



Election Judge News

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Inside this issue:

Primary Recap	1
MD Primary Elections	1
New for 2025	1
Election Judge Pay	1-2
Training Center	2
Training Center Cont'd.	2
Election Day Reminders	2
Historical May	2
Trivia Question	2

“A little flower that blooms in May / A lovely sunset at the end of the day / Someone helping a stranger along the way / That's heaven to me.” - Sam Cooke

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May 31, 2024

Primary Recap

We want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of our election judges for another successful primary election. You helped tens of thousands of your neighbors, friends, family members, and Washington County citizens to vote both early and on election day. We appreciate all the dedication and long hours that you all put in to help make this election a success!

Remember, Washington County results can be accessed through our website by clicking on “2024 Presidential Primary Election Results” on the front page. Additionally, you may click on the “2024 Presidential Primary Canvass” link to see information specific to canvassing the mail-in ballots. Finally, the blue button “Election Results” will take you to a page where you can see the results for each of the Early Voting sites and for past Washington County Voter Turnout.

MD Primary Elections

I know it's a little late to be sending out this information, but I wanted to be sure to clear up any possible confusion that voters may have had on election day.

Maryland is a Closed Primary state. This means that Maryland has party primary elections. In a party primary election, those registered as Democratic may vote a Democratic primary ballot and those registered as Republican may vote a Republican primary ballot. There is often some confusion for those that are registered as Unaffiliated or any other party

during the primary.

Can a registered voter who is registered as Unaffiliated, Libertarian, No Labels, Other, etc. vote in the Maryland Primary? Well, the answer is “sometimes” or even “often.” There is often a primary ballot for those that are unaffiliated or otherwise affiliated with a party outside of either the Democratic or Republican parties. This ballot would include contests that are nonpartisan, such as Board of Education, City Mayor, and City Council. Voters registered as any party at all are entitled to vote in such a contest, depending on where they reside, and a nonpartisan ballot is available for them.

Of course for the General Election in November, every registered voter will receive the same city or county ballot regardless of party.

New for 2025

Last month, we announced that House Bill 0700 had passed and would become effective on June 1, 2024. The new law requires that State or County employees, who work as election judges, be compensated for their time with election judge pay as well as administrative leave. The bill also would have allowed for high school students to both get paid and receive service-learning hours for their work as election judges. Unfortunately, the final revision of the bill did NOT include service learning hours as well as payment for high school students. This provision was taken out before heading to the governor. The date that the law would take effect was also moved from June 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025.

Election Judge Pay

I'm sure everyone would like to know when they will be paid for all of the election day and early voting hours! We are very happy to announce, that all pay has been submitted and checks were mailed out yesterday, Thursday, May 30. You should receive your check or direct deposit very soon. Please remember that all election judges who have newly signed up for direct deposit still must receive their first check by mail. All subsequent pay will be direct deposit.

Training Center

4.5 Individuals Dressed or Equipped as Officials

Special rules apply to people who are wearing clothes or equipment that make them appear as they are performing an official government function. No one can wear clothes or equipment that might give such an impression unless they actually are serving in an official, election-related capacity (but not as a challenger or watcher), or qualify for one of the exceptions listed below. Clothes or equipment that may make someone appear they are performing an official government function include:

- Wearing a public or private law enforcement or security guard uniform.
- Wearing an armband.
- Carrying or displaying a gun or badge.

**There are exceptions. Law enforcement officers, military personnel, or security guards who are on duty, traveling to or from duty, or who are performing an official government function (including securing ballots) may vote while



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Questions or comments about the Election Judge News?

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2024 Presidential General Election

Early Voting:

October 24-31, 2024
7AM-8PM

Election Day:

November 5, 2024 7AM-8PM



Election Judge News

Training Center Cont'd.

wearing a uniform and/or carrying or displaying a gun or a badge.

Election Day Reminders

We want to applaud all of our election judges for a job well done throughout early voting and election day! We are always looking for more and new ways to make elections run more smoothly and have less issues arise for our judges. A few reminders that might be helpful for the November election:

- A provisional voter may use the Ballot Marking Device to mark their ballot. Although many provisional voters are often handed a paper ballot to complete after filling in their application, it is acceptable for a provisional voter to mark their ballot using the Ballot Marking Device in lieu of the paper ballot. We certainly do not want our provisional voter to accidentally send a ballot through the scanning unit. So, please be aware of how close your ballot marking device and scanning unit may be in the polling place and be sure to direct the voter to head back to the provisional table with their ballot and not towards the scanning unit. It may seem less convenient than having the voter fill out the paper ballot in one place, but the ballot marking device is certainly an option for a provisional voter.
- Every hour throughout the day the voter count should be printed and displayed in the polling place where it is accessible to the public. But what happens at 11am and 4pm? Two times in the day, at 11am and 4pm, chief judges are asked to report their polling place numbers to the office. The total voters can be found by printing the voter counts report from the pollbook. The second number that the office

asks for at these two times of the day, is the number of times the ballot marking device was used throughout the day. It seems logical that this number would be found on the ballot marking device itself, but that is not the case. The ballot marking device does not record or report on any ballot information; it is simply used to mark a ballot activation card just like a pen would mark a paper ballot. The ballot marking device's estimated use comes from the scanning unit. In Chapter 5 of your Election Judge Manual there is a section called "Displaying Number of Ballots Scanned." This section will walk you through the steps to find the number of ballots cast and the difference between regular paper ballots and ballot activation card ballots. If your polling place has more than one scanning unit, please be sure to collect the numbers from each of the scanning units.

- At the end of a long election day there is nothing I would rather NOT do than count leftover ballots. Luckily, this practice is no longer one that we require! There is no place on the Closing Summary Report or the Ballot Security Certificate for the number of leftover ballots at the end of the day. There are also no stubs holding packs of ballots together anymore for us. This is a practice that I definitely do not miss!

Historical May

If you grew up in Maryland you may be familiar with the names Pimlico, Preakness, Man o' War, Seabiscuit, and Secretariat. Pimlico Race Course, the second oldest racetrack in the United States and home to the Preakness Stakes was built as the result of a dinner party bet between Maryland Governor

Oden Bowie and friends of his who were prominent figures in the horse racing community. In 1868, Bowie and his friends decided to run a race in two years with their then yearlings and the winner would have to host the losers for dinner.

Governor Bowie pledged that he would build the racetrack in his home state if the race would be run in Baltimore, and Pimlico Race Course was born. The racetrack was an immediate success hosting racing every year since they opened, with only a brief gap between 1889 and 1904.

The most prominent race event held at Pimlico is the Preakness Stakes. The Preakness Stakes is the second of three races that a three-year-old Thoroughbred must win in a single season in order to win the prestigious and elusive Triple Crown. In fact, the Triple Crown is so elusive that only 13 horses have ever won it since 1875, the first year all three events were raced. After winning the Kentucky Derby, legends were made at Pimlico Race Course, keeping the hopes for a Triple Crown winner alive if the Derby winner could manage to hold off the other horses to win again!

Although this year there will be no Triple Crown winner, May will always be a history making month for the horse racing community and Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, Maryland.

Trivia Question: Man o' War, also known as Big Red, won both the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes, but never ran in the Kentucky Derby. His owner did not want to run him for various reasons. He is often referred to as the greatest racehorse of the 20th century without winning the Triple Crown. After retiring, he found his name in the news again when one of his sons and one of his grandsons became legendary themselves! Can you name one of these two legendary horses?

Answer below:

