

Montgomery County Board of Elections Election Director's Report – October 2024

Notice and Distribution of Materials

The Agenda for the October 21, 2024, Board meeting was posted on the Board of Elections website on October 14, 2024.

The Director's Report, the Expenditure Tracking Report, and meeting materials were shared with the Board members and posted on the website on October 17, 2024.

Voter Registration Statistics:

The Voter Registration Monthly Statistical Report for September 2024 was distributed to the Board members on October 2, 2024, and published on the BOE's website. As of the end of September 2024, there were 688,741 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 75,072 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 763,813.

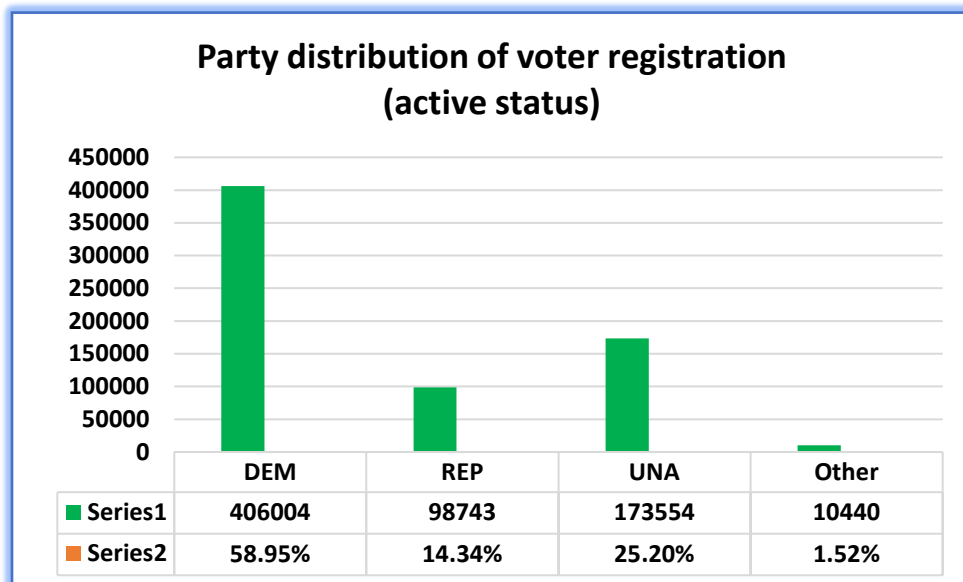
Voter Registration – Active Voters Status:

DEM: 406,004

REP: 98,743

UNA: 173,554

Other Parties: 10,440



State Board of Elections (SBE):

The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) during its September 24, 2024, meeting approved the Montgomery County Board of Elections' request to deploy additional Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) to eight (8) Early Voting Centers and nineteen (19) Election Day polling places for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The request to deploy additional BMDs to the selected Early Voting Centers and Election Day polling places was based on voting patterns and voters' preferences data from the previous elections.

Personnel

Permanent positions:

The Vote By Mail Program Manager I position has been advertised and the ad will remain open through November 5, 2024.

Staff is preparing to readvertise the Deputy Election Director position.

Staff is working with the OMB and OHR to prepare the Manager of Recruitment position to be advertised.

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

Temporary positions:

As we are approaching the General Election, we have increased the number of temporary team members in the office to 76.

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. Both historically and per the calendar of election tasks, most expenditures are expected in the first two quarters of the fiscal year.

Board of Elections - voter communication efforts

Local Boards of Elections are legally required to send registered voters a copy of their respective sample ballots for the upcoming election. The deadline to send a copy of the sample ballot to the voters is at least one week before the first day of early voting. Montgomery County Board of Election commenced mailing sample ballots for the 2024 Presidential General Election on

September 18, 2024, well ahead of the legal deadline and before mail-in ballots were sent to voters (the earliest mail-in ballots are sent to voters 45 days before the election day). The first shipment of sample ballot informational booklets to active registered voters in Congressional District 8 was mailed on September 18, 2024, and our voters instantly notified us about errors. BOE promptly

- issued a [press release](#) on September 19, 2024, explaining the errors and announcing the plans to resend sample ballots to Montgomery County voters,
- withdrew the remaining prepared copies of the sample ballots from the USPS mail stream,
- published sample ballots on the website 777vote.org, and
- emailed a copy of the corrected sample ballot to over 400,000 voters who shared their email addresses with us.

The corrected version of the sample ballots was mailed to voters in the first half of October. The Board would like to thank the voters who brought errors in the sample ballot to our attention so that we can correct them and provide accurate information to all the voters. Additionally, we are encouraged by the level of support that we received from our voters to continue emailing sample ballots for future elections.

On October 4th, the Montgomery County Board of Elections issued a [press release](#) after learning that the Maryland State Board of Elections' vendor inadvertently printed and mailed duplicate mail-in ballots to 224 voters in Bethesda. Each affected voter was sent a letter from the Maryland State Board of Elections with information about the error and next steps, and Montgomery County Board of Elections staff reached out to affected voters to reemphasize the guidelines and provide reassurance that one and only one ballot gets counted for each voter.

Sections' Activities

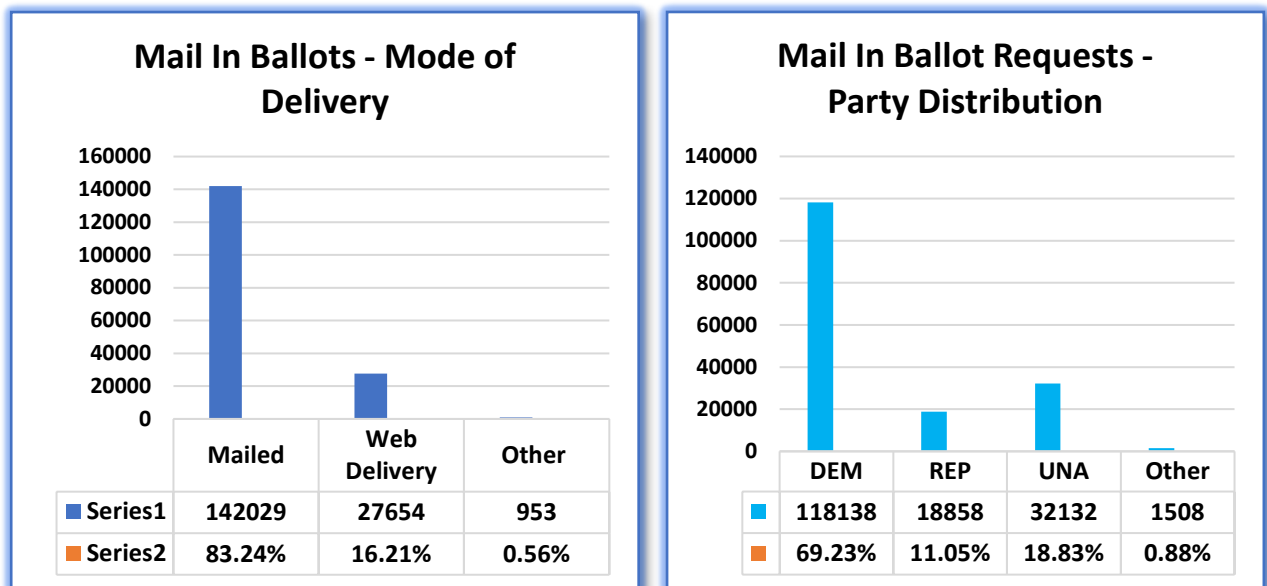
Voter Services

The advanced voter registration deadline was on October 15, 2024 (three weeks before the election day). The Voter Registration Team has been processing over 18,000 timely received electronic voter registration applications, both for new registrants and updates for existing registrants. As a part of its regular list maintenance, the team processed over 8,000 updates received through ERIC – Electronic Registration Information Center, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and the Administrative Officer of the Court (AOC). 10,541 letters to underage registered voters (those who are too young to vote) were mailed. Additionally,

the Team also conducted 14 Registrar trainings in-house for 62 interested individuals. The Call Center launched this week and has already handled more than 850 calls.

The Vote By Mail Team continues to receive and process applications and updates for mail-in ballots. The team serviced 53 Nursing Homes, assisting voters with registering and getting their mail-in ballots. All of this is in conjunction with receiving returned voted mail-in ballots and conducting early canvass for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The first canvass day was on October 15, 2024, and the Vote By Mail Team organized over 100 volunteer election workers who canvassed over 19,000 returned mail-in ballots in a day. The canvassing of the returned mail-in ballots will continue as per the [Canvass Schedule](#) published on the BOE's website. The number of Montgomery County voters choosing to vote by mail for the 2024 General Elections is at a new high in the post-pandemic elections with 170,636 received requests for mail-in ballots by October 16, 2024. The total of 120,055 up-to-date received requests for permanent mail-in ballots further emphasizes the significant shift in voters' preferences toward mail-in voting. By October 17, 2024, the Montgomery County voters already returned over 60,000 voted mail-in ballots (compared to the total of 80,537 returned ballots for the 2024 Primary Election).

The charts below provide additional information on voters' preferences related to the selected method to receive a mail-in ballot and party distribution of the received mail-in ballot requests.



IT / Training Section

IT Staff has completed Logic & Accuracy testing for the voting equipment (ballot marking devices and scanners) for Early Voting and Election Day. A public test of the voting equipment was conducted by the IT Staff on October 17th.

The IT staff is prepping the warehouse to begin logic and accuracy testing on the electronic pollbooks which will begin Monday, October 21st. In addition, the staff will begin setting up the Early Voting sites beginning on Sunday, October 20th.

Training classes began on August 26, 2024. The Training staff has conducted 250 classes and has trained 3,570 election workers as of October 17, 2024.

Operations Section

The Operations Team has finalized ballot allocation and packing for all Early Voting and Election Day locations. Packing of Early Voting supplies and equipment has been finalized and final touches on Election Day supplies is ongoing. Ballot Drop Box pick-ups continue daily, and twice a day pick up will begin on Thursday, October 24th. The Operations Team is focused on the deployment of Early Voting and Election Day equipment.

Recruitment and Election Support

The Recruitment Team continues to prepare for Election Day and Early Voting. The Recruitment Team continues to process received applications from voters interested in serving as Election Workers and Election Judges in the General Election. Recruiters are assisting Election Workers and Judges with the EJ Connection Portal.

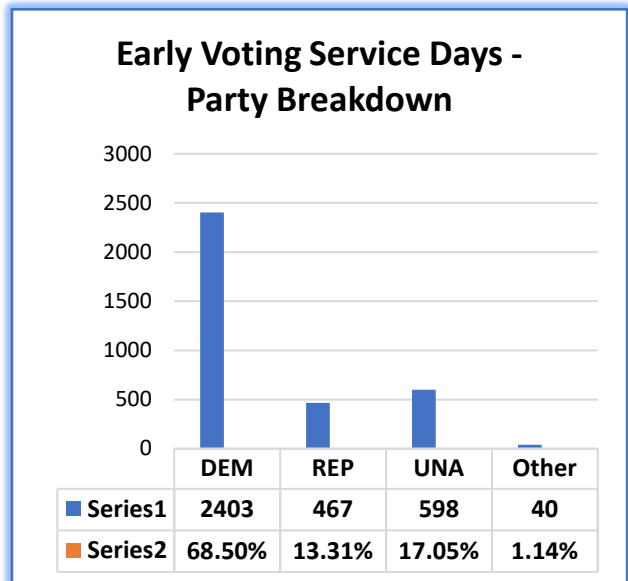
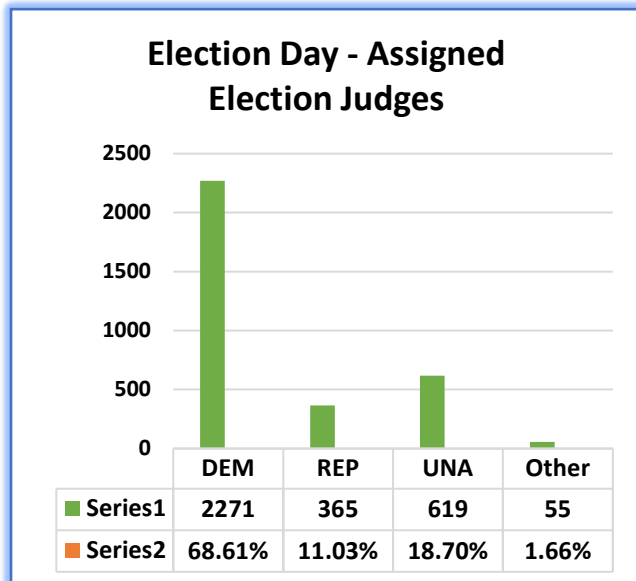
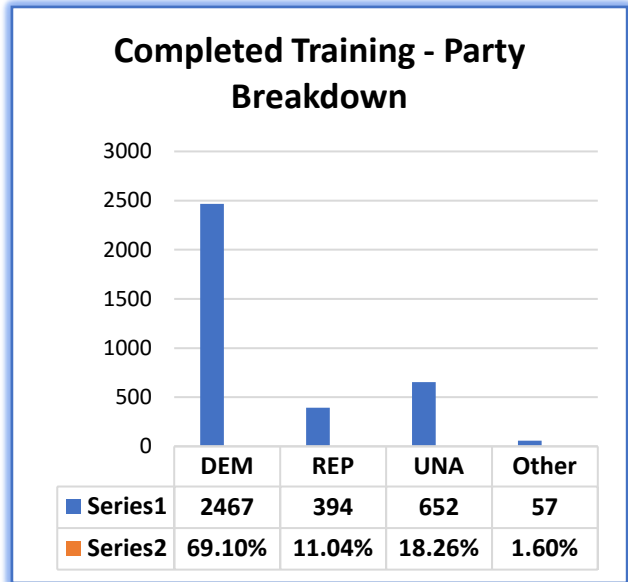
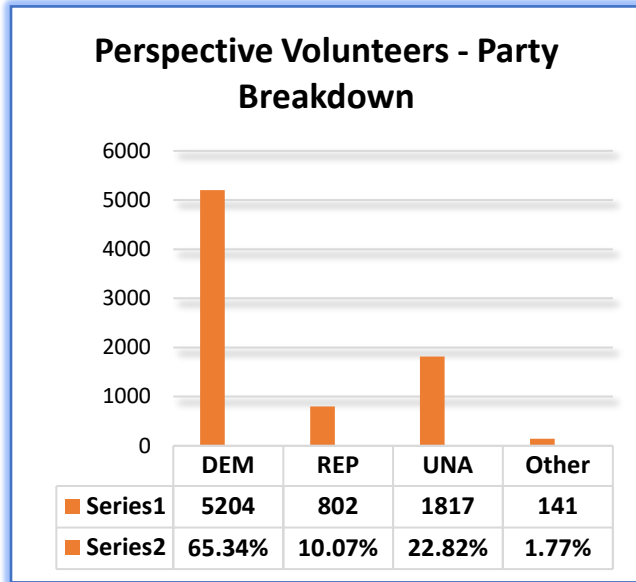
The Recruitment Team is processing online training results and building polling place rosters of trained volunteers for Election Day and Early Voting. The early voting polling place rosters are staffed, and assignments were released beginning October 3, 2024.

The Election Day service assignments were released on October 15, 2024, to those who completed training and will continue to be released as Election Judges complete the required training.

Recruitment statistics:

- 7,964 prospective volunteers available to serve in the general election
- 2,683 of the 7,964 prospective volunteers renewed or completed an application since the Primary Election
- 3,570 volunteers have completed in-person training as of October 17, 2024

- 415 volunteers have signed up to attend in-person training from October 18th – October 26th.



Note: Election Day assigned election judges include 514 half-day shifts, while Early Voting service days totals include 942 half-day shifts. The total breakdown of volunteers who signed up to serve during Early Voting is: DEM - 788, REP – 142, UNA – 189, and Other – 15.

Meetings / Events

On September 17, 2024, Montgomery County Council issued a Proclamation recognizing National Voter Registration Day, by Council Vice President Stewart. The Board President and Vice President, together with the staff attended the event.