

## Arlington Only

The local picture remains relatively unchanged and absentee vote in the County to date for a primary is exceeded only by the Presidential Primary of February 2008 (which by this juncture had turned out 1,313 absentees).

<b>Domestic Absentee Vote:</b>	<b>Through</b>	<b>Total Domestic Absentee Vote</b>	<b>47th District Domestic Absentee Vote</b>	<b>Remaining Days to Vote</b>
<b>2009DJ</b>	<b>04-Jun-09</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2008DJ</b>	<b>06-Jun-08</b>	<b>89</b>		
<b>2007DJ</b>	<b>08-Jun-07</b>	<b>121</b>		
<b>2006DJ</b>	<b>09-Jun-06</b>	<b>189</b>		
<b>2004DF</b>	<b>05-Feb-04</b>	<b>307</b>		
<b>2003DJ</b>	<b>06-Jun-03</b>	<b>127</b>		

It is difficult not to believe that by Tuesday, June 9, the total absentee vote will be well over 800 and total turnout in excess of 20,000 voters. My best guess as to Total Turnout is as follows.

<b>PROJECTED DOMESTIC ABSENTEE</b>	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>LIKELY</b>	<b>MAXIMUM</b>
<b>857</b>	<b>20,240</b>	<b>22,530</b>	<b>24,820</b>

The State's Registrars of Voters now use Active Registrants as their basis for voter turnout. For the County, as a whole, turnout should range between 14 and 17 percent of the Active List. For the frenetic 47<sup>th</sup>, I expect between (an astounding) 17 to 21 percent. Elsewhere in the County 12 to 15 percent seems likely. A record for a non-presidential primary in Arlington, no matter how you cut it.

## Elsewhere in NOVA

I expect our beautiful sister, Falls Church, to do even better. In 2006, 13.2 percent of their active voters turned out versus 10.2 percent in Arlington. In 2006, only 32 absentee votes were cast there - versus 60 through this past Wednesday. Accordingly,

I expect to see a turnout of nearly 17 percent in FC. Arlington (even with the frenetic 47<sup>th</sup>) will be hard pressed to do better.

The other jurisdictions within the Beltway produced a 7 percent turnout in 2006. This year, I expect (at least) 9 percent. This figure could go higher based on Alexandria's performance. Unfortunately, I currently lack that city's absentee vote to date. Loudoun and PW will, undoubtedly improve over their 2.4 percent turnout in 2006 to over 3 percent in 2009.

### **The Big Picture**

The media continue to predict a low turnout statewide. Yet in 2006, only 4,721 absentee ballots were cast statewide versus this year's 6,123 - two days ago! By close of business next Tuesday this number should easily exceed 9,000. After taking into account the fact that the tendency to vote absentee has increased dramatically, I still believe that a statewide turnout on the order of 225,000 is reasonable (another record for a non-presidential primary) versus just over 157,000 in 2006.

### **Turnout for 2006 Democratic Primary Versus Estimated 2009**

	<b>2006 Turnout</b>	<b>%Total</b>	<b>%Turnout</b>	<b>2009 Turnout</b>	<b>%Total</b>	<b>%Turnout</b>
<b>Total NOVA</b>	<b>64,421</b>	<b>41.0%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>100,452</b>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
<b>Total ROVA</b>	<b>92,686</b>	<b>59.0%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>124,548</b>	<b>55.4%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Total Virginia</b>	<b>157,107</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

Obviously, NOVA played a disproportionate role in statewide turnout in 2006 and, this year, I expect it to do so even more so. Who benefits is another question.

In closing, I would like to thank those who contributed data and thoughts to this effort: Arlington's Registrar of Voters, Linda Lindberg and her associate, Cheryl Scannell; my colleague Frank Blechman (who more conservatively predicts a statewide turnout of only 180,000 – still a record); my fellow Treasurer, Cathy Kaye of Falls Church; and the State Board of Elections.

FXO