

Instructions for “Cuyahoga Project Post” Volunteers

This is one of two projects which pertain to the integrity of the Vote COUNT! Most people are focusing on getting out the vote and making sure voters get to vote. This project focuses on making sure the counting is done correctly! This is a very important civic activity!

For the first time in years, the public will be able to know the polling-place election results, at the end of election night, BEFORE they are “fed into” the central tabulator. In September 2008, Secretary of State, Jennifer Brunner, issued directive 2008-87, stating that Ohio polling places must post results in a place which is visible to the public (from outside the polling place.) Ideally, the results will be posted inside a glass door or window so they are “protected”, yet visible. In some cases, the results will be posted outside, and, unfortunately, will be vulnerable to damage, theft or vandalism. Thus, it is important that someone is there to “watch” the posting and make sure that the report is not removed.

If we can get these results, we can use them to validate the accuracy of the “central” election results. This is a very simple check on election integrity, but requires a lot of people to capture results at all 565 polling places in Cuyahoga County. Ideally, we would have 565 people, each assigned to “capture” the results at ONE assigned polling place.

If we have 56 volunteers, we each have to get, on average, results from 10 polling places. We have more than 50 volunteers at this point.

I was hoping that Obama Campaign poll observers, who are required to capture the same results that we are looking for, might “share” their numbers with us, so we wouldn’t be driving around town in the middle of the night, trying to retrieve counts from all 565 polling places. Several emails to the Obama Campaign were ignored. Today, accidentally, I ran into one of the organizers, and learned that the Obama Campaign is “forbidden” from “working with” any other group: non-profit, grassroots efforts, etc. Their poll observers will be capturing the results and calling them into some IVR system, which will feed these results into a “black box” in Chicago. Apparently, even the Cuyahoga Obama Campaign will not have access to those numbers.

Hard to believe, I know. Talk about irony! From one black box into another, kept secret from citizens who wish to verify the counts are accurate.

So.....

We must find people who will go to the polling places and capture those results. Those volunteers must then “call in” or email the results to our data-collection location.

Ideally, polling places would be assigned to “Project Post” volunteers so we can manage and track which ones are “covered”, **but we will accept spontaneous reporting of posted results** from individuals whom we know to be legitimate citizens acting to ensure election integrity. So, please encourage those you know will be working at a polling place to voluntarily report their polling place’s posted results, even if they have not signed up to be an official “Project Post” volunteer. The more numbers we get, the better job we can do in verifying the election results.

(Have them use the Tally Sheet posted on <http://www.ohiovigilance.org/TallySheet.pdf>, using one Tally Sheet per precinct.)

Capturing Election Results

The number of precincts which are “operating” out of a polling place varies from polling place to polling place. Some have one, while some have up to 6.

Each precinct in a polling place has a “dedicated” Optical Scan machine (an ES&S Model 100) which will read precinct-specific/precinct-marked ballots and tabulate results for that precinct. At the end of election day, the M100 will print out three copies of a report called the *Voting Results Report*. It looks like cash-register tape. See sample below, also found at <http://www.ohiovigilance.org/SampleVotingResultsReport.pdf>. One of those three copies **MUST BE** posted for public viewing! (The other two will be returned to the Board Of Elections.)

Your job is to transfer information from the Voting Results Report(s) to Tally Sheets <http://www.ohiovigilance.org/TallySheet.pdf>, using a separate Tally Sheet for each precinct.

If there are, say, four precincts operating out of one polling place, there should be four posted *Voting Results Reports*, one for each precinct. You would, thus, fill out four separate Tally Sheets!

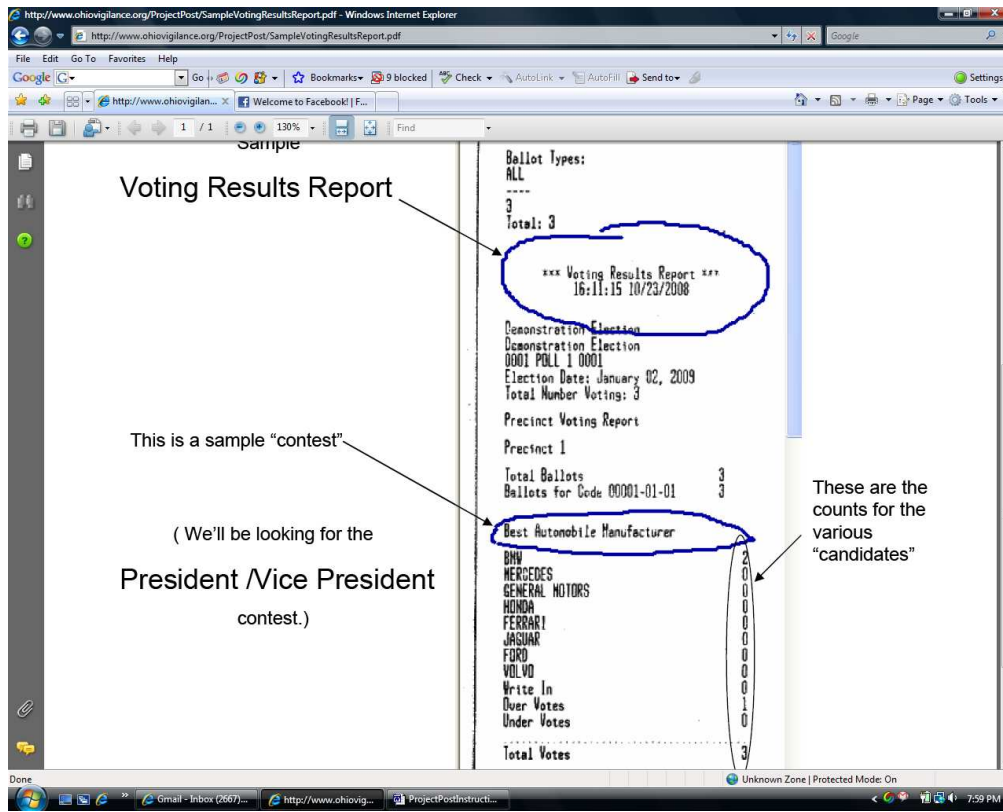
Most of the “good stuff” on the posted report is at the top of the report, so you won’t need to bother with the “tail” of the report.¹ Find the part of the report that says *Voting Results Report*, and then look for the words “**Precinct Voting Report**” and then the word “**Precinct**”, followed by the Precinct identifier. (The sample says “1”, but yours might say, for example, “Woodmere-01-A.”) Write down the Precinct identifier on your Tally Sheet. You should also see “**Total Ballots.**” Write down the Total Ballots number on your Tally Sheet as well.

Next you should see the first contest (The sample says “Best Automobile Manufacturer”, but you’ll be looking for “President/Vice President.”)

Scan down the candidates listed under the “President/Vice President”, and locate, for each candidate, the number associated with that candidate. That number represents the number of votes that that particular candidate got in that Precinct!

See sample below.

¹ The only exception would occur if more than one precinct is serviced by a single M100 OptiScan machine. This can happen if one precinct’s dedicated M100 machine breaks down, and another M100 is “reconfigured” to accept more than one precinct’s ballots. (A special card would have to be inserted into the machine in order to “configure” an M100 to accept more than one ballot type.) If this “multiple precincts on one machine” situation occurs, there may be a section of the report “further down” that shows the results for a second (or more) precinct. So, in this situation, there may be multiple precincts on a given *Voting Results Report* printout.



Using the Tally Sheet for which you've written the Precinct identifier, and the Total Ballots, now write the numbers associated with each candidate, noting that the sequence in which the candidates are listed on the report will most likely NOT be the sequence on the Tally Sheet (where candidates are sorted alphabetically). Be careful to record accurate numbers on the Tally Sheet. Check your numbers twice!

Optionally, take a picture

If you have a camera with you, please take a photograph of the part of the Voting Results Report in which you have taken information and transcribed on the Tally Sheet.

Note: **This is NOT necessary**, but would be great to have as a backup. If you have a digital camera and can send an image via email, please do so. Otherwise, when the photo is developed, please mail to 2225 Overlook Rd. #1, Cleveland Hts, OH 44106

Getting the Numbers to the Collection Site

Once you have transcribed the information onto the Tally Sheets, one for each precinct, you will need to get that information to the Data Collection site. Note that, if you are capturing results at more than one polling place, you may call in the results after EACH polling place, or after you've completed ALL of your polling places. Similarly, you may email in "one polling place" at a time, as you complete them, or wait until you have completed all of the polling places.

Please call one of the numbers on the Tally Sheet, or email one of the email addresses on the Tally Sheet. Those numbers are: 216-246-4179, 216-374-9134, lovegrenv@gmail.com, or doingdemocracyradio@gmail.com.

If possible, provide the information in the following order.

Your Name

Your Phone Number

Number of Polling Places

Polling Place A

Precinct X

Votes for Baldwin..

Votes for Barr...

Votes for Duncan...

Votes for McCain

Votes for McKinney

Votes for Moore

Votes for Nader...

Votes for Obama...

Write In Votes

Over Votes

Under Votes

Total Votes

Precinct Y

Votes for Baldwin....

Votes for Barr...

.....etc.

Polling Place B etc.

That's it!

Thank you so much for your important role in ensuring our elections are as fair and honest as possible.

Vicki and Michael

Local Coordinators of the "Protect The Vote" project of BlackBoxVoting.org, called "Cuyahoga Project Post"