

# 2023-2024 Election Report



**Presented by**  
The Boone County Clerk's Office

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# Voter Registration in Boone County

Registering to vote is the first step towards making your voice heard in Boone County elections. To register, you must be:

- At least 17.5 years old;
- a U.S. Citizen; and
- a Boone County Resident.

Eligible voters with a felony conviction can also register to vote once they have completed their sentence, including any probation and/or parole.

The deadline for new Missouri voters to register is the 4th Wednesday before Election Day. Once you're a registered voter, though, you can update your name or address any time, including on Election Day. Voters can register online at [vote.boonemo.gov](https://vote.boonemo.gov) or come to the Boone County Clerk's Office at the corner of 9th & Ash in downtown Columbia.

The voter registration roll is maintained by the Clerk's Office on a daily ongoing basis. When a voter registers or updates their registration, the Clerk's Office mails out voter ID cards, sample ballots, and other election mail to inform them about upcoming elections. This process also helps keep the voter roll clean and up-to-date. If a voter's election mail is returned by the post office, the Clerk's Office sends a residence confirmation notice to the voter to encourage them to update their voter registration. The office also uses reports from the Secretary of State's Office to check for voters that may have moved out of state, become ineligible to vote, or passed away.

# 2023 in Review

## Community | Integrity | Collaboration

“What do you do when there’s no election?”

Election administration is a year-round undertaking. Even in 2023 when Boone County only had one scheduled election in April, our office was always working on some aspect of elections preparation. The “off-season” time gives the office the chance to review and improve our processes, incorporate feedback from voters and election judges, and plan for the busy season of a major election year. It also gives us the opportunity to find more ways to make Boone County’s elections safe, accessible, and secure.

In 2023, the County Clerk’s Office focused on community, integrity, and collaboration as we prepared for the needs and excitement of a major presidential election year. We debuted community projects like mock elections in schools to bring democracy to students, launched our third ‘I Voter’ sticker contest, and learned from our colleagues in other counties about their approaches to elections administration. We also worked with local organizations like the Great Plains ADA Center, Services for Independent Living, and the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council to ensure our polling places and voting opportunities were ready to best serve Boone County voters and poll workers.

By the end of the year, our office was more than ready for 2024 and the four elections that came with it.

# April Municipal Election 2023

## **Total Election Cost:**

\$286,918.49

**Ballots cast:** 26,870

**Cost per registered voter:** \$2.34

**Polling Places:** 43

**Election Judges:** 273

**Absentee Voters:** 2447

**122,731**  
**Total registered voters**

- 21.89% cast a ballot
- 78.11% did not vote

## **Offices and Issues on the Ballot**

### Board of Education:

- Columbia Public Schools
- Southern Boone County R-1
- Sturgeon R-5 and Proposition Bulldogs
- Centralia R-6
- North Callaway R-1
- Fayette R-3 and Proposition 1
- Hallsville R-4
- Harrisburg R-8

### Municipal:

- Boone County, Proposition 1
- Boone County Fire Protection District, Question
- Columbia, Councilperson, 1st and 5th Ward, and Proposition 1
- Centralia, Mayor, City Collector, Alderman Wards I, II, and III, and Proposition 1
- Ashland, Alderman Wards I, II, and III, and Question and Proposition A
- Hartsburg, Board of Trustees
- Hallsville, Alderman Wards I and II, and Proposition 911 and Proposition 2
- Rocheport, Mayor, Alderman Wards I and II
- Sturgeon, Mayor and Candidate at Large, and Question 1
- McBaine, Board of Trustees
- Huntsdale, Board of Trustees and Question 1
- Pierpont, Board of Trustees

# Mock Elections in Schools

In 2023, the County Clerk's Office launched an initiative to engage future voters in Boone County: mock elections in schools. The Clerk's Office worked with staff at Gentry Middle School, Douglass High School, and Oakland Middle School to bring a real voting experience to students. At Gentry, hundreds of middle school students were able to cast a real ballot for student council into the county's voting equipment and received an "I Voted" sticker afterwards, just like at the polls. At Douglass, high schoolers not only wrote their own ballot initiatives to vote on, but they even created student rosters to serve as poll books and worked at the gymnasium "polling place" as election judges to check in voters.



At Oakland, students voted on both student-written and real-life ballot initiatives modeled off other Boone County elections.

Students at every school shared that voting had seemed intimidating to them because they'd never been to a polling place before or knew how to cast a ballot, but having the opportunity to experience a real Election Day in a familiar setting made all the difference. By the

end of the election, they were excited, confident, and felt "so grown up" casting their ballots. At Gentry, we overheard several student candidates bragging about having their name on a real ballot.

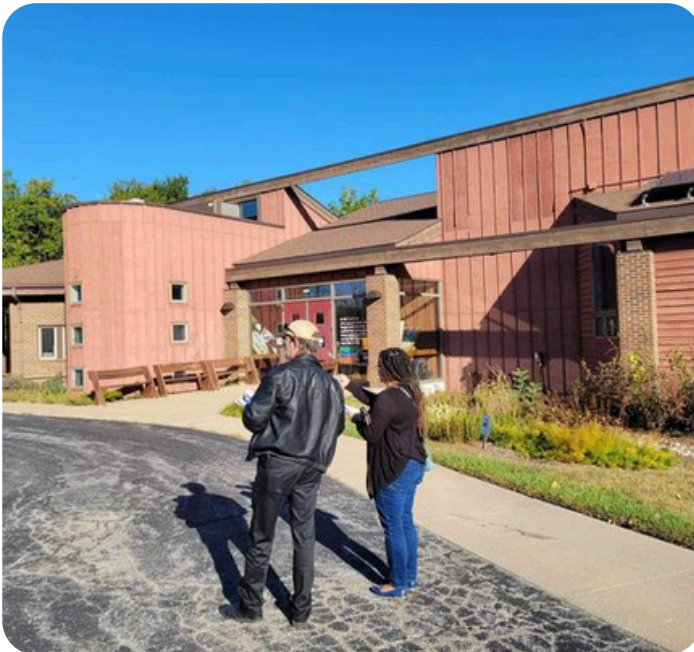
Collaboration with teachers, staff, and administrators at each of these schools made this project possible. Their enthusiasm and dedication to civic engagement created an amazing experience for students and we encourage any interested schools to reach out to the Clerk's Office to schedule future mock elections.



# Accessibility at the Polls

One of our missions in the County Clerk's Office is to ensure that the voting process is accessible to every eligible voter, which includes accessibility at our polling place locations. Our office establishes relationships with local businesses, organizations, and public entities so that voters can utilize polling places that have adequate parking and voting space across Boone County.

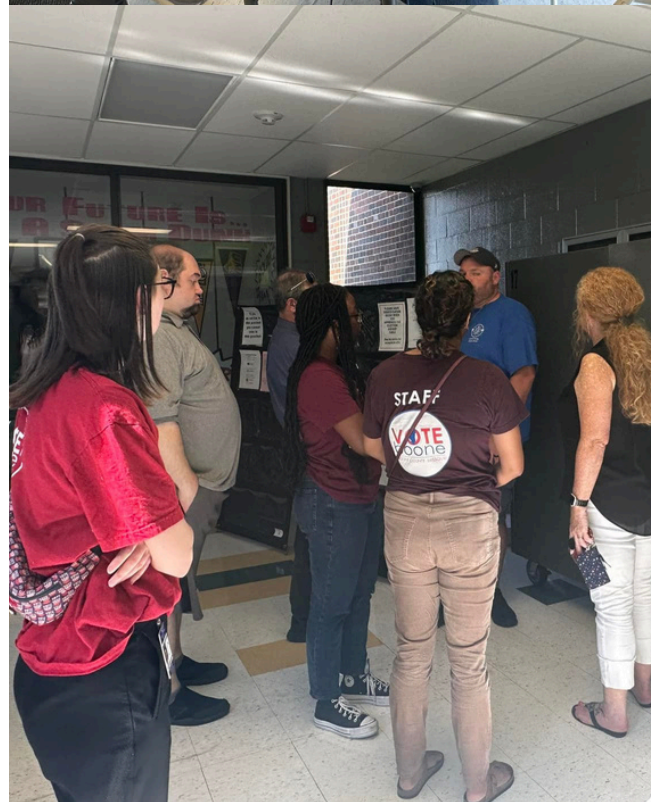
In 2023, the Clerk' Office wanted a more comprehensive view of our polling places' accessibility to see how we could better serve Boone County voters. In partnership with Great Plains ADA Center, Services For Independent Living (SIL), and Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, we utilized the Americans with Disabilities Act Checklist for Polling Places and measured, counted, and reviewed parking lots, voting areas, and walkways to ensure polling places were ready for the busyness of 2024.



# Learning from Our Colleagues

There are more than 8,000 election administrators in the United States and each brings the spirit of community, integrity, and collaboration to their work. While every office administers elections according to their state's unique set of laws and procedures, there are core tenets that are universal across the country. We all recruit and train community volunteers to be poll workers, establish checklists and chain of custody forms for election integrity, and do our best to create positive experiences for our voters.

The Clerk's Office was fortunate to learn from election offices not only in Missouri, but across the country in 2023. In August, we visited Independence to observe a special election and see how the Jackson County Board of Elections administers elections. In May, we collaborated with election offices from states like Connecticut, Utah, Illinois, and Nevada to develop best practices and standards for poll worker training, management, and retention as part of our office's role as a Center for Election Excellence. These cooperative experiences served as important professional development opportunities for our staff and brought new ideas and energy to the office.





# Choosing the 2024-2025 'I Voted' Stickers

The 'I Voted' sticker contest is now a biennial tradition in Boone County. The 2023 contest launched on National Voter Registration Day and submissions were accepted between September 19th and October 24th. The County Clerk's Office received over 80 submissions from high schoolers across Boone County.



# Choosing the 2024-2025 'I Voted' Stickers

The contest aims to engage future voters, but it's also a way to bring community into every part of the elections process. All sticker submissions were presented to a selection committee of two office staff, including elections manager Art Auer and deputy county clerk Nia Neville, local artist Michelle Seat, Professor S. David Mitchell (Ruth L. Hulston Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Michael A. Middleton Center for Race, Citizenship and Justice), and Professor Deborah Huelsbergen (MU Curator's Distinguished Teaching Professor of Graphic Design). The selection committee nominated five finalists and all Boone County residents were invited to vote on their favorite.

**Quin Smith**

12th Grade

Hickman High School



**Isabella Ordoñez Babb**

11th Grade

Douglass High School/CACC



**Amanda Hughes**

12th Grade

Battle High School



**Kendall M. Roberts**

12th Grade

Hickman High School



**Zhen-Ze Zheng**

9th Grade

Hickman High School



# 2024 in Review

## Education | Accuracy | Trust

In 2024, the Boone County Clerk's Office administered four elections, provided voter outreach, played an integral role in the initiative petition process, and piloted innovative ways to support Boone County voters. Education, accuracy, and trust underpinned everything we did to prepare for a busy and challenging year.

After a special February election in Ashland, the election cycle kicked off in March with presidential candidate preference selections. While the Clerk's Office had previously run a presidential preference primary, in 2024 each political party ran their own selection process and the Clerk's Office role was to provide education to voters about how to participate.

Spring brought the April municipal election and the beginning of initiative petition season in May. Initiative petitions are the mechanism by which individuals can propose changes to Missouri's Constitution and statutes. Individuals submit their signed petitions to the Secretary of State's Office and then each local election authority (the County Clerk's Office) is responsible for checking the signatures for their county.

As the August primary election approached, we also knew that the two weeks leading up to Election Day would be busier than usual. We watched more and more voters discover the convenience of no-excuse absentee voting and, to ensure we had the capacity and infrastructure to serve these voters, the County Clerk's Office invested in ballot-on-demand printers to print a voter's ballot instantaneously when they are checked in to vote. Finally, we continued our award-winning weekend voting opportunities and voter education efforts, resulting in accessible and secure options for Boone County voters throughout 2024.

# February Special Election 2024

## **Total Election Cost:**

\$2,500.53

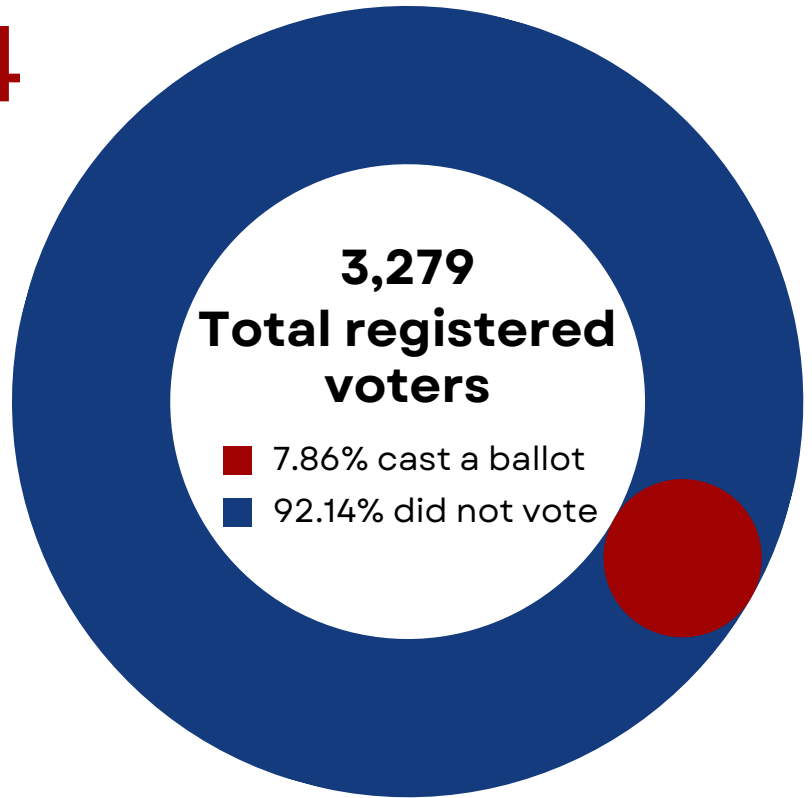
**Ballots cast:** 258

**Cost per registered voter:** \$0.76

**Polling Places:** 1

**Election Judges:** 5

**Absentee Voters:** 31



## **Ballot Content**

This election was a special bond election for the citizens of Ashland. The ballot issue was to allow the city to issue combined waterworks and sewer system revenue bonds in the amount of \$40,000,000 for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, extending and improving the system.

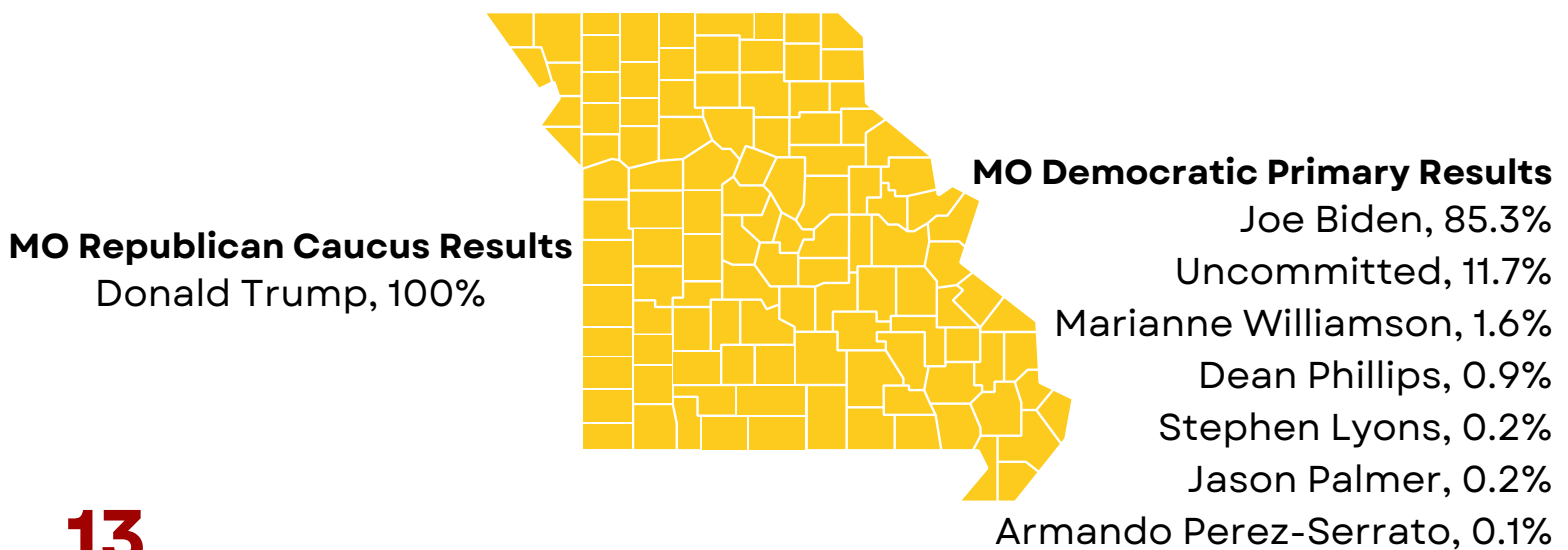


# Presidential Preference Selection

In 2024, each established political party in Missouri ran their own presidential preference selection process. The purpose of the process was to determine which candidates the party's delegates would cast their ballots for at their respective national conventions. The Missouri Republican Party and Missouri Libertarian Party held traditional in-person caucuses and the Missouri Democratic Party conducted a primary election with mail-in and in-person voting.

During caucuses, participants go to a designated location--usually a building with a large gathering space like a church or gymnasium--and physically divide themselves into groups according to the candidate that they support. Boone County's Republican Party caucus was held on March 2, 2024 and the statewide Libertarian Party caucus was held on February 24, 2024.

In a primary election run by a political party, members of the party generally have the option of voting in person at a designated location or mailing in their ballot. The Missouri Democratic Party primary allowed voters to request a mailed ballot or visit a regional polling place on March 23, 2024 to vote.



# April Municipal Election 2024

## **Total Election Cost:**

**\$290,634.24**

**Ballots cast: 20,625**

**Cost per registered voter: \$2.31**

**Polling Places: 43**

**Election Judges: 225**

**Absentee Voters: 1875**

**126,018**  
**Total registered voters**

- 16.37% cast a ballot
- 83.63% did not vote

## **Offices and Issues on the Ballot**

### Board of Education:

- Columbia Public Schools
- Southern Boone County R-1 and Questions 1 and 2
- New Franklin R-1 and Proposition K.I.D.S.
- Fayette R-3
- Sturgeon R-5
- Centralia R-6
- Harrisburg R-8
- North Callaway R-1 and Propositions N and C

### Municipal:

- Boone County, Proposition 1
- Columbia, Councilperson, 2nd and 6th Ward, and Proposition 1
- Centralia, Alderman Wards I, II, and III, and Proposition U
- Ashland, Mayor, Alderman Wards I, II, and III
- Hartsburg, Board of Trustees
- Hallsville, Mayor, Alderman Wards I and II, and Proposition U
- Harrisburg, Board of Trustees and Proposition 1
- Rocheport, Alderman Wards I and II
- Pierpont, Board of Trustees and Question 1

# Petition Validation

Initiative petitions are a form of direct democracy that give voters the ability to change Missouri's Constitution and statutes without legislative action. To successfully pass an initiative petition, the process starts months before Election Day. Individuals first submit a proposed petition to the Secretary of State's Office and that office, along with the Attorney General's Office and State Auditor's Office, creates a short summary of the petition that becomes the language voters see on the ballot. Once the language is finalized, individuals can start collecting signatures on their petition.

In May 2024, four initiative petitions were submitted to the Secretary of State's Office to be included on the November 5, 2024 ballot. While the Secretary of State's Office checks the petition pages for completeness, county election offices check the petition's signatures against their local voter roll to determine if the people who signed are registered voters. For the petition to appear on the ballot, the total number of valid signatures on a petition must be at least 5% of the gubernatorial votes cast at the last general election in 6 of Missouri's 8 congressional districts for statutory changes and 8% for Constitutional amendments.

By the end of the summer, the Boone County Clerk's Office had checked over 112,000 signatures (including two party petitions to add the Better Party and Green Party to the ballot) and all four petitions reached the state threshold to appear on the ballot.

Petition	Total Boone County Signatures Checked
Minimum Wage	15,351
Reproductive Health	28,557
Osage Riverboat Gambling	29,718
Sports Wagering	34,954

# Investments in Voting Infrastructure

Each election, the County Clerk's Office prepares ballots for every eligible voter in the county. For the August 2024 primary election, that meant creating 93 separate ballot styles for each of the four political parties of Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and Nonpartisan -- that's 372 different ballot types!

During absentee voting and at our Election Day central polling places, all 372 ballot types needed to be available so that any voter from any precinct in the county could access their assigned style. While our staff and election judges have managed the challenge of hundreds of ballot styles in previous elections with grace and determination, we decided before the August 2024 election to invest in ballot-on-demand printers to reduce waste, improve the voting experience, and increase transparency into Boone County's elections.

Our 15 ballot-on-demand printers were used in the August and November elections and received positive reviews from voters, staff, and our election judges. The process was quick and easy: as voters came in, they showed their photo ID to workers and signed the poll pad, triggering the printer to print the voter's assigned ballot. There was no time wasted searching through all of the available ballot styles, voters received their correct ballot, and no unused ballots were left over from absentee voting or the central polling locations. Importantly, the printers also allowed us to report more granular-level election results so that the public can now view full precinct results and results can be broken down by ballots cast on Election Day, absentee, or at one of the central polling locations.





# August Primary Election 2024

## **Total Election Cost:**

**\$372,801.07**

**Ballots cast: 31,457**

**Cost per registered voter: \$2.91**

**Polling Places: 43**

**Election Judges: 256**

**Absentee Voters: 4179**

**127,995  
Total registered voters**

- 24.58% cast a ballot
- 75.42% did not vote

## **Offices and Issues on the Ballot**

### State and Federal Primary:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative, Districts 3 and 4
- Missouri Governor
- Missouri Lieutenant Governor
- Missouri Secretary of State
- Missouri State Treasurer
- Missouri Attorney General
- Missouri State Senator, District 19
- Missouri State Representative, Districts 44, 45, 46, 47, and 50
- Circuit Judge, Circuit 13, Districts 1 and 3
- Constitutional Amendments 1 and 4

### County Primary and Municipal:

- Boone County Assessor
- Boone County Associate Commissioner, Districts I and II
- Boone County Circuit Court Clerk
- Boone County Public Administrator
- Boone County Sheriff
- Boone County Treasurer
- Central Committeeman, Ward 4 (Republican and Democratic)
- City of Columbia, Council Member, 1st Ward and Proposition 1

# Voter Education

Trust and confidence in elections is an important part of upholding democracy in our community. We all have a role to play in creating trustworthy elections in Boone County, whether you're a voter, election judge, volunteer, staff member, or central committee. One of the ways the County Clerk's Office works to build confidence is by engaging in voter education efforts.

In 2024, the office was fortunate to partner with KMIZ, our local ABC affiliate, to develop three public service announcements that gave viewers both voter education and a behind-the-scenes look at elections administration. In the months leading up to the November 2024 election, the PSAs ran over 400 times and our office heard from voters all over the county about how informative, helpful, and relevant the videos were.

The Clerk's Office also created longer form civic education by working with Osher@Mizzou to offer a half-semester course on How Elections Work in Missouri, which will be available as a full semester course in 2025.

Lastly, we continued our social media presence and built a voter education website at [vote.boonemo.gov](https://vote.boonemo.gov) to meet voters where they are with clear, concise messaging about how to participate in elections in Boone County.



# November General Election 2024

## **Total Election Cost:**

**\$552,128.97**

**Ballots cast: 91,271**

**Cost per registered voter: \$4.11**

**Polling Places: 60**

**Election Judges: 540**

**Absentee Voters: 30,714**

**134,321**  
**Total registered voters**

- 67.95% cast a ballot
- 32.05% did not vote

## **Offices and Issues on the Ballot**

### State and Federal:

- U.S. President and Vice President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative, Districts 3 and 4
- Missouri Governor
- Missouri Lieutenant Governor
- Missouri Secretary of State
- Missouri State Treasurer
- Missouri Attorney General
- Missouri State Senator, District 19
- Missouri State Representative, Districts 44, 45, 46, 47, and 50
- Missouri Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Retention Questions
- Circuit Judge, Circuit 13, Districts 1 and 3
- Constitutional Amendments 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 and Proposition A

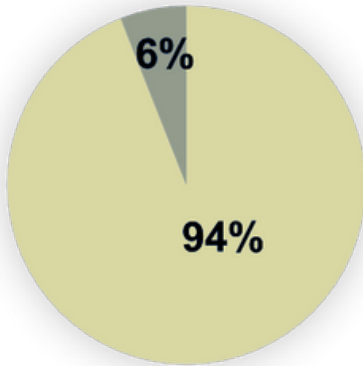
### County and Municipal:

- Boone County Assessor
- Boone County Associate Commissioner, Districts I and II
- Boone County Circuit Court Clerk
- Boone County Public Administrator
- Boone County Sheriff
- Boone County Treasurer
- City of Hallsville, Proposition U

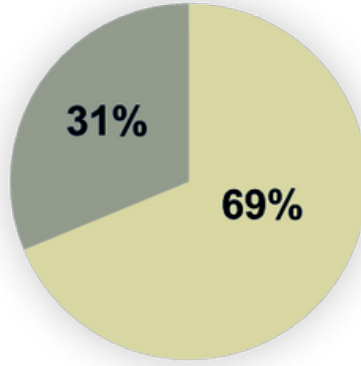
# Data & Graphs: 2024

## Voting preferences over time: Presidential Elections

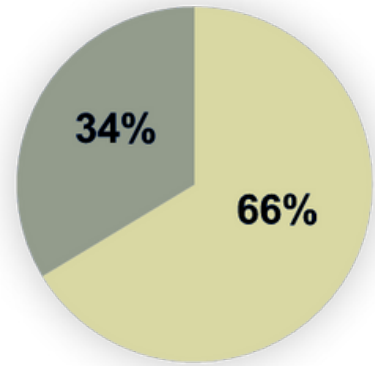
November 2016



November 2020



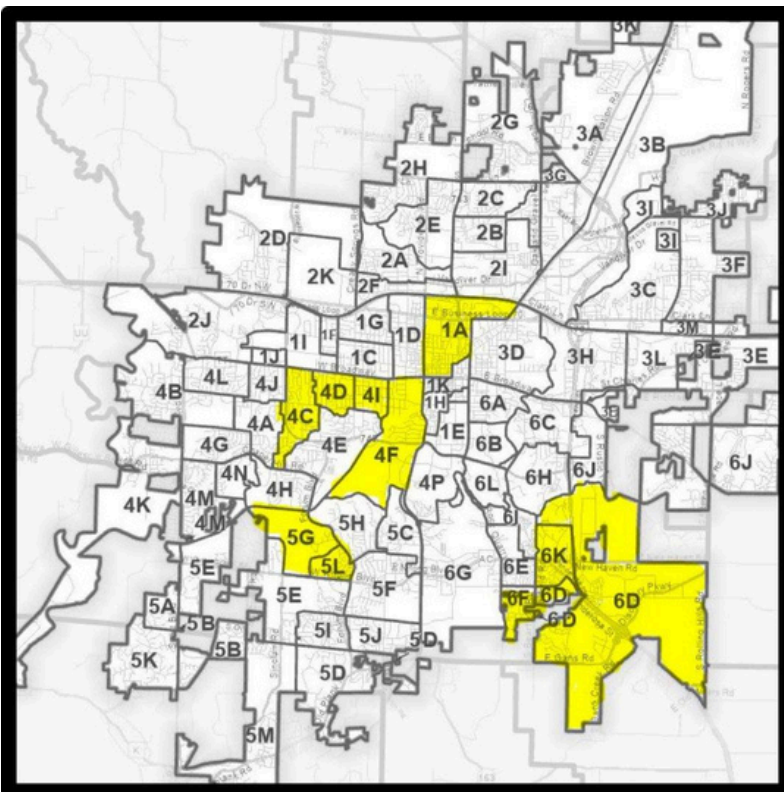
November 2024



These graphs show the proportion of Election Day voting versus absentee voting for the last three presidential general elections. The darker gray is the percentage of absentee voters and the lighter yellow is the percentage of Election Day voters. In 2016, only 6% of overall turnout was attributable to absentee voting. At that time, absentee voting was only available to voters that had a statutory reason for voting before Election Day. In 2020, Missouri law expanded absentee voting options in response to the COVID pandemic and over 30% of the total voters that cast ballots in November 2020 did so before Election Day. After the legislature passed House Bill 1878 in 2022, all registered Boone County voters were eligible to cast a ballot starting two weeks before Election Day and absentee voting is more popular than ever, accounting for 34% of all ballots cast in 2024.

## Most Popular Absentee Voting Precincts in November 2024

Absentee voting increased across Boone County in 2024, but there were several areas where absentee ballots accounted for 43% or more of the precinct's turnout. In the city of Columbia, precincts in primarily wards 4, 5, and 6 had high absentee turnout, but there was only one polling place precinct where HALF of the overall turnout was absentee voters: Lenoir Woods Community Center (6D&6F&6K)





## Voter Turnout and Busiest Precincts

The November 5, 2024 overall turnout in Boone County was 67.95%, which was just shy of the 70% turnout estimated by the Clerk's Office. However, that lower number belies some very active voting areas around the county, both on Election Day and in total number of voters.

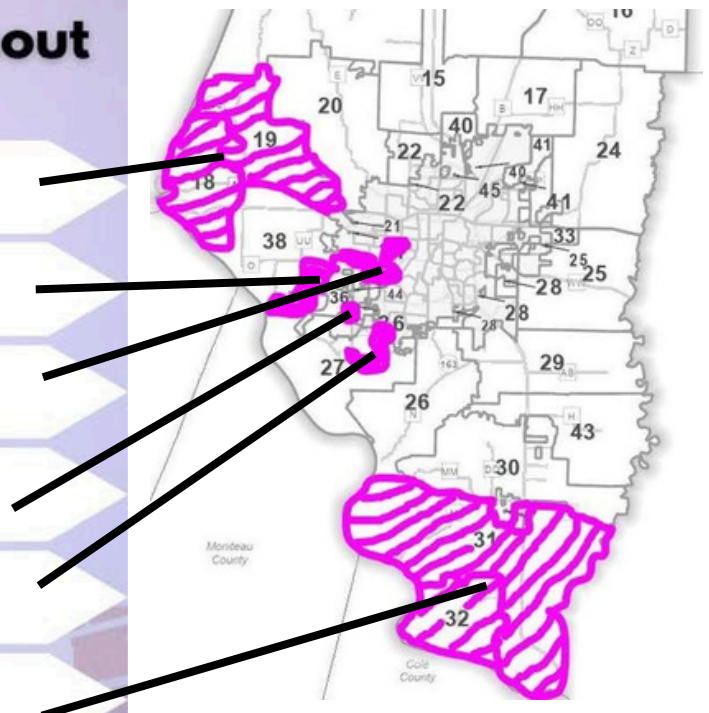
### November 5, 2024 Busiest Polling Places

- 1 HALLSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
2153 voters
- 2 ASHLAND OPTIMIST CLUB**  
2064 voters
- 3 ASHLAND SENIOR CENTER**  
2048 voters
- 4 IMPACT SUPPORT SERVICES (CENTRALIA)**  
1912 voters
- 5 MEMORIAL UNION AT MIZZOU**  
1858 voters
- 6 COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH**  
1589 voters

On Election Day, voters in Hallsville, Ashland, Centralia, West Columbia and at Mizzou turned out in force. Overall, voters in western Boone, Columbia's 4th and 5th Wards, and in Southern Boone outperformed the average with over 80% voter turnout.

### November 5, 2024 Precincts with 80+% Turnout

- 1 Precinct 18&19**  
82.9%
- 2 Precinct 4G&37**  
82.0%
- 3 Precinct 4C&4D**  
81.9%
- 4 Precinct 4H&4N**  
80.8%
- 5 Precinct 5A&5M**  
80.4%
- 6 Precinct 31&32&42**  
80.3%





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[vote.boonemo.gov](http://vote.boonemo.gov)



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