

**COUNTY OF**



**ALLEGHENY**

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

# **2013 Municipal Primary Experience Report**

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## Overview

Of the 768,565 registered voters eligible to vote for the nomination of candidates in Allegheny County, 163,191 – or 21.51%, cast their vote at the past May 21, 2013 Municipal Primary. By political party affiliation, 41,198 (16.86%) registered Republican voters and 122,993 (23.20%) Democratic voters cast ballots. In addition, a Home Rule Charter special election question appeared on the ballot in the Municipality of Bethel Park. 470 (6.13%) of the eligible 7,665 non-partisan voters participated in the special election.

A total of 4,830 absentee ballots were issued and 158 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 18 were fully counted, 58 partially counted and 82 were not counted. The majority of those not counted were due to the fact that the provisional voter was not a registered voter.

Over 154,000 “emergency” paper ballots were supplied to this County’s 1,318 polling places in the event that at least one-half of the voting machines in a precinct were non-functional. 9 emergency ballots were used in 2 voting districts. In the first instance, the district election board was unable to gain entrance to the polling place in time to begin voting at 7:00 a.m. on the iVotronic machines. Voting commenced in the normal manner at 7:50 a.m. at this polling place. In the other instance, a member of the district election board was removing the PEB (personalized electronic ballot) before it completed loading voter’s ballots. A technician was dispatched and this condition was remedied shortly after the polls opened.

1,889 candidates appeared on the ballot and there were 7,056 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, Supervisor and Judge and Inspector of Election. Over 500 distinct ballot configurations were created. 22 legal challenges to candidate nominating petitions were held in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas over a two-day period. 229 write-in candidates were nominated to local offices.

## Accessibility

All 1,318 polling places in this County have now been classified as “accessible” pursuant to the standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## Logic and Accuracy Testing

Extensive automated and manual Logic and Accuracy Testing (L&A) was performed. Automated L&A was performed on all 4,228 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 58,113 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 21, 2013 Municipal 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 Network Review \(.pdf\)](#)

### 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 21, 2013 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.

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