

# Work Session

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	2
<b>Meeting Date</b>	January 13, 2016
<b>Prepared By</b>	Jessie Carpenter City Clerk
<b>Approved By</b>	Suzanne Ludlow City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Update from the Board of Elections
<b>Background</b>	<p>Marilyn Abbott, Chair of the Board of Elections, will update the Council on the Board's activities over the past year.</p> <p>Members of the Board of Elections: Marilyn Abbott (Ward 1); James Roberts (Ward 2); Brian Ernst (Ward 3); Arthur David Olson (Ward 4); Beatriz York (Ward 5); and Paras Shah (Ward 6). There is one vacancy.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	<p>As established in the City Code, the Board of Elections shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Plan and conduct regular and special City elections in coordination with the City Clerk;</li> <li>B. Encourage voter registration in the City;</li> <li>C. Conduct voter education programs and prepare and distribute voter outreach materials;</li> <li>D. Recommend to the Council amendments to the City's elections law and regulations when it deems such amendments are necessary and will provide for the improved conduct of elections;</li> <li>E. Periodically review City elections procedures;</li> <li>F. Serve as election judges in City elections;</li> <li>G. Recommend additional qualified individuals to the Council for appointment as election judges during a regular or special City election;</li> <li>H. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Board of Elections by Charter, ordinances and resolutions, and by the direction of the Council.</li> </ul>
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Attachments</b>	Board of Elections Annual Report
<b>Recommendation</b>	Review the report and hear the update.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**CITY ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3, 2015**

**ELECTION REPORT**



**TAKOMA PARK BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Marilyn R. Abbott, Chairman  
Brian Ernst  
Arthur David Olson  
James C. Roberts  
Paras N. Shah  
Beatriz York

**ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATORS**

Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk  
Irma Navarte, Assistant City Clerk

December 11, 2015

## **ELECTION JUDGES**

Lori G. Borrud

Matoki Brim

Mary Beth Hatem

Eugene Herman

April Kissel

Gregory G. Lebel

Jeremy Moore

Joelle Rabion

Anne Sergeant

Beverly Toler

Achamma "Sue" S. Vedamony

The Board of Elections (BOE) is pleased to transmit its 2015 General Election Report.

In the 2015 election, voters cast paper ballots either during the early voting period, on election day, or through the absentee ballot process. A manual count of the ballots was conducted by teams using the tally sheet counting method.

The six members of the Board of Elections, the City Clerk, the Assistant City Clerk, and 12 election judges, conducted the election. The Takoma Park Recreation Department provided much appreciated assistance as did the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

The Board developed an election manual which was used to train the election judges and also serve as a reference.

- 1 During this election 2,552 residents voted. This is more than double the turnout for the 2013 election when 1,199 residents voted.

There may be multiple reasons for this increased voter participation. This year, there were contested races for mayor, for council in Ward 1, and for council in Ward 6. An advisory referendum was on the ballot. Extensive outreach was done by the Board of Elections, candidates, and community organizations.



Early in the year the Board adopted a logo for use in branding elections materials.

Two 3' x 8' vinyl banners announcing the Takoma Park election were purchased. The banners were used at early voting locations and voter registration events.

The Board created E Pluri-bus, and entered it in the Independence Day parade.

Custom fortune cookies predicting that the person would vote on November 3, bookmarks, flyers announcing voting times and locations, and bus stop posters were created and used.

Additionally, early voting was expanded to include voting at locations other than the community center: New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center and Sligo Creek Park.

- 2 The 2,552 residents who voted comprise approximately 21% of registered residents.

The City was provided voter lists from the Montgomery County Board of Elections. The list was current as of 21 days before the election. To it, voters registered during early voting or on Election Day were added, to indicate 12,158 registered voters in the City.

- 3 The count of the number of 16 and 17 year olds who voted, as well as the number of Takoma Park Only voters, were provided by the County Board of Elections.

Forty-seven (47), or 44.8%, of eligible 16 and 17 year olds voted. Of the total 105 eligible 16 and 17 year old voters, 82 were pre-registered and 23 registered during either early voting or on Election Day.

Seventy-one (71), or 13.6%, of eligible non-citizen residents voted. Of the total 523 eligible non-citizen resident voters 488 were pre-registered and 35 registered during either early voting or on Election Day.

- 4 The E-Pollbooks used to check-in voters were leased from the Montgomery County Board of Elections.
- 5 Assistance was provided to voters in Spanish, French, and Chinese. A total of 94 persons were registered and able to vote the same day and assistance was provided to 73 voters in updating their voter information or understanding the voting process.
- 6 The initial canvass (count) was conducted on Election Night and preliminary results announced. This initial canvass included the majority of the absentee ballots. No provisional ballots were cast.

Members of the Board of Elections met November 4 to review the returns from election night and the remaining absentee ballots. During this review an additional tally sheet recording votes on the referendum, 40 additional absentee ballots, and two ballots not included in the initial count, were identified. Votes added did not affect the results announced election night.

The final results are as follows:

		Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Total
Referendum	<b>For</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>1944</b>
	Against	119	75	97	22	21	72	406
	Other*	37	16	26	73	11	36	199
Mayor	Holmes	60	40	61	47	19	37	264
	<b>Stewart</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>2169</b>
	Write-In	16	12	12	5	3	10	58
	Other*	8	5	7	33	3	5	61
Council	Ward 1			Ward 2			Ward 3	
	<b>Kovar</b>	<b>631</b>		<b>Male</b>	<b>443</b>		<b>Qureshi</b>	<b>532</b>
	Thuronyi	32		Write-In	22		Write-In	18
	Wallace	86		Other*	23		Other*	40
	Write-In	1						
	Other*	3						
Council	Ward 4			Ward 5			Ward 6	
	<b>Seamans</b>	<b>241</b>		<b>Smith</b>	<b>149</b>		<b>Schultz</b>	<b>206</b>
	Write-In	3		Write-In	9		Small**	86
	Other*	10		Other*	5		Write-In	4
						Other*	6	
*Other includes blank ballots and over-voted or other ballots where voter intent is not clear.								
**Mr. Small was a registered write-in.								

In order to be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of valid votes. All ballots offered the opportunity to rank candidates by order of choice, including write-ins. In all contests one candidate received a majority of first choices in the first round. Therefore, additional rounds of counting were not needed.

Seven hundred eighty-four (784) residents voted early. Early voting on October 30 was conducted at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center in Ward 6. Early voting on October 31 was conducted in Sligo Creek Park at Sligo Creek Parkway and Kennebec Avenue, in Ward 5. The other three days of early voting were conducted at the Community Center.

One thousand seven hundred sixty-eight (1,768) ballots (both in person and absentee) were cast on election day. All voting election day was at the Community Center.

The final voting distribution is as follows:

Vote Recap (number of ballots cast)							
	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	3-Nov	Total
Ward 1	19	29	4	26	132	541	751
Ward 2	12	15	5	60	39	357	488
Ward 3	27	20	4	63	92	384	590
Ward 4	8	7	2	7	21	209	254
Ward 5	3	1	0	59	14	86	163
Ward 6	7	3	74	11	20	191	306
Total	76	75	89	226	318	1768	2552
Vote Recap (percent of registered voters casting ballots)							
	Ballots Cast	No. of Regist'd Voters	Percent Voting				
Ward 1	751	2528	29.7%				
Ward 2	488	2365	20.6%				
Ward 3	590	2497	23.6%				
Ward 4	254	1593	15.9%				
Ward 5	163	1499	10.9%				
Ward 6	306	1676	18.3%				
Total	2552	12158	21.0%				

- 7 The Board of Elections met on November 6 to review ballots with write-in as the first choice. Attached is the list of write-in choices. In some instances, the voter selected “write-in” as the first choice but failed to write in a name.
- 8 A copy of the Voter Intent guide developed by the Board and used to train election judges is attached. During its review of those ballots recorded as “other” or “invalid”, the Board determined that all ballots were correctly called during the tallying election night.
- 9 This year the Board used the front lobby for check-in and both the Azalea Room and Lilac Room for voting. Voters were directed to the front hallway and then the appropriate room depending on which ward they were registered in. Same day registration, voter assistance, and accessible voting were set up in the Rose Room. This arrangement provided an easy flow and adequate room for voting.

This concludes our report.

November 3, 2015 City Election Write-In Votes

<b>Ward 1 City Council</b>	None	<b>Ward 4 City Council</b>	Arthur David Olson Bruce Andersen James Major George
<b>Ward 2 City Council</b>	Adam Frank Blank Catherine Tunis Colleen Clay (5) Herman Bel Bouma Jack Carson John Degen (2) Kevin Adler Kodos Mickey Mouse Paul Bunyan Roberta Wright (2) Samantha Ager Sandra Filippi (3)	<b>Ward 5 City Council</b>	Bao Bao the Panda Jorge Ramos Joseph Xavier (2) Kenneth Tucker Lydia A. Cordes (Condes?) Mark Rupp (2) Mike Tabor
<b>Ward 3 City Council</b>	Beth Baker Blank Daniel Zisel Emily Van Loon Jason Small Jeffery Trunzo Linda Kolko Louise A. Howells Mike Graul None None of Above Rebecca Smith Roger Schlegel Terry Seamens Ward 4 Thomas Wachter (2) Una Kettering (2)	<b>Ward 6 City Council</b>	Blank Jason Smith Lily Laura Not Them

November 3, 2015 City Election Write-In Votes

**Mayor (all wards)**

Abstain	James Major George	Pat Neill
Alan Henney	Jarrett Smith	Peter Kovar
Bernie Sanders	Jensnifer Layke	Pierre Perrolle
Blank (3)	Les Noise	Reuben Sniper
Catherine Tunis (4)	Leticia Montfort	Rosco Rooster
Colleen Clay	Lorig Charkoudian	Samantha Ager
Deborah King	Mary Joel Holin	Seth Grimes (10)
Donna J. Victoria (2)	N/A	Susan Baker
Experience Counts!	Neither	Taco Bell (3)
Fred Feinstein (2)	None of Above	Terry Seamens
Gaia	None of the above	Theodore A. Deppner
Goldie Wilson III	Not Them	Tim Male

# VOTER INTENT

<p>a</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">1<sup>st</sup> Choice</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">2<sup>nd</sup> Choice</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">3<sup>rd</sup> Choice</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">4<sup>th</sup> Choice</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>George Brown</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fred Sampson</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Smith</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Write-In _____</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	George Brown	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Fred Sampson	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Mary Smith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Write-In _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPERLY MARKED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> choice vote will be counted.</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> choice vote will be counted only after the voter's first choice candidate is eliminated.</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> choice vote will be counted only after the voter's first and second choice candidates are eliminated.</li> </ul>
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	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice																						
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d	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	<b>DUPLICATE RANKING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> choice vote will be counted.</li> <li>If the first choice candidate is eliminated, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> choices are meaningless.</li> </ul>
George Brown	●	●	●	●	
Fred Sampson	○	○	○	○	
Mary Smith	○	○	○	○	
Write-In	○	○	○	○	
e	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	<b>UN-USED RANKING/EXHAUSTED BALLOT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> choice vote will be counted.</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> choice vote will only be counted after the voter's 1<sup>st</sup> choice candidate is eliminated.</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> choice vote is blank, so ballot is exhausted after the second round.</li> </ul>
George Brown	●	○	○	○	
Fred Sampson	○	●	○	○	
Mary Smith	○	○	○	○	
Write-In	○	○	○	○	
f	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	<b>SKIPPED RANKING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> choice vote will be counted.</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> choice vote will be counted in the second round if the 1<sup>st</sup> choice candidate is eliminated.</li> </ul>
George Brown	○	○	○	○	
Fred Sampson	●	○	○	○	
Mary Smith	○	○	●	○	
Write-In	○	○	○	○	
g	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	<b>SKIPPED RANKING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This vote will not be counted. Per the Municipal Code, "ballots skipping more than one number shall be declared exhausted when this skipping of numbers is reached".</li> </ul>
George Brown	○	○	○	○	
Fred Sampson	○	○	●	○	
Mary Smith	○	○	○	○	
Write-In	○	○	○	○	

# VOTER INTENT

h		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	<p style="text-align: center;">UNDER VOTE/BLANK BALLOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a blank ballot; it will not be counted.</li> </ul>
	George Brown	0	0	0	0	
	Fred Sampson	0	0	0	0	
	Mary Smith	0	0	0	0	
	Write-In _____	0	0	0	0	
i		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	<p style="text-align: center;">WRITE-IN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a vote for the write-in. Voter intent is clear.</li> </ul>
	George Brown	0	0	0	0	
	Fred Sampson	0	0	0	0	
	Mary Smith	0	0	0	0	
	Write-In <i>Betsy Lindy</i>	0	0	0	0	
j		1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	<p style="text-align: center;">INCONSISTENT ORDERING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> choice vote will be counted.</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> choice vote will only be counted after the voter's 1<sup>st</sup> choice candidate is eliminated.</li> <li>• If the 1<sup>st</sup> choice candidate is eliminated, the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice vote is meaningless and will not be counted. The ballot is invalid at the 3<sup>rd</sup> round.</li> </ul>
	George Brown	0	●	0	0	
	Fred Sampson	0	0	0	0	
	Mary Smith	●	0	●	0	
	Write-In _____	0	0	0	0	

# VOTER INTENT

	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice	2 <sup>nd</sup> Choice	3 <sup>rd</sup> Choice	4 <sup>th</sup> Choice	
k					WRITE-IN FOR NAMED CANDIDATE
George Brown	O	O	O	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> choice vote will be counted as a vote for the named candidate. Voter intent is clear.</li> </ul>
Fred Sampson	O	O	O	O	
Mary Smith	O	O	O	O	
Write-In					
<i>George Brown</i>	●	O	O	O	
l					ACCEPTED MARK
George Brown	O	O	O	O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> choice vote will be counted. Voter intent is clear.</li> </ul>
Fred Sampson	X	O	O	O	
Mary Smith	O	O	O	O	
Write-In					
_____	O	O	O	O	