

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2015 Municipal Primary Experience Report

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Overview

Of the 738,360 registered voters eligible to vote for the nomination of candidates in Allegheny County, 155,319 (21.51%), cast their vote at the past May 19, 2015 Municipal Primary. By political party affiliation, 113,836 (22.44%) registered Democratic voters and 41,483 (17.59%) registered Republican voters cast ballots. In addition, Liquor License Approval special election questions appeared on the ballot in the Municipalities of Bellevue and Wilkinsburg. 209 (8.99%) of the eligible 2,325 non-partisan voters participated in these special elections as well.

A total of 3,382 absentee ballots were issued and 159 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 26 were fully counted, 58 partially counted and 75 were not counted. The majority of those not counted were due to the fact that the provisional voter was not a registered voter or was not registered in the political party in which the provisional ballot was cast.

Over 148,000 “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. 20 emergency ballots were used in 7 voting districts. In 5 districts, the district election boards were unable to gain entrance to the polling place in time to begin voting at 7:00 a.m. on the iVotronic machines. In the remaining 2 districts, the district election boards had difficulty in printing a “zero tape”.

1,496 candidates appeared on the ballot and there were 2,004 individual nominations possible for Democratic and Republican State, County, City, Magisterial and School District offices as well as local municipal offices such as Member of Council, Commissioner, Supervisor and Constable. Over 500 distinct ballot configurations were created. 65 legal challenges to candidate nominating petitions were held in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas over a two-day period. 275 write-in candidates were nominated to local offices.

Accessibility

All 1,319 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 44,000 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 19, 2015 Municipal 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 Analysis 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 19, 2015 Municipal Primary demonstrated that the randomly-selected voting devices recorded and counted all votes completely and correctly. A copy of the report issued by Baker Tilly is attached below.

 Parallel Test Report