



# Election Judge News

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“Did you hear what happened to the Italian chef?” - “He pasta way!”

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## General Election Recap

The 2022 Gubernatorial General Election was certified by the Washington County Board of Elections on Tuesday, November 22nd.

Our next big project was to get all of you paid before the Holidays. More on that later.

But first, some statistics from the General Election you might find interesting.

### Turnout

We heard from many of our polling places how busy it was on Election Day.

So we were surprised when we saw the turnout numbers. 2022 saw a significantly lower turnout than 2018, the last Gubernatorial Election.

Below is a chart showing overall voter turnout over the last three Gubernatorial elections.

Year	Registration	Turnout	%
2022	99,137	49,477	49.9
2018	95,102	51,497	54.1
2014	90,097	39,138	43.4

Even though 2022 had better turnout than 2014, it still did not live up to the turnout Washington County had in 2018.

Election Day turnout was even more surprising. The chart

below shows that even though there were fewer registered voters in Washington County in 2018, there was a much higher in-person turnout on Election Day.

Year	Registration	Turnout	%
2022	99,137	31,204	31.5
2018	95,102	39,007	41.0

Early Voting turnout was even more surprising. With two centrally located Early Voting centers and higher voter registration, plus looking at historical trends, we estimated an Early Voting turnout of around 12,000.

But not only did we fall short of that number, we didn't even match the 2018 Early Voting numbers when we were at Hager Hall.

Year	Registration	Turnout	%
2022	99,137	7,383	7.5
2018	95,102	8,757	9.2

Of course, one explanation for the decrease in in-person turnout is the dramatic increase in mail in ballots.

The below chart shows the huge jump in mail in ballots from 2018 to 2022:

Year	Registration	Turnout	%
2022	99,137	10,028	10.1
2018	95,102	2,930	3.1

The takeaway from this is that over the years, we have instituted a number of mechanisms (Early Voting, Vote By Mail, etc.) to give voters easier access to the ballot, but this has not increased overall voter turnout.

What will increase voter turnout? That's a question for brighter minds than we mere mortal election officials.

But perhaps the answer is to give voters something worth voting for on the ballot?

## Election Judge Pay

Enough of the editorializing: all you want to know is when are you getting paid for working the General Election?

We received a number of calls from election judges wondering when you were going to get paid.

It has been over a month since you worked the election, and it's difficult to explain why it takes so long to pay you all.

But it was important to us to make sure you were paid before Christmas, and our friends at the county government shared our desire.

The county Budget and Finance department, as well as the county Human Resources department, did a great job working with us to ensure all the data was entered on time and accurately to ensure everyone would get paid in the December 16th check run.

Everyone should receive the balance of their pay owed them by early next week!



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## Election Judge News

### Lost and Found

As it happens, we sometimes forget to take all our things with us after we visit places.

The same is true when you visit us at the Election Board. Below is a picture of some items left by, we believe, election judges during your many visits here:



We think we know whom the black cup belongs to, but if you recognize anything in the picture and want to claim it, please contact us at the information to the left, and we'll make sure you get it back.

### Manual Audit

Still one thing left to do before closing the door on the 2022 Gubernatorial General Election.

We are required by the State to perform a manual audit of a sampling size of the General Election.

This includes ballots from one Scanning Unit during Day 1 of Early Voting; all ballots scanned at one of our Election Day precincts; a small amount of ballots from the Mail In Ballot canvass; and a small amount of ballots from the Provisional canvass.

The manual audit consists of a hand recount of the selected ballots, done by bipartisan teams. The purpose of the audit is to verify the accuracy of the Scanning Units in tabulating the paper ballots.

The manual audit must be conducted within 120 days of

the General Election, so we will perform the audit on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. In case of inclement weather, the makeup date will be Thursday, February 9, 2023.

### Training Center

Excerpts from Chapter 2—Security Rules and Awareness from the Election Judge Training Manual.

#### 2.1 Security Rules for All Election Judges

- Unauthorized collection, transmission, sharing, or disclosure of voter information is prohibited. These activities will result in immediate removal from office and possible civil and/or criminal penalties.
- Always wear the name tag provided by the Washington County Board of Elections. Always carry your photo ID while working as an election judge.
- Do not deviate from the approved *Election Judges' Manual* or training without the written approval of the State Administrator of elections.
- Make sure that all paperwork is filled out as required.
- Report any security problems to the Washington County Board of Elections right away. Security problems include incomplete or missing paperwork, voided tamper tape, broken seals, unsecured facilities or voting equipment. Do not use voting equipment that has missing or damaged tamper tape or seals. Record all such events in the *Election Day Log*.
- Monitor and secure all election materials and equipment throughout the day.
- Report any suspicious, threatening, or harassing behavior to the Washington County Board of Elections office right away. Report any such behavior

that occurs inside the polling place or within the "No Electioneering Zone." Record all such events in the *Election Day Log*.

- Do not allow any unauthorized person to touch the voting equipment. A voter is only allowed to touch his or her own voter authority card, ballot, or ballot activation card.
- Do not share confidential supervisor passwords with anyone. Keep supervisor passwords in a sealed envelope until needed.

### A Little Election Humor

Question: How many congressmen does it take to change a lightbulb?

Answer: 2—one to change the bulb and one to change it back again!

### Trivia Question

After Virginia coined the slogan "Virginia is for Lovers," what slogan did Maryland adopt?

Answer below:

### Happy Holidays!

One of our favorite things about elections is it's like a family reunion with our election judges every two years.

We'll miss you in 2023, but we'll keep in touch through our newsletter each month.

We are so thankful for you all. You are what makes Washington County elections the envy of the State of Maryland.

We wish you a joyous holiday season and hope the new year finds you happy and healthy!