

Results from the February Primary Poll Reporting Project

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the Poll Reporting Project for the February 5, 2008 Primary sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Cook County. The results from the 319 surveys submitted by your League and the other suburban Leagues in Cook County have now been tabulated and the comments and suggestions compiled in a report that has been submitted to each local League, as well as to David Orr, the Cook County Clerk, who is in charge of elections in suburban Cook County.

The Cook County League is pleased to report that many improvements have been made in the process since the November 2006 election, when the last poll reporting project was conducted. In particular, as reflected at the 319 precincts that our observers reported on, during the Feb. 5 Primary:

- \$ the equipment was generally working well, although there were still problems with at least one of the touchscreens in 19% of the precincts reporting;
- \$ most precincts (90%) had trained equipment managers, who were able to both prevent and promptly fix many of the equipment problems;
- \$ the vast majority of judges surveyed thought the training was adequate (96%) and the manual was adequate (over 98%), though some of our reporters' observations indicate that some judges did not absorb all they needed to know;
- \$ support from the County election staff had improved greatly, both in terms of response time and in terms of being able to provide instructions over the phone, though some problems still remained; and
- \$ most polling places (87%) were reported to be adequate, but those with problems are detailed in the full report.

More Election Judges Needed

By far the biggest challenge to making the process work the way it should is attracting sufficient numbers of election judges. Over 50% of the precincts surveyed (158 out of 316 reports) had fewer than the full 5-judge complement. There are specific suggestions provided by the judges themselves and our poll reporters to assist with this problem that are listed in the full report.

The Cook County League commits to working with the sixteen local Leagues in Cook County to try to recruit more people to be election judges. So please consider if you are able to be a judge for the November 4, 2008 general election. And please let your friends and family members know that judges are needed. Election judges receive at least \$170 for working election day and attending a required training class. Contact your local political party township committee person to apply to be a judge. Or go to www.voterinfont.com (the Cook County Clerk's election web site) for more information.