

# Madison Election Administration: Recent and Ongoing Initiatives

*Draft by Paul Malischke March 2007*

*(\*All information in this draft may not be accurate and is subject to review.)*

The purpose of this written public annual report is to delineate certain aspects of election administration for review by the Mayor, City Clerk, Common Council and citizens.

## **Poll Workers**

**Election Official training** sessions are held at Olbrich Gardens the Thursday before each election. Two-hour sessions are held at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5 p.m. A three-hour training session for new Chief Inspectors is held at 1 p.m. Election Officials are required to complete six hours of training every two years.

At the training session, the City Clerk gives a Power Point presentation highlighting new regulations and any issues that came up at the last election. Election Officials will sometimes call the Clerk in advance to request that certain topics be included in the training session. The training session also includes a question and answer period about election law, election forms, and Election Official responsibilities. The City of Madison Disability Rights Specialist participates in the training and answers questions about accessibility.

**Bilingual** pollworkers are utilized in areas where their skills may be needed. Hmong-English speakers are sought for these polling places:

Spanish-English speakers are sought for these polling places:

### **Pay for pollworkers**

Pollworkers will be informed about the option of working as a community service. High school students over 16 may serve as pollworkers and may desire community service credits. Employees of the state are able to receive their regular pay in lieu of pollworker pay if they have requested a one-day leave of absence one week before the election. Information on these options is included in the forms and publicity for recruiting pollworkers. The Madison Election Advisory Committee briefly discussed setting up the option of letting pollworkers choose to donate their pay to a non-profit organization.

### **Communications**

Each polling place has a cell phone so that they can call the clerk's office with regular reports, problem reports, or questions. These cell phones are activated the day before. The phone system in the clerk's office has recently been upgraded. The Clerk's office has 4?? incoming lines. \*The phones system in the clerk's office is protected against outage by backup electrical power. In case of a widespread landline outage, the Clerk's office has cell phones as backup.

## Polling Places

Madison currently has 76 polling places, and is conducting a program to improve polling places. These may include changing places that are smaller than desirable, or are not conveniently located; or adding places in areas of growth. \*Comments on replacement or additional the polling places will be sought from the public, neighborhood associations, and elected officials, including alderperson and county board supervisor.

\*Specific criteria for polling places are being developed to provide objective evaluation of candidates for new polling places. By statute 5.25(2), changes must be approved by the Common Council before going into effect. By state statute 5.25(3), polling places must be established as least 60 days before each September primary and November general election; and 30 days before other elections.

Polling places undergoing review:

<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Street</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Situation</b>	<b>Goal: replacement or additional</b>	<b>Possible Locations</b>	<b>Status</b>
High Point	Mineral Point	83	2 large wards -overcrowded 13 ballot styles	Additional	Am Cancer Society, Attic Angels, Sauk Gardens, Junction Road Apts., UW Credit Union	
Heritage Congregational	Prairie	93	2 large wards -overcrowded	Additional	Morgan Murphy Media Park, Point of Grace, Westhaven Village apts., Tucson Trails Apts.	
Kennedy	Meadow-lark	5	2 large wards -overcrowded	Additional		
Elvehem	Academy	4	2 large wards -overcrowded	Additional		
Gates of Heaven	Gorham	39	Steep slope outside – not meeting accessibility requirements	Replacement	Salvation Army	
Police Station - south	Hughes Place	55, 56	Too small for Nov election	Replacement	Villager Mall, sewage plant	
Fire Station #8	Lien Road	18	3 wards overcrowded, noisy, drafty, cold	Additional	Oakwood Village, Wis. Bar Ass.	