

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2024 Annual Report to the Monroe County Legislature

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Table of Contents

03 Introduction	18 Early Voting
05 Budget	19 Mail-In Ballots
07 Staffing	20 Affidavit/Court Order Voting
08 Polling Locations	21 Ballot Cures
09 Voting Machines	22 Voter Security
10 Accessibility	23 Audits and Cyber Security
11 Training and Recruitment	24 Direct Communication
13 LEAP	25 Registered Voters
14 Online Information	27 Early Voting Statistics
15 Voter Registration	33 General Election Statistics

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS MISSION STATEMENT

WE WILL PROVIDE, AS A NEW YORK STATE MANDATED DEPARTMENT OF MONROE COUNTY, THROUGH A SKILLED AND DEDICATED STAFF, IN COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, FOR THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF VOTER PARTICIPATION IN HONEST AND FAIR ELECTIONS FOR ALL THE CITIZENS OF MONROE COUNTY, NEW YORK.

WHAT WAS NEW IN 2024?

THREE ELECTIONS – With 2024 being a Presidential Election year, Monroe County Board of Elections (MCBOE) had the responsibility of administering a Presidential Primary Election for enrolled Democrats and Republicans, in addition to the June Primary Election and the November General election.

ADDITIONAL EARLY VOTING SITES – MCBOE expanded early voting locations to accommodate anticipated demand in the Presidential Election year. New sites included Susan B. Anthony House, Bay Towne Plaza and Staybridge Suites Rochester University.

VOTING MACHINES – MCBOE purchased 1,000 state-of-the-art ExpressVote XL machines, a voting technology product of Election Systems & Software (ES&S) that are designed to enhance voter accessibility, security, and efficiency. These new machines will completely replace the old Dominion ImageCast machines, which had been in service since 2007 and had exceeded their expected useful life. In-person voters can expect to cast ballots exclusively on the new machines in 2025, beginning with Village Elections in March.

EARLY VOTE BY MAIL – Due to a change in New York State Law, beginning in 2024 any registered voter may apply for a ballot to vote early by mail. Applications requesting an Early Vote by Mail ballot must be received by MCBOE by mail no later than ten days before the election or in-person until the day before the election.

THREE VOTER MAILINGS – Thanks to a funding initiative by the Monroe County Legislature, MCBOE was able to mail informational postcards to eligible voters ahead of the Presidential Primary, the Primary Election and the General Election, with dates, hours, individual polling site locations and Early Voting opportunities.



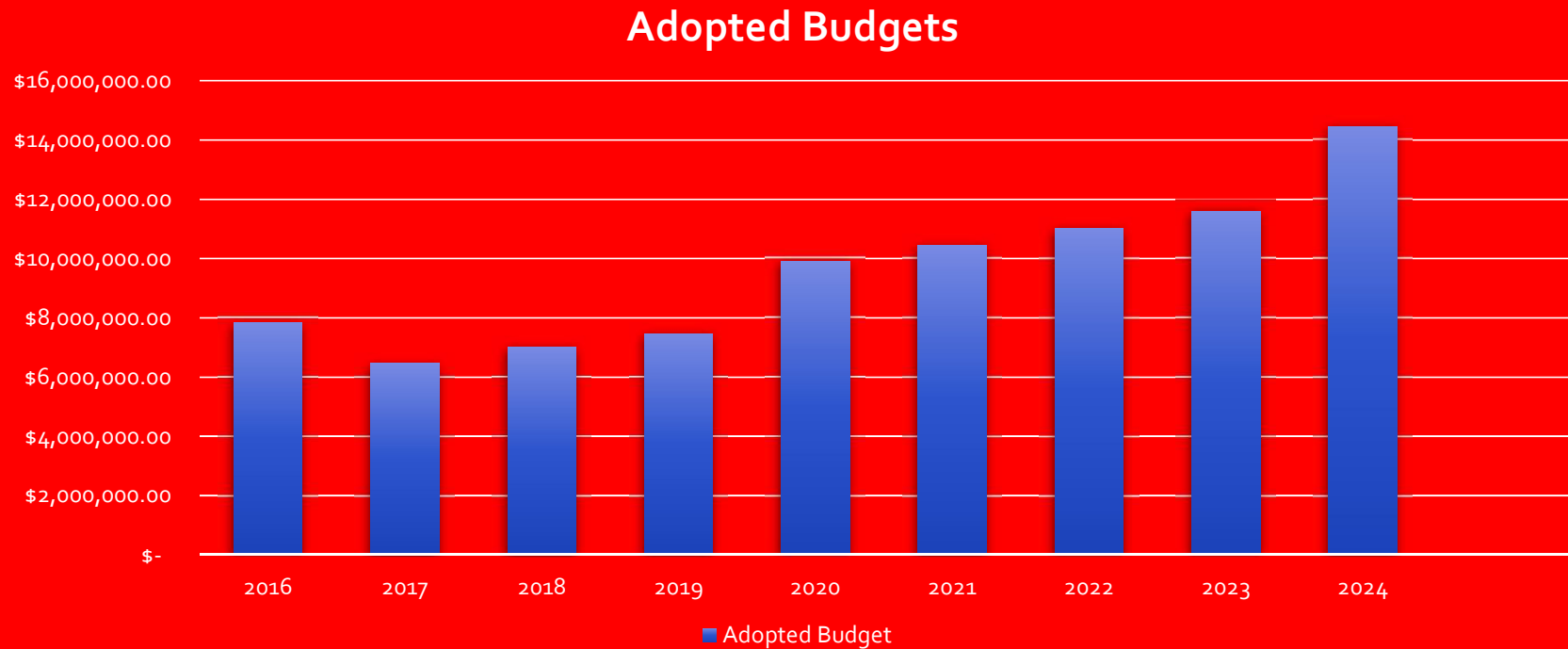
BUDGET 2024



The entire budget of the MCBOE is charged back to the taxpayers of Monroe County. The total adopted budget for the MCBOE in 2024 was \$14,445,204. This is an increase of \$2,880,540 (25%) from the 2023 adopted budget and reflective of additional spending in a Presidential Election year. MCBOE is grateful to the Monroe County Legislature for fully funding our requested operating budget. It is allocated to the following areas:

- Personnel costs including salaries and benefits
- Data processing charges
- Rent for three locations
- Voting machine parts and repair costs
- Postage and office supplies
- Commercial services which include: ballot printing, Accupay Systems payroll, election security, envelope printing, voting machine delivery, Mailchimp email service, and election day taxi cab service
- Professional services which include: election inspectors, election coordinators and site chairs, Spanish interpreters, and rental of polling sites.

BUDGET COMPARISON BY YEAR



STAFFING IN 2024

MCBOE conducts all National, State, County, City, Town, and Village elections held within Monroe County. Although the Board of Elections is a county agency, the structure, responsibilities, and duties are mandated by New York State and Federal Election Laws. The New York State Board of Elections provides regulations and advice on how to administer elections and procedures to meet both Federal and State Election guidelines.

Two Election Commissioners (one Republican and one Democrat), as a bipartisan team, make up the MCBOE, each serving a staggered four-year term. The Commissioners are recommended by their respective county political committees and elected by the Monroe County Legislature. The Commissioners are each assisted by a Deputy Commissioner as required per Election Law 3-204.

In 2024 the MCBOE employed 45 full-time and 10 part-time employees, as well as an additional 16 seasonal staff members at various points throughout the year. MCBOE staff represents individuals enrolled in the Republican and Democratic Parties, as mandated by New York State Election Law.



POLLING LOCATIONS 2024

In 2024 there were 214 polling locations in the Presidential Primary, 88 in the Primary Election and 215 in the General Election.

Securing polling locations that meet our legal requirements (especially post COVID-19) is always challenging. Ideally, we want spacious areas that are fully ADA accessible, offer ample parking and lighting, and provide sufficient cellular connectivity. Moving forward, our goal is to provide consistent polling locations to all voters. This is a good example of where quality really is more important than quantity.

Using critical data that was collected from a full inventory of all polling sites in 2022, such as square footage, parking spaces, ADA accessibility and cellular connectivity, MCBOE was able to establish a minimum threshold for all polling locations. Continuing to work toward the goal of uniform, fair and accessible locations for all voters throughout Monroe County, MCBOE conducted supplemental inventories in 2024 of all new polling sites and any sites where modifications were made in response to reported issues.



VOTING MACHINES 2024

- The County of Monroe owns and deploys a fleet of optical scan tabulator voting machines, including ImageCast voting machines (IC1), ImageCast with Ballot Marking Devices voting machines (IC2), and ImageCast Evolution voting machines (ICE), which are all housed in our 30,000 square foot Service Center. Many of these machines have been in service since 2007, when this technology was first introduced. A total of 577 machines serviced our 659 Election districts at 215 polling locations throughout Monroe County during the 2024 General Election. Each machine is tested annually, as required by NYSBOE.
- Poll Pads, secure Apple iPad devices, ensure that voters only cast a ballot once and that voters are unable to receive a ballot at another Early Voting site or Primary/Election Day polling place. Poll Pads communicate via a secure network connection, transmitting non-personal information and updating voter files in near real time, thus ensuring individuals are presented with the correct ballot, based upon the residential address from which they are registered.
- Following NYSBOE's certification of the ExpressVote XL full face touch-screen voting machines, MCBOE purchased 1,000 of these state-of-the-art devices in 2024 to replace our current machines. In-person voters can expect to cast ballots exclusively on the new machines in 2025, beginning with Village Elections in March.





VOTER ACCESSIBILITY 2024



- **EVERY** polling location is ADA accessible!
- In 2024 MCBOE hired an Accessibility Coordinator to ensure ADA compliance at new and existing polling sites and foster an inclusive relationship with local disabled communities.
- MCBOE continued its commitment to improving accessibility to the election process for all persons. The BMD (IC2) voting machine is available at every polling site, allowing individuals with nearly any disability to vote independently.
- MCBOE printed election materials, such as the voter registration form, absentee ballot request, and “Voter’s Bill of Rights” are available in Spanish and Braille.
- American Sign Language interpreters were available at select Early Voting and Primary/Election Day sites.
- Accessible absentee ballots for voters who are blind or visually impaired were once again available for both the Primary and General Elections in 2024.
- A Language Access Device (LAD) was available at every Early Voting and Election Day polling site in 2024, providing interpretive services for 47 different languages, including ASL.



TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT 2024

In 2024 the MCBOE Training & Recruitment Team was tasked with fully staffing three elections:

- The Democratic and Republican Presidential Primaries on April 2nd
- The Primary Election on June 25th
- The General Election on November 5th

Additionally, the Training & Recruitment Team scheduled full staffing for all Early Voting:

- 8 days for the Presidential Primaries at 17 Early Voting sites
- 9 days for the Primary Election at 9 Early Voting sites
- 9 days for for the General Election at 17 Early Voting sites

In 2024, 652 brand new poll workers were recruited and trained for the November General Election. In total, the Training & Recruitment Team was responsible for appointing and training 3,542 poll workers:

- 1,593 Election Inspectors were trained on-line
- 1,300 Election Inspectors were trained in a classroom setting
- 649 Coordinators and Site Chairs received in-person leadership training



Anticipating a high voter turnout, which is typical of a Presidential Election year, the Training and Recruitment Team was able to meet the requirement of filling every poll worker and Spanish Interpreter assignment in 2024, through the following efforts:

- In addition to recruiting new poll workers, focus was also placed on retention. Many poll workers' concerns and site issues were addressed as a result of surveys that were sent out after each election to gather input
- Postcards were sent to households of registered Republicans and Democrats in targeted districts where Election Inspectors were needed
- A consistent social media presence was maintained on Facebook and Instagram
- Recruitment flyers were posted at town halls, recreation centers, and at various events, including outdoor festivals
- Collaboration with area college professors and high school teachers to allow participating students to receive extra credit
- Teaming with local elected officials to get the public more involved in the election process
- Recruitment at political committee meetings, rotary clubs, veteran events, churches, and libraries
- Participation in job fairs, both virtual and in-person

**3,542 Poll Workers Were Trained & Appointed in 2024,
including 652 who were brand new for the General Election!**



HIGH SCHOOL LEAP PROGRAM



The MCBOE focused on expanding the Student LEAP Program in 2024 to address increased staffing needs for the Presidential Election. Schools that participated were in areas determined to have a shortage of inspectors. The dedicated and tech-savvy students continued to be the difference-maker in 2024. Webster Thomas, Webster Schroeder, School of the Arts, and East High School joined the growing list of participating schools.

Forty-eight students completed training in 2024 to prepare for the General Election - a record high. Between the flexibility of online training and guardian consent form collection, students were more willing than ever to get involved. A waitlist became necessary to accommodate the additional expressed interest.

With continued success throughout 2024, the MCBOE looks to expand the Student LEAP Program into 2025. Plans include improving existing methods and forging new ones. LEAP students remain vital to the challenge of tackling new machines and processes coming this year.

ONLINE INFORMATION 2024

The MCBOE website, www.monroecounty.gov/elections provides a tremendous amount of up-to-date, public information on demand. Information is available about voter registration, polling locations, maps, petition requirements, party enrollment, Early Voting, elected officials, running for office, election results and mail-in voting. A real-time interactive voter application and an on-line voter registration portal are also available on the web site.



Monroe County Board of Elections | New York

Online Voter Application

Lookup Voter Info. Register To Vote Update Registration Absentee Ballot

✓ Find Your Polling Place ✓ Check If You're Registered ✓ List Your Elected Officials
✓ View Your Ballot ✓ Check Absentee Ballot Status ✓ View Your Registration

Last Name: Date of Birth: House No.:* Street Name:* Zip Code:* *Required Fields

MM DD YYYY

Get Voter Info

Start typing your street name to view a list of best matches. Pick your street from this list to ensure the street name used matches our records.

In order to view all of your voter information, you must be a registered voter. If you would like to register to vote, please [download the registration form](#) or contact the Board of Elections at 585 753-1550.

If you have moved since the last time you voted, the Online Voter Application will not be able to find your voter information. Please [download the registration form](#) and submit your change of address to the Board of Elections. [For more information visit monroecounty.gov.](#)

[Download Spanish Voter Registration Form](#)



@MonroeCountyBOE

Monroe County Board of Elections Facebook Page and X provide easy and accessible ways to share information, provide updates, and engage the community in our electoral process.

VOTER REGISTRATION 2024

- In early 2024, MCBOE provided United States Post Offices and Department of Motor Vehicles sites throughout Monroe County with new and improved plastic voter registration displays with 200 voter registration forms (100 English/50 Spanish) per location, in preparation for the Presidential Election. The upgraded displays, along with newly designed posters, are visually inviting and include a QR code, which allows for paperless voter registration from a smart phone.
- MCBOE collaborated with over 175 public-facing community events, festivals, job fairs and cultural celebrations all across Monroe County, providing direct access to voter registration opportunities throughout 2024. Additionally, voters were provided essential information on where to vote, ways to vote and making a plan to vote through this extensive outreach and community engagement. MCBOE registered 25,499 new voters in 2024, an increase of 3,288 from 2023.
- Colleges and universities were a major target for engagement, with the largest number of newly registered voters in our County. MCBOE is dedicated to deepening partnerships and working closely with higher education to engage college students, registering them as voters and hiring/training them to be election poll workers. MCBOE participated in 6 college freshman orientation events, as well as campus voter sign-up fairs, job fairs, career days and leadership presentations. MCBOE now has strong partnerships with our community's universities and colleges with plans to develop an internship program to retain college talent in our county.



Once again, in 2024, MCBOE participated in our national civic holidays and jump started our person-to-person engagement on National Voter Registration Day on September 17th. The day began with a MCBOE news conference and public facing event at Rochester Educational Opportunity Center's downtown location and continued with campus pop-ups at 6 local colleges.

In October of 2024, MCBOE collaborated with the City of Rochester, kicking off National Voter Education Week with a news conference and media availability. Throughout the week MCBOE registered new voters and shared Early Voting information at 10 City R-Center pop-ups and 5 R-Center locations. Plans to expand voter outreach during this civic holiday in 2025 include participation from chambers of commerce and town governments throughout Monroe County.

BOE resource kits were designed and made available to dozens of community partners, town halls, churches, social clubs, and non-profits.

Through a rotating series of four 15 minute public service announcements, Commissioners Nicolay and Ortiz encouraged listeners of local iHeart radio stations to register and make a plan to vote on Election Day, early or by mail and to use the MCBOE website as a resource. Heard from Labor Day through Election Day, these PSAs were played free of charge, courtesy of iHeart.



2024 VOTER ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS



- Visited 11 assisted living facilities, reaching over 500 elders.
- Attended 2 naturalization ceremonies, registering new US citizens.
- Hired and trained a Language Access Coordinator to focus on recruiting and vetting Spanish Interpreters.
- Provided helpful information about early voting, voter postcard mailings and polling sites
- Conducted pop-up sessions in partnership with Monroe County Probation enabling reentry program participants to reregister to vote.
- Participated in LGBTQ resource events, providing voter outreach and engagement.

**MCBOE registered 25,499 new voters in 2024!
That's an increase of 3,288 over 2023!**

EARLY VOTING 2024

MCBOE offered 17 Early Voting sites for both the Presidential Primary and General Election in 2024. These sites were conveniently located in the towns of Brighton, Gates, Henrietta, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, Sweden, Webster, as well as two in Greece, two in Irondequoit and five in the City of Rochester. Due to a limited number of intraparty contests held in four municipalities, only 9 Early Voting sites were used for the Primary Election in June. Any eligible voter registered in Monroe County could early-vote at any one of these locations, throughout the Early Voting period (which included two weekends) preceding Election Day. Electronic Poll Pads allow countywide voter data to be accessible at each site.

None of the votes cast during early voting are tallied until the polls close on Election Day. Standards for protecting ballots and memory cards are extensive. A daily audit of each location is required.

A Record 133,131 Voters Cast Early Ballots in the 2024 General Election!
That's an impressive increase of 27,419 over the 2020 General Election...
and a whopping increase of 119,239 over the 2019 General Election,
the first year of Early Voting in New York!



Early Voting

General Election
Oct 26 - Nov 3, 2024

Polling Hours:
Sat & Sun: 9 am-5 pm
M, W & F: 9 am-5 pm
Tu & Th: 12 noon-8 pm

Early Voting is available to all voters in Monroe County.
Voters can choose to vote at any of the 17 sites



Eastside Sites:

6. Empire State University (ASL Int. on site)
680 Westfall Rd Rochester, NY 14620
7. Henrietta Public Library (ASL Int. on site)
625 Calkins Rd, Rochester, NY 14623
8. Resurrection Lutheran Church
3736 St. Paul Blvd, Rochester, NY 14617
9. Culver Ridge Plaza - Unit 13
2255 East Ridge Rd.
Irondequoit, NY 14622
10. Bay Towne Plaza - Unit 160
1900 Empire Blvd, Webster, NY 14580
11. Webster Justice Court Building
1002 Ridge Rd, Webster, NY 14580
12. Pittsford Town Court Building - Suite 950
3750 Monroe Ave, Pittsford, NY 14534
13. Perinton Square Mall
6720 Pittsford Palmyra Rd, Fairport, NY 14450

City of Rochester Sites:

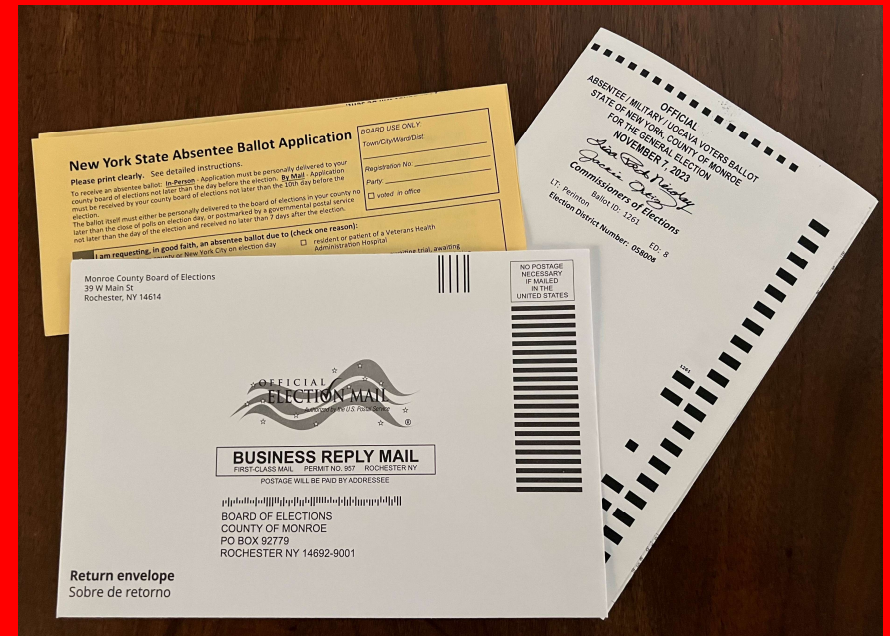
1. Monroe County Office Building
(Public entrances on S. Fitzhugh St. or
Irvine Pl. - ADA entrance on Irvine Pl.)
39 W. Main St, Rochester, NY 14614
2. Susan B Anthony House
17 Madison St, Rochester, NY 14608
3. David F. Gantt Rec Center
700 North St, Rochester, NY 14605
4. Edgerton Rec Center
41 Backus St, Rochester, NY 14608
5. Staybridge Suites Rochester University
1000 Genesee St, Rochester, NY 14611

Westside Sites:

14. St Theodores Church
168 Spencerport Rd, Rochester, NY 14606
15. North Greece Rd Church
1039 N. Greece Rd, Rochester, NY 14626
16. Greece Town Hall Atrium
1 Vince Tofany Blvd, Rochester, NY 14612
17. Sweden Clarkson Community Center
4927 Lake Rd, Brockport, NY 14420

MAIL-IN BALLOT VOTING 2024

- Per NYS Election Law, if a voter **APPLIES** for a mail-in ballot (Absentee or Early Vote by Mail), they must vote that ballot or cast an affidavit ballot.
- In 2024, MCBOE transmitted 28,934 Absentee ballots to voters, including 6,479 for the Presidential Primary, 1,820 for the Primary Election and 20,635 for the General Election. A total of 21,435 ballots were returned by Absentee voters and counted, including 3,413 in the Presidential Primary, 900 in the Primary Election and 17,122 in the General Election.
- In 2024, MCBOE transmitted 16,050 Early Vote by Mail ballots to voters, including 417 for the Presidential Primary, 268 for the Primary Election and 15,365 for the General Election. A total of 13,957 ballots were returned by Early Vote by Mail voters and counted, including 259 in the Presidential Primary, 178 in the Primary Election and 13,520 in the General Election.
- MCBOE once again provided ballot drop boxes at every polling location in 2024. These boxes allow voters or their representatives to deposit mail-in ballots safely and securely at any polling site on Primary, General Election or Early Voting days.



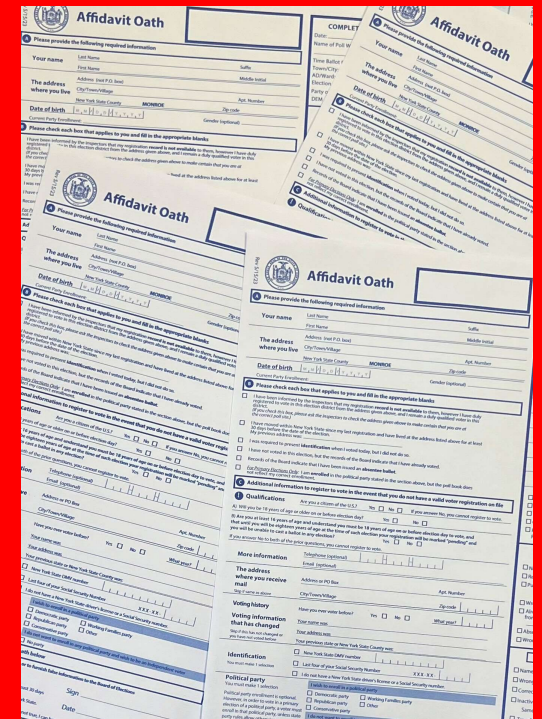
AFFIDAVIT / COURT ORDER VOTING 2024

Affidavit Ballots – This method of voting allows someone election law states is unqualified to cast a ballot on a machine, during Early Voting, on Primary or on Election Day, to submit a provisional ballot. This typically occurs when an individual is not registered, has moved or changed names, making the registration record reflect their actual qualifications to vote. A change in NYS Law now requires an individual who applies for a mail-in ballot to vote by affidavit if they choose not to cast the mail-in ballot. This triggers a manual review by Board of Elections staff to ensure that only one ballot per voter is canvassed.

In 2024, MCBOE processed 58 Affidavit Ballots for the Presidential Primary, 89 for the Primary Election and 8,011 for the General Election.

Court Order Ballots – This method of voting is similar to an affidavit but a court or judge determines whether or not an individual is allowed to vote. Upon a favorable ruling, a voter is immediately allowed to cast a ballot on a machine.

In 2024, MCBOE processed 0 court orders for the Presidential Primary, 0 for the Primary Election and 49 for the General Election.



BALLOT CURES 2024

If a mail-in or affidavit ballot is received by the MCBOE but is missing a signature, has a signature that does not match the signature on file, is unsealed, or lacks a witness statement for a voter's mark, that ballot cannot be counted by law.

In such cases, a voter is provided an opportunity to cure the ballot. MCBOE staff calls, e-mails, and mails the voter a cure letter. The letter explains the error, and the fact that it can be corrected by signing and returning said cure letter. Once received by the MCBOE the cure letter is attached to the voter's ballot and the ballot can now be canvassed.

In 2024, MCBOE identified 867 ballots in need of a cure for the Presidential Primary, Primary Election and General Election.

Of those, 523 cure notices were returned by the voter.

A total of 492 ballots were determined to be sufficiently cured and were able to be counted.



VOTER SECURITY 2024

There are many checks and balances in place to process voter registration forms, absentee ballot requests and ballot counting:

- The MCBOE verifies against other government records, an annual verification mailing, USPS changes of address, State and Federal address changes, death records from the Department of Health, and signature verification.



AUDITS & CYBER SECURITY 2024

After each Election, ballots from three percent of all the machines used, selected by a random draw, are recounted using a separate NYSBOE approved audit system and the results are compared against the Election Day counts. This audit is also performed for mail-in ballots. In addition, paper tapes are pulled from the voting machines and are used to compare the total ballots cast against the totals reported on Election Night. Finally, every polling site is required to provide a detailed reconciliation of ballots used, which are also reviewed and compared against the actual ballots cast. This process accounts for each and every paper ballot supplied.

Although voting tabulators are not and cannot be connected to the internet, many of the other systems used by the MCBOE need to be connected to do our job. Because of this, we are continually working to keep our cyber defenses updated. MCBOE is a member of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) and participates in monthly informational / training meetings as well as receiving advisories and alerts. A division of the Center for Internet Security (CIS), the EI-ISAC is federally funded by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The MCBOE works, together with the NYSBOE and the Monroe County Information Services Department, to ensure that elections in Monroe County are safe and secure. All MCBOE employees are required to keep current with both County and State mandated training. Staff have also taken multiple cyber security training classes both with the SANS Institute, which is a global leader in cybersecurity training and certification, and Rochester Institute of Technology. This training lays the ground work for being able to evaluate and enhance the cyber security defenses of MCBOE. This is particularly important for the vetting of new systems and vendors to modernize our computer systems.



DIRECT COMMUNICATION 2024

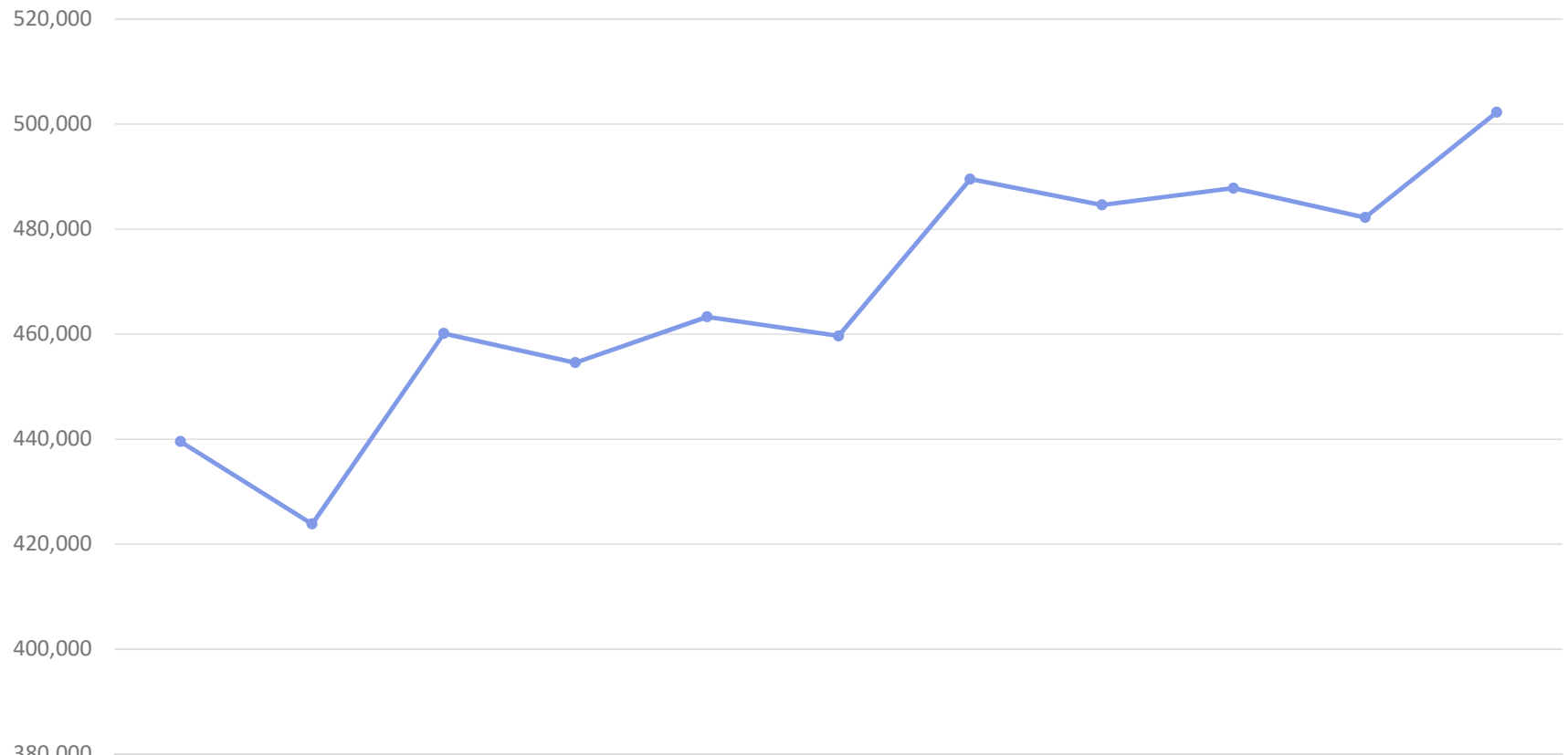
Commissioners Nicolay and Ortiz remained very accessible to Monroe County's voters and continued to provide information regularly through the media and direct community engagement.



REGISTERED VOTERS

2014 through 2024

NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS 2014 Through 2024

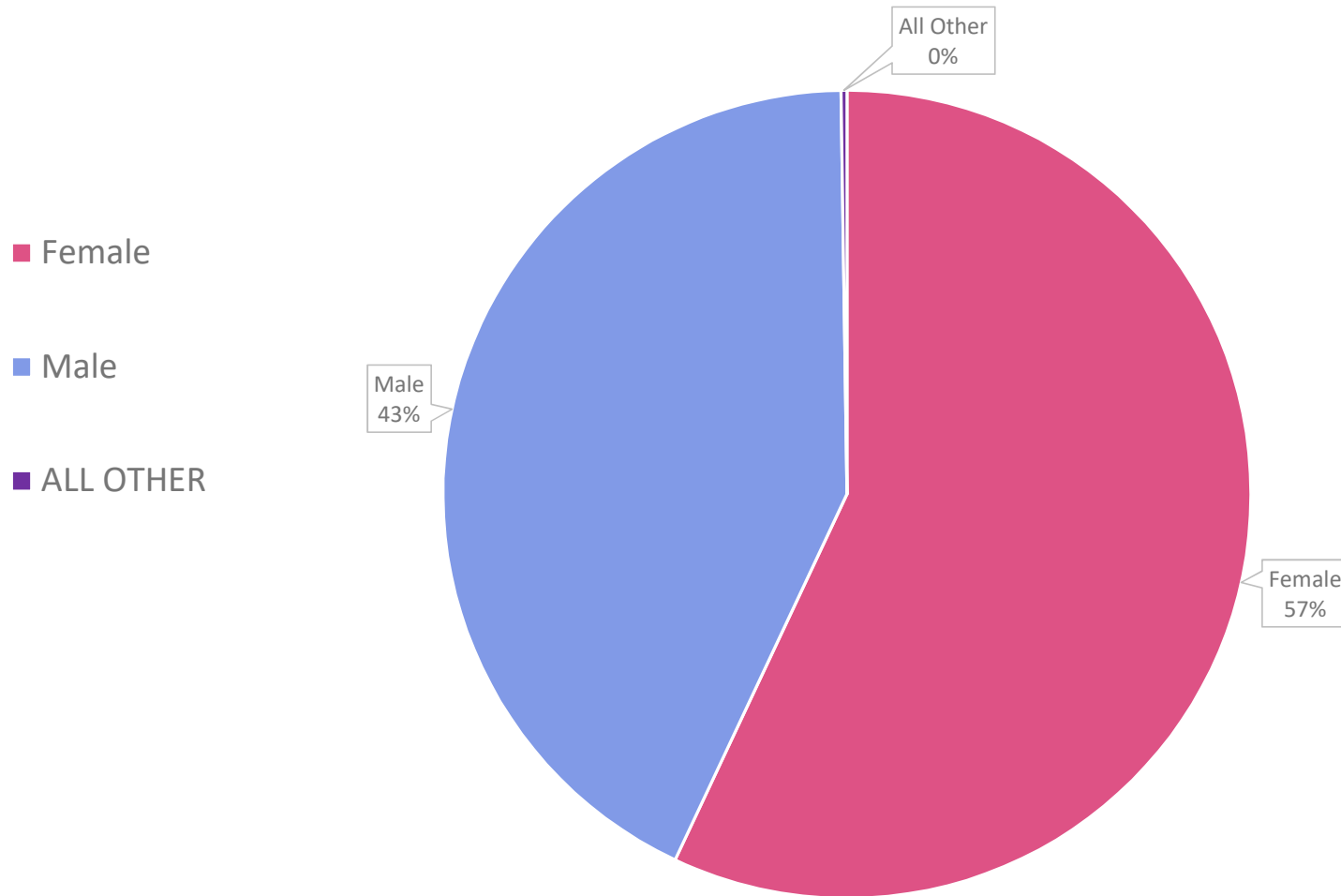


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Registered Voters	439,534	423,859	460,140	454,580	463,304	459,669	489,532	484,613	487,814	482,238	502,242

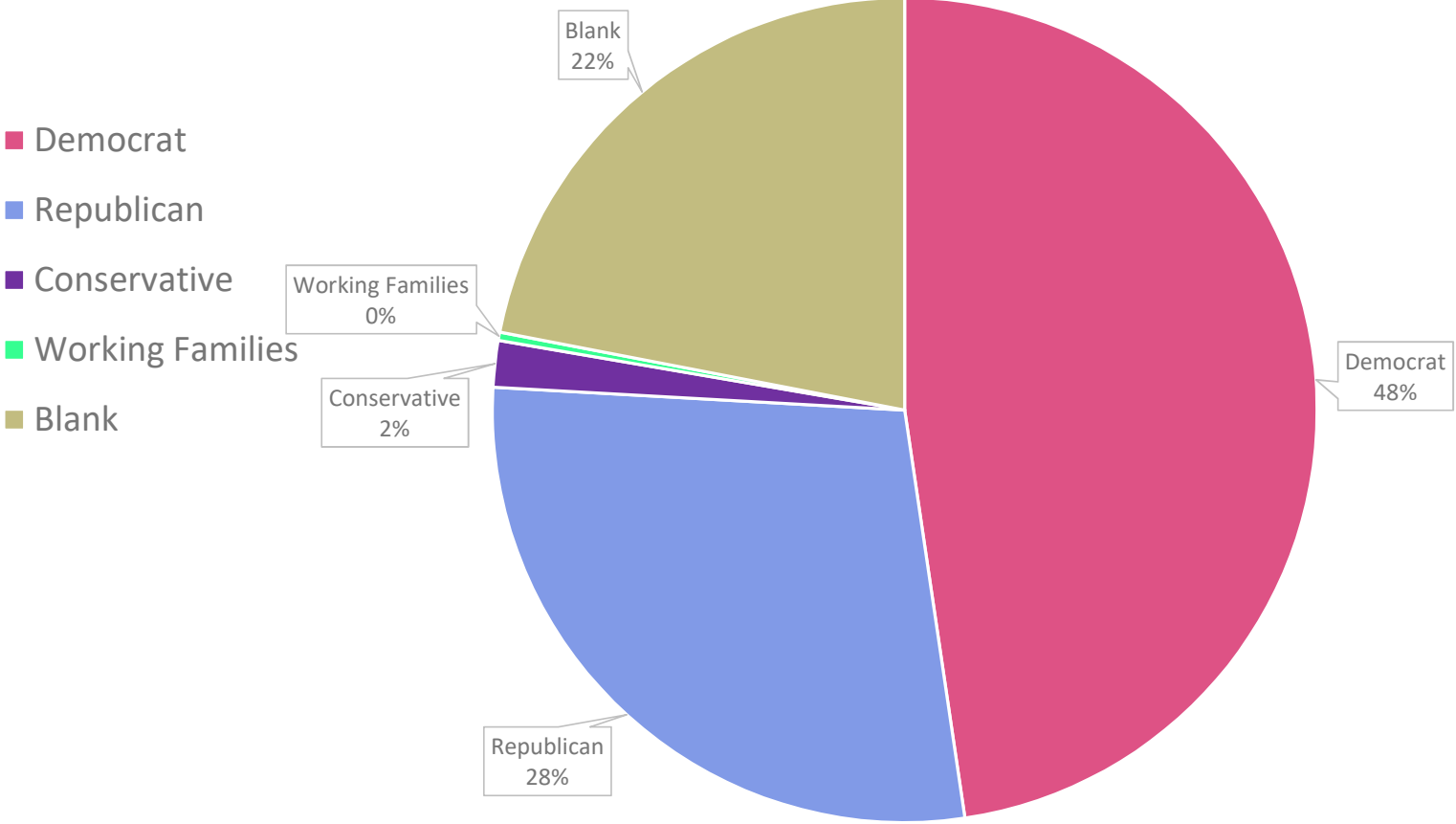
EARLY VOTING STATISTICS

General Election 2024

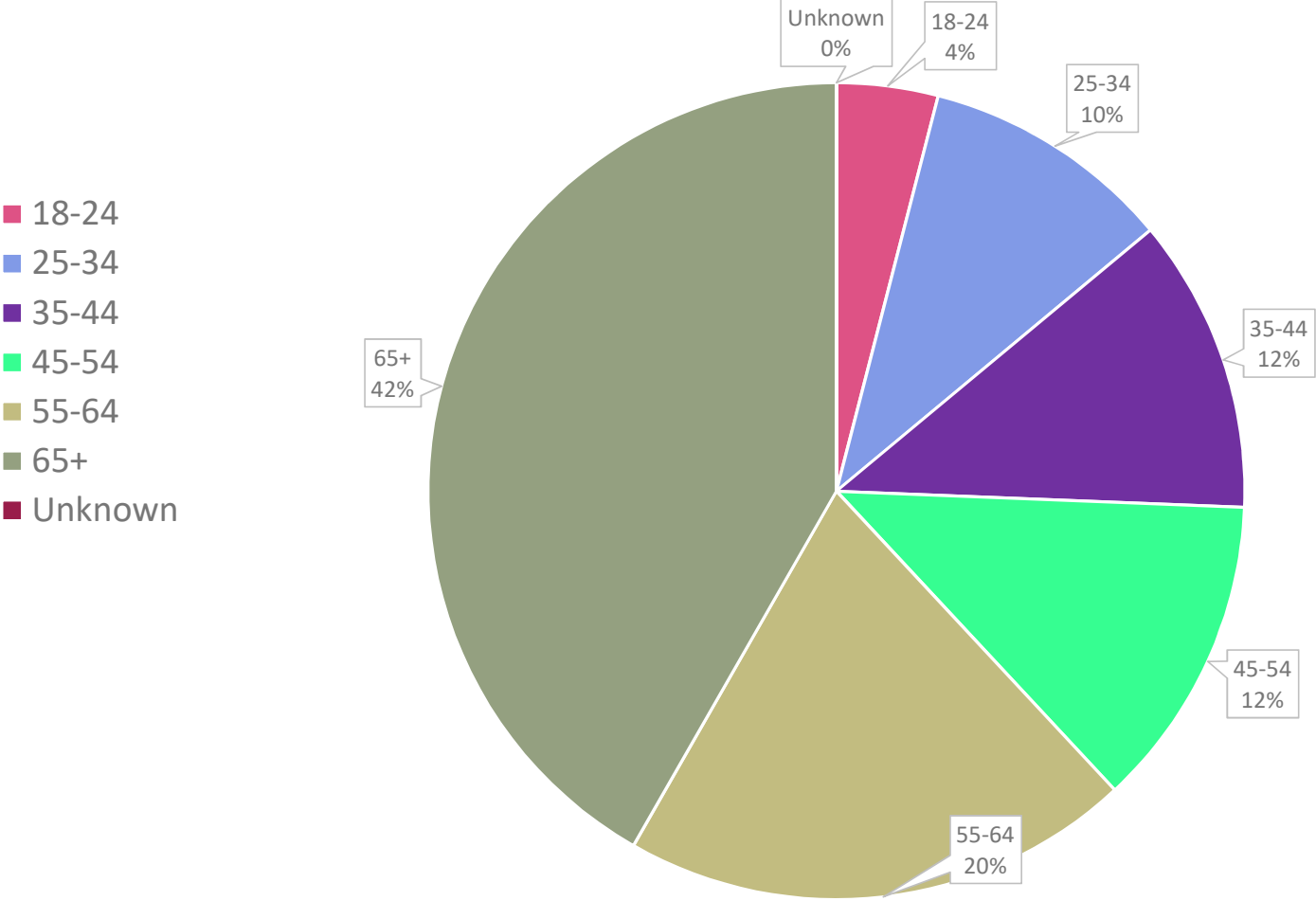
EARLY VOTING BY GENDER GENERAL ELECTION 2024



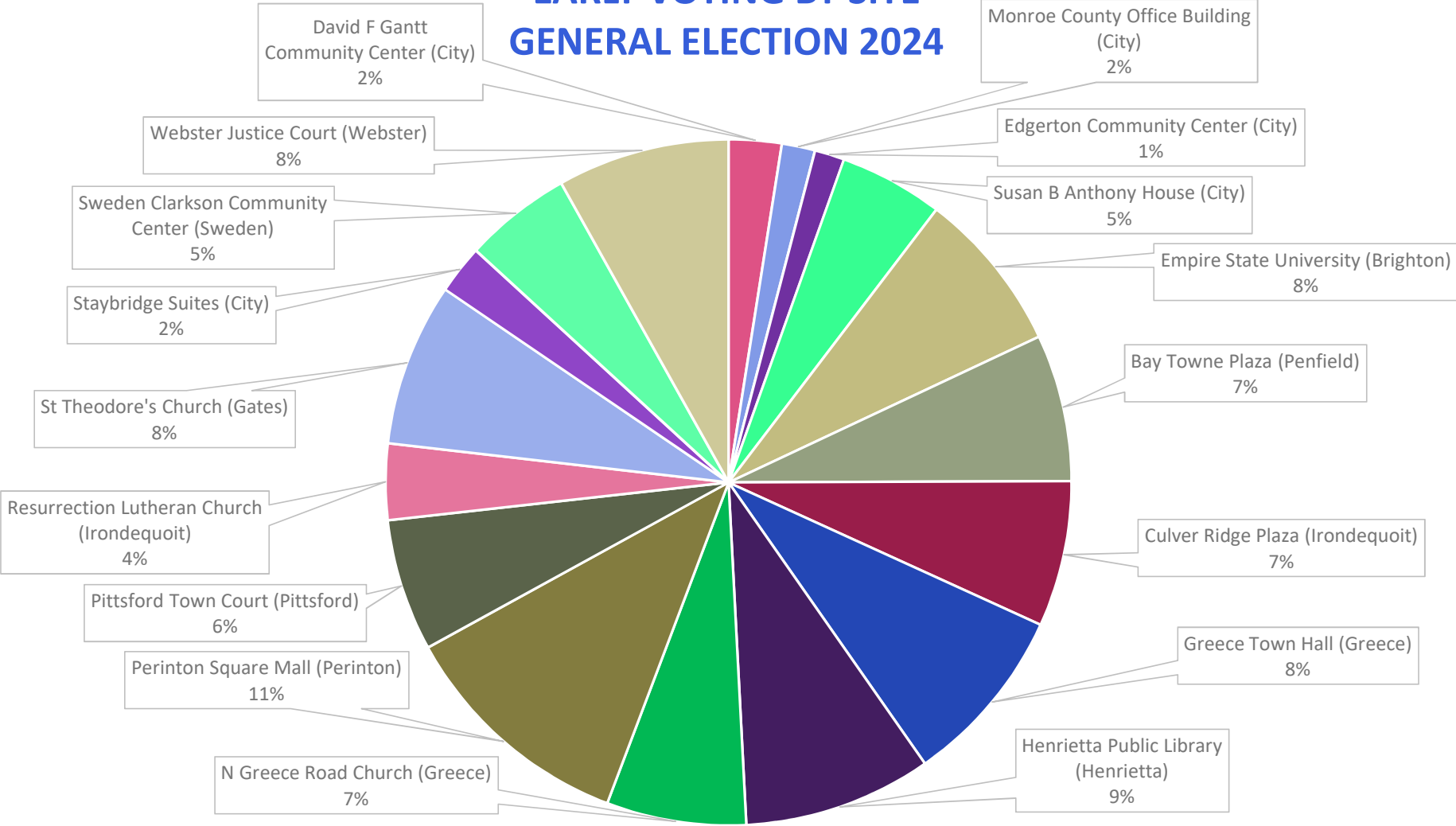
EARLY VOTING BY PARTY GENERAL ELECTION 2024



EARLY VOTING BY AGE GENERAL ELECTION 2024



EARLY VOTING BY SITE GENERAL ELECTION 2024



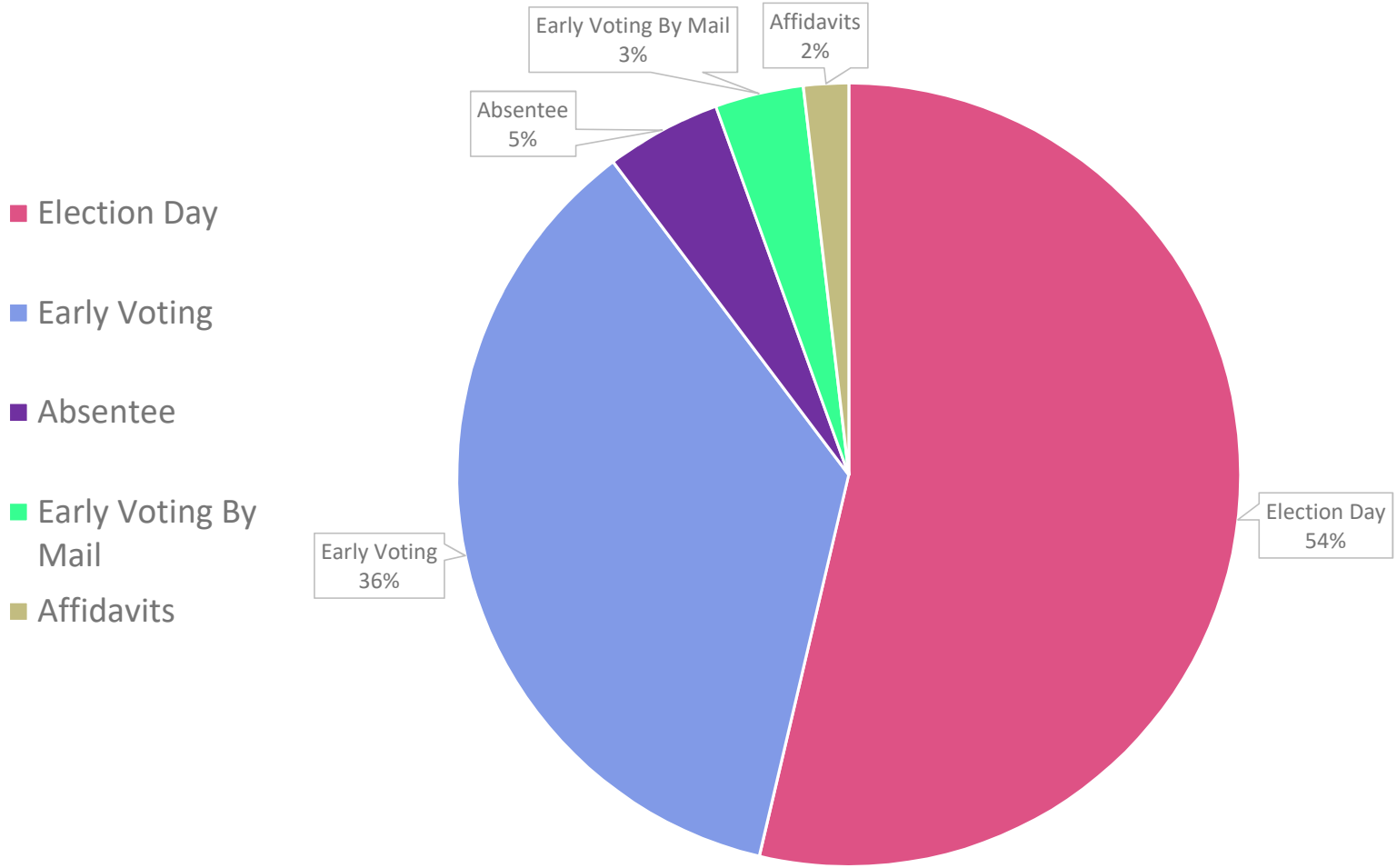


**You're
Right
To Vote.**

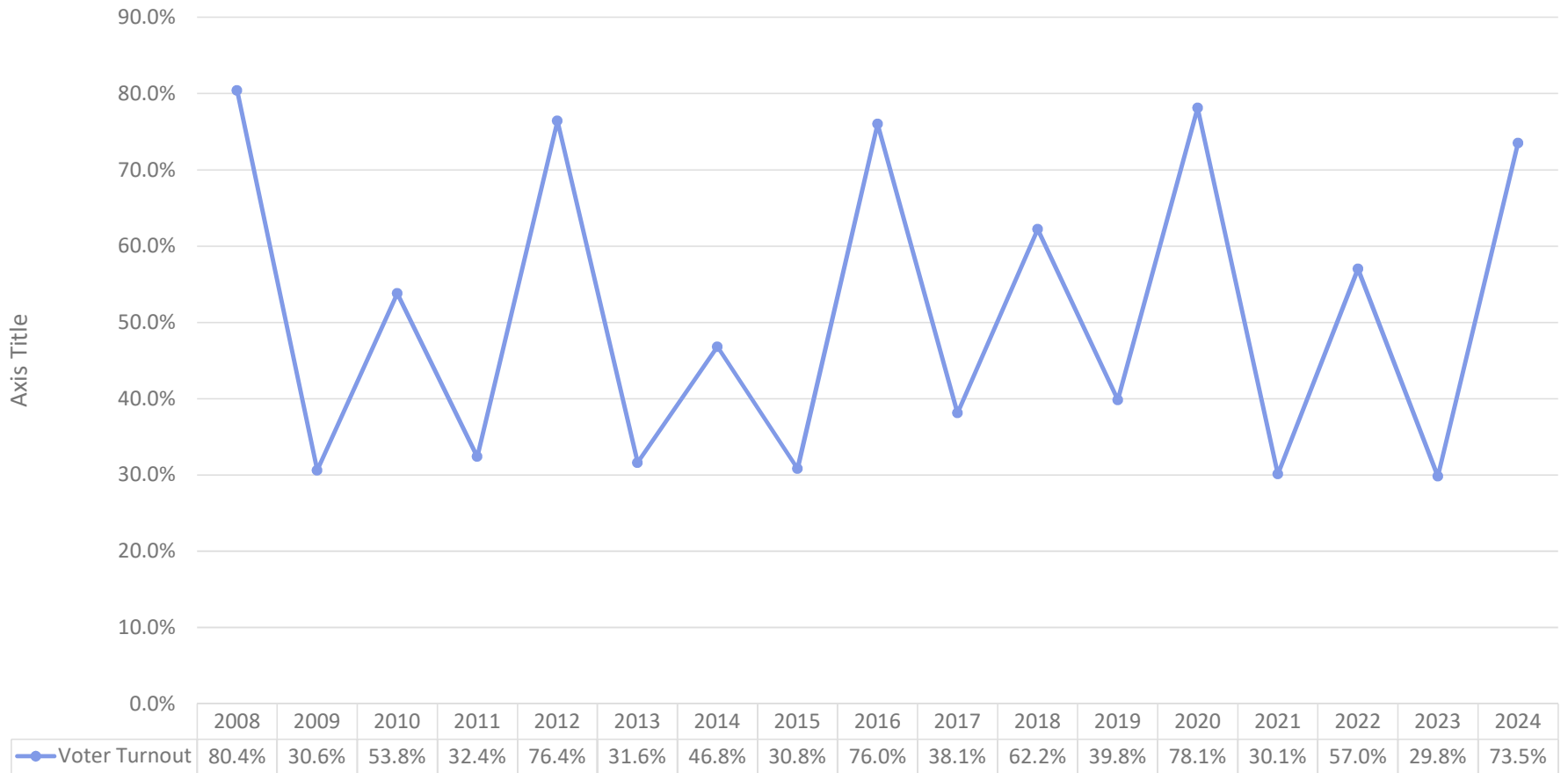
GENERAL ELECTION STATISTICS

2024

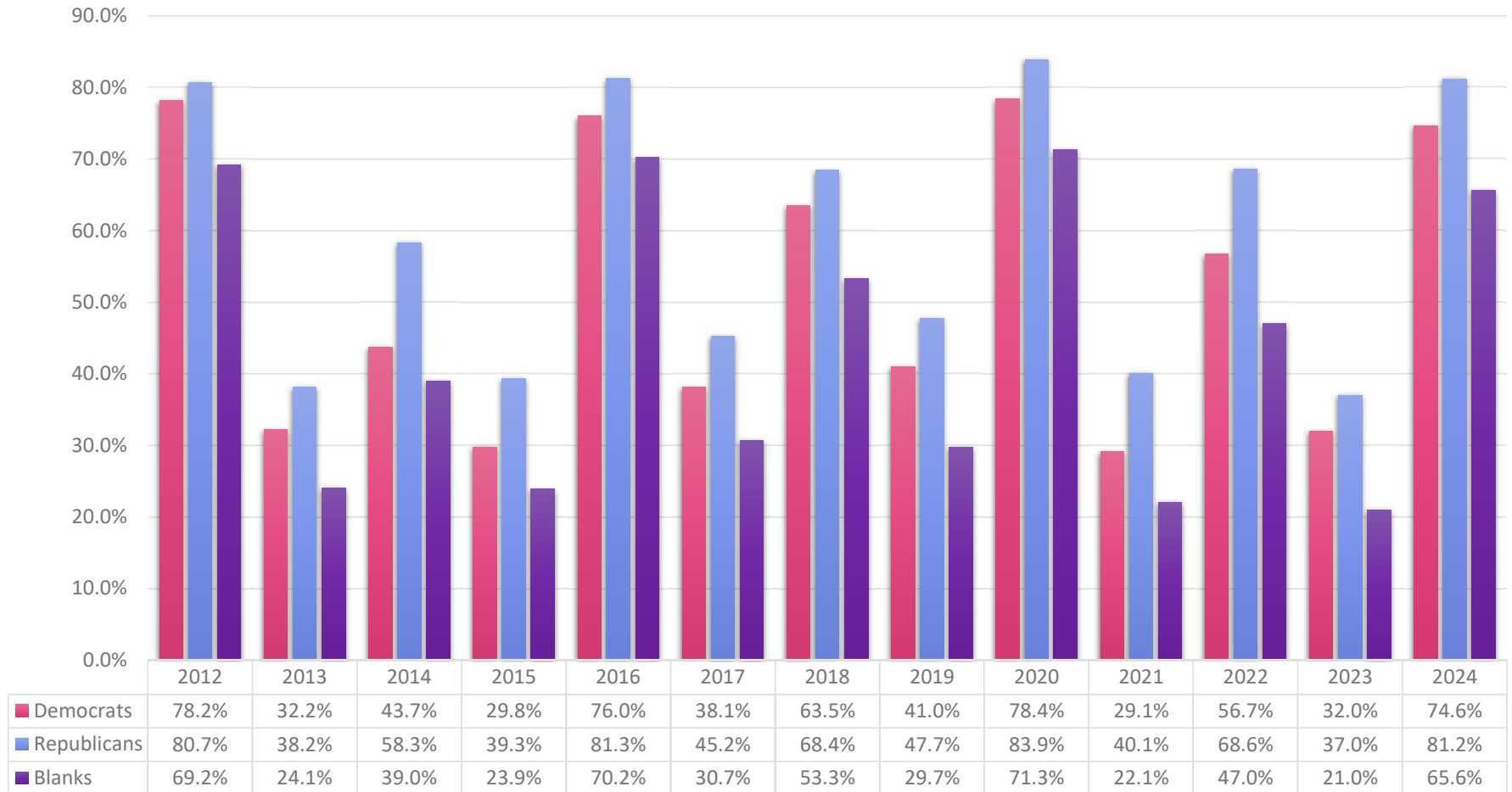
METHODS VOTERS USED TO VOTE GENERAL ELECTION 2024



VOTER TURNOUT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION 2004 Through 2024

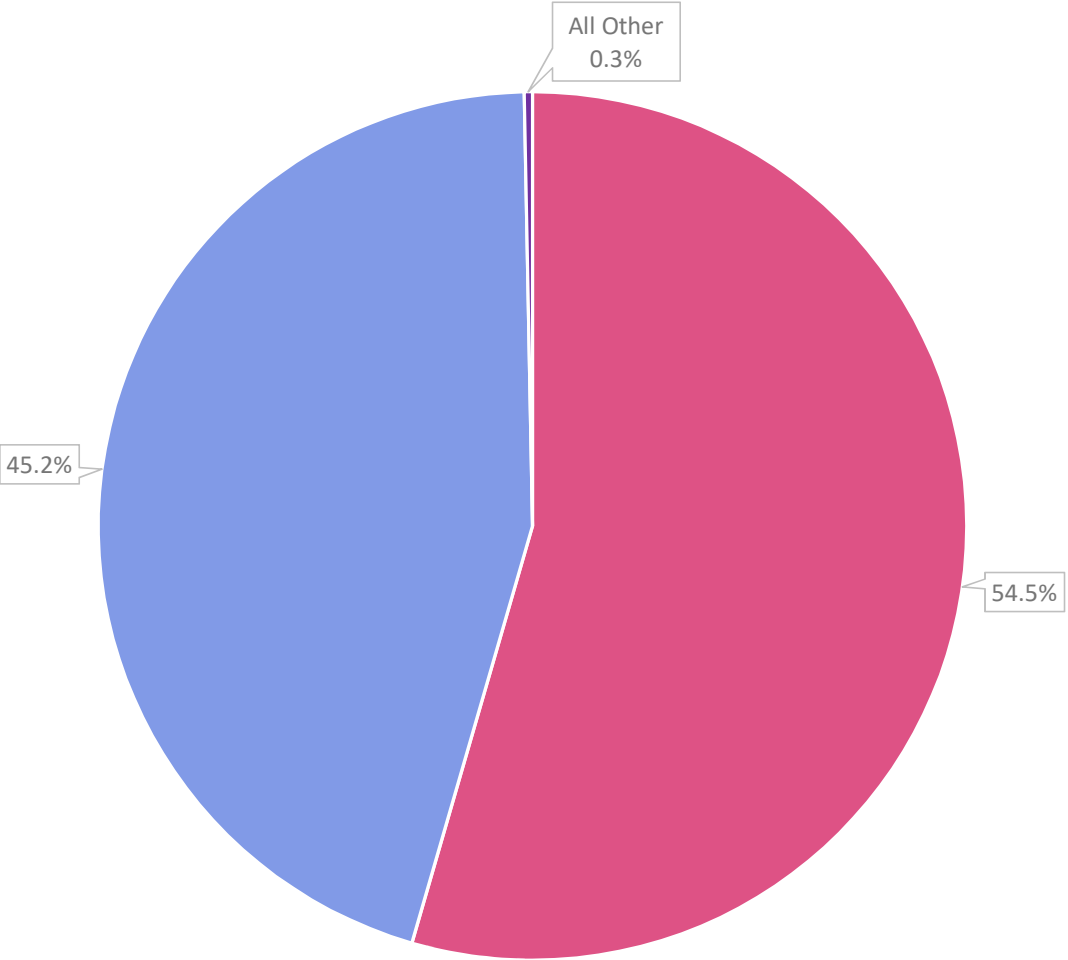


VOTER TURNOUT BY PARTY 2012 Through 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS

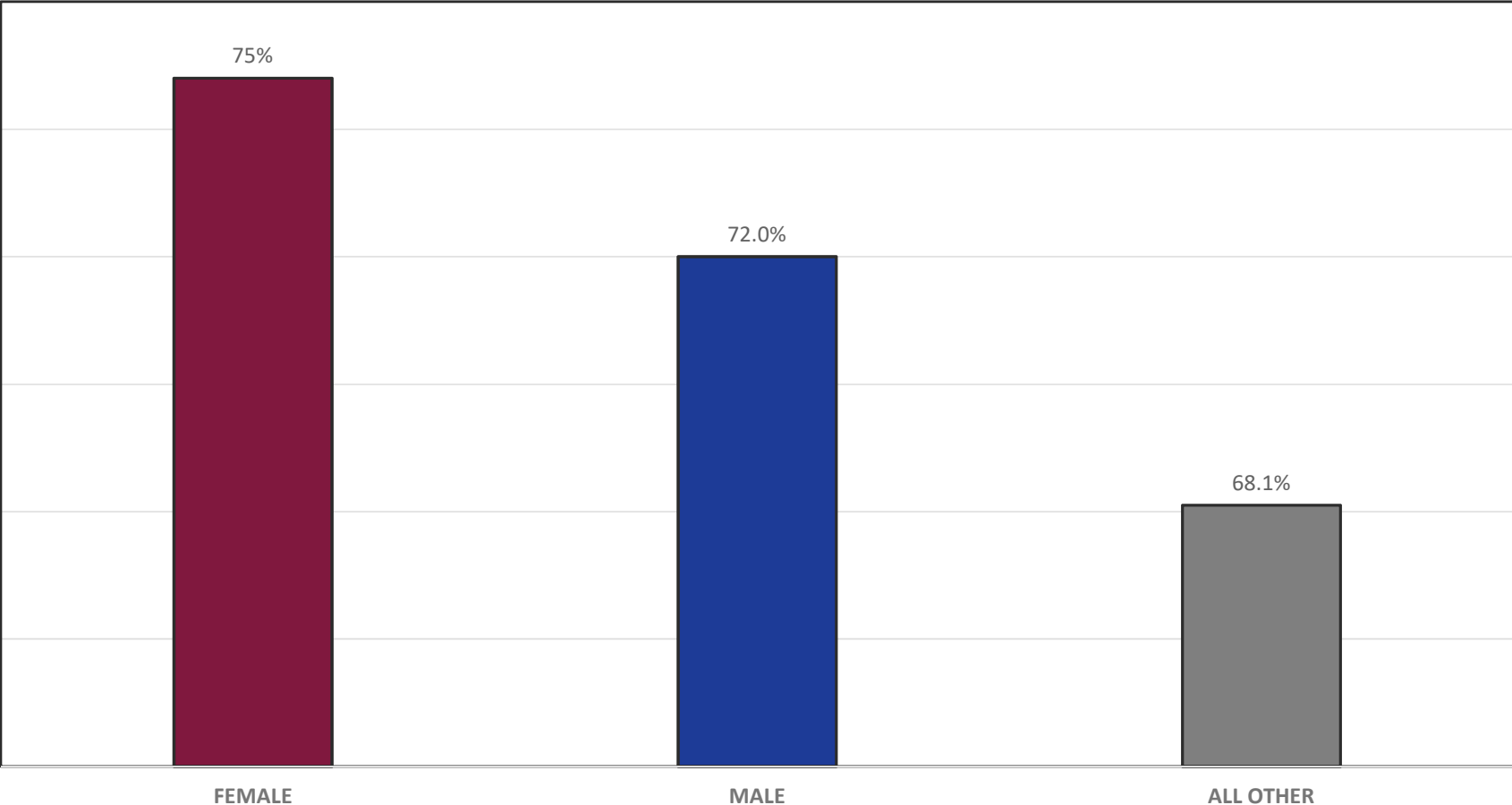


TOTAL VOTE BY GENDER 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

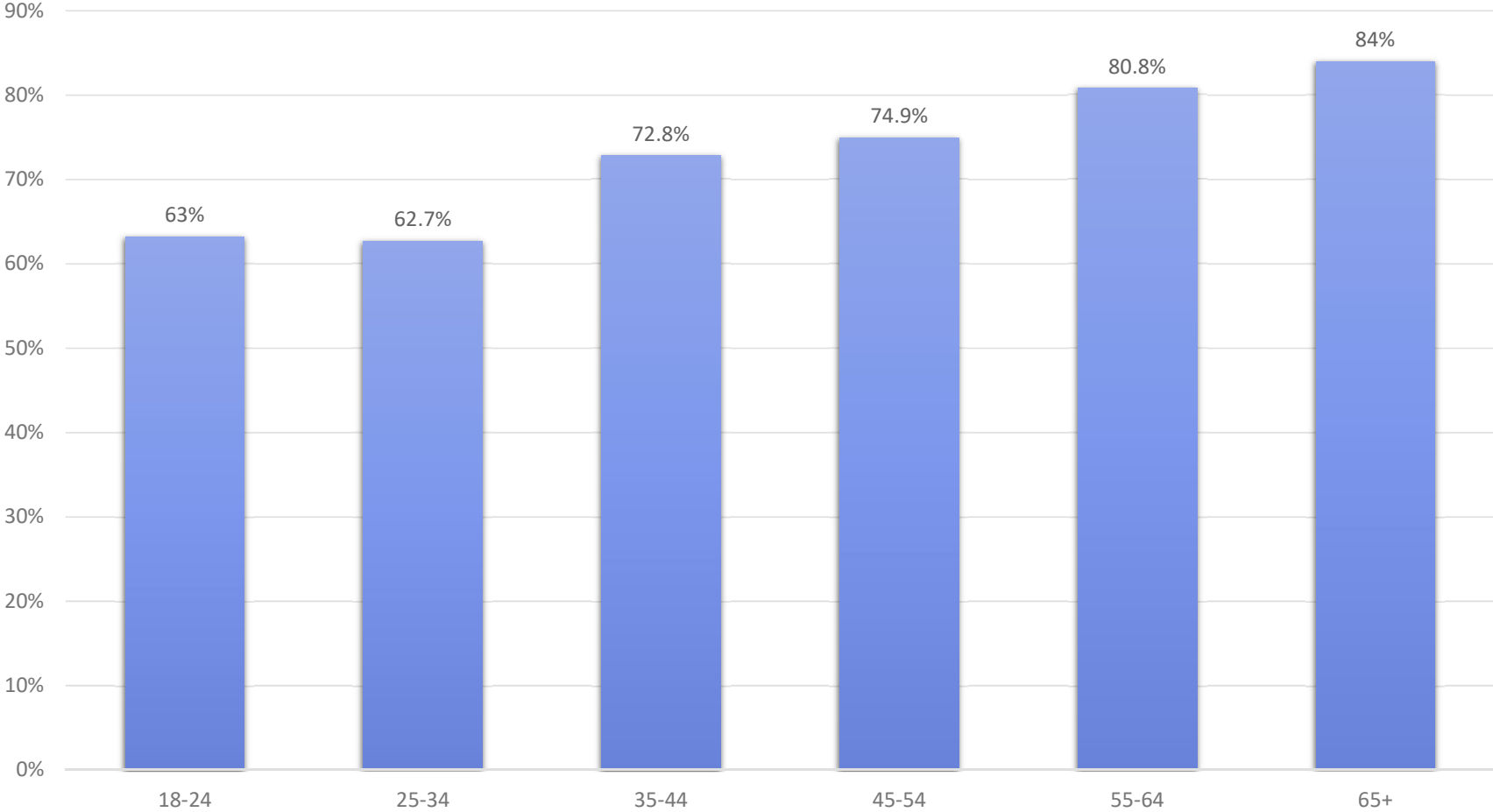
- Females
- Males
- X
- Intersex
- Undeclared



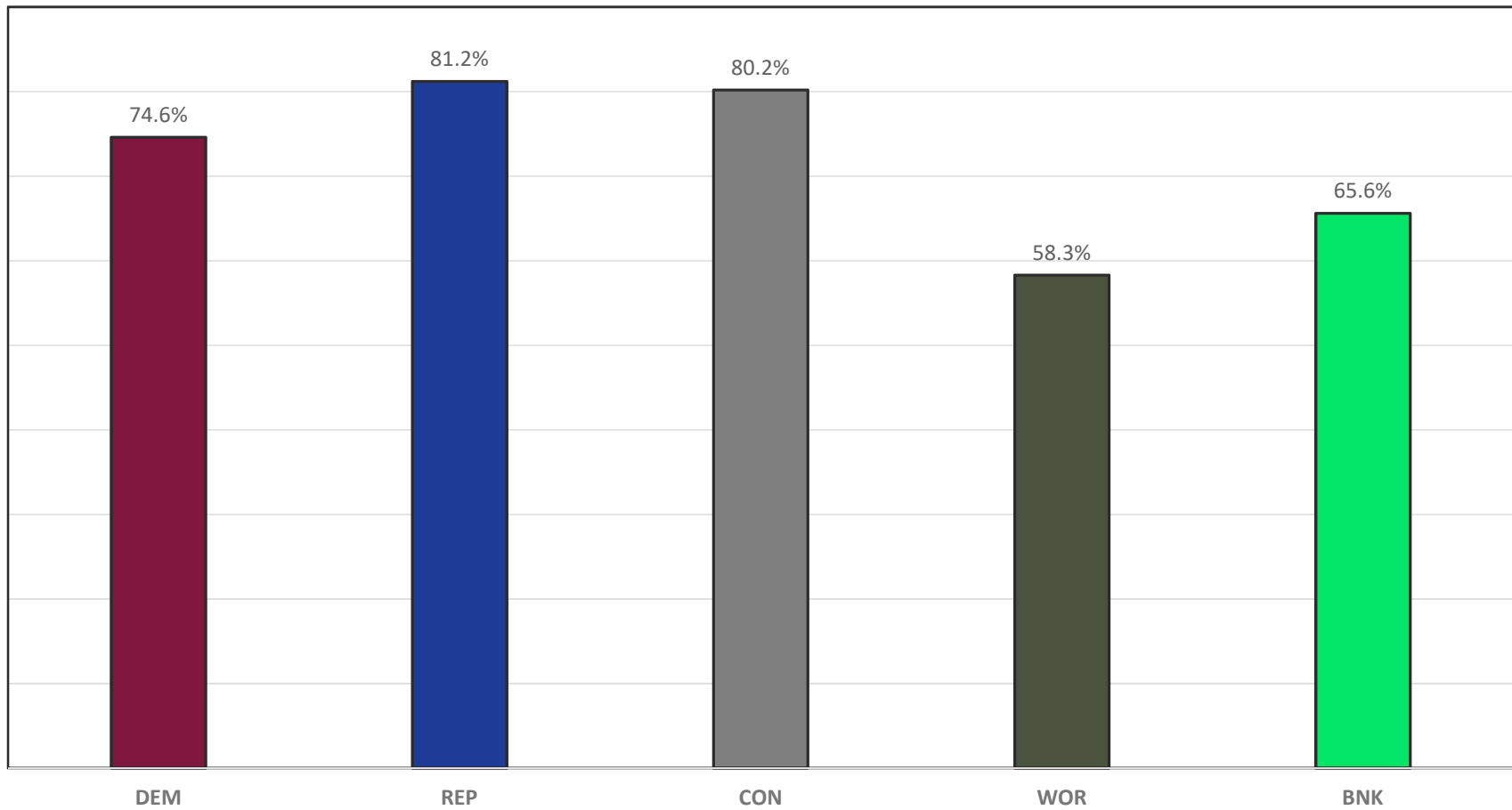
**VOTER TURNOUT BY GENDER
2024 GENERAL ELECTION**



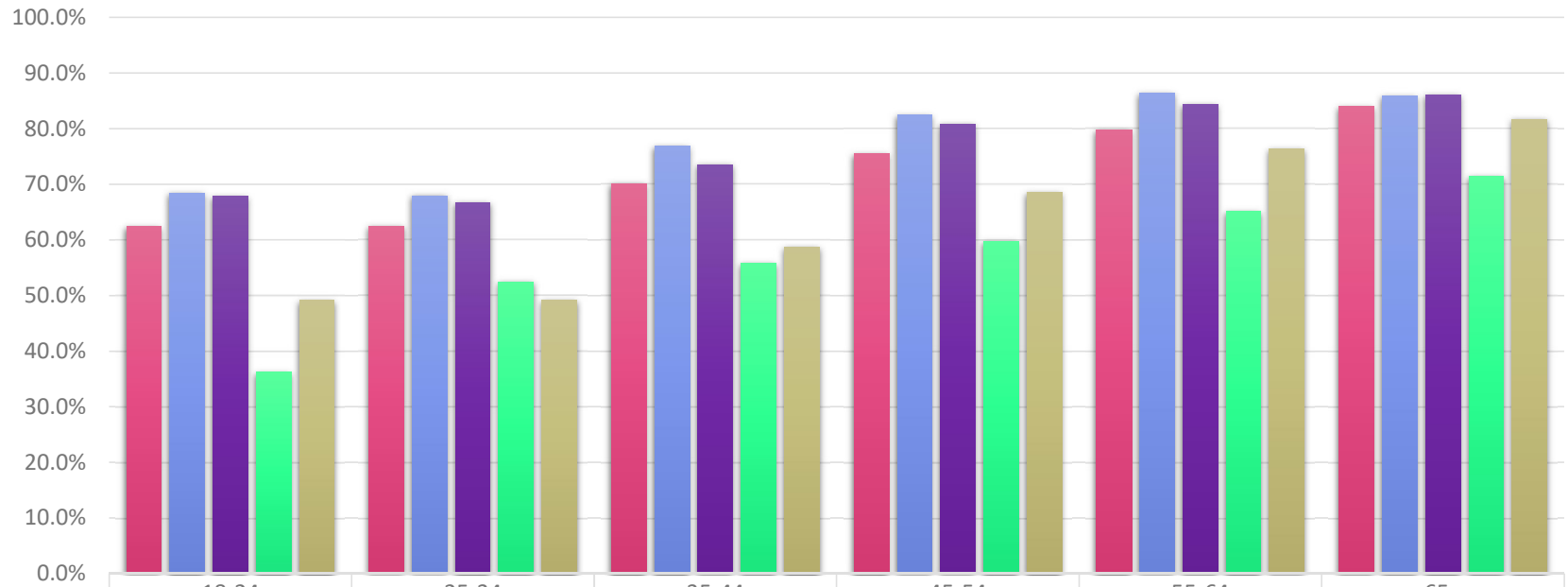
VOTER TURNOUT BY AGE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION



VOTER TURNOUT BY PARTY 2023 GENERAL ELECTION



COMPARISON OF TURNOUT BY AGE GROUP PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED VOTERS 2024 GENERAL ELECTION



	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Democratic	62.4%	62.4%	70.1%	75.5%	79.7%	83.9%
Republican	68.4%	67.9%	76.8%	82.4%	86.3%	85.8%
Conservative	67.8%	66.6%	73.5%	80.8%	84.3%	86.0%
Working Families	36.2%	52.4%	55.8%	59.8%	65.1%	71.4%
Blank	49.1%	49.1%	58.7%	68.5%	76.3%	81.7%



**Monroe County Board of Elections
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