

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

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2012 General Election Experience Report

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Overview

Of the 924,469 registered voters in Allegheny County, 627,104 – or 67.83%, voted at the past November 6, 2012 General Election. This level of voter participation is consistent with turnout levels in recent past elections of this type.

A total of 36,102 absentee ballots were issued and 3,812 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 340 were fully counted, 1,525 partially counted and 1,947 were not counted. The majority of those not counted were due to the fact that the provisional voter was not a registered voter.

Over 362,000 “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. 162 emergency ballots were used in 11 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. All of the affected precincts successfully printed their zero tapes that morning.

61 candidates appeared on the ballot and a total of over 80 distinct ballot configurations were created to accommodate the Federal and State office contests. No referendum questions appeared on the ballot at this election

Accessibility

Only 3 of the 1,319 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.

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 three times that this process has been employed, no instance of uncertified software has been detected. Copies of the reports prepared for the November 6, 2012 General Election are attached below.

[Executive Summary \(.pdf\)](#)

[Final Report Firmware \(.pdf\)](#)

Logic and Accuracy Testing

Extensive automated and manual Logic and Accuracy Testing (L&A) was performed. Automated L&A was performed on all 4,520 iVotronic voting machines deployed on Election Day. Manual L&A was also performed for each of the approximately 80 different ballot configurations. Those parties and organizations permitted by Pennsylvania law to be present during this process were duly notified.

The “test deck” comprised of over 15,800 ballots, containing ballots for every candidate and question, 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 election. This test was conducted prior to Election day as well as before final certification of the election results. In both tests, the ballot scanners produced an accurate count. Public notice of the pre-election test was given, as required by law.

Network Security

Also following past practice, an independent third-party review was conducted both prior to and after the past Election 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.

[Network Security \(.pdf\)](#)

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. Once again, the parallel testing performed at the November 6, 2012 Municipal Election 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.

[Parallel Test \(.pdf\)](#)