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2010 General Primary Experience Report

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Overview

Of the 801,172 registered voters eligible to vote for the nomination of candidates in Allegheny County, 227,569 – or 28.40%, cast their vote at the past May 18, 2010 General Primary. By political party affiliation, 159,502 (28.49%) registered Democratic voters and 68,067 (28.21%) Republican voters cast ballots. In addition, special elections to fill the vacancies in the 12th Congressional and 20th State House districts were held. 141 (2.62%) of the eligible 5,386 non-partisan voters participated in these special elections.

A total of 6,977 absentee ballots were issued and 195 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 20 were fully counted, 83 partially counted and 92 were not counted. The majority of those not counted were due to the fact that the provisional voter was not a registered voter or not registered in the party that the provisional ballot was cast.

Over 173,000 “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. 71 emergency ballots were used in 12 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. Voting machine technicians were dispatched and all of the affected precincts successfully printed a zero tape that morning.

A total of 2,101 candidates appeared on the ballot and 2,642 individual elections were possible for Democratic local party county committee members, as well as 62 possible elections for the members of the Democratic and Republican State Committees. Over 150 distinct ballot configurations were created in order to accommodate the 68 possible nominations for State-wide office and the various United State Congress, State Senate and State House districts. Upon certification of the results by the Allegheny County Board of Elections, this Division issued over 1,800 certificates of election to successful candidates. Of these, 63 local county committee candidates were elected by write-in vote.

Accessibility

Only 3 of the 1,321 polling places in this County remain as “inaccessible” and they are listed below:

Haysville, District 1
Pittsburgh, Ward 24, District 1
Pittsburgh, Ward 26, District 17

For some of these polling places, extensive structural modifications would be required in order to classify them as accessible. We will continue to explore alternative sites for these 3 precincts.

Logic and Accuracy Testing

Extensive automated and manual Logic and Accuracy Testing (L&A) was performed. Automated L&A was performed on all 4,227 iVotronic voting machines deployed on Primary Election Day. Manual L&A was also performed for each of the approximately 150 different ballot configurations. Those parties and organizations permitted by Pennsylvania law to be present during this process were duly notified.

A “test deck” comprised of over 16,600 ballots, containing different vote totals for each candidate, was used to verify that the 5 ES&S Model 650 high-speed ballot counters would accurately count the absentee, provisional and emergency optical scan paper ballots to be used at the Primary. This test was conducted prior to the Primary as well as before final certification of the election results. In both tests, the ballot scanners produced an accurate count. The required public notice of the pre-primary test was given.

Firmware Verification

Allegheny County employed the services of “GRP Consulting Group, LLC” 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 four times that this process has been employed, no instance of uncertified software has been detected. Copies of the reports prepared for the May 18, 2010 General Primary are attached below.



GCG Allegheny iVo



GCG Allegheny iVo

Firmware 3_24_09 E Firmware 3_24_09 E

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 isolated and not connected to any external network. Copies of the reports produced by “Solutionary” are attached below.



Allegheny County



Allegheny County

Election Tabulation N Election Tabulation N

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. The parallel testing performed at the May 18, 2010 General Primary demonstrated 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.



FINAL REPORT.pdf