



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

August 30, 2018

To: Elections Commission
From: Scott T. Nago
Chief Election Officer
Re: Status of Operations

The Primary Election was conducted on Saturday, August 11, 2018 with the coordination, support, and dedication of thousands of volunteers and the Clerks' Offices. Election Day operations are also supported by other government agencies such as Public Safety, Automotive, Central Services, Fusion Center, and countless others.

Over 286,000 voters were served at 235 polling places, 10 early walk in voting locations, and by mail. Election Day is the culmination of over two years of planning to reserve each polling place, file candidates to appear on the ballot, recruit volunteers, and test and secure the vote counting equipment.

Volunteers

More than 3,500 volunteers worked at the polling places, control centers, counting centers, and delivery/collection routes. The Office of Elections attended neighborhood board meetings and outreach events to provide information and recruit volunteers. Additionally, election officials contact nonprofit organizations such as project graduations, school academic and sports teams, and community groups to participate as a fundraiser on Election Day.

These volunteers offer their time to attend a training session and work on Election Day. On Election Day, volunteers are responsible for the delivery and collection of ballots and equipment at each polling place, assisting voters at the polling place and through the control center, and processing voted ballots for counting.

Ballots

Candidate filing for the 2018 Elections opened on February 1. The deadline to file nomination papers was 4:30 p.m. on June 5. Due to a vacancy in Senate District 19, candidate filing for that senate district was opened on June 1 and closed at 4:30 p.m. on

June 22. The vacancy election for Senate District 19 is being held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled 2018 Elections to nominate and elect a senator to fill the remainder of the term which ends in 2020. Over 350 nomination papers were issued for 138 contests, and more than 300 candidates appeared on the Primary Election ballot.

Following the close of candidate filing, election officials proof and review each ballot type for proper spelling and consistent layout for voters. There are 249 ballot types for the 2018 Elections. For each ballot type, there are 3 ballot formats – paper, electronic, and HTML. The electronic and HTML ballots are available in Chinese and Ilocano for all voters. Chinese and Ilocano paper ballots are available for voters in the City and County of Honolulu. The ballot must be proofed and completed to meet the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Accessible Voting Act (UOCAVA) deadline which was Wednesday, June 27, 2018. UOCAVA requires ballots to be transmitted to members of the United States Uniformed Services and merchant marines, their family members, and citizens residing outside the United States at least 45 days before the election to allow voters enough time to receive, vote, and submit their ballot.

The 2018 Primary Election is the first time an HTML ballot was available in a Hawaii election. An HTML ballot is offered as an alternative to a paper ballot that can be marked from a compatible device. This ensures accessibility as it allows voters to mark a mail ballot independently. Additionally, it ensures the timely delivery of the ballot as it is emailed to the voter.

Simultaneously, we finalize the order of paper ballots to ensure there is a ballot available for every registered voter. As ballots are printed, they are delivered to election officials to proof and secure.

Vote Counting System

Each piece of voting equipment is tested for functionality prior to the elections. This is referred to as an acceptance test. Once the ballot is finalized, Official Observers, who serve as the “eyes and ears” of the general public, test the logic and accuracy of the vote counting system. We conduct two logic and accuracy tests with Official Observers prior to each election. The first test is conducted using the in-person voting equipment which will be deployed to each polling place and early walk in voting location. The second test is conducted on the Saturday prior to each election using the central counters at each counting center. The central counters are primarily used to count voted mail ballots. This test also serves as the final dress rehearsal for Election Day to ensure we are able to transmit and compile the results from the neighbor island counting centers to the statewide counting center in Honolulu.

On Election Day, voted ballots are tabulated to produce the election results once all the polls are closed, statewide. The Office of Elections collects and receives the voting equipment from each early walk in voting location, polling place, and mail ballots counted at the counting center. The neighbor island counting centers transmit their votes to the statewide counting center at the State Capitol to compile the results. In

addition to the neighbor island counting centers, remote rally sites are established on the westside of the County of Hawaii, as well as Molokai and Lanai, to ensure the timely release of results.

The Office of Elections is exploring processing mail ballots in the presence of Official Observers in Honolulu prior to Election Day. This will allow election officials to reallocate resources from counting to tabulation after the close of polls. The Honolulu counting center is equipped with 5 central scanners to count mail ballots. As the quantity of voted mail ballots increases, the percentage of votes cast in the first report decreases. The following is a breakdown of percentage of votes casts reported for each release of results for the 2018 Primary Election, statewide.

Election Night Reporting

Primary	6:39 p.m.	8:33 p.m.	10:06 p.m.	11:38 p.m.	3:00 a.m.
Absentee	70.2%	77.3%	78.3%	92.1%	100.0%
Precinct	0.0%	39.0%	88.9%	98.6%	100.0%
Total	43.9%	63.0%	82.2%	94.5%	100.0%

Polling Places

The Office of Elections identifies and reserves polling places 18 months in advance of the Primary Election. Election officials work with each individual facility to ensure availability and terms of use, as well as anticipated construction plans. Beginning in April of an election year, the Clerks' Offices mail each voter a *Notification of Voter Registration*, commonly referred to as a "yellow card", confirming their registration and identifying their polling place or vote by mail status. The Office of Elections also publishes a proclamation designating the polling places at least 10 days prior to the close of candidate filing. For the 2018 Elections, the proclamation was published on May 13 in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald, West Hawaii Today, The Maui News, The Garden Island, and Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

Election setup at the polling places begins approximately one month prior to each election. The Office of Elections coordinates the delivery of equipment and supplies such as the voting booths, signs, and voting equipment to each facility to be stored for Election Day. On the day prior to each election, Facility Officials, who are assigned by the facility or recruited by the Office of Elections, obtains the key for the facility and sets up the equipment and supplies in preparation for the Precinct Officials on Election Day.

The Office of Elections was notified on June 25, 2018 that the Waikele Elementary School Cafeteria would be unavailable for the Primary Election. Letters were sent to voters of 35-05 and 37-04 notifying them that their polling places had been relocated due to demolition and construction at their assigned facility. Polling places were established at Waikele Community Park for voters of 35-05, and Kanoelani Elementary

School for voters of 37-04. Similarly, the Office of Elections was notified on July 10, 2018 that the Castle High School Cafeteria would be unavailable for voters of 49-04 due to ongoing construction. Election officials were able to work with the staff at the school to find a suitable alternative on campus.

The week of the election, a rumor on social media claimed that the Office of Elections closed polling places because it had no volunteers to work there. Polling places cannot be closed due to understaffing and would require the Office to publish a proclamation and notify affected voters.

In the Primary Election, the Office of Elections received requests for shared use of facilities to accommodate other events. Election officials were informed by Maui High School that their athletic department needed to use the gym on the day prior to the election and into the morning. The gym serves as the polling place for voters of 09-04. The athletic department was unable to vacate the gym by the time indicated, which interfered with the preparations by Election Day Officials before the opening of polls. The Facility Official reports 5:00 a.m. to open the facility, in advance of the Precinct Officials arrival at 5:30 a.m. Additionally, Delivery/Collection Officials arrive between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. with ballots and other supplies. While the athletic department vacated by 6:30 a.m., the Maui Elections Division sent additional staff to ensure the polls would open at 7:00 a.m.

Volcanic Eruptions in Pahoia

The Office of Elections has worked and will continue to work with the Hawaii County Elections Division to ensure voters affected by the volcanic eruptions in Pahoia are able to cast their ballot for the 2018 Elections. Election officials identified 04-03, Pahoia Community Center, and 04-04, Pahoia High/Intermediate School as the affected precincts, as Pahoia Community Center serves as an evacuation shelter and the eruptions are occurring in the precinct boundaries of 04-04.

The proclamation designating 04-03 and 04-04 as absentee precincts was issued on June 7, 2018. As an absentee precinct, each registered voter is sent an absentee ballot to the mailing address associated with their voter registration. The proclamation notified voters to expect their ballots in the mail at the end of June, and reminded voters to check that their voter registration is up-to-date to ensure they receive their ballot. Similarly, election officials sent each voter a letter with an *Absentee Application* on June 12, 2018 to allow voters to request the absentee ballot be mailed to a different address and remind voters that ballots are non-forwardable.

Subsequently, the Hawaii County Elections Division established an early walk in voting location at the Pahoia Community Center. The Department of the Attorney General and Hawaii County Civil Defense advised election officials that it would be safe to open a polling place on Election Day. Election officials established a polling place at the Pahoia Community Center in the same facility as the early walk in voting location. The early walk in voting location and election day polling place required infrastructure to access

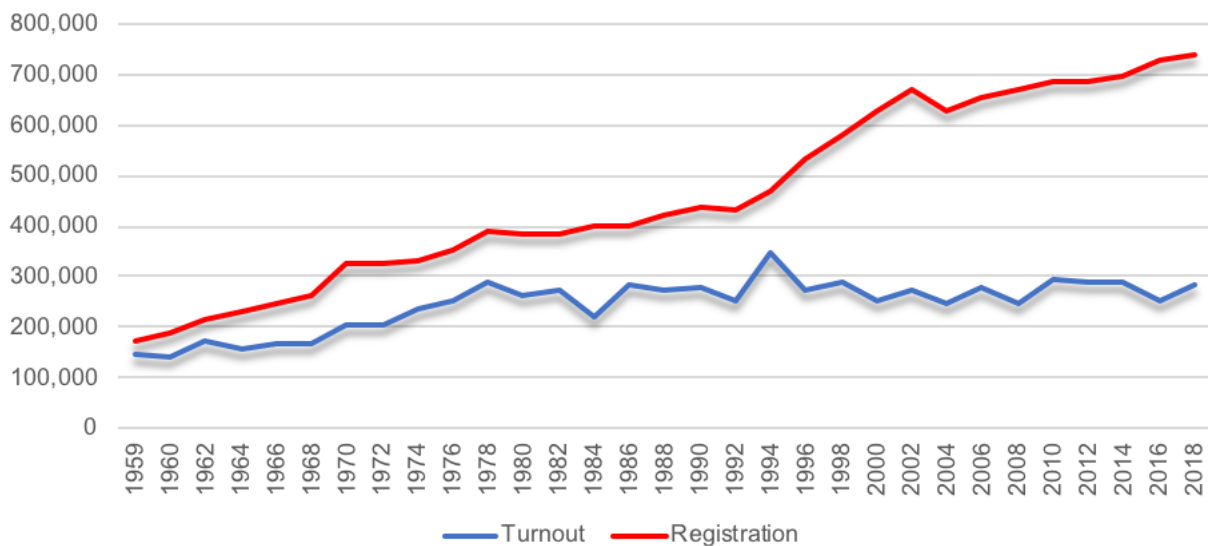
the statewide voter registration system, to ensure that a voter's absentee mail ballot was not received and was canceled before allowing them to vote in person.

As the situation has stabilized in Pahoa, the Office of Elections and Hawaii County Elections Division will not be designating 04-03 and 04-04 absentee precincts for the 2018 General Election. Both polling places, Pahoa Community Center for voters of 04-03, and Pahoa High/Intermediate School for voters of 04-04 will be opened on Election Day.

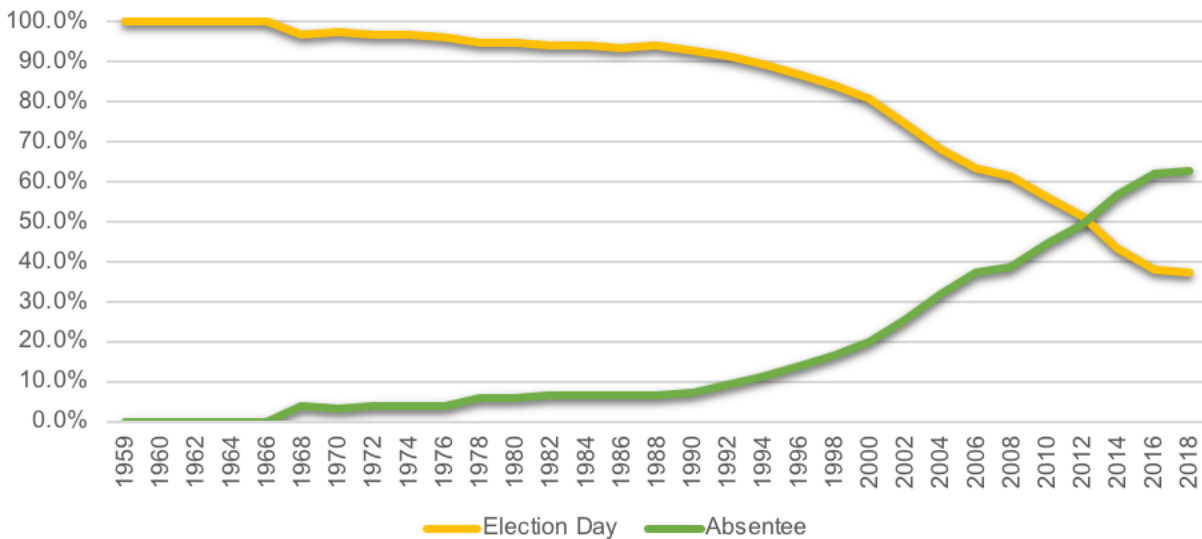
Voters

The 2018 Primary Election was the first time individuals could register and vote at their polling place on Election Day. The Clerks' Offices designated Precinct Officials to serve as Registration Clerks to assist with election day registration. At the polling place, an individual is asked to complete a Registration Affidavit Form and provide physical identification. A Precinct Official would then contact the control center to confirm the registrant is at the correct polling place based on their residence address.

Voter Registration and Turnout Comparison



Polling Place and Absentee Turnout Comparison



Post-Primary and General Election

The election does not end on Election Day. Immediately following the election, election officials process payroll for thousands of volunteers, inventory ballots, conduct an additional audit of the poll books, and debrief with the volunteers. The Office of Elections also coordinates collection of the equipment and supplies from each polling place to inventory and reset for the General Election.

Election officials replicate many of these processes for the General Election. The candidates that will appear on the General Election ballot were determined based on the Primary Election results, and the ballot questions that have been received. The deadline to submit ballot questions to pose to the electorate was August 23. The General Election ballot will include ballot questions to hold a Constitutional Convention as required by law, a Constitutional Amendment proposed by the Legislature, and Charter Amendments from each County. The ballot must be finalized and printed to be mailed to meet the 45-day UOCAVA deadline on September 21. In October, the Office of Elections will conduct the logic and accuracy test with the Official Observers and resume trainings for volunteers. The General Election will be conducted on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

There are 2 outstanding lawsuits precluding us from preparing the 2018 General Election ballot. One is an election contest relating to House District 30. The deadline to file an election contest for the 2018 Primary Election was August 20. The second lawsuit challenges the language of the ballot title and question for the proposed constitutional amendment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or 1-800-442-VOTE (8683).