

2012
GENERAL ELECTION DAY
ACTIVITY REPORT



APRIL 1, 2013

DELBERT HOSEMAN
Secretary of State

REPORT OF ELECTION ACTIVITIES

GENERAL ELECTION

November 6, 2012

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OVERVIEW

On November 6, 2012, Mississippians cast ballots to select electors for the President and Vice-President of the United States.¹ Additionally, Mississippians had the opportunity to cast votes in one Mississippi United States Senate race and the four United States Congressional races. Supreme Court seats in each of the three districts as well as two Court of Appeals seats in two districts were decided². Other races on the ballot at the county level included County Election Commissioner, County School Board Member, School Board Trustee, Levee Commissioner, judicial races and special elections.

According to results certified to the Secretary of State, 1,285,584 voters cast ballots in the General Election. This voter turnout reflects one of the highest levels of voter participation in the history of our State, second only to voter participation in the 2008 General Election, in which 1,289,865 voters cast ballots. (*See Appendix 1*).

County Election Commissioners and Circuit Clerks each have statutory responsibilities with regard to preparing for and conducting the General Election and Runoff Elections. The Secretary of State's Office provides assistance to these election officials through certification training, which includes various topics related to the Statewide Elections Management Systems ("SEMS"), election laws and the operation of voting machines.

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.

¹ The following six (6) Presidential Electors received the highest number of votes on Election Day: Austin Barbour, Ricky Jay Calhoun, William Randolph James, Billy R. Powell, William D. Mounger and Charles Cannada, who, by virtue of the inability of Mr. Yerger to attend the regularly-scheduled meeting of the Electors, was appointed by the remaining Electors to fill said vacancy,

² A special election was held on Election Day to fill vacancies in Court of Appeals District 2 and District 5; with only one candidate qualifying for Court of Appeals District 5, this special election was dispensed with by the State Board of Election Commissioners, and the sole candidate appointed to the Court of Appeals District 5. The special election was held on November 6, 2012 for Court of Appeals District 2.

Approximately 7,500 voting machines were deployed throughout the State. Diebold voting machines were used in precincts in seventy-seven (77) counties.

Five counties use some other form or hybrid form of voting technology: 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; Hinds County uses the Advance Voting Solutions WINvote DRE; and Harrison County uses a combination of the Premier Election Solutions TSx DRE and the ES&S M100 Optical Mark Reader Precinct Scanner.

Though Circuit Clerks reported high numbers of voter registrations, these numbers were substantially less than those reported in the nine months preceding the 2008 General Election. Data taken from SEMS revealed that approximately 56,677 voter registrations occurred between January 1, 2012 and October 6, 2012, as compared to 193,734 voter registrations between January 1, 2008 and October 4, 2008. Registrations were completed in person at the circuit clerk’s offices, by mail-in voter registration application and by voter registration drive utilizing the mail-in voter registration application.

By statute, circuit clerks are responsible for entering voter registrations into SEMS. This includes registrations received in person, by mail and from the Department of Public Safety in connection with new Mississippi driver’s license applications and renewals. This year, many voter registration applications completed by registration drives were mailed or hand delivered to circuit clerks’ and the Secretary of State’s offices on the days immediately preceding the October 6, 2012 deadline for voter registration. Late delivery of voter registration applications to the Circuit Clerks’ offices created a backlog. However, all completed voter registration applications were timely entered into SEMS to ensure each applicant’s ability to cast his/her ballot on Election Day.

Given the high number of newly registered voters, the Secretary of State’s Office anticipated high voter turnout. In an effort to assist the counties with preparation, the Secretary of State’s office prepared additional affidavit ballot envelopes and distributed the envelopes to each county in order to supplement the counties’ existing inventories.

SECRETARY OF STATE ACTIVITIES

ELECTION DAY

On Election Day, November 6, 2012, 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 and State Auditor’s Office were deployed throughout the State to observe first-hand the election process, by visiting polling locations and courthouses where election results were recorded by the Election Commission(s).

Telephone Calls

In addition to the full Elections Division staff, Secretary of State personnel from other agency divisions were brought in to assist on Election Day. On General Election Day, the Elections Division received approximately 1,787 calls from elections officials and the public. Most of the calls concerned:

- voter registration;
- polling place locations;
- issues with the ballot encoders, or receiving the incorrect ballot style;
- the absence of the candidates' names from the audit tape;
- allegations of improper voter assistance;
- candidates and/or representatives of candidates campaigning within 150 feet of an entrance to a polling place location;
- voters required to vote by affidavit ballot by reason of their names not appearing on the poll books;
- voters presenting to vote, but unable to do so because another has voted and signed the receipt book in their name; and
- voters registered through the Mississippi Department of Public Safety whose names did not appear on the poll books.

Sending Texts to the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State's Office conducted a program to provide citizens with the ability to send a free text message from a mobile phone to our office on Election Day. Voters could text a specific question to the number (601) 335-2378, which was forwarded to a member of the Elections Division, who would respond to the voter's question by return telephone call. Approximately 25 text messages were sent to the Secretary of State's Office on Election Day, to which a response was made by telephone by a member of the Elections Division. Text messaging was staffed throughout Election Day by Secretary of State personnel.

Polling Place Observers

The Secretary of State's office deployed forty (40) individuals from the Secretary of State's Office and State Auditor's Office into forty (40) counties on Election Day to observe Election Day activities. (See Appendix 2). The counties were selected to create a uniform geographical distribution while also targeting areas where local election officials requested our presence. Observers were received well by both election officials and the public.

Observers were asked to select randomly the polling locations to visit within their assigned counties. Observers noted 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 checklist as an informal survey and to assist each in gathering information from each precinct. (See Appendix 3).

In addition to observers from the Secretary of State's Office, federal election observers representing the U.S. Department of Justice were present in Panola County.

By Friday, November 16, 2012, the date by which county election commissions are statutorily required to certify the election results, the Secretary of State's Office had received certified election results from Election Commissions in seventy-four (74) counties. Of the remaining eight (8) County Election Commissions, Adams, Clay, Itawamba, Noxubee, Stone and Washington Counties submitted certified election results on November 19, 2012; Issaquena County submitted certified election results on November 20, 2012; and Hinds County submitted certified election results on November 26, 2012. The Secretary of State certified the results of the General Election on December 3, 2012. The meeting of Presidential Electors was conducted on Monday, December 17, 2012.

OBSERVATIONS

Polling Locations

Observers noted polling locations were compliant with federal laws regarding access for the disabled community. This compliance is primarily due to the continuing availability of monies to the State through the Help America Vote Act ("HAVA"). These monies are paid annually to the individual counties for use in making temporary and/or permanent improvements to polling places to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A few parking areas at polling locations were reported to be unpaved, making access for the disabled difficult. Observers noted that some polling places were too small or overcrowded, such as the Main, Highway 9 and Bruce #3 precincts in Calhoun County, resulting in less privacy in the voting process and a violation of the thirty foot (30') rule. This problem also presented itself at precincts located within courthouses, as experienced by voters of the East Vaiden precinct in Carroll County.

Additionally, the signage required within each polling place by state and federal law was not posted within several precincts throughout the state. Both the Help America Vote Act and Mississippi law require the following notices to be posted within each polling place: (1) a list of voters who have cast an absentee ballot, (2) polling place hours, (3) sample ballot, (4) general information regarding voting rights under federal and state law, (5) information regarding identification required of first-time, unverified voters who registered to vote by mail-in voter registration application, (6) instructions regarding voting by affidavit/provisional ballot, and (7) information regarding prohibited conduct within and near the polling place and additional prohibitions related to fraud and misrepresentation. Observers noted missing signage in at least one (1) precinct in approximately twenty-three (23) counties³, meaning more than one-half of the counties observed were missing the signage required by state and federal law.

Further, Section 302(b) of the Help America Vote Act and Section 23-15-573, Miss. Code Ann., require an informational sheet be provided to each voter who casts an affidavit/provisional ballot about how to contact the county registrar, municipal registrar or free

³ At least one (1) precinct in each of the following counties was missing at least one (1) sign and/or posting required by the Help America Vote Act and/or Mississippi law: Adams, Amite, Attala, Calhoun, Carroll, Claiborne, Holmes, Hinds, Jasper, Jefferson, Kemper, Leake, Leflore, Lincoln, Lowndes, Marshall, Montgomery, Noxubee, Pontotoc, Quitman, Walthall, Washington and Webster.

access system in order to determine if their ballots were counted, and if not, the reason(s) the ballot was not counted. Observers noted an absence of instructions provided to voters casting an affidavit/provisional ballot in at least one (1) precinct in Attala, Claiborne, Holmes, Humphreys, Jasper, Kemper, Lafayette, Leake, Leflore, Lowndes, Noxubee, Perry and Walthall Counties.

Campaign Activities in Area Surrounding the Polling Place

Each voter is entitled to unobstructed access to the polling place. Accordingly, Mississippi law requires the poll manager designated as the bailiff to ensure that a space of thirty feet (30.0') in every direction of the polling place or room in which voting is taking place is kept clear of all persons except elections officials, voters waiting to vote or poll watchers, which includes candidates, the authorized representative of each candidate and two (2) authorized representatives of each political party.

The bailiff is also responsible for enforcement of the 150 foot rule, which precludes campaign literature to be posted, distributed or worn within 150 feet of any entrance of the polling place. Few violations of these rules were noted by observers. A voter was allowed to enter the East Vaiden precinct in Carroll County and cast her ballot while wearing a tee-shirt supporting a presidential candidate, while others in Claiborne County were actively campaigning in a driveway leading to the entrance of Precinct 3A. The Secretary of State's Office received numerous complaints on Election Day of a particular candidate's campaign providing completed sample ballots to voters as each entered polling places in several counties, which included Holmes and Hinds Counties, in violation of the 150' foot rule and the 30' foot rule.

Curbside Voting

According to Mississippi statute, a physically disabled voter who does not vote by absentee ballot and who drives, or is driven, to the polling place, but is unable to enter the polling place may be provided assistance in voting at curbside. State law requires poll managers, in exercising their sound discretion, first to determine if the voter has arrived at the polling place in a motor vehicle to vote. Two poll managers are then required to take the poll book, receipt book and ballot or voting device to the motor vehicle, and after determining whether the voter is a qualified elector as provided by law, allow the voter to cast his/her ballot in secret. After the voter casts his/his ballot, the poll managers must mark the poll book "voted" by the elector's name in the poll book. The voting process inside a polling place, having only three (3) poll managers, must stop while curbside voting takes place.

Election Day observers noted curbside voting taking place in a number of polling places visited within the counties, and proper procedures were followed by the poll managers. However, at least one observer noted an unusually high number of curbside voters, seventeen (17) at Precinct 94 in Hinds County between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Other observers noted that the curbside voting process, at polling places having only three (3) poll managers, caused significant delays since the voting process inside the polling place must stop until curbside voting is completed.

Voting Technology

Minor problems with voting machines were reported by our observers. Most problems were resolved quickly by county election officials or county technicians. The most frequent problems were associated with the external printers and encoders. Most of the problems appeared to be related to operator error.

Several complaints were received by the Secretary of State's Office resulting from the external printer's inability to print the full name of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates. By reason of the length of the presidential and vice-presidential candidate's names, the printer confirmed the voter's vote by printing only the party affiliation of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Several complaints also were received by the Secretary of State's Office from election officials who experienced significant delays in accessing and using SEMS throughout Election Day. Despite efforts to resolve the situation, an outage occurred at SEMS 1⁴ at approximately 4:00 p.m. All users were redirected to SEMS 2 until SEMS 1 was restored to full service prior to 6:00 p.m. Improvements in processes and communication since have been made to ensure delays such as those experienced by users do not occur in the future. The Secretary of State's Office is committed to the continuing improvement of SEMS through software and hardware upgrades, as well as development.

Voter Rolls

Observers noted many voters arriving at a precinct only to learn they were not listed on the poll book. In most instances, the voter was at the incorrect precinct. The poll manager would either refer to the master voter registration list or contact the Circuit Clerk's office to determine if the voter was registered in a different precinct. If the voter's registration was indeed located in a different precinct, the voter was directed to the correct precinct. If the voter's registration could not be found, or if the voter had been placed upon an inactive or purged status, the voter was allowed to vote by affidavit/provisional ballot. Observers reported the affidavit ballot procedure to be properly followed, but also noted a high number of affidavit ballots cast per precinct.

Voter Assistance

Observers reported instances of what appeared to be inappropriate voter assistance in several polling places throughout the state. Pursuant to Section 23-15-549, Miss. Code Ann., any voter who declares to the poll managers of the election that he/she requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability or an inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer, or agent of that employer, or officer or agent of the voter's union. Poll managers are vested with the discretion of determining the truth or falsity of the reason given for requiring assistance.

⁴ SEMS is composed of two (2) redundant servers: SEMS 1 is located in Jackson and SEMS 2 is located in Oxford. By contract, vendor Election Systems & Software is responsible for the maintenance of SEMS.

The Help America Vote Act also requires voting systems to be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including persons who are blind, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation as for other voters. All voting precincts in Mississippi have voting devices that are accessible for individuals with disabilities; thus, the need for voter assistance is minimized.

Inappropriate voter assistance was noted by observers in polling places located in more than one-half of the forty (40) counties, meaning that poll managers were offering assistance to voters who did not request assistance and/or articulate a statutory reason for requiring assistance. Of significance were the notes of the observer in Calhoun County, who wrote that the number of voters assisted in one precinct were “too many to count”; the observer in Neshoba County who counted 68 voters assisted, with 25 having requested assistance and only one (1) voter actually articulating a statutory reason for requiring assistance; and the observer in Walthall County who counted 33 voters assisted between 8:10 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., with 1 having requested assistance and only 1 articulating a statutory reason for requiring assistance.

Voter assistance is different from voter instruction. If a voter needs additional instructions after entering the voting booth, two (2) election officials may, if necessary, enter the booth and give him/her such additional instruction. No manager or person assisting a voter shall, in any manner request, suggest or seek to persuade or induce a voter to vote for or against any particular candidate. After giving instruction and before such voter shall register his/her vote, the election official(s) assisting him/her shall leave the voting booth so that the voter may cast his/her ballot in secret. *See* Sections 23-15-437, 23-15-517, Miss. Code Ann.

Bilingual Poll Workers

Federal law requires bilingual poll workers to serve as translators in certain counties designated as language minority jurisdictions under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. Portions of Jones, Kemper, Leake, Neshoba, Newton and Winston Counties are designated as Choctaw language speaking jurisdictions. In these areas, all election information available in English was also made available in Choctaw, the minority language of those counties.

Contingency Response

All counties had contingency plans in place in the event of unforeseen circumstances or emergencies. In those counties using touch screen electronic voting devices, back up paper ballots were printed in the event a technology failure occurred. Additional touch screen devices were also deployed throughout the counties to be used in case of an emergency.

Absentee Balloting

Of the 1,905,605 active voters in the State of Mississippi, 5.60% or 106,722 voters cast an absentee ballot in the November 6, 2012 Election. Seven (7) counties reported greater than 10% of its active voters casting an absentee ballot, for an average of 10.82%:

County	Active Voters	Ballots Rec'd	Percentage
Claiborne County	8,093	934	11.54%
Greene County	8,099	829	10.24%
Grenada County	16,963	1,800	10.61%
Jefferson County	6,129	682	11.13%
Noxubee County	9,332	940	10.07%
Quitman County	5,571	660	11.85%
Winston County	13,446	1,381	10.27%

In comparison, thirteen (13) counties reported greater than 10% of its active voters casting an absentee ballot in the 2011 General Election, for an average of 12.6%; and twenty-four (24) counties of fifty-five (55) counties reporting absentee ballot totals in the 2008 General Election reported greater than 10% of its active voters casting an absentee ballot.

Pursuant to Mississippi law, only registered voters who will be absent from the county of their residence on election day, or unable to vote in person on election day may cast an absentee ballot in person at the Circuit Clerk's office located in their county of residence, beginning forty-five (45) days prior to an election day. Of those categories of voters eligible to cast an absentee ballot, four (4) categories of voters may request and receive an absentee ballot by mail: (1) registered voters with temporary or permanent physical disabilities, (2) registered voters sixty-five (65) years of age or older, (3) registered voters temporarily residing outside the county of their residence, and (4) a registered voter who is the parent, spouse or dependent of a temporarily or permanently physically disabled person who is hospitalized outside the county of his/her residence, or more than fifty (50) miles away from his/her residence, and such parent, spouse or dependent will be with such person on election day.

The Secretary of State's Office received numerous telephone calls from registered voters who were ineligible to receive an absentee ballot by mail and who were unable to vote in person at the Circuit Clerk's office of the county of their residence. These voters included truck drivers who travel six (6) days a week, and are home only on Sunday, a day of the week on which the Circuit Clerk's office is not open for absentee voting or other purposes, and emergency workers, such as power company employees and Mississippi Highway Patrol, who were called to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in the days immediately preceding the General Election⁵. The Secretary of State's Office also received many telephone calls from Calhoun County, which experienced a large volume of registered voters seeking to vote by absentee ballot in person at the Circuit Clerk's office, but who were solicited and accompanied by the spouse of a candidate upon the ballot.

⁵ The Secretary of State's Office, together with the Circuit Clerks of Washington, Sunflower, Tate, Copiah, Yalobusha, Yazoo, Madison, Attala, Hinds, Rankin, Desoto, Bolivar, Claiborne, Coahoma, Holmes, Scott, Warren, Simpson, Lincoln, Clarke, Jackson, Harrison, Lamar, Forrest, Stone, Greene and George Counties, was able to provide absentee ballots by overnight mail to fifty-two (52) Entergy and eighteen (18) Mississippi Power Company employees who were deployed to New Jersey and Pennsylvania respectively, to restore power to those affected by Hurricane Sandy on October 31, 2012. Without the commitment and effort of the Circuit Clerks, these seventy (70) Mississippi voters would not have been able to vote in the November General Election.

Mississippi is one of several states that allow active duty military personnel, their spouses and dependents, and United States citizens living overseas to request absentee ballots, receive absentee ballots and cast absentee ballots by mail, facsimile and electronic mail (“e-mail”). This facilitates the absentee voting process for those members of the military in remote locations. Military and overseas voters casting absentee ballots occurred in larger numbers than in previous elections, with approximately 2,779 absentee ballots cast by military and overseas voters.

As other registered voters, military and overseas voters may request an absentee ballot sixty (60) days prior to an election day. If a valid absentee ballot request is received prior to forty-five (45) days before an election, the absentee ballot must be transmitted to the requesting no later than forty-five (45) days before the election. Thus, for those military and overseas voters who requested an absentee ballot prior to 45 days before the General Election, an absentee ballot was to be transmitted to the voter no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the November 6th Election. Three (3) counties, Pontotoc, Jefferson Davis and Hinds Counties, failed to provide absentee ballots to those voters forty-five (45) days prior to the election. By reason of the delay of these counties in providing absentee ballots to the military and overseas voters, the Secretary of State promulgated an administrative rule, pre-cleared by the Department of Justice, which provided four (4) days beyond the November 6, 2012 general election, i.e., November 10, 2012, by which military and overseas voters in these three (3) counties, who failed to timely receive an absentee ballot after having requested the same, could vote and return an absentee ballot.

Confusion also existed as to whether United States citizens, residing overseas and military voters, serving state-side as opposed to overseas, were eligible to request and receive an absentee ballot by facsimile and e-mail, and were able to return a voted absentee ballot by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. Military and overseas voters include citizens residing overseas and military serving state-side, and as with all military and overseas voters, are able to return an absentee ballot by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

CONCLUSIONS

Other than the issues discussed herein, administration of the 2012 General Election was successful. Positioning personnel from the Secretary of State’s Office around the State allowed the Secretary of State to observe the election process in-person. By deploying observers to forty (40) counties, we were able to determine which election officials were operating in accordance with the training provided by our Elections Division. It is vital to continue this practice in order for the Secretary of State’s Office to provide the necessary levels of training and support to election officials.

In its continuing training of election officials, the Secretary of State’s Office will emphasize the importance of voter roll maintenance. In addition to the training conducted annually to all Election Commissioners, personnel from the Secretary of State’s Office will individually visit counties which presently have more active registered voters than individuals of voting age population, according to the 2010 Decennial Census⁶. Voter roll maintenance is a

⁶ These counties include Amite, Bolivar, Claiborne, Grenada, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson Davis, Kemper, Leake, Leflore, Madison, Noxubee, Sharkey, Smith and Walthall.

statutory duty required of all Election Commissioners, and is conducted in accordance with Mississippi law and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

APPENDIX 1

Description	Adams	Alcorn	Amite	Attala	Benton	Bolivar	Calhoun
Total Active Registered Voters	21,339	23,946	10,363	13,084	5,891	25,244	9,554
Total Votes Cast Per County	15,447	14,830	7,706	9,092	4,116	15,428	7,068
Voter Turnout %	72.4%	61.9%	74.4%	69.5%	69.9%	61.1%	74.0%
Absentee Ballots Cast	1,708	1,325	849	973	571	746	771
Absentee Ballot %	8.00%	5.53%	8.19%	7.44%	9.69%	2.96%	8.07%

Description	Carroll	Chickasaw	Choctaw	Claiborne	Clarke	Clay	Coahoma
Total Active Registered Voters	7,893	12,006	5,625	8,093	12,589	14,186	14,904
Total Votes Cast Per County	5,992	8,503	4,273	5,484	8,253	11,072	10,549
Voter Turnout %	75.9%	70.8%	75.9%	67.8%	65.6%	78.0%	70.1%
Absentee Ballots Cast	697	778	412	934	973	1,284	206
Absentee Ballot %	8.83%	6.48%	7.32%	11.54%	7.73%	9.05%	1.38%

Description	Copiah	Covington	Desoto	Forrest	Franklin	George	Greene
Total Active Registered Voters	19,611	14,430	94,337	43,710	5,948	15,240	8,099
Total Votes Cast Per County	14,123	9,348	65,794	30,236	4,493	9,856	5,922
Voter Turnout %	72.0%	64.8%	69.7%	69.2%	75.5%	64.7%	73.1%
Absentee Ballots Cast	957	908	5,651	1,946	539	743	829
Absentee Ballot %	4.88%	6.29%	5.99%	4.45%	9.06%	4.88%	10.24%

Description	Grenada	Hancock	Harrison	Hinds	Holmes	Humphreys	Issaquena
Total Active Registered Voters	16,963	27,510	103,847	161,443	12,241	8,523	1,169
Total Votes Cast Per County	11,335	17,167	63,328	106,491	9,288	5,212	787
Voter Turnout %	66.8%	62.4%	60.9%	65.9%	75.9%	61.0%	67.3%
Absentee Ballots Cast	1,800	1,622	4,497	5,381	1,117	586	88
Absentee Ballot %	10.61%	5.90%	4.33%	3.33%	9.13%	6.88%	7.53%

APPENDIX 1

Description	Itawamba	Jackson	Jasper	Jefferson Davis	Jefferson	Jones	Kemper
Total Active Registered Voters	15,423	80,405	12,672	10,081	6,129	42,639	8,056
Total Votes Cast Per County	9,318	53,655	9,340	6,864	4,433	30,159	5,052
Voter Turnout %	60.4%	66.7%	73.7%	68.1%	72.3%	70.7%	62.7%
Absentee Ballots Cast	545	3,045	938	707	682	2,172	487
Absentee Ballot %	3.53%	3.79%	7.40%	7.01%	11.13%	5.09%	6.05%

Description	Lafayette	Lamar	Lauderdale	Lawrence	Leake	Lee	Leflore
Total Active Registered Voters	28,243	32,948	45,495	9,565	16,846	47,062	27,714
Total Votes Cast Per County	19,505	24,889	32,777	6,698	8,983	35,306	12,773
Voter Turnout %	69.1%	75.5%	72.0%	70.1%	53.3%	75.0%	46.1%
Absentee Ballots Cast	2,348	1,695	3,373	664	805	2,152	1,128
Absentee Ballot %	8.31%	5.14%	7.41%	6.94%	4.78%	4.57%	4.07%

Description	Lincoln	Lowndes	Madison	Marion	Marshall	Monroe	Montgomery
Total Active Registered Voters	24,403	40,142	81,635	17,551	22,397	25,233	7,693
Total Votes Cast Per County	16,414	27,158	49,571	12,729	16,240	16,918	5,645
Voter Turnout %	67.3%	67.7%	60.7%	72.5%	72.5%	67.0%	73.4%
Absentee Ballots Cast	1,823	2,172	3,780	1,471	1,324	1,108	746
Absentee Ballot %	7.47%	5.41%	4.63%	8.38%	5.91%	4.39%	9.70%

Description	Neshoba	Newton	Noxubee	Oktibbeha	Panola	Pearl River	Perry
Total Active Registered Voters	15,779	13,117	9,332	26,435	24,306	35,623	9,039
Total Votes Cast Per County	11,015	9,777	6,264	18,117	16,826	22,224	5,722
Voter Turnout %	69.8%	74.5%	67.1%	68.5%	69.2%	62.4%	63.3%
Absentee Ballots Cast	872	617	940	1,699	1,665	2,221	485
Absentee Ballot %	5.53%	4.70%	10.07%	6.43%	6.85%	6.23%	5.37%

APPENDIX 1

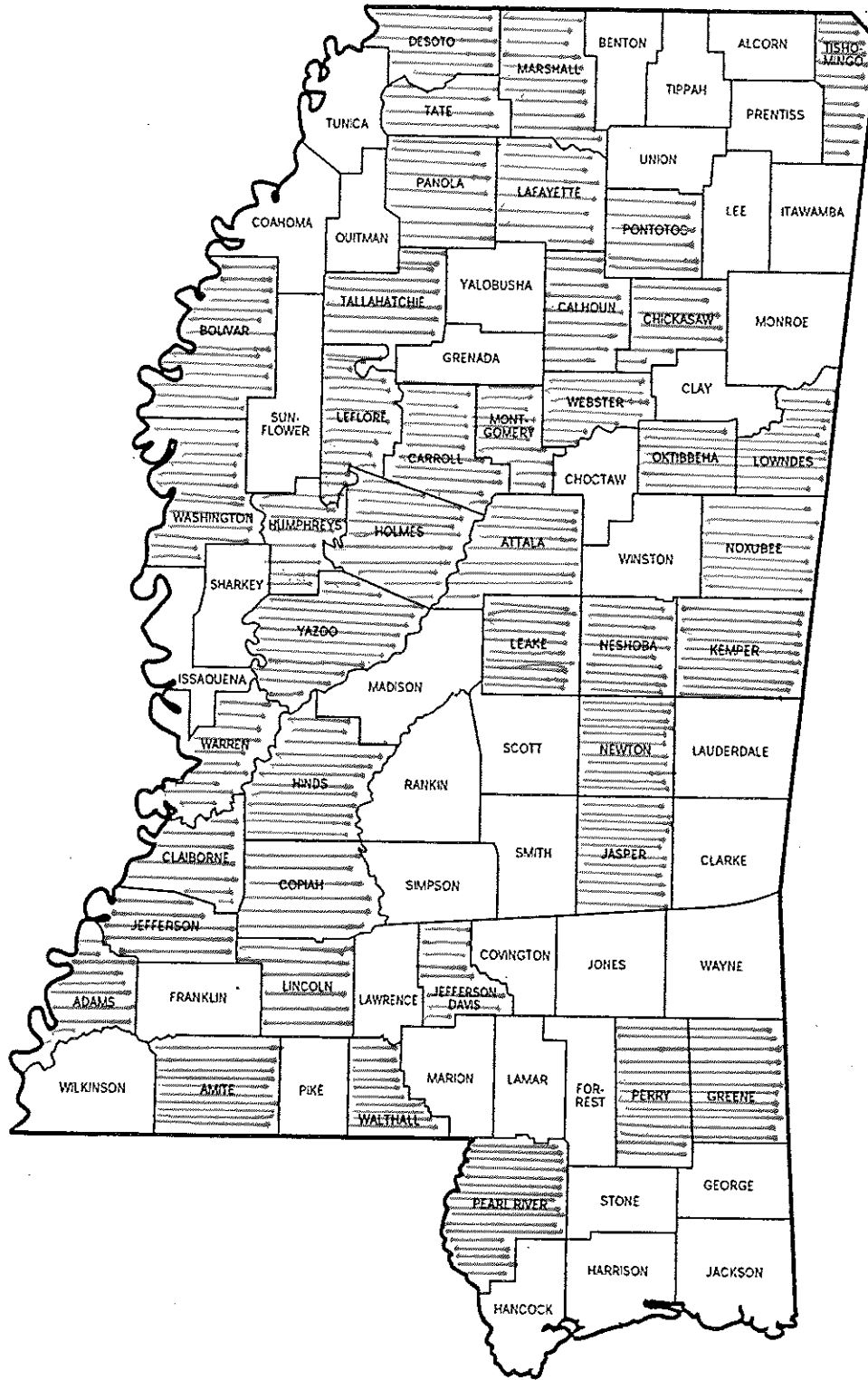
Description	Pike	Pontotoc	Prentiss	Quitman	Rankin	Scott	Sharkey
Total Active Registered Voters	23,896	18,578	16,216	5,571	86,272	19,206	3,747
Total Votes Cast Per County	17,974	12,411	10,033	3,979	64,145	11,202	2,532
Voter Turnout %	75.2%	66.8%	61.9%	71.4%	74.4%	58.3%	67.6%
Absentee Ballots Cast	1,933	1,042	674	660	5,016	545	224
Absentee Ballot %	8.09%	5.61%	4.16%	11.85%	5.81%	2.84%	5.98%

Description	Simpson	Smith	Stone	Sunflower	Tallahatchie	Tate	Tippah
Total Active Registered Voters	16,670	12,348	10,018	15,473	8,900	18,241	14,504
Total Votes Cast Per County	12,249	8,099	7,532	11,228	6,503	12,406	9,164
Voter Turnout %	73.5%	65.6%	75.2%	72.3%	73.1%	68.0%	63.2%
Absentee Ballots Cast	839	572	634	565	562	1,024	692
Absentee Ballot %	5.03%	4.63%	6.33%	3.65%	6.31%	5.61%	4.77%

Description	Tishomingo	Tunica	Union	Walthall	Warren	Washington	Wayne
Total Active Registered Voters	12,154	6,889	16,480	14,120	32,234	30,649	13,734
Total Votes Cast Per County	7,936	4,382	11,365	7,551	21,391	19,715	10,332
Voter Turnout %	65.3%	63.6%	69.0%	53.4%	66.4%	64.3%	75.2%
Absentee Ballots Cast	566	334	975	1,024	1,763	1,680	1,191
Absentee Ballot %	4.66%	4.85%	5.92%	7.25%	5.47%	5.48%	8.67%

Description	Webster	Wilkinson	Winston	Yalobusha	Yazoo
Total Active Registered Voters	7,596	7,033	13,446	9,105	18,774
Total Votes Cast Per County	5,234	4,853	9,829	6,354	11,620
Voter Turnout %	68.9%	69.0%	73.1%	69.8%	61.9%
Absentee Ballots Cast	406	487	1,381	600	778
Absentee Ballot %	5.34%	6.92%	10.27%	6.59%	4.14%

Appendix 2 Mississippi Counties



GENERAL ELECTION

November 6, 2012



County _____
 Precinct _____
 Arrival Time _____
 Voter Roll Count _____
 Votes (when present) _____

STARTING THE DAY:	YES	NO
1) Did polls open at 7am?		
2) If using voting machines, was a zero tape printed?		
3) Did the candidates' names on the zero tape match the names on the ballot?		
4) Do all the machines show zero ballots cast at the time the polls open?		
5) Was a list of absentee voters posted? How many absentee voters? _____		
6) Was a sample ballot posted?		
7) Was there a sign showing the hours during which the polling place is to be open?		
8) Was there a poster showing the general information on voting rights under federal and state laws?		
9) Were instructions posted for mail-in registrants who are unverified first-time voters?		
10) Were instructions on how to cast a provisional/affidavit ballot posted?		
11) Was the general information on prohibitions on fraud and misrepresentation posted?		
12) Is the precinct handicapped accessible?		
13) Is there a voting machine or device which is handicapped accessible?		
DURING VOTING HOURS:	YES	NO
1) Was an area 150' and closer from any entrance to the poll kept free from distribution and posting of campaign literature?		
2) Was an area 30' in every direction from the polls or room kept clear of all persons except election officials, poll watchers, or persons waiting to vote?		
3) How many voters voluntarily provided identification? _____		
4) Voter Assistance:		
How many voters were assisted? _____		
How many voters <i>requested</i> assistance from Poll Managers? _____		
Was the voter:		
Blind? _____ Illiterate? _____ Physically disabled? _____		
Or none of the three? _____		
Who provided assistance:		
Poll Manager? _____ Poll Watcher? _____ Third Party? _____		
5) How many voters were provided instruction on how to use the voting machines? _____		
6) How many ballots were challenged? _____		
Frivolous? _____ Rejected? _____		
Accepted? _____		
7) Were any voters turned away from the polls? How many? _____		
Why? _____		
8) How many voters voted curbside? _____		
9) Did poll watchers move about the precinct greeting voters; trying to influence voters; or causing an interruption of the process?		
10) How many affidavit ballots were cast? _____		

11) Were those casting affidavit ballots given written instructions on how to determine if their ballot was counted?		
12) Is the ballot box locked?		
13) Were any additional absentee ballots put into the election box after the polls opened?		
14) Were any law enforcement officials, in uniform, allowed to hang around the polling place before or after voting?		
15) Were people allowed inside the precinct wearing a shirt, cap, pin, sticker or any other advertisement for any candidate? How many? _____		

UPON CLOSING:	YES	NO
1) Did the poll stay open until 7 PM?		
2) If people were in line to vote at 7 PM, did the officials make arrangements to mark the back of the line to ensure that no other persons are allowed entry into the line after 7 PM?		
CLOSING OF POLLS WITH TOUCH SCREEN VOTING MACHINES	YES	NO
1) When the polls closed, did the Managers lock and seal the machines?		
2) Did the Manager open the counter compartment in the presence of those present, giving a full view of the counters?		
3) Were the vote counts on each machine read aloud by each office, constitutional amendment or ballot measure and recorded by Managers on two Statements of Canvass?		
4) Once the results are read and recorded, did the Managers lock the counter compartment to secure the results?		
ABSENTEE BALLOTS USING TOUCH SCREEN MACHINES & CENTRAL SCANNER		
1) Did the election official announce the name, address and precinct as inscribed on each envelope?		
2) How many absentee ballots were there? _____		
3) Did the election officials compare the signature on the back of the envelope with the signature on the application?		
4) Did the election official mark the unopened envelope as accepted or rejected?		
5) How many were rejected? _____		
6) If rejected, did the election official write the reason for the rejection on the envelope?		
7) Did the election official check the poll book to ascertain whether the elector voted in person?		
8) If the elector did not vote in person, did the election official enter their name in the registration book and mark "voted" beside the name?		
9) Did the election official put the rejected ballots in a separate envelope marked rejected?		
10) Did the election officials place all accepted ballots in a separate envelope marked accepted?		
11) Did the election officials place all absentee ballots (accepted and rejected) in the ballot box, secure the ballot box and return the ballot box to elections central for tallying?		
PAPER BALLOTS	YES	NO
1) Were the ballot boxes publicly opened?		
2) Did the Manager read aloud the names voted for on the ballot?		
3) Were there persons to keep a tally of the announced votes?		
4) Did the election officials compare the total number of votes cast with the total number of voters signing the registration book?		
5) Were all ballots accounted for?		
CHALLENGED BALLOTS		
1) How many ballots were challenged? _____		
2) How many challenges were rejected? _____		
3) Did the election officials remove the challenged ballots and place them in a separate envelope?		
4) For those ballots where the managers could not determine whether the challenge was frivolous or well-taken, did the election officials mark the ballots "challenged", count those ballots separately and enter the results in the proper place on the tally sheet as a separate return?		
5) Were all the rejected challenge ballots grouped together, placed in a large sturdy envelope which was sealed and placed in the ballot box?		
AFFIDAVIT BALLOTS		
1) Were all affidavit ballots placed in a large envelope and secured in the ballot box?		
ABSENTEE BALLOTS...Using Paper Ballots		
1) Did the election official announce the name, address and precinct as inscribed on each envelope?		
2) How many absentee ballots were there? _____		
3) Did the election officials compare the signature on the back of the envelope with the signature on the application?		
4) Did the election official mark the unopened envelope as accepted or rejected?		

5) How many were rejected? _____		
6) If rejected, did the election official write the reason for the rejection on the envelope?		
7) Did the election official check the poll book to ascertain whether the elector voted in person?		
8) If the elector did not vote in person, did the election official enter their name in the registration book and mark "voted" beside the name?		
9) Did the election official open each accepted ballot envelope, and without divulging the contents, place the ballot in a locked ballot box?		
10) Did the election official put the rejected ballots in an envelope marked rejected?		
11) Did the officials count the absentee ballots and enter those totals into the totals for the precinct?		
PRECINCT OPTICAL SCANNER	YES	NO
1) Did the election official announce the name, address and precinct as inscribed on each envelope?		
2) How many absentee ballots were there? _____		
3) Did the election officials compare the signature on the back of the envelope with the signature on the application?		
4) Did the election official mark the unopened envelope as accepted or rejected?		
5) How many were rejected? _____		
6) If rejected, did the election official write the reason for the rejection on the envelope?		
7) Did the election official check the poll book to ascertain whether the elector voted in person?		
8) If the elector did not vote in person, did the election official enter their name in the registration book and mark voted beside the name?		
9) Did the election official open each accepted ballot envelope, and without divulging the contents, place the ballot in a locked ballot box?		
10) Did the election official put the rejected ballots in an envelope marked rejected?		
11) Did the officials count/scan the absentee ballots and enter those totals into the totals for the precinct?		