Report of Election Day Activities

Mississippi Presidential Preference/
Congressional Primary
and
Primary Run-Off Elections

March 11, 2008
April 1, 2008

DELBERT HOSEMANN
Mississippi Secretary of State
REPORT OF ELECTION ACTIVITIES

MISSISSIPPI PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY

MARCH 11, 2008

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OVERVIEW

On March 11, 2008, approximately 577,315 Mississippian cast ballots to select a nominee in either the Democratic or Republican Presidential Preference Primary. (See Appendices 1a and 1b for further information). In addition, all Mississippian had the opportunity to vote for a nominee for the United States Senate and for a nominee in each of the four United States Congressional races. In some counties, nominees for levee board commissioner were also selected.

According to results certified to the Secretary of State, 434,029 people voted in the Democratic Primary. An additional 143,286 voted in the Republican Primary. This voter turnout reflects a break from a trend of decreasing voter participation over the last five Presidential Preference Primaries. (See Appendix 2).

Conducting party primaries is the responsibility of each county’s party executive committee. Executive committees may assign some of their statutory responsibilities to their county’s election commission; however, the Secretary of State is not aware of any counties where this occurred.

SECRETARY OF STATE ACTIVITIES

PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY

Prior to Election Day, the Secretary of State coordinated database building and other technical support for those counties who utilize the Diebold Touch-Screen voting equipment. Approximately 6,900 voting machines were deployed throughout the State, with an estimated 6,000 in actual use. Diebold voting machines were in place in 1,972 precincts.

Six counties use some other form of voting technology. In those counties the following voting systems are used: DeSoto, Lee and Yalobusha Counties use the Election Systems &
SECRETARY OF STATE ACTIVITIES

ELECTION DAY

On Election Day, March 11, 2008, the Secretary of State’s Office executed a support plan consisting of two types of coverage. First, the Elections Division maintained a support function through the Elections Division in the office in Jackson, Mississippi. Second, personnel from the Secretary of State’s Office were deployed throughout the State to observe the election process, by visiting polling locations and courthouses.

A total of ninety-two (92) telephone calls were made to the Elections Division Answerline seeking assistance or information. Of these, twenty-two (22) pertained to issues regarding the Diebold Touch-Screen voting equipment. The telephone calls came from elections officials, voters, representatives from individual campaigns, press, and members of the public at-large. Regarding voting technology, the issues ranged from machines not working because they had not been plugged in, to the inability to fully operate a voting machine because the voter-verified paper trail printer would not spool. With the assistance of county technicians provided by Premier, the technology issues identified to the Secretary of State’s Office were timely addressed in all cases.

The Secretary of State and sixteen (16) additional Secretary of State personnel were deployed into seventeen (17) counties on election day to observe election day activities (See Appendix 3). The counties were selected to create a uniform geographical distribution while maintaining a regard for the travel and time constraints of staff. Observers from the Secretary of State were received well by both election officials and the public. A post-election survey of circuit clerks confirmed the warm reception.

Observers were asked to select randomly the precinct polling places to visit within their assigned counties. Observers were assigned to note the progress of voting at each individual polling location. Observers were also asked to take note of any procedure that appeared to contravene current federal or state election law. Additionally, observers were provided a questionnaire as an informal survey and to guide conversation with poll workers at the individual polling locations. (See Appendices 4a and 4b).

By Friday, March 21, 2008, the Secretary of State’s Office had received certified election results from the State Executive Committee of each party.

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2 All telephone calls were memorialized in writing and bound into a volume maintained by the Secretary of State. This call log is available for inspection.
3 Alcorn, Bolivar, Choctaw, Claiborne, Copiah, Harrison, Hinds, Humphries, Jasper, Jones, Lafayette, Lawrence, Madison, Prentiss, Scott, Simpson, Warren.
OBSERVATIONS

Polling Locations

Generally, our observers felt that for a small, but significant, number of polling locations, it was difficult to determine upon first arrival that the polling location was actually in use. Some of these polling locations did not have any visible, posted signs to indicate the location of the polling locations and the day of the election. Furthermore, it was noted that some of the polling locations were not compliant with federal laws regarding access for the disabled community. There were polling locations that did not have pavement, making entrance difficult for any potential voter in a wheelchair.

Pollworkers

Pollworkers were found to run the gamut in age and experience from student interns to very experienced pollworkers. Several pollworkers were found with greater than twenty (20) years experience. There was also a large number of pollworkers who were experiencing their first or second election. Generally, these pollworkers felt that they received the training they needed; however, when asked to quantify the number of hours spent in training, those numbers were rather low, normally four (4) hours or less. Some pollworkers specifically asked for greater and more standardized training. Specific training requests were received for setting up voting machines, and opening and closing procedures for pollworkers. Also, in some precincts, pollworkers reported that the training they received was not close enough in time to the election to be completely beneficial to them.

Curbside Voting

Although not statutorily codified, curbside voting was noted at a number of precincts. Pollworkers normally understood that two individuals would take the necessary documents to the voter outside the physical voting location structure and allow that vote to occur.

Voting Technology

Some minor problems with voting machines were reported by our observers. Typically, these involved very minor technology related issues that were either resolved within minutes by pollworkers, or expeditiously by county technicians. The most frequent problem was associated with the external printer. There were some locations where issues that appeared technology-related were actually operator error. Importantly, our observers reported that when voting machines were unable to be in use for voting, sufficient numbers of other voting machines were present to handle the flow of voters.

* Several specific findings were made of conduct that should be addressed. Those specific instances are described in Appendix 5.
**Voter Rolls**

Many pollworkers noted to our observers that pollbooks did not appear to be accurate. A large number of voters appeared on the books who did not present themselves to vote on Election Day. Likewise, affidavit balloting (for those not on the pollbooks) was frequent.

**Contingency Response**

In one county where paper ballots are used, insufficient ballots were printed. Because of the forward-positioning of Secretary of State personnel, we were able be on location quickly, providing secure, accurate, and timely information flow between election officials and the Office of the Secretary of State. It was quickly discovered that the actual voter turn-out was much higher than anticipated, leading to a shortage of ballots. A resolution was quickly reached through consultation with local election officials.

**Absentee Balloting**

Absentee ballots as a percentage of total votes cast varied widely. Some counties had as high as twelve percent (12%) of their votes cast as absentee ballots. Circuit clerks reported a number of these ballots occurred on the Saturday before the election. Statutory criteria for using absentee ballots prior to the election do not appear to justify such a high percentage of absentee ballots.

Please note that some counties did not report absentee ballot numbers. Counties are not currently required to report absentee ballots activity through the Statewide Elections Management System (SEMS). Non-reporting hinders a complete and accurate assessment of absentee balloting in Mississippi.

**Voting Percentage**

Thirty-two percent (32%) of registered voters exercised their right to vote. However, twenty-four (24) counties, or thirty percent (30%) of all Mississippi counties have more people registered to vote than are in the 2000 Census for that county.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Despite the unexpectedly-high number of voters, administration of the 2008 Presidential Preference and Congressional Primary was a success. Adequate resources were available for the Elections Division of the Secretary of State to provide the customary level of support throughout Election Day. This function has been utilized in all previous elections in the institutional memory of the agency.

Positioning personnel from the Secretary of State’s office around the State allowed the Secretary of State to observe the election process in-person. The vast majority of election officials appeared to be diligent in discharging their duties. By deploying Secretary of State personnel, we were able to verify that election officials were operating in accordance with the training provided by our Elections Division.
The percentage of voters casting absentee ballots varies from county to county greater than a statistical norm. It is problematic that as much as eleven or twelve percent (11% or 12%) of voters who desire to vote would be absent from a county on election day, over age sixty-five, or otherwise meet the statutory requirements for casting an absentee ballots. Secretary of State employees were not present when absentee ballots were cast. Seven (7) counties did not report their absentee ballot activity to the Secretary of State's office.

Affidavit voting appeared to be conducted generally in a lawful manner. Curbside voting was a general practice before implementation of the change in statute passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor this year, to be effective after preclearance by the U.S. Department of Justice. Several issues regarding the selection of polling locations were noted. Acceptance of federally-mandated voting technology is growing. Further, lessons were learned that will make future elections more successful.
MISSISSIPPI PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY
RUN-OFF

APRIL 1, 2008

OVERVIEW

On April 1, 2008, approximately 121,213 Mississippians cast ballots in the primary run-off. In the First Congressional District (twenty-four counties), a run-off was held in both the Republican and Democratic parties. In the Third Congressional District (twenty-eight counties), a run-off was held to decide the Republican nominee. There were no other races on the ballot, and no election was held in the Second and Fourth Congressional Districts.

According to the certified results in the Office of the Secretary of State, 36,755 people voted in the Democratic Primary. In the Republican Primary, there were 84,458 voters. (See Appendices 6a and 6b for additional information). This turn-out reflects a decrease of 312,816 from the voter participation during the March 11, 2008 primary, when the entire State had races to be decided.

Conducting party primaries is the responsibility of each county’s party executive committee. Executive committees may assign some of their statutory responsibilities to their county’s election commission; however, the Secretary of State is not formally aware of any counties where this occurred.

SECRETARY OF STATE ACTIVITIES
PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY

Prior to Election Day, the Secretary of State coordinated database building and other technical support for those counties who utilize the Diebold Touch-Screen voting equipment. Five of the counties participating in this primary used some other form of voting technology. In those counties the following voting systems were used: DeSoto, Lee and Yalobusha Counties use the Election Systems & Software (ES & S) M100 Optical Mark Reader and the ES&S Auto Mark Precinct Scanner; Rankin County uses the ES & S iVotronic DRE; and Hinds County uses the Advance Voting Solutions WINvote DRE.

SECRETARY OF STATE ACTIVITIES
ELECTION DAY

On the run-off Election Day, April 1, 2008, the Secretary of State’s Office executed a support plan similar in nature to the primary election. The Elections Division maintained its
standard support function through the Elections Division in the office in Jackson, Mississippi. Personnel from the Secretary of State’s Office were also deployed throughout the State to observe the election process, by visiting polling locations and courthouses.

A total of eleven (11) telephone calls were made to the Elections Division Answerline seeking assistance or information. None of these pertained to issues regarding the Diebold Touch-Screen voting equipment. Largely, the inquiries regarded the propriety of cross-over voting. There was some confusion about whether voters who voted in one party’s primary on March 11 could vote in the April 1 run-off election of the other party.

Eight (8) Secretary of State personnel were deployed into eleven (11) counties on election day to observe election day activities. (See Appendix 7). The counties were selected to create a uniform geographical distribution while maintaining a regard for the travel and time constraints of staff. Consideration was also given to visit counties that were not visited in the last election. Observers from the Secretary of State were received well by both election officials and the public.

Observers were again asked to select randomly the precinct polling places to visit within their assigned counties, in the event that they could not visit each location. Observers assessed the progress of voting at each individual polling location. Observers also took note of any procedure that appeared to contravene federal or state election law. Specifically, observers were asked to note any potential difficulties for physically disabled individuals, including whether polling locations were compliant with federal law regarding access. Additionally, observers were provided a questionnaire as an informal survey and to guide conversation with poll workers at the individual polling locations. (See Appendices 4a and 4b).

By April 21, 2008, the Secretary of State’s Office had received certified election results from the State Executive Committee of each party.

**OBSERVATIONS**

*Polling Locations*

Most polling locations were accessible to physically disabled voters. As with the primary election, polling locations were not always clearly marked as a polling location. Because voter turn-out was relatively low, many pollworkers felt that locations could have been consolidated to save funds expended in staffing the polling locations.

In addition, many polling locations were local schools. The selection of schools was questioned by many observers because of safety issues. Particularly among the elementary schools visited, it was apparent that children were being exposed to individuals not ordinarily on

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3 All telephone calls were memorialized in writing and bound into a volume maintained by the Secretary of State. This call log is available for inspection.
4 Amite, Covington, DeSoto, Grenada, Kemper, Lauderdale, Lee, Monroe, Rankin, Tate, and Yalobusha.
5 Several specific findings were made of conduct that should be addressed. Those specific instances are enumerated in Appendix 5.
campus. The selection of schools also brought into question the adequacy of parking, especially in anticipation of a very large voter turn-out in the November general election.

Furthermore, concerns over the comfort level of pollworkers were noted. In some polling locations, there was no air conditioning or heating. Again, this concern did not have as great an impact on the election as it might in the November general election.

*Pollworkers*

Many of the pollworkers had a great deal of experience and training. At least one pollworker was noted who had actively participated as a pollworker for at least twenty-eight years. Of course, several were working in their first or second election. Pollworkers consistently noted that the minimum compensation mandated by state law appeared to be below the federal minimum wage.

*Curbside Voting*

Curbside voting was seen at a number of precincts. Pollworkers understood that two individuals would take the necessary documents to the voter outside the physical voting location structure and allow that vote to occur. Often, experienced pollworkers knew their potential curbside voters because the voters had voted in previous elections.

*Affidavit Voting*

Federal law requires that voters who cast affidavit ballots must be informed of their right to contact the appropriate election officials to determine if their ballots were counted, and if not, why their ballots were not counted. This must be a method that is at no cost to the voter.

Although not faced with it on election day, it was apparent in some counties that pollworkers were not prepared to handle such a requirement. Many did not have any information in a printed format, and many of them were not aware of the requirement.

*Cross-Over Voting*

As noted above, cross-over voting occurs when a voter who voted in one party in the primary election chooses to vote in the run-off election of the other party. The Mississippi Attorney General has opined that this practice is illegal.

This practice seems to have raised the greatest level of confusion during this run-off election cycle. In some locations, pollworkers had no clear understanding of the law itself. For instance, it was noted that some pollworkers attempted to refuse to allow voters to vote unless they had voted in the primary election. They interpreted the cross-over voting prohibition to mean that only voters who voted in the primary could vote in the run-off election, regardless of party.

Another source of confusion was noted in determining how a voter had voted in the primary election. Most counties print two sets of pollbooks; one for the Republican primary and one for the Democratic primary. In some of those counties, the parties exchange books to record
voters in the run-off election. Because the voter turn-out was low, in some counties, it was easy for both parties to look up the potential voter as he or she presented themselves to vote. There were a number of different methods employed by the individual counties.

Use of Cellular Telephones in Polling Locations

In some cases, cellular telephones were being used by voters as they cast votes. In at least one county, there is a policy that cellular telephones may not be used while in the polling location. Concerns were raised about the possibility of intimidation or monitoring through the use of the cellular telephones.

Advance Preparation

Although some of the voting system technology requires security processes that may not be conducted early, it was noted by observers that many activities (such as placing posters on the walls, physically arranging the voting location, etc.) can be undertaken in advance of the election day. Because of the length of the election day, it has become apparent that any advance preparations that can be made, should be made the night before the election. This will reduce, and perhaps eliminate, the possibility that polling places will open later than 7 a.m.

CONCLUSIONS

By placing observers throughout the State, the Office of the Secretary of State was able to note deviations from standard election practices. Local election officials should be trained further on their duties relating to affidavit voting and the law relating to cross-over voting. Consideration should be given to advance preparation of polling locations, including the propriety of the location itself. Cross-over voting can be prevented better by standardized procedures throughout the counties. Further prohibitions on the use of cellular telephones in a voting location should be considered.
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<th>Absentee Ballots % to Votes Cast</th>
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Appendix 1a
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Appendix 1b

Clay County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 13420
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 299
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 5513
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 7628

Coahoma County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 15693
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 25
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 4380
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 10661

Copiah County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 10699
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 195
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 6533
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 11881

Covington County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 12693
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 92
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 4055
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 9488

DeSoto County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 70543
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 842
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 21004
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 40657

Forrest County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 36973
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 1
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 11055
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 25807

Primary Election: 3/11/08
Appendix 1b

Franklin County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 6014

Total Votes: 3794
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 2118
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 127
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee

George County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 14619

Total Votes: 11650
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 2906
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 83
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee

Greene County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 7554

Total Votes: 5806
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 2179
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 109
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee

Grenada County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 16474

Total Votes: 11826
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 4428
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 220
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: NA

Hancock County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 26313

Total Votes: 20313
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 5179
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 159
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee

Harrison County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 86113

Total Votes: 55116
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 23208
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 787
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee

Primary Election: 3/11/08
Appendix 1b

Hinds County: Voter Turnout
- Total Registered Voters: 138,653
- Total Votes: 79,219
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 62,738
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 186
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 4,987

Holmes County: Voter Turnout
- Total Registered Voters: 131,776
- Total Votes: 76,605
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 40,029
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 284
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 1,332

Humphreys County: Voter Turnout
- Total Registered Voters: 94,250
- Total Votes: 7,185
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 2,291
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 190
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 16

Issaquena County: Voter Turnout
- Total Registered Voters: 17,464
- Total Votes: 1,205
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 492
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 19
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 19

Itawamba County: Voter Turnout
- Total Registered Voters: 15,007
- Total Votes: 10,903
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 4,896
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 79
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 44

Jackson County: Voter Turnout
- Total Registered Voters: 75,404
- Total Votes: 50,552
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 29,670
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 20,2
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 202

Primary Election: 3/11/08
Appendix 1b

Lincoln County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 25464
- Total Votes: 18155
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 6978
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 11177
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 271

Lowndes County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 40970
- Total Votes: 27556
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 13121
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 14245
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 83

Madison County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 70883
- Total Votes: 47055
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 22702
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 24353
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 490

Marion County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 17816
- Total Votes: 12550
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 4664
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 7886
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 102

Marshall County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 16444
- Total Votes: 10975
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 7264
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 3711
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 175

Monroe County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 22783
- Total Votes: 14972
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 8811
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 6161
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 0

Primary Election: 3/11/08
Appendix 1b

Pearl River County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Votes: 36550

Perry County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 8364

Pike County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 24507

Pontotoc County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 17897

Prentiss County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 17223

Quitman County: Voter Turnout

Total Registered Voters: 5990

Primary Election: 3/11/08
APPENDIX 2

MISSISSIPPI PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

TOTAL VOTERS

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Source: Official and Statistical Register
2008 State Executive Committee Certification of Election Results
Volunteer Information Checklist

1. Did the Poll Open on Time? ____________
   Yes ____________ No ____________

2. Did all machines operate when the polls opened?
   If not, how many failed to operate? ____________
   How many machines are in your precinct? ____________

3. Do you feel Poll Workers are prepared to answer voter questions
   concerning when they vote affidavit ballot? ____________

4. How many hours of training did Poll Workers have for this election
   in the last year? __0__ __2__ __4__ __6__ __8__ __More than 8__

5. Was someone allowed to vote in their car at curbside if they cannot
   come into the polls? ____________

6. How many years have you served as a poll worker?
   __1-4__ __5-8__ __9-12__ __13-16__ __17-20__ __More than 20__

7. Did you witness any challenges to a voter? ____________

8. Did the Bailiff manage the precinct according to all State laws? ____________

9. What were best suggestions to improve the voting system or comments?
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
Volunteer Information Checklist

1. Did the Poll Open on Time?  
   Yes   No

2. Did all machines operate when the polls opened?  
   If not, how many failed to operate? __________  
   How many machines are in your precinct? __________

3. Do you feel Poll Workers are prepared to answer voter questions concerning when they vote affidavit ballot?  
   Yes   No

4. How many hours of training did Poll Workers have for this election in the last year?  
   0    2    4    6    8    More than 8

5. Was someone allowed to vote in their car at curbside if they cannot come into the polls?  
   Yes   No

6. How many years have you served as a poll worker?  
   1-4    5-8    9-12    13-16    17-20    More than 20

7. Did you witness any challenges to a voter?  
   Yes   No

8. Did the Bailiff manage the precinct according to all State laws?  
   Yes   No

9. What were best suggestions to improve the voting system or comments?  

10. Was the polling place ADA compliant? i.e. ramp, paved entrance, etc.  

   ___________________________________________

   ___________________________________________
Appendix 5

FINDINGS

- Some polling locations were not clearly marked with signs to let the public know that an election was taking place and that the location was a polling location.

- A national media organization was present inside a polling location, filming voters as those voters entered the polling location.

- Some polling locations were too small to accommodate the large voter turn-out.

- One voting machine was not re-set to reflect zero votes at the beginning of the day; it was not used in this election.

- Some polling locations did not open on time.

- Some voters were steered by pollworkers into voting in a primary in which they did not wish to vote.

- It appeared that one voting machine did not work at all, but when a county technician assessed the problem, he plugged it in and the machine began to operate properly.

- Many pollworkers noted that the Diebold voting machines were easier for voters to use, but that they were much more difficult to operate administratively.

- Electors who were otherwise qualified were improperly purged from the voter rolls prior to this election in at least one county. This purging was corrected by the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the local Election Commissioners, within forty-eight (48) hours and prior to the election.

- Some voting machines had paper jams. Some of these required the presence of a county technician to resolve.

- Some voters complained that they were not able to cast ballots for their preferred choice of presidential candidate and also congressional candidate because of prohibitions on cross-over voting.

- Some polling locations had gravel parking lots and were not accessible to wheelchairs.

- Some voters who were not eligible for voter assistance received assistance from pollworkers or other agents.

- Several voters cast their ballot while talking on cellular telephones.
Appendix 5

- Schools were in session at several of the polling locations. This presents issues about safety of the children and logistical issues as well.

- On several occasions, no written information was given to voters who cast affidavit ballots to inform them they could call to verify whether their vote was counted. This practice is required by federal and state law.

- In several locations, individuals were noted to loiter within thirty feet, aggressively offering assistance to voters.

- In several counties, the party executive committees had either assigned by contract or abdicated some or all of their responsibilities for running elections to the county election officials. The Office of the Secretary of State was not notified in writing of any contracts between party executive committees and county election commissioners, as required by statute.

- Several pollworkers felt that they were not trained well enough.

- In some counties, there was no standardized method in place to prevent cross-over voting.
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<th>Absentee Ballot Cast</th>
<th>Voter Turnout %</th>
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For the April 1, 2008 Primary Election Run-off

Voter Turnout Statistics

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<td>Lee</td>
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<td>Webster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Total Active Registered Voters</td>
<td>Absentee Ballots % to Votes Cast</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Runoff</td>
<td>22,481</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lucie</td>
<td>74,867</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>15,773</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24,567</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
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Appendix E:

n/a - Absentee ballot information not provided by county.
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Absentee Ballots % to Votes Cast</th>
<th>Absentee Ballot Cast</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Webster</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valdosta</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yazoo</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Absentee Ballots % to Votes Cast</th>
<th>Absentee Ballot Cast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tishomingo</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washburn</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Absentee Ballots % to Votes Cast</th>
<th>Absentee Ballot Cast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tipphi</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanglecreek</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanglecreek</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 6b

Adams County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 20,979
- Total Votes: 20,102
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 856
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 19,246
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 21

Alcorn County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 22,992
- Total Votes: 19,045
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 2,623
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 16,422
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 22

Amite County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 10,374
- Total Votes: 9,805
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 554
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 9,251
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 14

Benton County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 6,589
- Total Votes: 5,983
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 570
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 5,413
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 24

Calhoun County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 9,927
- Total Votes: 8,431
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 1,451
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 6,970
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 45

Chickasaw County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 12,374
- Total Votes: 12,019
- Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 2,087
- Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 9,932
- Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 98

Primary Runoff Election: 4/1/08
Appendix 6b

Tippah County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 18349
- Total Votes
  - Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 16514
  - Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 1908
  - Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 29

Tishomingo County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 12216
- Total Votes
  - Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 16020
  - Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 1842
  - Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 54

Union County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 16305
- Total Votes
  - Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 13833
  - Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 2017
  - Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 25

Walthall County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 13682
- Total Votes
  - Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 13290
  - Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 402
  - Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee NA: 0

Webster County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 7532
- Total Votes
  - Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 6493
  - Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 994
  - Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee: 45

Wilkinson County: Voter Turnout

- Total Registered Voters: 10154
- Total Votes
  - Registered Voters Who Did Not Vote: 10122
  - Registered Voters Who Voted at the Polls: 32
  - Registered Voters Who Voted Absentee NA: 0