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2011 Municipal Primary Experience Report

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Overview

Of the 785,891 registered voters eligible to vote for the nomination of candidates in Allegheny County, 178,027 – or 20.16%, cast their vote at the past May 17, 2011 Municipal Primary. By political party affiliation, 49,369 (20.74%) registered Republican voters and 128,477 (23.60%) Democratic voters cast ballots. In addition, special election questions appeared on the ballot in four political subdivisions - Bellevue, Clairton City School District, Monroeville and Sewickley Hills. 181 (5.20%) of the eligible 3,481 non-partisan voters participated in these special elections.

A total of 4,710 absentee ballots were issued and 117 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 10 were fully counted, 43 partially counted and 64 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 160,000 “emergency” paper ballots were supplied to this County’s 1,319 polling places in the event that at least one-half of the voting machines in a precinct were non-functional. 114 emergency ballots were used in 13 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.

More than 1,400 candidates appeared on the ballot and there were 1,514 individual nominations possible for Republican and Democratic State, County, City, Magisterial and School District offices as well as local municipal offices such as Member of Council, Commissioner and Supervisor. Over 500 distinct ballot configurations were created. 42 legal challenges to candidate nominating petitions were held in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas over a two-day period. 126 write-in candidates were nominated to local offices.

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 500 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 40,000 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 17, 2011 Municipal Primary are attached below.



GCG Allegheny Ivo
Firmware 03_28_2011



GCG Allegheny Ivo
Firmware 03_28_2011

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.



Pre Election
Report.pdf



Post Election
Report.pdf

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 17, 2011 Municipal 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.



alleg ctly parallel test
2011 prim.pdf