

Montgomery County executive, full council slate up for election Tuesday

Early voting continues through Thursday

by Erin Cunningham | Staff Writer

More Montgomery County residents are voting early before the general election than leading up to the September primary, but turnout is still relatively low.

As of Tuesday, about 2 percent of the county's roughly half million registered voters had cast their ballot. General election turnout in the county is typically about 60 percent. The general election is Tuesday.

This is the first year that Marylanders have the option to vote early. The early voting leading up to Election Day will continue through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

During the primary, 2.4 percent of the state's eligible voters took advantage of the six days of early voting. In general, primary turnout was low — 24 percent statewide.

In Montgomery County, early voter turnout was about 1.33 percent during the primary, and 18 percent overall.

But this time around, the polls have been much busier, with voters anxious to take advantage of the short lines and convenient locations.

"I just came from the DMV. This is great," said Gary Logeman, referring to the short wait to vote on Friday, the first day of early voting.

Logeman, of Germantown, was among dozens of voters who cast their votes in the Germantown Recreation Center within about a half-hour Friday afternoon. Logeman, who had just come from renewing his driver's license, said he waited about two hours at the DMV.

"Here I just walked right in," the registered Republican said.

The Montgomery County ballot includes competitive races for county executive and all but one of the nine County Council seats. Councilman Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg is running unopposed.

For county executive, incumbent Isiah Leggett (D) is seeking a second term. He is facing Republican challenger Douglas Rosenfeld, an attorney who lives in Potomac.

In the council at-large race, voters will choose four winners from among four Democrats, four Republicans and one Green Party candidate.

Three incumbents are among the Democratic candidates for the at-large seats: Councilman Marc Elrich (D-At large) of Takoma Park, council President Nancy M. Floreen (D-At large) of Garrett Park and Councilman George Leventhal (D-At large) of Takoma Park. Challenger Hans Riemer, a Silver Spring Democrat, captured the fourth Democratic slot, unseating one-term Councilwoman Duchy Trachtenberg (D-At large) of North Bethesda.

The Republicans running for an at-large seat on the council are Robert Dyer, of Bethesda; Mark D. Fennel, of Kensington; Brandon Rippeon, of Darnestown, and Robin Nixon Uncapher, of Bethesda.

George Gluck, of Rockville, is running on the Green Party ticket.

In the council's District 1 race, incumbent Roger Berliner (D) of Potomac faces Republican Rob Vricella, of Chevy Chase Village.

In District 2, Democrat Del. Craig L. Rice (D-Dist. 15) of Germantown and Republican Robin Ficker, of Boyds, are running for an open seat. Councilman Michael J. Knapp (D-Dist. 2) of Germantown is not seeking re-election.

In District 4, Councilwoman Nancy Navarro (D) of Silver Spring is seeking her first full term against Republican challenger David W. Horner, of Colesville.

Council Vice President Valerie Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring is vying for her second term against Silver Spring Republican Joseph M. Russek.