Montgomery County Board of Elections

Election Director's Report – March 2025

Notice and Distribution of Materials

The Agenda for the March 17, 2025, Board meeting was posted on the Board of Elections website and shared with the Board members on March 10, 2025.

The Director's Report, the Expenditure Tracking Report, and meeting materials were shared with the Board members and posted on the website on March 13, 2025.

Action Items from the last Board meeting

1. **A copy or summary of the Department of Justice's communication regarding Website Accessibility updates.**
    a. On April 24, 2024, the [Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities Rule](#) was published in the Federal Register
    b. A fact sheet provided by ADA.gov provides a summary of the rule, including exceptions [Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments](#)

2. **Data pertaining to Ballot Marking Device usage at all Leisure World Polling Places.**
    a. Inter-Faith Chapel: 63.21% BMD used
    b. Leisure World Clubhouse 1: 51.93% BMD used
    c. Leisure World Clubhouse 2: 50.68% BMD used

3. **Data on the number of Mail-In Ballots rejected following the certification of the 2024 Presidential General Election**.
    a. 149 untimely mail-in ballots have been rejected since certification of the 2024 Presidential General Election: 94 at the December 2024 Board meeting, and 55 the February 2025 Board meeting.

Voter Registration Statistics:

The Voter Registration Monthly Statistical Report for February 2025 was distributed to the Board members on March 3, 2025, and published on the BOE's website. As of the end of February 2025,

there were 699,697 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 43,208 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 742,905.

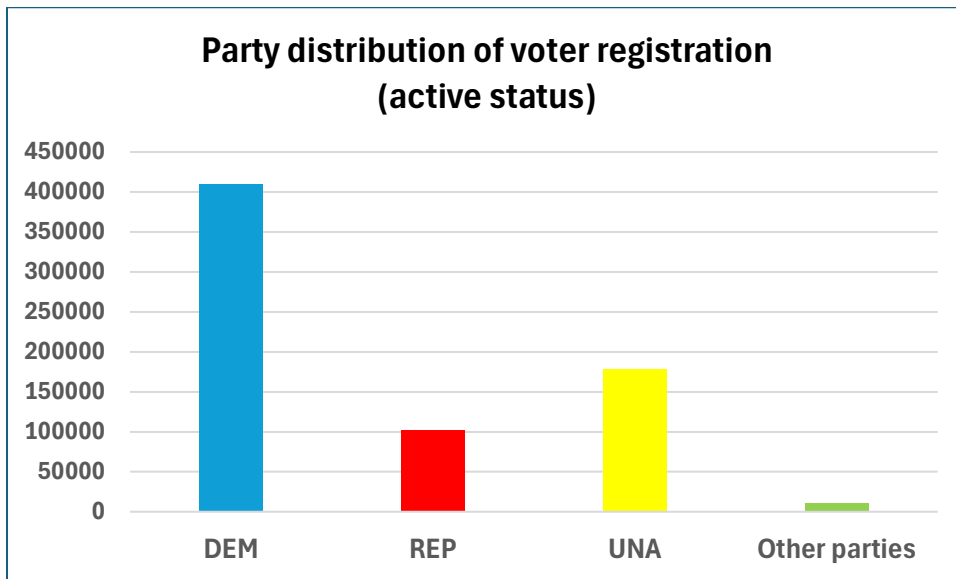**Voter Registration – Active Voters Status:**

DEM: 409,102
REP: 101,982
UNA: 177,721
Other Parties: 10,892

Party distribution of voter registration (active status)

SBE

The Working-Class Party petition was sufficient with over ten thousand signatures collected state-wide. As of February 2, 2025, the Working-Class Party is a recognized party again in Maryland.

Personnel

Permanent positions:

The Department has published vacancy ad for the Nursing Home and Vote by Mail Ballot Canvassing Specialist. Anticipated hiring date is the second half of April 2025.

The Recruitment, Training and Outreach Manager II position will be submitted for advertising the week of March 17, 2025.

Temporary positions:

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

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.

State Election Administrator presented an estimate that the new voting system, scheduled for replacement state-wide, may cost 20% to 50% more than anticipated due to new standards introduced by the US Election Assistance Commission. Staff will follow up when more information become available to project the financial cost for BOE.

Sections' Activities

Voter Services

The Voter Registration team continues its daily processing of paper and electronic voter registrations, list maintenance activities which includes processing incoming records provided directly by the voters or received from DHMH, AOC, Jury Commission, Courts or through ERIC. In February, the team processed more than 30,000 electronic voter registrations and updates, as well as scanned/transferred records from other counties.

The team has reached out to Municipalities to collect information on 2025 municipal elections and if localities would need any assistance from BOE. So far, 14 municipalities confirmed dates for local elections in 2025 and requested copies of voter registration lists and precinct registers.

The Vote By Mail team is assisting with the processing of the electronic voter registration requests and updates, while also processing both the Domestic and UOCAVA applications, and returned election mail.

Candidate Filing has begun. 13 Candidates have filed thus far to appear on 2026 ballots in Montgomery County, and we have assisted six candidates with the processing of their documents to run for the County offices. The team is in communication with other interested candidates, providing information on what is needed to file for candidacy from now through February 24, 2026.

IT Section

The IT warehouse staff is continuing to perform Post Election Maintenance (PEM) on all the voting equipment (scanners and BMDs). PEM for the pollbooks was completed in February.

IT Manager is working with the Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) department and a vendor contracted by TEBS on the replacement of the Election Resource Management System (ERMS). User acceptance testing is currently being performed by the IT Manager and TEBS for the new Polling Place Management module. A demo of the new Future Vote module will be provided by the vendor on Friday, March 14th. User acceptance by the IT Manager and TEBS for the Future Vote module will begin the following week.

The IT Manager and selected members of the IT Staff are continuing to attend Website Accessibility trainings led by the website division of TEBS. The BOE website team is also participating in the county's Web 2.0 Redesign Project. This project will move all county websites to an upgraded platform.

Operations Section

Operations staff continues breaking down 2024 General Election supplies and shredding.

Staff have begun communications with private locations regarding leases for the 2026 election cycle and is preparing for the assessment of the 232 polling places.

Recruitment, Training and Outreach Section

The Recruitment Team continues to process election worker application and assist volunteers as needed. In the reporting period, 1,768 Election Worker Program Postcards were mailed to voters who expressed interest in serving through their voter registration applications.

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

Recruiters are supporting outreach efforts by representing the Board of Elections at community events, local colleges, and high schools.

The Lead Trainer is reviewing existing training materials in preparation for the 2026 election cycle and assisting with Outreach events.

<u>Meetings / Events</u>

The Biennial meeting of the Maryland's local Board of Elections is scheduled for May 4th and May 5th, 2025, in Ocean City.

Maryland Association of Election Officials annual conference is scheduled for May 6 through May 9, 2025, also in Ocean City Maryland.