

Pennsylvania 2008 Election Administration and Protection Report



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Introduction

This report covers the essentials of Pennsylvania's Election Protection and Administration efforts during the 2008 election cycle. We start with a description of the Election Protection and Administration landscape both nationally and in Pennsylvania, and then provide a description of the coalition efforts and highlight the accomplishments of Pennsylvania partners. From there we move into a review of the data collected from OurVoteLive, and then wrap up the report by looking forward.

2008 Election Protection and Administration Landscape

During the course of the 2008 election season, all parties undertook the most ambitious voter protection effort in history. As a result, tens of thousands of voters, nationally and in the state of Pennsylvania, were personally assisted. Thousands of voting problems that threatened to disenfranchise millions more were addressed in time for Election Day.

Nationally Election Protection's network of more than 10,000 volunteers fanned out across the country to work for nearly a year engaging election officials, working with community partners and educating voters. In Pennsylvania there were well over 30 groups with people on the ground, and at least 1,500 volunteers providing crucial on-the-ground support to voters and election officials, solving countless problems before they led to a mass disenfranchisement of voters.

"Election Protection received over 200,000 calls from voters from all 50 states to its 1-866-OUR-VOTE hotline during this election cycle, including nearly 100,000 calls on Election Day alone. In Pennsylvania the calls numbered over 4,000. These robust efforts were an extension of the Election Protection Coalition's 2004 and 2006 voter protection programs. The non-partisan coalition was established in 2001 to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process." –Eric Marshall, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

"Common Cause/Pennsylvania provided an unprecedented level of protection for voters in Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania on Election Day, 2008 with a team of 95 poll monitors. On Election Day, Common Cause was able to report serious problems directly to the state Commissioner of Elections, while at the local level, the organization was able to report, and in many cases solve, many voting problems. Common Cause plans to work with PA VOICE and Philadelphia partner The Committee of Seventy to incorporate poll monitors' written reports about the more than 500 polling places they visited on Election Day, as well as an analysis of problems reported through the 1-866-OUR-VOTE hotline, to write a comprehensive report and recommendations for reform." –James Browning, PA Common Cause.

"The volume of calls we received on our election hotline speaks to Pennsylvania's status as a crucial battleground state in the 2008 elections. More importantly, it speaks to the high level of awareness we were able to create throughout our campaign. Voters in Pennsylvania were more aware of their rights and more able to recognize voter suppression than in previous election cycles, thanks to the work of our partner organizations, legal counsel, and volunteers. Our diverse coalition came together with the goal of ensuring Pennsylvania of a truly fair and democratic election, and we're proud of what they accomplished." –Celeste Taylor, Election Administration and Protection Coordinator for Pennsylvania VOICE, also known as the PA Quarterback for PA EA and EP.

PA Election Protection and Administration Highlights

-Election Administration coalition increased in number, diversity and effectiveness. PA VOICE, Committee of 70, A. Phillip Randolph Institute, Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP), ACORN, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and other partner organizations provided training, field coordination and reporting using more than 300 volunteers at 183 polling sites in Allegheny County and 952 volunteers in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties covering Philadelphia's 66 wards (1,681 divisions), 39 Precincts in Chester City and 34 in Upper Darby, Delaware County

-Conducted regular and active advocacy with Secretary of State and Staff: Advancement Project obtained the list of 35,000 rejected voter applications, and coalition members worked to resolve issues prior to Election Day. Coalition partners provided information that assisted with the emergency ballot lawsuit that resulted in a better policy that would decrease voters' wait time. The coalition also facilitated the Secretary of State staff monitoring of the ourvotelive.org website and the everybodyvote.com blog on Election Day.

-Voter Affidavits were collected on November 4th and will be used to advocate for improvements in the system: On Election Day, voters who filled out affidavits expressed that they had voted many times before but were not on the voter file, and then had to fill out provisional ballots. We will monitor to see if their vote counted, consider filing HAVA Title 3 complaints, and advocate for improvements in the SURE database system and poll-worker training.

-All Election Protection field efforts were coordinated with trained mobile legal volunteers and attorneys in legal operations centers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh through the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and with legal partners from Advancement Project, Fair Elections Legal Network and ACLU, handling at least 4,461 reports to 866-OUR-VOTE. PA VOICE provided real-time reporting of trends, issues and problems through a blog on everybodyvote.com, which was monitored by the media and staff from the Pennsylvania Department of State throughout Election Day.

-On 11/20 in Pittsburgh and 11/21 in Philadelphia, PA VOICE held a facilitated recap/planning innovation session that identified key areas in evaluating 2008 work and provided a first step toward planning for 2009 through 2012.

-Pennsylvania VOICE partner organizations were responsible for registering 294,225 voters across the state during the 2008 calendar year for the primary and general elections.

-In addition to voter registration work, the collaborative coordinated a significant voter protection effort. The effort included informing voters and media of voter suppression efforts, working with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office to resolve questions on voter eligibility and emergency ballots, establishing a website providing publicly-accessible, real-time Election Day reports on voter protection issues through the state, and providing an election protection phone hotline for voters to ask questions and report Election Day issues.

Geographic Reach of PA Election Administration and Protection Partners

Partners were active in the following counties: Allegheny, Berks, Centre, Chester, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Philadelphia, Montgomery, Wayne, Westmoreland and York.

PA VOICE Overview

Pennsylvania VOICE is a state-based collaborative of over 60 nonprofit, 501(c)3 partners, formed in 2005 to create and maintain better coordination, information, and communication among nonprofit civic participation organizations. The collaborative's nonpartisan mission is to engage underrepresented communities and socially responsible voters in the democratic process, develop new leadership from within constituencies and to establish collective action around a shared issue-based agenda.

PA VOICE is a part of State VOICES networks or tables that are permanent, year-round hubs for 501(c)3 organizations. Tables foster multi-issue collaborative policy work, economies of scale, rigorous evaluation, and efforts to engage socially responsible and historically underrepresented communities in our democracy – in and out of election years. <http://www.stateVOICES.org/>

PA VOICE partners trained and deployed volunteer poll monitors across the state in an unprecedented coordinated election protection campaign. All Election Protection field efforts were coordinated with mobile legal volunteers and attorneys from several partner organizations including the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Common Cause, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network (NVEN), Advancement Project and the Fair Elections Legal Network.

PA VOICE extensively assisted and facilitated partnering groups, Advancement Project, ACORN and others to make sure that the 35,000 rejected voter registrations were resolved fairly. PA VOICE also assisted with the emergency paper ballot law suit that resulted in decreased wait time for voters who encountered broken machines.

On November 4th, PA VOICE blogged in real time on everybodyvote.com, reporting on voting trends, issues and problems being logged and monitored on the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline database. The blog was monitored throughout Election Day by the media and staff from the Pennsylvania Department of State.

Special Thanks to Erin Deasy and Krystal Mitchell, two talented young women who assisted in PA EAVEP work as a result of a PA Common Cause grant to PA VOICE. Below are brief highlights of their work.

Erin: “One of the biggest things noticed when reading through all of the voting complaints was that while many time provisional ballots were cast, or suggested, these incidents were not always coded as PB. If keeping track of provisional ballot casting is a vital part of the work of Our Vote it is essential for operators to indicate when a provisional ballot was cast every time. Simply filtering for all Provisional Ballot concerns on the Our Vote website only brings up 39 incidents, but as you know I read through all 4,643 complaints and found 244 times when a provisional ballot was either cast or an operator indicated to the voter that one should be cast.

In terms of mapping out everything, I used Google Earth to create a map of every polling station in Allegheny County. I created directions from the Union Project, where volunteers were stationed, to every polling station so that they could easily get there. Additionally, it was necessary to convert all of our addresses to a KML file, which uses longitude and latitude as opposed to street addresses, in order for the addresses to be mapped en mass.”

Krystal (pictured on cover at the 12/12/08 Greater Pittsburgh Student VOICES Civics Fair):

“When I returned to the University of Pittsburgh from summer break I decided to become civically engaged in the Pittsburgh community. Since September I worked with America Votes, a nonprofit organization that assists partnering organizations with voter registration, canvassing and “Get Out the Vote” strategies. I was encouraged to take the nonpartisan position of Election Protection Coordinator to Colleges and Universities in Western Pennsylvania with Pennsylvania VOICE and Common Cause PA. Because this was a high profile election, I decided to invest my time and energy. It was explained to me that many people would do what they could to disenfranchise voters; especially young voters, so I needed to do as much as I could to make sure that it didn’t happen.

Taking on this position meant that it was my duty to protect voters against voter purges, unprocessed voter registrations, obstacles with student voting, poll worker training and shortages, partisan challenges, voter intimidation, deception, non-accessibility for the disabled, language barriers and the incorrect use of emergency and provisional ballots. We were committed to making sure that everyone voted, regardless of who they voted for. Even after the Election season was over with, alongside Kenneth Miller, we gave a presentation at the annual Civics Fair at the Heinz Center and registered new voters.”

Key PA VOICE Outcomes:

PA VOICE could not have been as successful without the help of the many national, statewide and local groups listed below that represent attorneys, law students, paralegals, faith groups, non-profits, unions, students, and community organizations who mobilized together to “Protect The Vote” on November 4th.

“Because of Pennsylvania’s significant impact on the 2008 Presidential elections, we knew how vitally important it was to involve the state’s citizens and protect their rights to vote.” -Pat Clark, Statewide Coordinator for Pennsylvania VOICE.

- Provided ten trainings to 60 organizations.
- 52 organizations participated on Election Day.
- Distributed more than 400 toolkits to partners and volunteers that helped facilitate voter registration, verification, and election administration and election protection.
- More than 1,500 Election Day volunteers.
- Media outreach included five radio shows and two newspaper articles in addition to three media calls organized by Common Cause.
- Participated in Video the Vote where PA specific videos are up on <http://videothevote.org/video/>

Common Cause PA Findings

Obstacles to Voting

Long Lines at College Campuses. Our team of 20 poll monitors at State College in Centre County was able to provide all-day coverage at each of the 5 polling places serving students at Penn State. Three-hour lines developed in some places, and hundreds of students who had registered to vote shortly before the Oct. 6 deadline did not find their names on the rolls and were forced to vote by provisional ballot. By evening, one polling place was so overwhelmed that they began denying students the chance to vote even by provisional ballot. Common Cause/PA later checked the registrations of a dozen students who did not appear on the voting rolls, and found that all were in fact registered to vote.

At West Chester University in Chester County, our poll monitor reported that a four-hour line was due in part to an election judge unnecessarily asking every voter for ID, not just new registrants. We reported this problem to Chester County election officials, who claimed they had no way of getting in touch with the judge. Our poll monitor informed the judge that his superiors were trying to get in touch with him, and was interviewed by NBC about the situation.

Our poll monitors at York College and Lehigh University also reported two-hour lines, due to unusually high turnout and too few voting machines.

Improper Use of Provisional Ballots. We received reports from several counties of election judges refusing to provide provisional ballots. As reported above, one judge began flatly refusing provisional ballots to all voters at a polling place in Centre County, while another judge was doing so in Quakertown in Bucks County. In Allentown in Lehigh County, we received numerous reports of Hispanic voters being refused provisional ballots, while in Luzerne County, election judges had been instructed to call the Luzerne Board of Elections and receive permission to grant provisional ballots on a case-by-case basis. Usually, our poll monitors succeeded in helping voters assert their rights and successfully cast provisional ballots. Statewide, the problem of thousands of people not appearing on the voting rolls is due in large part to counties printing these rolls well before all voter registrations are processed, then failing to inform voters of the existence of supplemental lists on which their names might appear.

Intimidation and suppression. Voters in Philadelphia were told that if they had outstanding parking tickets they would be arrested at the polls, while voters in Wilkes-Barre received a similar threat involving outstanding child support. Students at the University of Pittsburgh were told they could vote on Wednesday. In the Reading and Allentown areas, voters received robocalls the weekend before Election Day, telling them they must vote between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. CC/PA had anticipated problems in these two cities, and had already placed ads informing voters of their rights and correct voting hours in the Tuesday editions of the Allentown and Reading newspapers, as well as running a Voters' Rights op-ed in numerous newspapers the week before. Hispanic voters seemed to be a main target of these robocalls. On Election Day, our Allentown poll monitors reported one precinct where dozens of Hispanic voters were wrongly sent to vote at a different precinct by election officials, and another precinct where Republican poll watchers were routinely challenging Hispanic voters. To better communicate with Spanish-language voters, CC/PA provided some of our poll monitors with Spanish translations of our poll monitor field manual, sample voter questions, and polling place reports.

Another problem our poll monitors reported on Election Day was the stationing of constables in and near polling places in Wayne, Luzerne, and Berks Counties. In Honesdale, Wayne County, a constable forbid our poll monitors from standing in front of his polling place, even though they were respecting the 10-foot electioneering limit—a tactic we stopped by calling the Wayne County board of elections. In Reading, one of our poll monitors reported a private security guard wearing an FBI hat inside a polling place. Pennsylvania law forbids police officers from being within 100 feet of a polling place, but not constables, who are elected officials. The presence of these law enforcement officials had the potential to reinforce some of the rumors and fear-mongering about people getting in trouble for parking tickets and other debts if they tried to vote.

Broken Machines. We received reports of one polling place in Scranton where the only voting machine, an optical scanner, was broken, and voters were being asked to leave their paper ballots for the election judge to scan later. Another polling place in Scranton had a malfunctioning optical scanner that would only read ballots inserted in the face-down position, a potential source of confusion. Overall, the biggest issue with machines was having too few at busy precincts, especially on college campuses.

Privacy and Accessibility. Our poll monitors reported two places in Reading which were not wheelchair-accessible. In Hazleton, we found a polling place where machines had been stationed so that voters had no privacy and the election judge was standing with voters while they tried to vote—problems compounded by the absence of an interpreter for Spanish-language voters. This judge was also denying provisional ballots to voters who requested them. All of these problems were solved after CC/PA contacted the Luzerne County elections administrator.

The Pennsylvania Voters Coalition December 17, 2008 Elections Symposium

Elections improvement advocates and experts from across Pennsylvania assembled to discuss observations and experiences from the 2008 election cycle. The strengths and weakness of our current system, as well threats to the system and opportunities for change were examined. The end goal was to identify potential improvements to Pennsylvania's electoral process that will further strengthen accessibility and accuracy for all voters. At this symposium participants

- Built stronger relationships with fellow election protection and voters' advocates, and public officials;
- Enhanced and shared their knowledge on key issues;
- Identified and prioritized essential election process issues; and
- Constructed an action agenda – operational, regulatory, and legislative – for 2009 -10.

2008 PA VOICE Election Protection and Administration Partners

1. AALDEF (Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund)	2. ACLU	3. Advancement Project
4. AFLCIO	5. American Friends Service Committee	6. APRI (A. Phillip Randolph Institute)
7. Black Radical Congress	8. Black and White Reunion	9. B-PEP (Black Political Empowerment Project)
10. CBTU (Coalition of Black Trade Unionists)	11. CIL of Northeast PA	12. Coalition for Voting Integrity
13. Committee of Seventy	14. Common Cause	15. Concerned Voters of Centre County
16. Democracy Matters	17. Disabilities Rights Network	18. DLA Piper law firm
19. Election Reform Network	20. Everybody VOTE	21. Fair Elections Legal Network
22. Freedom Unlimited	23. Gordon Lewis law firm	24. Greater Pittsburgh Non-profit Partnership
25. Hill House Association	26. Just Harvest Education Fund	27. Keystone Research Center
28. Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law	29. League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh	30. League of Young Voters Education Fund
31. Let Our Voices Be Heard (MR/MR PA)	32. NVEN (Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network)	33. Network of Spiritual Progressives
34. Open Door Ministry, Union Project	35. PA ACORN	36. PICC, PA Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
37. PA VOICE	38. PA Voters Coalition	39. People for the American Way Foundation
40. Pittsburgh Cares	41. PIIN (Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network)	42. Project H.O.M.E.
43. Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia	44. Reed Smith law firm	45. Statewide Independent Living Council
46. Student PIRG	47. Thomas Merton Center	48. United Steelworkers
49. TRCIL (Three Rivers Center for Independent Living)	50. Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh	51. USSA (United States Students Association)
52. VoteAllegheny	53. VotePA	

The PA Voters Coalition Organized the Largest Ever Gathering of State Voting Rights Groups Convened in Harrisburg

On December 17, 2008, more than 70 individuals, representing at least 40 state, local, and national voting rights and election reform organizations, convened in Harrisburg with Secretary of State Pedro Cortés, County Commissioners Association Director Douglas Hill, and more than ten other Department of State officials, to evaluate the 2008 election cycle and identify priorities for 2009 forward.

"The organizers of this event—who represented a diverse group of organizations focused on good government, civil rights, disability rights, and election integrity and reform—were very pleased with the tremendous response and turnout for this event, and evaluations indicate that participants found the conference very productive," said Barry Kauffman, Executive Director of Common Cause/PA. Celeste Taylor, Election Administration Director of PA VOICE added, "We look forward to building on this relationship with the Department of State, and working together to improve election administration in the Keystone state."

The general goal of the PA Voters Coalition Elections Symposium was to expand and improve our elections system, to ensure that every eligible Pennsylvanian gets the opportunity to vote and that every vote is counted as cast. Secretary Cortés welcomed this first-ever statewide gathering of voting rights advocates, promising to maintain an open-door policy for proposed election improvements. He encouraged the symposium participants to develop improvements to Pennsylvania's electoral process and indicated a willingness to work in a strong cooperative partnership.

Symposium participants included advocates for civil rights, new citizens' rights, voting machine reform, and voters with disabilities, good government, the homeless, young voters, communities of color, voting rights, incarcerated voters, low income individuals, and more. The discussions focused on six main themes – Election Day preparations, voting systems, poll worker training and recruitment, voter registration, polling place and ballot accessibility; and voter intimidation. Discussions also addressed issues such as campaign finance reform, redistricting, and minor parties' access to the ballot.

Coalition members identified many priorities for the coming election cycles. Major foci included expansion of registration and voting methods. Priorities garnering wide interest include early voting and "no-excuse" absentee balloting, as well as registration expansion such as online, national, and/or "same-day" Election Day registration. Significant concerns were also voiced about Pennsylvania's poll worker recruitment, placement, and training procedures, and initiatives were proposed to establish mandatory, effective, and uniform training and evaluation, as well as better compensation and incentives for poll workers.

Another repeated priority of many participants was improving voting access, education, and support to voters who have disabilities, face language barriers, or face institutional boundaries. Additionally, many groups voiced concern about the lack of voter-verified paper ballots in most counties, and the lack of audits of the machines and election results, which can leave doubt in voters' minds as to whether their vote was recorded in the manner the voter intended.

"One of the successes of this symposium was the bringing together of groups from all over the state, working overtime on behalf of many underrepresented communities," said Kathryn Boockvar, senior attorney with Advancement Project. Paul O'Hanlon, attorney

with Disability Rights Network of PA, agreed. "To create an annual event where the VOICES of these advocates, from organizations representing a wide array of election concerns, can be heard and can work with each other and with the Department of State to expand access for all, is a tremendous accomplishment," said O'Hanlon.

Enthusiastic support for continued collaboration was voiced, and efforts were begun for legislative, administrative, and public efforts.

Organizers and session leaders of the symposium included the following advocates:

Lizandra Vidal, *PA VOICE*
Mary Voller, *Concerned Voters of Centre County*
Celeste Taylor, *PA VOICE*
Steve Strahs, *Election Reform Network*
Paul O'Hanlon, *Disabilities Rights Network of PA*
Ruth Matheny, *Coalition for Voting Integrity*
Eric Marshall, *Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights*
Lora Lavin, *League of Women Voters of PA*
Marybeth Kuznik, *VotePA*
Barry Kauffman, *Common Cause/PA*
Bonita Hoke, *League of Women Voters of PA*
Deborah Delgado, *Disabilities Rights Network of PA*
James Browning, *Common Cause/PA*
Kathryn Boockvar, *Advancement Project*

Past Election Protection and Administration Report References:

2007 Allegheny County Citizens Election Systems Advisory Panel Report
<http://www.palwv.org/pittsburgh/election/CA P- Initial-Report.pdf>

March 1, 2006 PFAW Salutes Governor Rendell for Vetoing Unfair Voting Bill
<http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?oid=20538>

2005 PA Project Vote/A CORN Election Administration Agenda Report
http://projectvote.org/fileadmin/ProjectVote/pdfs/Pennsylvania_Election_Administration_Agenda.pdf

Final Report on Executive Order 2004-11 (Issued to Governor Edward G. Rendell on May 12, 2005)
http://www.dos.state.pa.us/election_reform/site/default.asp:

2005, A Multi-faceted Approach: bridging differences to advance voters' rights in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania... one voter at a time
<http://www.advancementproject.org/pdfs/bridge.pdf>

2004, A short film on election protection efforts in Pittsburgh during the General election
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqSkzJ9eV2k>

2004, Shattering The Myth -- An Initial Snapshot of Voter Disenfranchisement in the 2004 Election. www.pfaw.org, www.naacp.org, www.lawyerscommittee.org

**DRAFT: PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS COALITION
ISSUE AGENDA AND PRIORITIZING from SYMPOSIUM
Vote Totals Sorted By Issue Group and Popularity of Priorities**

Priority	Issue Group	VOTES
Registration Reform		
7	Same day registration	10
2	Universal registration	9
28	Improve and expand registration verification: make timely and easy to do for voters and third parties	8
33	Provisional ballots to count as voter registration for the following election	8
24	Hold state and agencies responsible for doing required registration	5
29	Innovative registration reforms: online?	5
TOTAL		45
Accessibility		
1	Improving access to vote for people in facilities: Registration, education, support, and delivery of votes.	10
19	All issues need to contemplate and integrate considerations of people with disabilities	8
16	Polling place and ballot accessibility	6
34	Language access	6
18	Voting machine accessibility	4
21	Ballot access to minor parties	4
TOTAL		38
Poll Worker Reform		
11	Better pay for poll workers, both for election day and for training	14
8	Poll worker standards; uniform, mandatory training	12
9	Poll worker recruitment	9
TOTAL		35
Expanded Voting Options		
5	No- excuse absentee voting	14
4	Early Voting (in person)	13
30	Counting provisional ballots cast in wrong county (for races voter eligible for)	7
6	Mail-in voting	0
TOTAL		34

**DRAFT: PENNSYLVANIA VOTERS COALITION
ISSUE AGENDA AND PRIORITIZING from SYMPOSIUM
Vote Totals Sorted By Issue Group and Popularity of Priorities
(continued)**

Priority	Issue Group	VOTES
Transparency and Oversight		
12	Accountability of counties: reporting requirements of incidents; access to records/transparency	7
22	Citizen oversight	7
14	Statistically significant voting machine and election results audits	4
17	Non partisan election administration	3
15	Improving data collection and analysis	0
TOTAL		21
Voting Machine Systems & Standards		
3	Software-independent Voter-verified paper ballots	13
14	Statistically significant voting machine and election results audits	4
13	Open source voting machine software	2
TOTAL		19
Election Standards		
35	Question of authority of DOS vs. county BOEs (Boards of Election): crosses all issues.	7
36	Uniform and improved election administration	5
10	Better standards/criteria for election day court determinations	0
25	Proportional distribution of machines; minimum of 2 per precinct	3
32	Making further boundaries for electioneering	0
TOTAL		15
Other		
20	State Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Act	6
31	Voter education	5
27	Campaign finance reform	3
26	Redistricting reform	3
23	Formation of Voting rights institute	2
37	Access to political process	1
38	Electoral College reform	1

National 2008 Election Day Issues

As Reported by Calls to the 1-866-Our-Vote Hotline

National Data		
Most Common Problems Reported Nationally		
Registration Problems	7,510	33.7%
Polling Place Problems	5,694	25.6%
Absentee Voting Problems	2,002	9.0%
Other Problems	1,897	8.5%
Voting Equipment Problems	1,897	8.5%
Poll Worker Problems	891	4.0%
Voter Intimidation Problems	795	3.6%
ID Problems	543	2.4%
Accessibility Problems	477	2.1%
Electioneering Problems	300	1.3%
Student Voting Problems	198	0.9%
Language Problems	81	0.4%
Grand Total Problems Reported	22,285	100%

Most Reports	
California	10,428
New York	10,140
Florida	5,853
Pennsylvania	4,641
Ohio	4,243
Michigan	4,125
Texas	3,823
New Jersey	3,766
Virginia	3,531
Georgia	3,523

Pennsylvania 2008 Election Day Issues

As Reported by Calls to the 1-866-Our-Vote Hotline

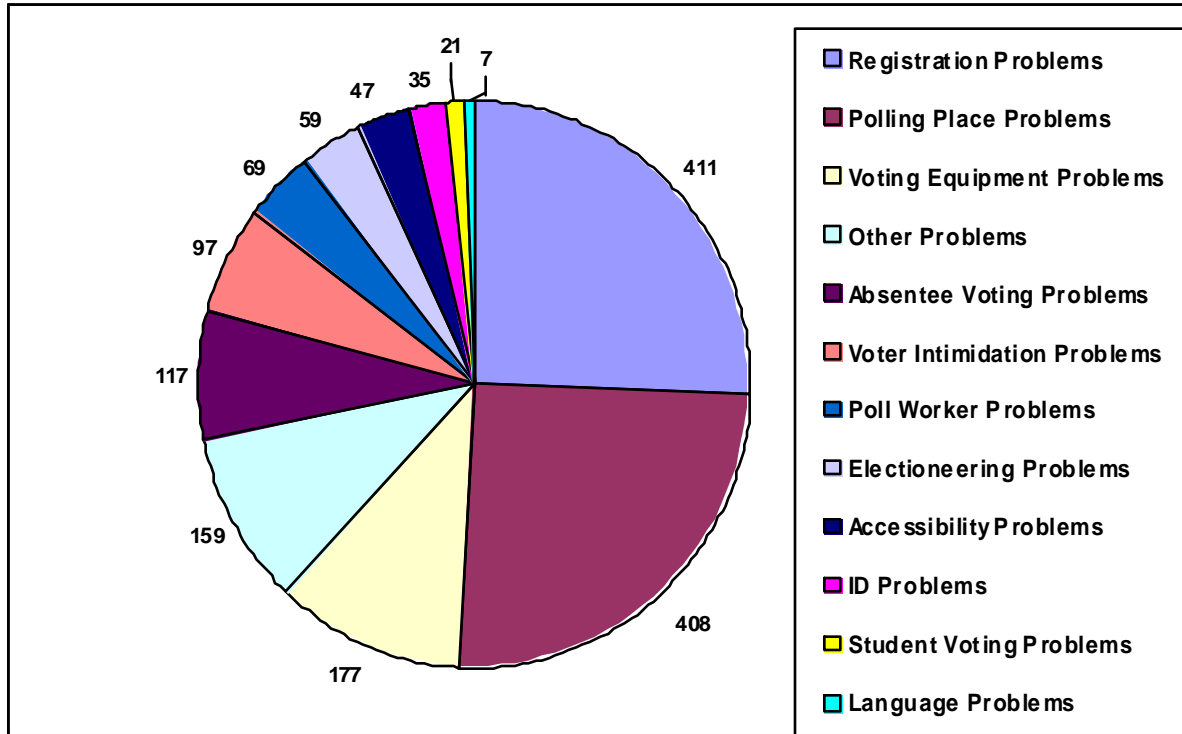
Pennsylvania Data		
Most Common Problems Reported in PA		
Registration Problems	411	25.6%
Polling Place Problems	408	25.4%
Voting Equipment Problems	177	11.0%
Other Problems	159	9.9%
Absentee Voting Problems	117	7.3%
Voter Intimidation Problems	97	6.0%
Poll Worker Problems	69	4.3%
Electioneering Problems	59	3.7%
Accessibility Problems	47	2.9%
ID Problems	35	2.2%
Student Voting Problems	21	1.3%
Language Problems	7	0.4%
	1,607	100.0%

PA Counties With Most Reports	
Philadelphia	1,370
Allegheny	863
Delaware	227
Montgomery	167
Lehigh	126
Bucks	109
Berks	101
Centre	100
Northampton	95

Pennsylvania Counties 2008 Election Day Issues
As Reported by Calls to the 1-866-Our-Vote Hotline

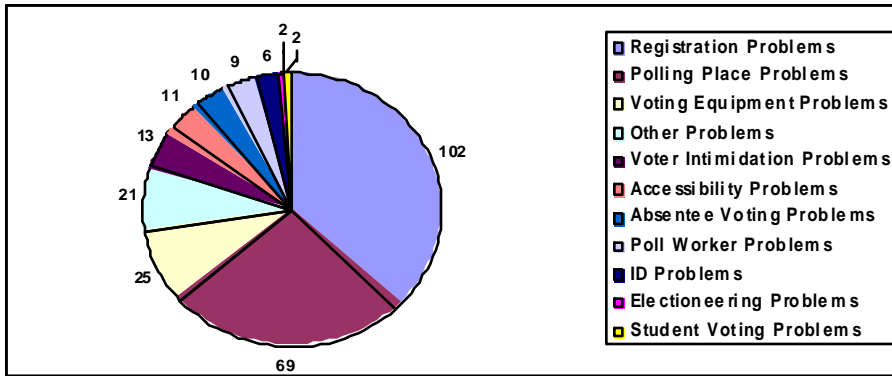
	Philadelphia	Allegheny	Delaware	Montgomery	Lehigh	Berks	Centre	Westmoreland	Erie	Chester	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	York
Problems Reported	57	23	62	46	22	24	24	16	7	26	7	21	3	17
Inquiries Answered	73	60	14	11	97	78	70	55	39	49	28	62	14	60
Most Common Problems Reported														
Absentee Voting Problems	53	10	4	3	1			9		4	1	4		2
Accessibility Problems	15	11	3	2	3					4				
Electioneering Problems	29	2	6	4	3							1		2
ID Problems	9	6		2			1	2	1			1		
Language Problems	4											1		
Other Problems	74	21	3	4	1	3	1		2	1	1		2	4
Poll Worker Problems	30	9	4	3		3	1			1				
Polling Place Problems	19	69	21	9	3	6	10	1		6	1	1	1	5
Registration Problems	12	10	17	15	12	10	11	1	4	5	2	10		3
Student Voting Problems	6	2	1	1			5		1	2				1
Voter Intimidation Problems	39	13	9	4		4		1		3		5		
Voting Equipment Problems	92	25	4	3		2		2		3		2		1

Most Common State wide Problems Reported

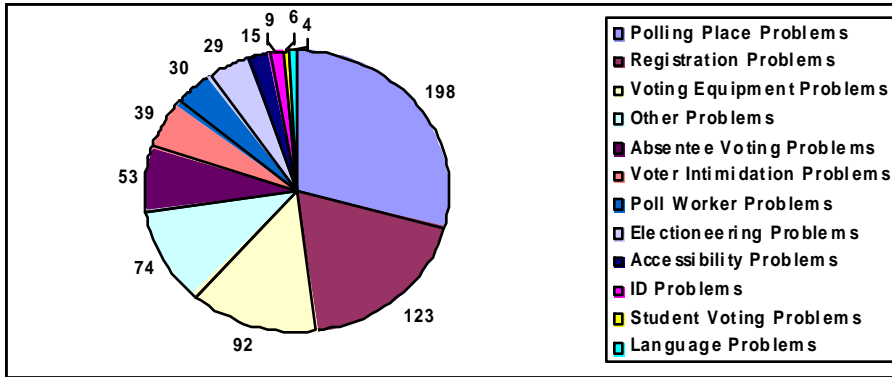


Note: The categories listed in the legend are in descending order, and correspond in a clockwise pattern with the size of the slices on the pie charts.

Most Common Problems Reported - Allegheny County

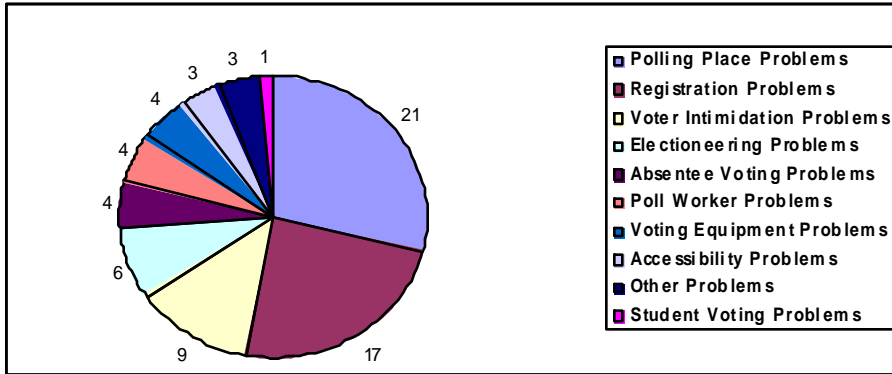


Philadelphia County

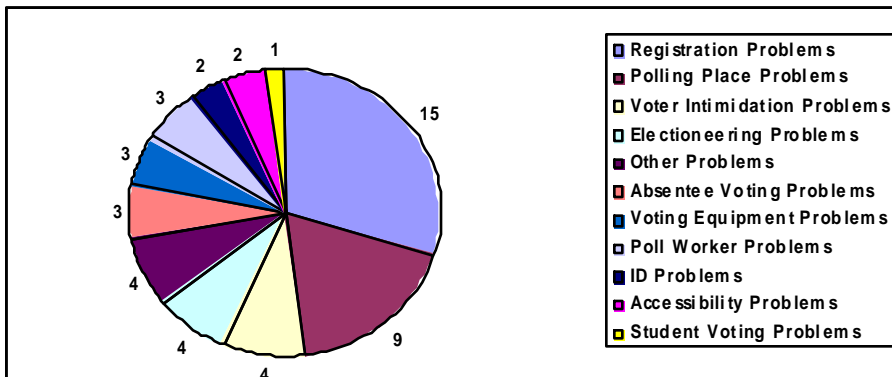


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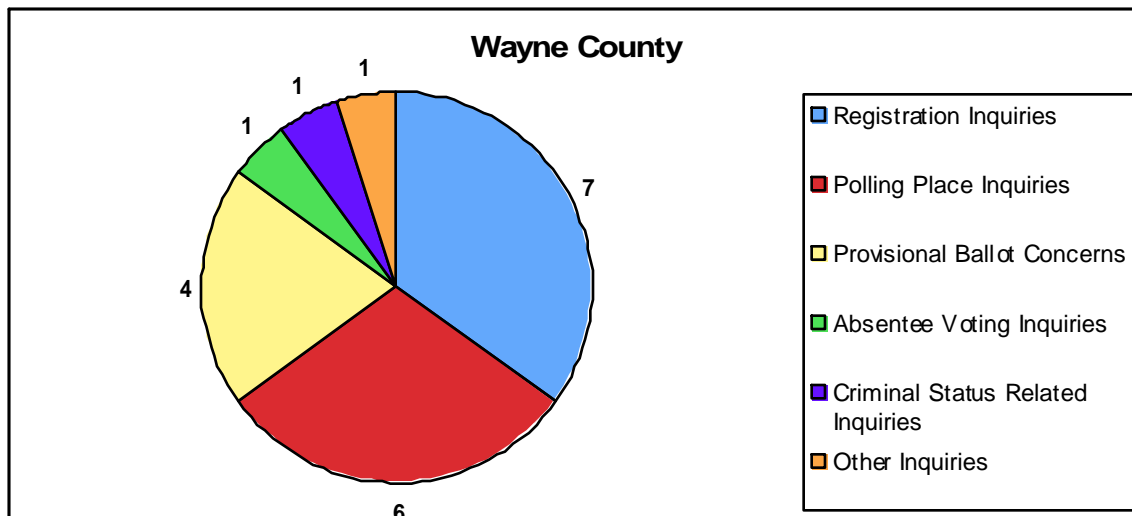
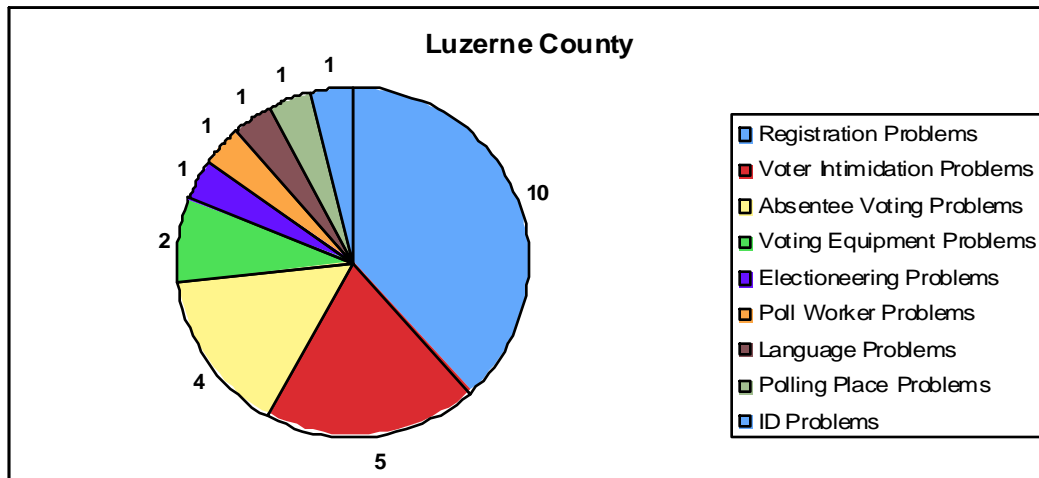
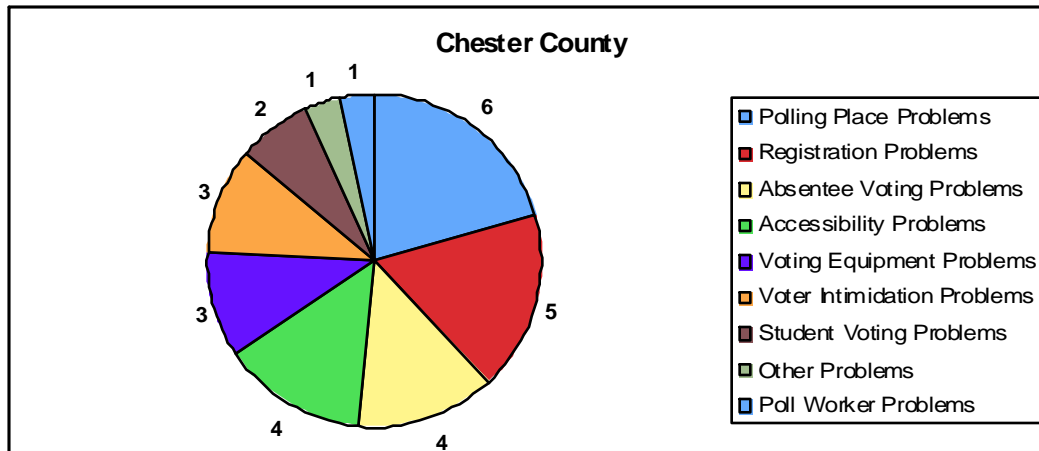
Most Common Problems Reported - Delaware County



Montgomery County



Problems Reported in Additional Counties



Looking Forward: 2009 and Beyond

Problems That Must Be Solved By the State

Poll Worker Training -- Pennsylvania needs to require that all poll workers be trained and certified under uniform statewide standards. Major problems continue to occur with setting up voting machines on time, emergency ballots, provisional ballots, checking supplemental poll books, and checking voter IDs.

Other polling site pre-planning – Poll workers and polling sites must be better prepared, for instance by putting up signage so voters know what lines to be in, splitting poll books, knowing where electrical outlets for machines are, and opening doors for the disabled. Pennsylvania needs a law requiring more equitable distribution of voting machines to shorten lines at busier precincts.

Communications – On Election Day the precincts have enormous difficulty reaching the County Boards, the DOS offices have enormous difficulty reaching the County Boards, and citizens have enormous difficulty reaching the County Boards. The County Boards should be required to set up many extra lines on Election Day, with staff properly trained to address and channel calls up the chain of command.

Voter Registration Problems – Clearly major problems remain in communicating completed voter registrations to the County Boards and getting accurate poll books to the polling sites.

Purging – Inappropriate/illegal purging continues. There were several reports of people who voted in the 2008 Spring Primary at the same location being purged from the voter rolls.

Deceptive Practices—until deceptive practices are criminalized by Federal law, Pennsylvania must pass its own law against deceptive practices.

Recommendations from PA VOICE* and the PA Voters Coalition

The coalitions' intends to advocate for election administration improvements and reform, including

- Better trained pollworkers
- Better voter registration process
- Better database process at county and state level
- Public analysis of 3rd party registration
- Early voting
- Increased access and education for
- loosen absentee ballot requirements
- Improvements to voting machines
- Improved provisional ballot process

PENNSYLVANIA VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

- 1. On Election Day, EACH POLLING PLACE WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 7:00 A.M. AND 8:00 P.M. If you are in line at the polling place when the polls close at 8:00 p.m., YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE in the election. 25 P.S. §§ 3045, 3060(e).**
- 2. If you are voting in your election district for the first time, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE by regular ballot if you have a photo ID or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address with you on Election Day. 25 P.S. §§ 3050(a), 3050(a.1)**
- 3. If you do not have any form of identification and you are voting in your election district for the first time, or if you believe you are [close up - for some reason my system won't let me fix this] registered but your name does not appear on the registration roll, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE a provisional ballot by signing a State form under oath, swearing or affirming that you are the person identified on your voter certificate. 25 P.S. §3050(a.4).**
- 4. If you cannot read or you are disabled, and the fact that you need assistance is recorded on your registration card, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE from anyone you choose except the judge of election, your employer or an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union. 25 P.S. §§ 3058(a)-(b).**
- 5. If you move to a different county or within the same county in which you are registered to vote, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN YOUR OLD PRECINCT after signing a written affirmation of your new address. 25 Pa.C.S.A.. § 1902(b).**
- 6. If you have changed your name, you can submit a new application 30 days before the election, but if you have not or the deadline passed, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE UNDER YOUR OLD NAME. 25 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 1322, 1324, 1326.**
- 7. When you are within 10 feet of a polling place entrance, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE (OR WAIT TO VOTE) WITHOUT [close up]ANYONE ELECTIONEERING OR TRYING TO INFLUENCE YOUR VOTE. 25 P.S. § 3060(c).**
- 8. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE if you are not a convicted felon, have only been convicted of a misdemeanor. You have the right to vote if you have been convicted of a felony but you have completed your sentence, or if you are on probation or released on parole. Pennsylvania Department of State, <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/cwplview.asp?a=1192&q=443054> (last modified 7/21/05).**
- 9. Your minor child or children may accompany you into the polling place, and one minor child may accompany you into the voting [close up]compartment or voting machine booth. 25 P.S. § 3531.1**
- 10. You may not remain in the voting booth for more than three minutes, unless there are no other voters waiting to vote. 25 P.S. § 3057.**
- 11. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT to receive ballots, instructions and other voting materials in Spanish in Philadelphia County. 42 U.S.C. § 1973;67 Fed. Reg. 48,871 (2002); Pa.C.S.A. §1327(a)(6) and the city of Reading.**
- 12. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE and VOTE on an emergency paper ballot if all the voting machines in your polling place become inoperable, or cannot be repaired. Sec. 1120-A9b), 25 P.S. Sec 3031.20 (b)**