

11th Congressional District Voting Hearings
(preliminary report)
Cleveland State University
Center for Election Integrity
June 9, 2006

Lessons Learned from Ohio's
Primary: Making November a
Success

VOTING HEARINGS

HOSTED BY
CONGRESSWOMAN STEPHANIE
TUBBS JONES
11TH DISTRICT OHIO

Why Voting Hearings?

FIVE LOCATIONS (methodology)

- BEACHWOOD
- EUCLID
- CLEVELAND
- BEDFORD
- EAST CLEVELAND

Hearing Format (methodology)

- Open invitation
- Must speak on issues related to the voting process
- Three to five minutes for testimony
- Congresswoman/staff facilitated follow-up questions
- Court reporter

Question (methodology)

What was your experience with the voting process on and before election day?

WHO (methodology)

- CITIZEN VOTERS
- POLLWORKERS
- ELECTION DAY TECHNICIANS
- ELECTION REVIEW PANEL & STAFF
- ELECTED OFFICIALS

Training (findings/positive)

- Pollworkers & Technicians
 - Instructors were helpful
 - Plenty of training available
 - Manuals and dvd's were good

Training (findings/positive)

- Pollworkers & Technicians
 - Community demonstrations by Board of Elections staff
 - Young people are wonderful workers!

Training (findings/negative)

- Pollworkers & Technicians
 - Complicated instructional manual
 - Too little time on actual voting machines
 - Pay us more!

Training (findings/negative)

- Pollworkers & Technicians
 - Not enough time on “close out” procedures
 - “Help Desk” phone numbers did not work
 - Training too long (3-5hours)

Training (findings/negative)

- Pollworkers & Technicians
 - Experienced workers felt inadequate to do a job that they truly enjoy
 - Not enough machines to practice on
 - Training took place a month before Primary – workers forgot what to do

Training (findings/negative)

- Pollworkers & Technicians
 - Did not have enough training manuals
 - Too many people per training session
 - Training manual did not match computer screens (last minute updating)

Machines (findings/positive)

- Easy to use – once set up properly
- More than enough to get the job done
- Easy to read the screen (big print option)

Machines (findings/negative)

- “What’s that noise – it’s the paper trail - - what’s a paper trail? Can I get a copy?”
- Paper jams & screens freezing
- Lack of privacy

Recruitment (recommendations)

- Solidify the recruitment plan for high school and college Pollworkers/EDT's
- Encourage a critical mass of “experienced” Pollworkers to come back
- Explore the use of county employees as election workers

Training (recommendations)

- Update & simplify manual
- Develop an appropriate test to ensure that election workers have an adequate base level of knowledge
- Smaller classes with more machines

Preliminary Report Summary

- Continue to review transcripts
- Amend findings and recommendations
- Final report will be directed to the Election Review Panel and made available to the public

Respectfully

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