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2014 General Primary Experience Report

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Overview

Of the 765,834 registered voters eligible to vote for the nomination of candidates in Allegheny County, 133,349 – or 17.41%, cast their vote at the past May 20, 2014 General Primary. By political party affiliation, 25,355 (10.64%) registered Republican voters and 107,994 (20.46%) Democratic voters cast ballots. Special elections were held in Cheswick, Harmar, Monroeville, Springdale Borough and Springdale Township to determine the imposition of a dedicated tax to aid in the maintenance and operation of the Monroeville and Springdale Public Libraries. 139 (4.40%) of the eligible 3,158 non-partisan voters participated in these special elections.

A total of 3,681 absentee ballots were issued and 106 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 12 were fully counted, 41 partially counted and 53 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 153,000 “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. 7 emergency ballots were used in 2 voting districts, due to the fact that a Judge of Election and a polling place custodian did not arrive on time at each respective polling place.

A total of 1,906 candidates appeared on the ballot and 2,638 individual elections were possible for Democratic local party county committee members, as well as 55 possible elections for the members of the Republican and Democratic State Party Committees. 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 1,630 certificates of election to successful candidates. Of these, 60 local county committee candidates were elected by write-in vote and 1 candidate was nominated to State-level office by write-in vote.

Accessibility

All 1,319 polling places in this County are classified as “accessible” pursuant to the standards promulgated by the Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth.

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 30,017 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 twelve times that this process has been employed, no instance of uncertified software has been detected. Copies of the reports prepared for the May 20, 2014 General Primary are attached below.

 Executive Summary Report

 Final Report

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.

 Air Gap Assessment Report

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 20, 2014 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, LLC is attached below.

 Parallel Test Report