

2016 Ohio Presidential Election Observer Report

Thank you for helping in the League of Women Voters of Ohio collect election observer reports.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is partnering with the world-renowned Carter Center to apply their international Election Observer model to Ohio's November 2016 Presidential Election. We greatly appreciate the support of Ohio's Election Protection (EP) program for integrating our observer report into parts of Ohio served by EP. Our observer pilot will cover additional areas as well – a variety of urban areas, suburban, rural, and small towns - reflecting the full variety of Ohio communities. Observers will file an observation form at the end of the day that reports on the good, the bad, and everything in between in order to assess the overall health of Ohio's election system.

Instructions: Only one form should be submitted per voting location per day. Observers are asked to log their observations onto a print copy of the form, and one volunteer should be identified to submit all observations via the Google form at <http://bit.ly/2016observer> at the end of the day.

A. Date and time

1. Date of observation: _____

Please check if this was:

___ During early voting

___ On Election Day

2. Start of observation (1st volunteer time of arrival): _____

3. End of observation (last volunteer time of departure): _____

4. Overall, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being terrible and 10 being fantastic, how did voting go at your location today? _____

B. Volunteer info – Please include all volunteers observing at your location.

Volunteer name	Email	Phone	Start time	End time

C. Polling Place Information

1. Polling Place Name: _____

2. Polling Place address: _____

3. How many precincts are in this polling place: _____

4. Please list precinct numbers (e.g., C-6): _____

5. Type of location (circle one): School, church, library, community center, senior center, retirement community, college/university, other _____

6. Type of community/neighborhood (circle one for A and one for B)

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A. urban, suburban, small town, rural

B. poor, low income, middle income, wealthy, mixed

7. Does this polling location serve a college or university area? (circle one)

Yes No

8. Number of voters registered for all precincts at this polling location: _____ (should be posted at the polling location or available from the Board of Elections)

9. Method of voting at this polling location (circle one):

Touch screen Optical scan paper ballots

D. Polling Location Environment

Campaign activities and material.

1. Was the 100-foot perimeter clearly marked to indicate the radius in which campaign activity is not permitted? (circle one)

Yes No

2. Was campaign material (e.g., literature, signs) present within 100 feet of the door to the polling location? (circle one)

Yes No

3. Were campaign activities (e.g., campaign volunteers talking to voters) taking place within 100 feet of the door to the polling location at any point during the day? (circle one)

Yes No

4. Were there any unusual circumstances in the vicinity of the polling place at any point during the day that may have impacted voting? (circle one)

Yes No

If yes, describe: _____

5. Was there a visible presence of police and/or security personnel outside the polling place? (circle one)

Yes No

6. Did anyone report intimidation at this polling place? (circle one)

Yes No

If yes, what was the cause: (please check all that apply)

Inside the polling place

- Improper behavior by poll worker
- Problems with challengers
- Intimidation or harassment from someone
- Law enforcement presence
- Other (describe): _____

Outside the polling place

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- Law enforcement presence
- Intimidation or harassment from someone
- Violence
- Unusual circumstances (text box to describe)
- Other (describe): _____

Away from the polls

- Inaccurate or intimidating phone calls
- Deceptive or intimidating flyers or other materials
- Other (describe): _____

E. Polls Opening

1. Did the polling location open on time? (at 06:30am for Election Day or applicable time for early voting)

Circle one: Yes No

a. If no, delay was (circle one): 15 min., 30 min., 1 hour, over 1 hour

b. If no, opening was delayed because of: (check any that apply)

- Gaining entry to the building or room
- Problem with polling station room
- Problem with voting machines
- Insufficient power outlets
- Insufficient extension cords
- Lack of essential material (e.g., poll books, ballots, etc.)
- Insufficient polling station staff
- Polling staff management issue
- Security problems
- Tension-Unrest
- Other (describe): _____

2. Did all precincts within the polling location open on time? (circle one)

Yes No

a. If no, how many precincts did not open on time? _____

b. If no, how long after the start time (6:30am on Election Day) was it until all precincts were open?
(circle one) 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, more than 1 hour

c. If no, what was the reason for the delay? _____

3. Were there any other procedural issues with the polls opening? (circle one)

Yes No

a. If yes, please describe: _____

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F. Accessibility

Outside:

1. Was the polling location accessible for voters with reduced mobility or other disabilities? (circle one)

Yes No

a. If no, what was the reason? _____

2. Was curbside voting available for voters who needed it? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

Inside:

3. Were all polling precincts within the polling location accessible for voters with reduced mobility or other disability? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

4. Voters needing assistance:

a. Was assistance provided when needed? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

b. If yes to a., could voters receive assistance by a person of their choice (other than the person's employer, employer's agent, or labor union rep who are prohibited)? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

c. If yes to a., was assistance given by 2 poll workers? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

5. Was there a functioning touch screen voting machine available for use by voters with a disability?

(circle one) Yes No Unknown

6. Did poll workers know how to use the disabled accessible touchscreen voting machine? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

7. Were there any other issues for voters with disabilities? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

a. If yes, please describe: _____

G. Availability of Public information

1. For Cuyahoga & Lorain County only: Are election materials including ballot papers available in both Spanish and English as required by law? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

2. Are voting instructions posted at the polling place? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

3. Is there a map of the precinct boundaries for that county? (circle one)

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Yes No Unknown

4. Are sample ballots posted at the polling place? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

5. Is the voters list posted at the polling place for public scrutiny? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

H. Voter turnout & wait time

1. At the time of opening, was there a long line of voters waiting outside to vote? (circle one)

Yes No

2. At any other times of day, was there a long line of voters waiting outside to vote? (circle one)

Yes No

3. If yes, please list times lines were present: _____

4. Was management of the line efficient? (circle one)

Yes No Not observed

5. Did you see people leave before voting because of the long line?

Yes No Unknown

6. Did poll workers post voter turnout at

- 11am? Yes No
- 4pm? Yes No

7. How many voters were reported at 11am? _____

8. How many voters were reported at 4pm? _____

9. Based on your observation, was turnout high, medium, low, or none at each of the following times: (circle one for each time frame)

- | | | | | |
|---|------|--------|-----|------|
| • 6am - 8am | High | Medium | Low | None |
| • 8am - 10am | High | Medium | Low | None |
| • 10am - 12noon | High | Medium | Low | None |
| • 12noon - 2pm | High | Medium | Low | None |
| • 2pm - 5pm | High | Medium | Low | None |
| • 5pm - 7:30pm | High | Medium | Low | None |
| • 7:30pm until whatever time the last voter voted | | | | |
| | High | Medium | Low | None |

(Closing is at 7:30pm but polls must stay open to allow anyone in line at 7:30pm to vote no matter how long that takes. This last question seeks to assess the volume of people still waiting in line at closing time to vote.)

I. Voter issues (observed or reported to you by voters)

1. How many cases of confused voters have you seen based on each of the following reasons:

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- Due to inadequate signage: _____
- Voter sent to wrong polling place: _____
- Voter sent to wrong precinct: _____

2. How did poll workers handle these situations? _____

3. How many voters were unable to cast a regular ballot for each of the following reasons:

- Voter told in wrong location and not directed to correct location: _____
- Because they did not have acceptable ID: _____
- Although they had acceptable ID: _____
- Because not on the voter list: _____
- Voter’s eligibility challenged: _____
- Voter’s name on ID didn’t match name on voter rolls: _____
- Name is incorrect on voter list: _____
- Poll worker insisted on photo ID: _____
- Voter was not able to get adequate assistance at the polls: _____

4. How many voters were turned away and not able to cast any ballot, even a provisional? _____
Why? _____

5. Were provisional ballots given in accordance to the rules? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

6. Were voters given instructions on how to follow up, if needed, after casting a provisional? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

J. The next two sections ask questions about the method used to cast ballots. Some counties use a paper ballot with scanner (optical scan), and other counties use a touch screen device (DRE). Please answer the set of questions for the voting method in your county and skip the other set that does not apply.

1. Please circle the voting method used in your county:

- Paper ballot with scanner (optical scan)
- Touch screen device (DRE)

2. Please proceed to the relevant set of questions below for the voting method used in your county.

K. Paper ballot with scanner (optical scan) – All questions based on what voters reported to observers

1. Was the scanner device functioning properly during the whole day? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

2. Were instructions for scanning provided? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

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3. Did the polling place run out of ballots? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

4. Did the polling place have the correct ballots? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

5. Were there any privacy issues when casting a ballot? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

6. Were there any cases of a ballot being rejected by the scanner? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

a. If yes, what was the reason? _____

b. If yes, was a replacement ballot given if the ballot was rejected? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

7. At any time of day, was a scanner device replaced? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

8. Were any other problems reported related to regular paper ballots and/or scanners? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

a. If yes, please describe: _____

L. Touch screen (DRE) – All questions based on what voters reported to observers

1. Were all DREs loaded with the correct ballot for the precinct? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

a. If no, please describe: _____

2. Were the DREs operating correctly at the polling place? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

3. Was the equipment properly supervised throughout the day? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

4. Were there reports that the DRE did not record votes properly on the touch screen? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

5. Were there reports that the VVPAT (voter verified paper audit trail – the receipt style paper under a plastic cover that records votes) did not accurately reflect the vote as cast by the voter? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

6. Were there voter reports of poll workers who did not provide instructions on how the DRE or VVPAT worked? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

7. Were there any privacy issues for voters using DREs? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

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8. Did you observe any voter(s) unable to complete the voting process? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

9. Were there any reports of voters who asked for a paper ballot instead of using a touch screen that were denied? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

10. Were instructions for using the DRE posted inside/outside the voting booths? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

11. Were there any technical problems/malfunctions with DREs? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

a. If Yes: (check all that apply)

- Problem was fixed
- DRE was replaced
- Only paper voting afterwards
- Other: _____

12. At any time of day, was a touch screen device replaced? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

13. Were any other problems reported related to touch screen devices? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

a. If yes, please describe: _____

M. Poll Workers

1. Were there any complaints about poll workers? (circle one)

Yes No

2. Were there enough poll workers for the polling location to function? (circle one)

Yes No Unknown

3. Were there reports of poll workers providing incorrect information to voters? (circle one)

Yes No

4. How cooperative were poll workers with you as an observer during the day? (circle one)

- Open and welcoming
- Somewhat Cooperative
- Non-cooperative
- Obstructive

5. Were there any other poll worker problems reported? (circle one)

Yes No

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a. If yes, please describe: _____

N. Closing and Counting

1. Were there voters waiting in line at the time of closing? (circle one)

Yes No

a. If yes, were they allowed to vote? (circle one)

Yes No

2. At what time did voting conclude and the polling place closed? _____

3. Were results posted by poll workers at the polling location following the close of voting? (circle one)

Yes No Not observed

O. Other

Is there anything we forgot to ask that you would like to share? _____

Please submit your observer report within 24 hours on the Google form at <http://bit.ly/2016observer>

THANK YOU!