

HB 022

Election Integrity is deeply distrusted and absentee ballot signature verification will help to alleviate some of the mistrust.

Due to growing non-partisan distrust in our election system, the identification of numerous apparent voting anomalies in the State of Maryland, and the documented issues pertaining to voting nationwide^{1,2}, Over 60% of all Americans have lost Faith in our Elections.

Polls continue to show that low voter confidence is non-partisan and it is not getting any better. Waiting for and instructing citizens to “get over it” will most likely never happen. To compound very low confidence, we are hearing more voters state they are not going to vote because they believe their vote doesn’t matter. In fact, recent Rasmussen polls³ show the severity of the issue:

- Widespread Cheating will affect Nov 2022 Election (7/7/2022) – 50% believe
- Election Integrity (8/8/2022) – 80% Concerned, 59% Very Concerned
- Election Cheating (8/22/2022) – 75% Concerned, 60% Very Concerned

From a Board of Elections perspective the 2022 turnout statistics were very disappointing. Even with all the accommodations of extended voting days and hours and a massive push for mail in voting, turnout was 16.6% lower than the 2018 Gubernatorial election. Clearly these accommodations are not inspiring more Marylanders to make their voice heard via voting! In my opinion a lack of trust in the voting system is a significant factor driving these results.

Below are the high level statewide and Anne Arundel county statistics. Two points, 1) Republican turnout decreased the least (both statewide and county) and 2) even with overwhelming mail-in ballot use by Democrats, total Republican turnout exceeded Democrat turnout by several points. Further demonstrating the bi-partisan distrust of our electoral system.

Turnout Statewide	2018	2022	% Chg
Total	59.06%	49.26%	-16.59%
DEM	61.53%	50.81%	-17.42%
REP	63.45%	57.60%	-9.22%
UNF	46.41%	36.64%	-21.05%

AA County	2018	2022	% Chg
Total	60.10%	53.69%	-10.67%
DEM	63.80%	56.52%	-11.41%
REP	63.63%	59.58%	-6.36%

UNF 47.83% 41.80% -12.61%

This low voter confidence played out in the 2023 General election.

I was part of a group of concerned citizens who identified numerous apparent anomalies after 1) analyzing data from the 2020 General and the 2022 Primary elections and 2) canvassing 2020 General election voters in Crofton, Pasadena, and Severna Park in August 2022. A subset of the anomalies identified is included below:

- There are 1,242 recorded 2020 General election votes in Anne Arundel County for voters who have moved according to the U.S. Post Office National Change of Address (NCOA) database. 11,889 in the State
- There are 8,077 voters labeled as inactive after they voted in the 2020 General Election⁴. 73,949 in the State
- There are 520 addresses who have voters with the same date of birth and same address who voted in the 2020 General Election⁵. 5,313 in the state. Twins/Triplets that still live together?
- The number of 2022 Primary voters reported by the Secretary of State⁶ (AA: 90,413 / State: 966,228) do not match the number of 2022 Primary voters identified in the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter rolls⁷ (AA: 91,242 / State: 1,033,425)

Another issue creating distrust of elections is the voter roll discrepancies. Registration numbers for Anne Arundel County fluctuate and differ from the state reported registration numbers tremendously.

The total Anne Arundel County registered voters listed on the 11/22/2022 Gubernatorial General Election on November 8 is listed as 406,492.

The total Anne Arundel County registered voters from the Precinct Voter Counts Report dated 11/30/2022 listed as 413,286.

October 31, 2022 is 411,972 reported by Anne Arundel County.

November 8, 2022 is 406,492 reported by the state.

November 30, 2022 is 413,342 reported by Anne Arundel County.

They use the same data set as a source, why is there such a large discrepancy of 5,480 between October 31 and November 8 and 6,794 between November 8 and November 30?

The county and state board of elections have been asked these questions.

The monthly registrations numbers are found here:

<https://www.aacounty.org/boards-and-commissions/board-of-elections/voter-registration-statistics/>

The 2022 election results are found here:

https://www.aacounty.org/boards-and-commissions/board-of-elections/election-results/Election%20Results/GG22_Election_Summary_OFFICIAL.pdf

Notes:

1. Williamson County, TN, Rumble: <https://tinyurl.com/mudz5u8e>
2. Dekalb County GA, Rumble: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8mdj7n>
3. Rasmussen Reports, <https://www.rasmussenreports.com>
4. 07/2022 Maryland State Voter Info Snapshot
5. 12/2021 Maryland State Voter Info Snapshot
6. Anne Arundel 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election Summary Report, <https://tinyurl.com/bdz42tr6>
7. 08/2022 Maryland State Voter Info Snapshot