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# COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

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## **2009 Municipal Primary Experience Report**

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## Overview

Typically, voter interest (as evidenced by voter turnout) dramatically decreases after a Presidential Election. The May 19, 2009 Municipal Primary was no exception to this trend. Of the 805,692 eligible to participate, 183,918 voters - or 22.83% - cast their ballot, compared to the 68.96% turnout at the previous November 4, 2008 Presidential Election. Of the registered party voters, 24.51% Democratic voters and 18.90% Republican voters participated. 8% of the non-partisan voters in two municipalities made their choice on local ballot questions.

A total of 4,481 absentee ballots were issued and 141 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 9 were fully counted, 54 partially counted and 78 were not counted. The majority of those not counted were due to the fact that the provisional voter was not registered in the party in which the ballot was cast.

Over 175,000 “emergency” paper ballots were supplied to this County’s 1,321 polling places in the event that at least one-half of the voting machines in a precinct were non-functional. 33 emergency ballots were used in 8 voting districts, primarily due to the fact that the local district election boards had difficulty in printing a “zero tape” prior to the opening of the polls. These issues were quickly resolved by the dispatching of voting machine technicians to the affected precincts.

It is almost paradoxical in that although it typically attracts the least voters, this past primary is the most complicated in terms of ballot layout and contains the highest number of contests and candidates in the four year election cycle. There were 5,284 individual nominations possible for local precinct election officials and over 2,360 nominations possible for State, County, City, Magisterial and School District offices as well as local municipal offices such as Mayor, Tax Collector, Council, Commissioner and Constable. This extensive amount of office and electoral district overlays results in over 300 distinct ballot configurations. All told, this Division received and processed over 3,100 candidate nominating petitions and was involved in over 40 legal challenges to candidate petitions heard in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court over a two-day period.

## Accessibility

Despite our best efforts to employ accessibility tools such as door loops, ramps, “mobi” mats and parking cones and signs, 8 of the 1,321 polling places in this County remain as “inaccessible”:

Duquesne Ward 1, District 4  
Duquesne Ward 2, District 3  
Haysville, District 1  
Homestead, Ward 3, District 2  
McCandless, Ward 4, District 2  
McCandless, Ward 4, District 3  
Pittsburgh, Ward 24, District 1  
Pittsburgh, Ward 26, District 17

We will continue to look for alternative sites for these 8 precincts.

## Firmware Verification

For this past Primary, Allegheny County employed the services of “Ballot Trust” to verify that the software resident on the iVotronic voting devices contain the “trusted build” version certified by the Pennsylvania Department of State. As has been the case for the previous two times that this process has been employed, no instance of uncertified software has been detected. Copies of the reports prepared by “Ballot Trust” are attached below.



BT Allegheny County  
iVo Firmware Pre Elec



BT Allegheny iVo  
Firmware 5\_09 Elect

## Logic and Accuracy Testing

Following past practice, extensive automated and manual Logic and Accuracy Testing (L&A) was performed. Automated L&A was performed on every iVotronic deployed on Election Day. Manual L&A was performed on each of the approximately 300 ballot configurations. Those parties and organizations permitted by Pennsylvania law to be present during this process were duly notified.

## Network Security

Also following past practice, an independent third-party review was conducted both prior to and after the past Primary to assure that our election network was “air-gapped”. Copies of the reports produced by “Solutionary” are attached below.



PRE-May\_18\_2009.p  
df



POST-May\_21\_2009.  
pdf

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## Parallel Testing

Since the November 2006 Election, Allegheny County has employed a Certified Public Accounting firm to ensure that the functionality of the iVotronic voting machine devices have not been compromised. Once again, we are pleased to report that the parallel testing performed at the May 19, 2009 Municipal Primary indicated that the randomly-selected voting devices recorded and counted all votes completely and correctly. A copy of the report issued by Parente Beard is attached below.



cty alleg parallel test  
rpt 5 19 09\_1.PDF