



Oregon  
Association of County Clerks

# House Committee on Rules

## Oregon Association of County Clerks

December 8, 2022

# Headline

Oregon County Clerks Conduct Another Accurate, Secure and Transparent Election Despite High Last Minute Turnout, Staffing Challenges and Distractions from False Narratives



# Turnout

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- Statewide voter turnout was 65.9%
- Highest county turnout
  - Benton - 75.2%
  - Grant - 74.7%
- Slightly lower statewide turnout percentage than 2018
- But more ballots cast than 2018 due to continued growth in voter registration.

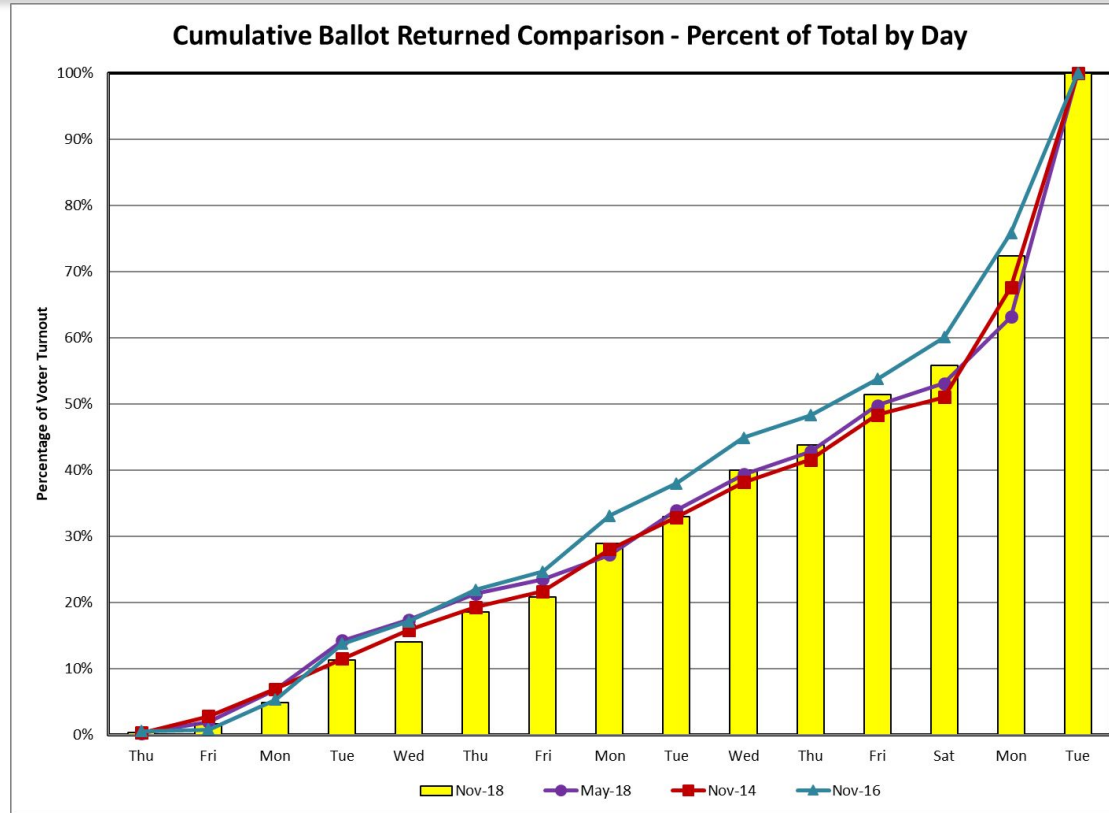


# Turnout Trends

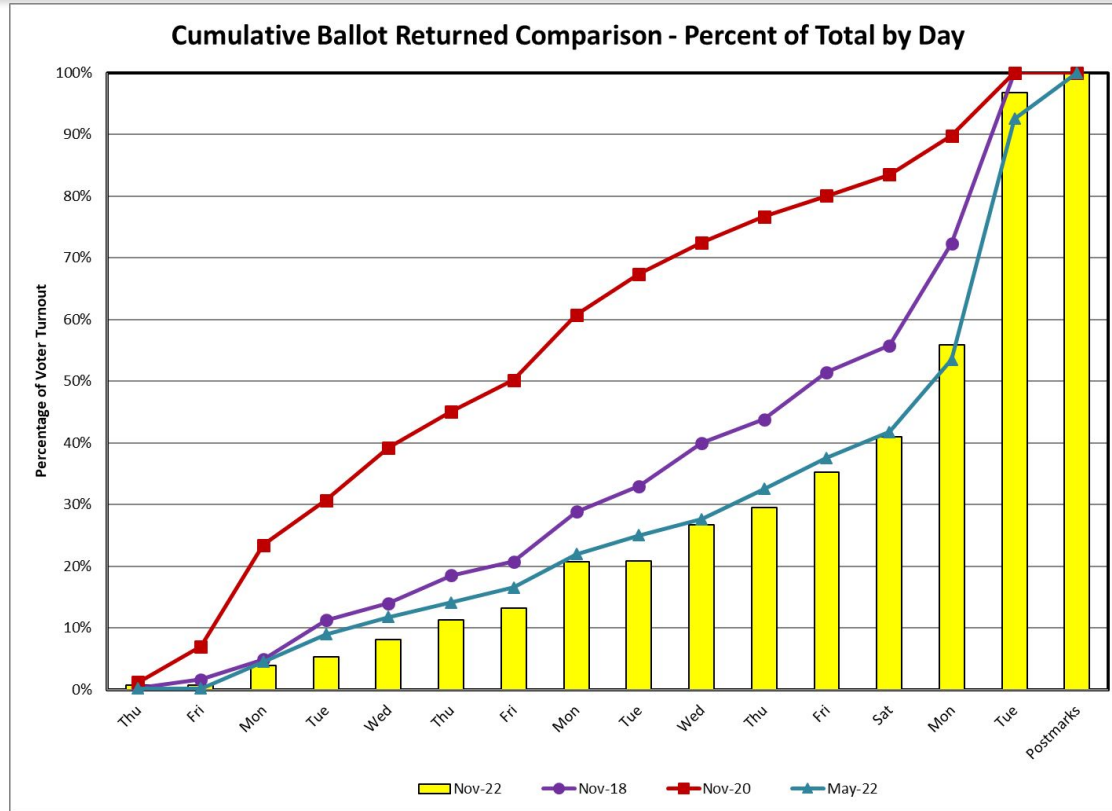
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- Voters returning to pre-pandemic behavior
- Last minute voting with very high ED turnout
- Multnomah County
  - Almost 120,000 ballots received on ED
  - 41% of all ballots received on ED
  - 59% of all ballots received in the last two days

# MultCo Turnout Trends (Pre-Pandemic)



# MultCo Turnout Trends (Post-Pandemic)



# Successes

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- Clerks did more to prepare, anticipating challenges due to the national narrative and mis/dis/malinformation.
- Based on the additional preparation outcomes were better than expected.
- Despite high, last minute turnout a lot of counties completed their Election Day ballot counts on Election Day.
- Vast majority of counties completed by Thursday.
- Problems in other states largely didn't occur in Oregon.

# Successful Preparation

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- Anticipating interest in observation, counties met with observers in advance.
- Some even provided tours and information to observers and media prior to ballots being mailed.
- Some provided written information to observers that described processes in detail.
- Preparation included testing internet backups and emergency power.
- Clerks shared information with each other and reached out to each other for support with experienced Clerks supporting new colleagues around the state.



# Challenges

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- Voters buying into national mis/dis/malinformation narratives
- Many counties experienced shifts in local party leadership that required extra attention.
- Litigation holds and public records request driven by mis/dis/malinformation pulled Clerks away from election duties.
- Clerks feeling their integrity attacked by election deniers.
- Don't always have adequate and reliable funding and staffing for elections



# Postmarks

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- Statewide data is not yet available
- Generally the new postmark rule helps out of state voters
- But voter behavior has changed somewhat with more voters mailing their ballots on election day
- Postmarked ballots take longer to process because each ballot must be examined closely before normal processing
- Some voters living abroad have been disappointed with outcomes because only USPS postmarks count
- Following slide is data only from Multnomah County

# Multnomah County Postmark Data

Date	Ballots with 5/17 Postmarks	Missing/Illegible PM	Total Cast on Time Received After Election Day
5-18-2022	11,939	1,314	13,253
5-19-2022	637	343	980
5-20-2022	5	424	429
5-23-2022	62	28	90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,576</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>14,685</b>

Date	Ballots with 11/8 Postmarks	Missing/Illegible PM	Total Cast on Time Received After Election Day
11-9-2022	11,355	0	11,355
11-10-2022	446	68	514
11-14-2022	403	83	486
11-15-2022	19	0	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,223</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>12,374</b>



# Multnomah County Postmark Data

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Election	Total Ballots Counted	Total Cast on Time Received After ED	% Ballots Received After ED
May 17, 2022 Primary	203,930	14,685	7.20%
November 8, 2022 General	368,674	12,374	3.36%

# Questions?

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