Montgomery County Board of Elections

Election Director's Report – February 2025

Notice and Distribution of Materials

The Agenda for the February 3, 2025, Board meeting was posted on the Board of Elections website and shared with the Board members on January 20, 2025.

The Director's Report, the Expenditure Tracking Report, and meeting materials were shared with the Board members and posted on the website on January 30, 2025.

Voter Registration Statistics:

The Voter Registration Monthly Statistical Report for December 2024 was distributed to the Board members on January 3, 2025, and published on the BOE's website. As of the end of December 2024, there were 706,375 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 35,431 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 741,806.
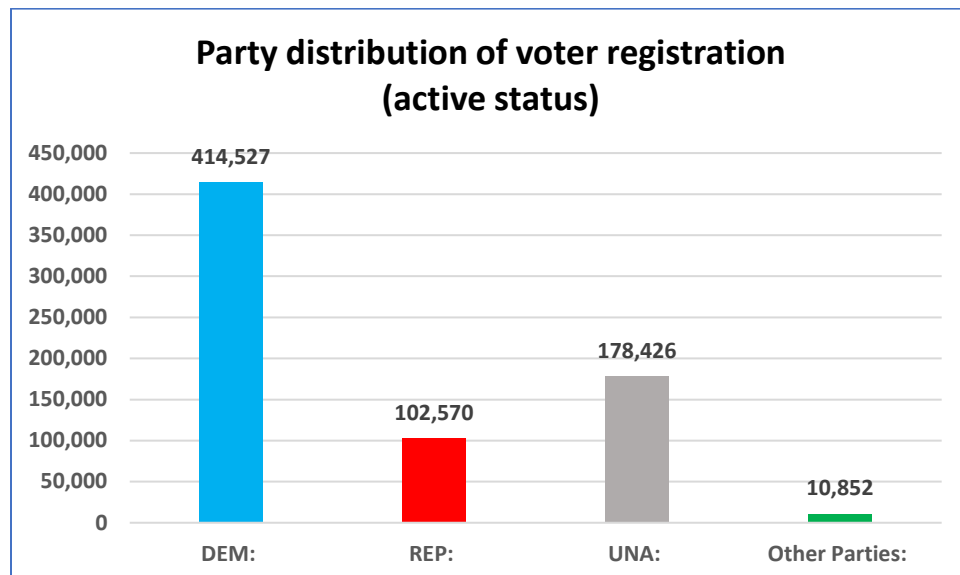
Voter Registration – Active Voters Status:

DEM: 414,527

REP: 102,570

UNA: 178,426

Other Parties: 10,852

Personnel

Permanent positions:

The Department concluded the hiring process for the Vote By Mail Program Manager I position, and selected Ms. Michelle Gonda for the position.

Staff has completed the reclassification process for the Recruitment and Training Manager II position and will proceed shortly with advertising the position.

The Budget and Finance Position remains vacant while the tasks are currently performed by HR Liaison/Administrative Specialist II.

The Deputy Director position remains vacant.

Temporary positions:

As per the planned calendar of the post-election activities, we have further reduced the number of temporary employees. However, a limited number of temporary employees remained to assist the team with processing of the backlog voter records, data entry and post-election equipment maintenance.

Budget

The shared Expenditure Tracking Report reflects the approved Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, the Department's last month's spending, and the up-to-date spending for fiscal year 2025. The second quarter analysis, conducted in cooperation with the Office of Management and Budget, projects an overall surplus at the end of the fiscal year 2025.

Sections' Activities

Voter Services

As per legal requirement, the Department cancelled voter registration of 34,162 Inactive voters who had not voted in the last two election cycles. This mandatory process is conducted every December following the general election.

Voter Registration has completed scanning, attaching to the voters' records and updating when requested the party affiliation for over 27,000 Provisional Ballots cast in the 2024 General Election. Once this task was completed, the Team commenced processing of 36,706 Online Voter Registrations and Updates submitted since the Advanced Voter Registration Deadline of October 15, 2024.

In addition to the generated backlog, the Team has also been conducting the list-maintenance by processing 10,000 records received through ERIC, Jury Commission, and State Board of Elections.

Lastly, the Voter Registration Team has sent out 2,583 letters to voters affiliated with Libertarian Party and 1,303 letters to voters affiliated with No Labels Party informing them of their Lost Party status.

Vote By Mail Team has processed the 2,275 Permanent Vote By Mail cancelation sheets filled out by Provisional Voters during the 2024 General election. The Team has completed the backlog of received domestic and UOCAVA vote by mail applications and returned mail, and it is currently preparing over 165,000 mail-in ballot envelopes for mandatory 22 months retention.

The Voter Services Team is taking the lead in preparation for the Manual Audit of the 2024 Presidential General Election that is scheduled to take place on February 18, 2025.

IT / Training Section

The IT warehouse staff is performing Post Election Maintenance (PEM) on all of the voting equipment (scanners and BMDs) and the pollbooks.

IT Manager is working with the Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) department and a vendor contracted by TEBS on the replacement of the entire Election Resource Management System (ERMS). This includes the portal used by the election workers and the internal database used by the Board of Elections staff. The new ERMS system is needed to replace the existing system to leverage a modern framework and to mitigate limitations in the existing application. The new system is scheduled to be implemented for the 2026 election cycle.

In addition, the IT Manager and selected members of the IT Staff are attending Website Accessibility trainings led by the website division of TEBS. The trainings provide the tools necessary for staff to build, test, deploy and support accessible web pages and content. The purpose of the trainings is to ensure that county websites are in compliance with the new US Department of Justice Title II ADA regulation by April 24, 2026.

Operations Section

Operations staff continues breaking down 2024 General Election supplies and shredding. Staff have concluded two visits with the shred company, shredding the last of the remaining unvoted

2024 Primary ballots (3 pallets) as well as the initial reserve of 2024 General ballots. The next shred date is scheduled for Friday, February 14, 2025.

Staff have begun communications with private locations regarding leases for the 2026 election cycle.

Recruitment and Election Support

The Recruitment Team continues to process election worker applications and assist volunteers as needed.

The Recruitment Team will be evaluating the current internal processes and programs for possible improvements to lead to a more efficient and volunteer friendly process and enhance the overall experience.

The winning Election Judges of the Pick-a-Pal Promotion for the 2024 General election have collected their prizes and met with the Election Director and Recruitment Team. The Pick-a-Pal promotion had 100 referrals with 28 Election Judge deemed eligible for the grand prize drawing. Two winners were selected.

The Recruitment Team is sending emails to voters who expressed interest in serving in the elections by signing up before they left their polling place. The number of voters who have been contacted by the Recruitment Team so far is over 3,371. Additionally, we mailed over 750 Election Worker Program Postcards to voters who expressed interest in serving through their voter registration applications.

<u>Meetings / Events</u>

Maryland Association of Election Officials annual conference is scheduled for May 4 through May 9, 2025, in Ocean City Maryland.