

2020 Presidential General Election IT Staff Summary Report

The Information Technology Staff is responsible for maintaining, testing, preparing, distributing and accounting for all election equipment. The IT Department is also responsible for developing the polling place schematics, managing the Call Center (Early Voting and Election Day), set up of Early Voting Centers, runners for pre-election set-up activities and Election Day, data upload and verification on election night, and canvass support. This report is a summary of the activities completed for the General Election on November 3, 2020.

Staff for this election included four permanent staff (IT Manager, IT Specialist, IT Program Specialist and IT Technician) and 11 temporary staff (10 Techs and 1 clerical support).

Polling Place Schematics

With the implementation of Cradle Point routers for this election, all polling room layouts have to reviewed and where necessary revised to ensure Check-In was located in the polling room so that the best wireless signal was provided. In addition, this task was further complicated by COVID-19 restrictions. IT worked with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the director to ensure the layouts met the COVID-19 guidelines.

Logic & Accuracy (L&A)

The IT staff prepared the following equipment during the L&A process: scanners – 355; ballot marking devices – 563; and pollbooks – 581.

Due to precinct based reporting, the workload for the IT staff increased tremendously for conducting L&A on the scanners and ballot marking devices. Due to this increased workload, IT hired additional temporary workers for three weeks to assist in completing these tasks. The additional workforce consisted of six Recreation Department employees, seven election judges and ten workers from the Rife Temp Agency.

The Integrity Reports for the BMDs, scanners and pollbooks are created during the Logic and Accuracy preparation process. The data contained on these reports are validated by the IT Team during Logic and Accuracy Testing. For this election, the IT Team achieved the following overall accuracy rates for the three different Election Day Integrity Reports:

BMD Integrity Reports – 98.46% (17 errors reported for 1108 items)

Pollbook Integrity Reports – 98.80% (16 errors reported for 1,338 items)

Scanner Integrity Reports – 99.69% (9 errors reported for 2,920 items)

Early Voting Site Set-Up

The IT team is also responsible for setting up the Early Voting sites for Early Voting. This task takes places over three days and requires coordination with the site owners and the BOE Operations Staff. During site set-up, IT also works with SBE to retest the signal for the wireless routers.

Call Center

The IT department is also responsible for managing the Call Centers for Early Voting and Election Day. During the General election, the Call center handled 605 calls for Early Voting and 190 calls on Election Day.

Election Night Reporting

The results from Early Voting were tabulated by 2:00 PM on Election Day and provided to the State prior to 8 PM. The Early Voting results and the Vote by Mail results tabulated by Election Day were posted to our website at 8:00 PM. For this election, Montgomery County was prohibited from using our regional upload sites due to precinct-level reporting causing issues with uploading the data. The decision by the State Board of Elections to report results by precinct also resulted in significant delays in uploading the Election Night results and for this reason IT did not complete tabulating the results until two days after Election Day.

Canvass

During the canvass period, the IT Staff scanned a total of 367,336 ballots. Due to the volume of ballots to be scanned, two of the Rife temporary workers and four Recreation Department employees hired to assist with L&A were retained to assist with the ballot scanning.