elections selected at its Board meeting on August 12.

State Board of Elections

On September 8, the State Board certified the content and arrangement of the ballot for the general election. There are 258 ballot styles in Montgomery County, each consisting of three cards, with five Constitutional Amendments appearing on the ballot statewide and one Montgomery County Charter Amendment.

Precinct-level election results from the primary election are available on the state website at https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2022/election_data/index.html.

Voter Registration

Monthly Statistics. The Monthly Statistical Report for August was distributed to Board members on September 1, 2022. As of August 31, 2022, there were 673,016 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 77,390 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 750,406.

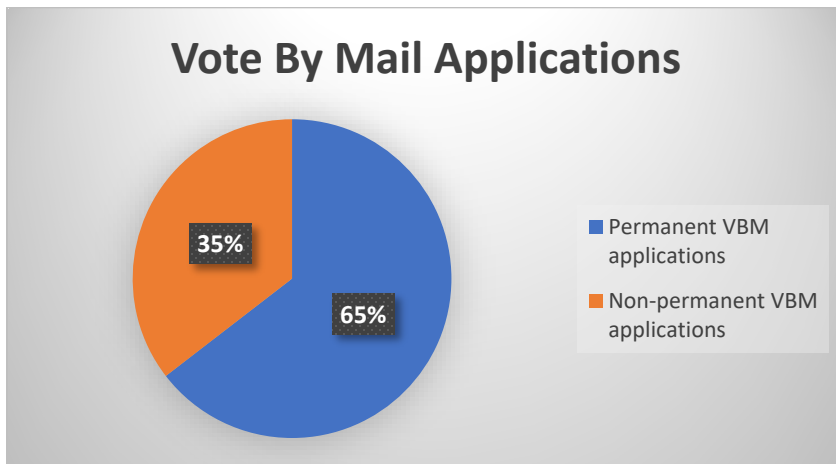
Vote By Mail. In August, the State Board of Elections mailed Vote by Mail applications to Montgomery County voters who had registered since the last mailing of applications prior to the Primary Election.

As of September 14, 2022, Staff of the Board of Elections have processed 114,131 applications for a vote by mail ballots for the 2022 Gubernatorial General Election. Approximately 65% of those requests are for permanent Vote by Mail and 15% are requests for web delivery ballots.

September 14, 2022
Vote by Mail Applications
TOTAL: 114,131

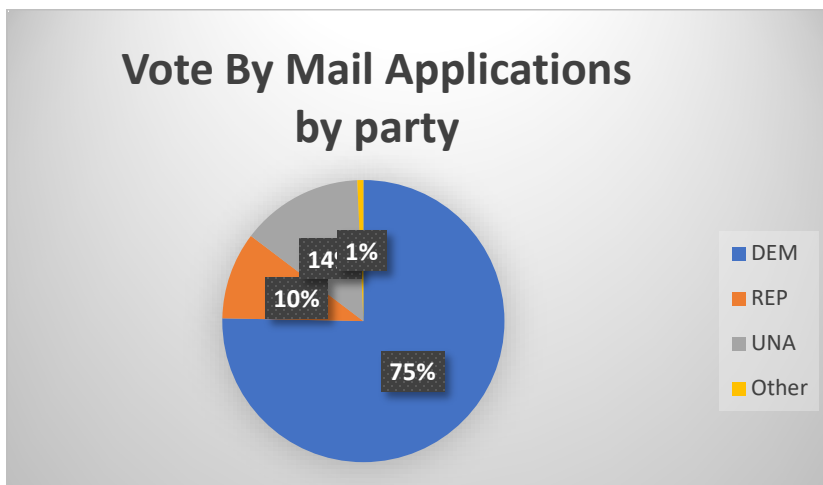
Breakdown non/permanent:

Permanent VBM applications	73,664
Non-permanent VBM applications	40,467
	114,131



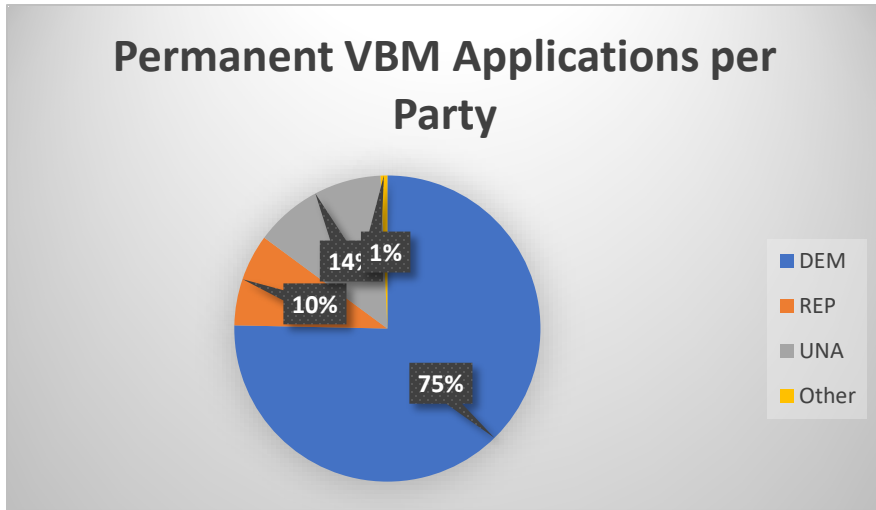
VBM Applications per party:

DEM	85,956
REP	11,420
UNA	15,962
Other	793
	114,131



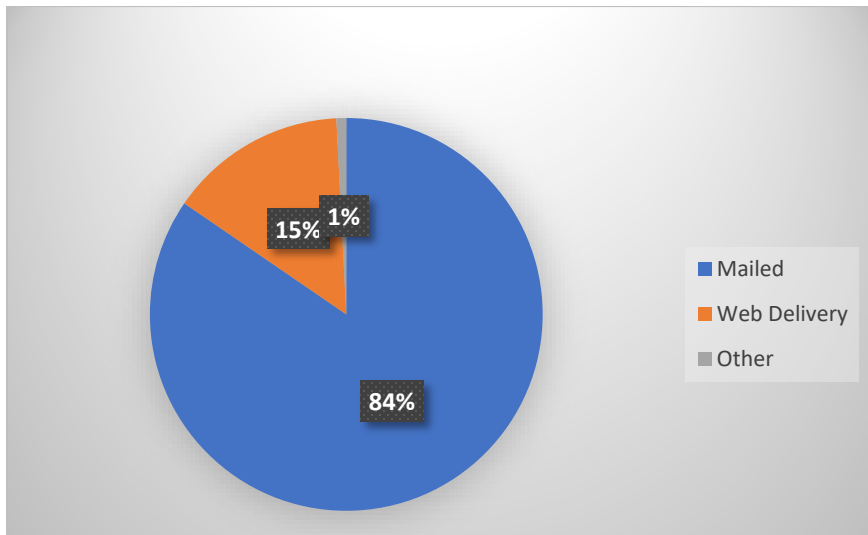
Permanent VBM Applications per Party:

DEM	55,494
REP	7,209
UNA	10,434
Other	527
	73,664



VBM Ballot delivery method:

Mailed	96,514
Web Delivery	16,696
Other	921
	114,131



Sample Ballot. The sample ballot is scheduled for mailing to voters the first week of October. Due to the additional length of the ballot and the need to include ballot question summaries and information about write-in candidates, the publication will be 36 pages long.

Ballot Preparation. Staff have completed the proofreading and preparation of the ballot order. Logic and accuracy testing will begin as soon as test ballots are received. Board members are requested to mark your calendars for the public test of the voting system, along with early voting supply verification, for a tentative date of October 12.

Motion Requested to Approve Verification Plan. Staff is requesting a motion from the Board to approve our plan for verification of the packaging of supplies for Early Voting and Election Day. A copy of the plan is attached to this report.

Motion Requested to Approve Additional Ballot Marking Devices. State Board approval is required to send more than six ballot marking devices to an Early Voting site, or more than three ballot marking devices to an Election Day polling place. A draft of the request is attached for Board consideration. The State Board is scheduled to consider such requests at its meeting on September 28.

Request to Speak at Legislative Briefing. I have been asked to speak at a virtual briefing before the House Ways and Means Committee on September 29, 2022, about the 2022 primary election and preparations for the 2022 general election. Specifically, the request is to address the challenges with canvassing mail-in ballots, the provisional ballots not included in the initial canvass that were discovered by the audit and subsequently counted, the recount in the county executive's race and its cost, and the status of potential fixes to the display of candidates' names on the ballot marking devices.

Personnel

Permanent positions. The positions of Election Director and Election Operations Manager have been advertised and remain open until filled. Eligible candidates have been identified for the Operations Manager position and interviews are currently being scheduled. Interviews have been conducted for a vacant Office Services Coordinator position in the absentee voting section and the department is currently working with the Office of Human Resources to extend an offer to the selected candidate. Two additional positions, for a Management and Budget Specialist and an additional Office Services Coordinator, remain vacant.

Temporary positions. The department currently has 73 temporary employees on the payroll. Interviews are ongoing for temporary positions throughout the department. We are working with the Office of Human Resources to identify candidates and streamline the hiring process to staff up with the additional manpower needed.

Election Judge Training

As of September 16, 439 election workers have been trained for the General Election. Training began on September 7 at our primary Fleet Management training location and will continue there until Election Day. Additional training will be conducted at the Nancy Dacek Community Recreation Center in the second half of September, at the Silver Spring Civic Building in the first half of October, and at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center in the second half of October.

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Website

A link to the certified content and arrangement of the ballot is at 777vote.org, along with a statement that the public is welcome to review the display of the ballot on a ballot marking device at the Board's office in Gaithersburg.