

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2012 General Primary Experience Report

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Overview

Of the 784,474 registered voters eligible to vote for the nomination of candidates in Allegheny County, 172,466 – or 21.98%, cast their vote at the past April 24, 2012 General Primary. By political party affiliation, 64,292 (26.46%) registered Republican voters and 108,174 (19.98%) Democratic voters cast ballots. In addition, a special election to fill a vacancy in the 22nd State House district was held. 80 (1.62%) of the eligible 4,932 non-partisan voters participated in the special election.

A total of 6,101 absentee ballots were issued and 113 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 19 were fully counted, 36 partially counted and 58 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 157,000 “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. 17 emergency ballots were used in 6 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 525 candidates appeared on the ballot and 2,638 individual elections were possible for Republican local party county committee members, as well as 48 possible elections for the members of the Republican and Democratic Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the National Party Conventions. Over 150 distinct ballot configurations were created in order to accommodate the 62 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 370 certificates of election to successful candidates. Of these, 24 local county committee candidates were elected by write-in vote and 2 candidates were nominated to State-level office 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 4228 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 42,280 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 April 24, 2012 General Primary are attached below.

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

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

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.

[Tabulation Pre-Election \(.pdf\)](#)

[Tabulation Post-Election \(.pdf\)](#)

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 April 24, 2012 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.

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