

From: Murphy, Patty
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 2:23 PM
To: 'John Gideon'
Cc: Ellen Theisen; Miller, Paul; Hamlin, Shane
Subject: RE: Testing

Hi John,

Just a quick response - the problem requiring a database split for an election has to do with the number of unique records created by the system for tabulating results, and has to do with more factors than just the size of the ballot. King County has been approaching this maximum for a few years now, and the large number of absentee voters has pushed it over the edge. This year with King County's move to Vote by Mail, which is in effect 100% absentee, the record maximum will be exceeded. The odd year elections also have all the little jurisdictions running, which causes a large number of ballot styles which contribute to the problem. They anticipate 400 ballot styles for 180 jurisdictions and 2600 precincts. And then when you add the PCO races, this in effect makes every precinct a ballot style - so it increases the unique records exponentially.

Thank you for the heads up on the records from testing that you will be requesting. This helps us prepare worksheets to keep this data.

I will be asking for some records from the batch testing. How many errors in counting ballots were found? How many ballot lines are on each of the 1.5 million ballots? How many times were problems that resulted in stopping the tabulators encountered and how much time was spent to respond to those problems (i.e. how many paper jams and how much time was needed each time a paper jam had to be cleared?)? I hope these questions can be answered.

Thanks,

Patty Murphy
Voting Systems Support
Office of the Secretary of State
(360) 902-4188
Fax (360) 664-4619
PO Box 40229
520 Union Ave NE
Olympia, WA 98504
pmurphy@secstate.wa.gov

EMAIL QUESTION:

-----Original Message-----

From: John Gideon [mailto:jgideon@votersunite.org]

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 1:43 PM

To: Murphy, Patty

Cc: Ellen Theisen; Miller, Paul; Hamlin, Shane

Subject: Re: Testing

Patty

Thank you for the time and the response to our concerns.

On the subject of question #4 and whether the state and county can really make the use of a new voting system an "emergency" I find it to be distressing that in order to make the situation seem to be an emergency an off-year election is being compared to a federal election that includes a race for president that was hotly contested and drew huge turnouts nationally.

The two elections should not be compared but I will do it anyway.

Looking at the 2007 Nov. election King Co received a total of 465,981 ballots. Those ballots had far fewer races on them than the ballots from Nov. 4, 2008. There were 930,038 total ballots counted in Nov. 2008. So there were close to 50% fewer ballots processed in Nov. 2007 than there were in Nov. 2008 and the ballots were much shorter.

King Co and the state are making a choice to use a new system that is not yet through federal testing. It is not a choice dictated by an "emergency".

With regards to the federal testing being done by order of HAVA, yes the process is taking a bit longer than it should. However, the vendors blame the hold-up on the EAC when, in fact, if you read the test plans and test reports that are posted on the EAC site you will see that a large part of the testing process has been taken up by testing and retesting failed voting systems. If the vendors provided a product that actually met the standards and were capable of passing the testing protocols the testing time would be much less.

What the vendors expected, it seems, is that the NASED testing process would be rolled directly over to the EAC. Thankfully they were wrong. Unfortunately, computer test engineers and computer scientists who have reviewed the one completed test package are disappointed that the package is more NASED and less something new and improved. That is, again, unfortunate.

I will be asking for some records from the batch testing. How many errors in counting ballots were found? How many ballot lines are on each of the 1.5 million ballots? How many times were problems that resulted in stopping the tabulators encountered and how much time was spent to respond to those problems (i.e. how many paper jams and how much time was needed each time a paper jam had to be cleared?)? I hope these questions can be answered.

Thank you again