COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2015 Municipal Election Experience Report

Contributors:

Gwen Abramowitz
John O'Brien
Kristin Perkoski
Larry Szurley
David Voye
Mark Wolosik

JERRY TYSKIEWICZ, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
604 COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING • 542 FORBES AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 350-4500 • FAX (412) 350-5697 • WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US

Overview

Of the 853,725 registered voters in Allegheny County, 222,145 – or 26.02%, voted at the past November 3, 2015 Municipal Election. This level of voter participation is consistent with turnout levels in recent past elections of this type.

A total of 5,593 absentee ballots were issued and 184 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 43 were fully counted, 77 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.

Over 170,205 "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. 77 emergency ballots were used in 8 voting districts. 17 of the emergency ballots were used due to the fact that the Judge of Election never reported to the assigned voting district and 28 were used due to a power failure at the polling place. The remaining 33 were used among 5 election districts due to difficulties in printing the "zero tape". All zero tapes were printed in these districts by 7:43 a.m.

1,013 candidates appeared on the ballot and a total of over 300 distinct ballot configurations were created to accommodate the State, County and local municipal office contests. 857 candidates were issued Certificates of Election, of which 62 were issued to successful write-in candidates. Home Rule Charter amendment referendum questions appeared on the ballot in the municipalities of Bethel Park and Mt. Lebanon.

Accessibility

All 1,319 polling places in this County have been classified as "accessible" pursuant to the standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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 3, 2015 Municipal Election are found on our website.

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 Election Day. Manual L&A was also performed for each of the approximately 300 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 18,529 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 report produced by "Solutionary" is found on our website.

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 3, 2015 Municipal Election indicated that the randomly-selected voting devices recorded and counted all votes completely and correctly. A copy of the report issued by Baker Tilly is found on our website.