

**COUNTY OF**



**ALLEGHENY**

**RICH FITZGERALD**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

# **2016 General Primary Experience Report**

## **Contributors:**

**Gwen Abramowitz**

**John O'Brien**

**Kristen Perkoski**

**Larry Szurley**

**David Voyer**

**Mark Wolosik**

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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](http://WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US)

## Overview

Of the 766,088 registered voters eligible to vote for the nomination of candidates in Allegheny County, 355,524 – or 46.41%, cast their vote at the past April 26, 2016 General Primary. By political party affiliation, 223,606 (44.92%) registered Democratic voters and 121,918 (49.55%) Republican voters cast ballots. Pennsylvania Constitution Amendments 1 (pertaining to the mandatory retirement age of justices and judges) and 2 (pertaining to the abolition of the Philadelphia Traffic Court) appeared on every ballot. 4,276 (1.19%) of the eligible 109,613 non-partisan voters participated in these special elections.

A total of 12,718 absentee ballots were issued and 642 provisional ballots were cast. Of the provisional ballots, 83 were fully counted, 322 partially counted and 237 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 160,000 “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. 43 emergency ballots were used in 5 voting districts. 24 were used due to the fact that a Judge of Election did not report to her assigned polling place, 7 were used due to a zero tape printer malfunction and the remaining 12 were mainly used due to difficulties printing zero tapes.

A total of 423 candidates appeared on the ballot and 2,638 individual elections were possible for Republican local party county committee members, as well as 42 possible elections for the members of the Democratic and Republican Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the National Party Conventions. Over 150 distinct ballot configurations were created in order to accommodate the 66 possible nominations for State-wide office and the various United States Congress, State Senate and State House districts. Upon certification of the results by the Allegheny County Board of Elections, this Division issued 266 certificates of election to successful Republican county committee candidates. Of these, 25 were elected by write-in vote. 5 candidates were also 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 4226 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 69,000 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 since prior to the November 2008 General election, this process has been employed, no instance of uncertified software has been detected. Copies of the reports prepared for the April 26, 2016 General Primary are found on our website.

### 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. A copy of the report produced by “solutions4networks” 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. The parallel testing performed at the April 26, 2016 General 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 found on our website.