

For Immediate Release:

**Franklin County, Ohio November 8, 2005 General Election
Precinct 16D**

**Comparison of Parallel Election Results to Official Results
Final Report Nov. 14, 2005**

Several reports over the past two years warn that voting electronically is not secure, yet Secretary of State Blackwell is forcing all of Ohio to adopt these expensive, hackable, privately-owned voting systems. He will then run for Governor in 2006, on systems he required, while conducting the administration of this, and his own, election.

Informed citizens cannot accept results that can't be hand-counted. Secret software belongs nowhere in the public voting process. Since our vote belongs to us – not to private for-profit corporations or public officials, citizens must run their own elections; become responsible for developing and implementing fair and honest elections in their own states, and check the accuracy of these machines. Parallel voters privately cast paper ballots and then deposit their own vote into a locked ballot box, which is later counted in a public place.

Precinct 16D, Franklin County (Columbus) was chosen to model civic engagement. Organizers vote in this precinct and were better able to involve neighbors in the Parallel Election.

Ohio has 13,600 precincts in 88 counties. A 1% sample would require 1360 Parallel Elections across the state. Organizers will continue to train teams for the 2006 elections. Since a minimum of six PE workers is needed, over 8,000 citizens are needed just to count 1% of an Ohio vote. Less than 100 concerned citizens, per county, could meet the staffing needs of a Parallel Election.

Final Results

There were 1,049 registered voters on Nov. 8, 2005 in 16D. 53 people voted in the Parallel Election and 99 people voted in the Official Election, as follows: 3 Absentee, 2 provisionals, and 94 in-person voters.

No. of Votes % for the Issue No. of Votes % for the Issue Yes No Yes No

	Parallel Election Results			Official Reported Results		
	YES	NO	% for	YES	NO	% for
Issue 1 - Public funds for private R&D; highways	33	19	62%	70	20	75%
Issue 2 - 35 Day absentee voting	42	9	79%	73	19	78%
Issue 3 - Lowers campaign contribution limits	44	8	83%	78	15	83%
Issue 4 - Independent Redistricting Commission	42	10	79%	74	20	79%
Issue 5 - Creates Elections Board of Supervisors (nine people appointed by Ohio judges)	42	10	79%	75	19	80%

The results for the entire state were reported as Issue 1 passing, and Issues 2 thru 5 failing by a wide margin, contrary to the results of this precinct. Clearly, this precinct alone is not a large enough sample from which to draw conclusions. What can be ascertained is that official reported results of Precinct 16D matched the Parallel Election results.

Based on polling numbers, Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman have submitted a rejection of the official results at <http://www.freepress.org/departments/display/19/2005/1559>.

At least three states held Parallel Elections on November 8th: Ohio, California and Texas. Information about these other states can be found at <http://www.guvwurld.org/Election%20Reform/KHUM%20Radio%20Interview%20-%20Humboldt%20County%20Parallel%20Election%20-%2011-3-05.mp3> for Humboldt County, CA and San Diego, CA www.studycaliforniaballots.org

There was very light voting across Columbus, as reported by other voter protection workers. One team, including global human rights videographer Dorothy Fadiman, covered several precincts throughout the day. Until about 3:30, the weather was sunny and breezy, with temps reaching 70°. Temperatures fell slowly in the evening.

16-D is a heavily democratic, mostly young adult precinct, with a large block of student voters, just west of the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Racially mixed, the precinct also includes a good amount of families. This precinct was chosen to model citizen activism at the local level. "All you need are 6 to 8 voters in your precinct to run a Parallel Election. But be sure to bring enough food and hydration," an activist advised.

Police cruisers drove by several times in the morning, but probably related to other activities. One cruiser did park and face the parallel election table, for about 45 minutes, but it could have just been his lunch break. The pollworkers, precinct judge and voters who participated in the PE support PE efforts and have been very accommodating. Very few voters turned down the opportunity to vote in the parallel election and thanked PE workers for doing this. Team Ohio counted the parallel ballots in a local restaurant, later that night.

To learn How To Conduct a Parallel Election, see <http://tinyurl.com/exjqm>, or <http://tinyurl.com/bmmgz> at www.GuvWurld.org; or see www.studycaliforniaballots.org.

Team Ohio included: Rady Ananda, Marjorie Preston, Marj Creech, Madalena LaMarche, Troy Semen, Kal Palnicki, Dave Hickman, and Steave Scott. Much thanks goes to Steave Scott and Warren Stewart for assisting the videographic team of Dorothy Fadiman, to Marj Creech for capturing jpegs during the PE and during the ballot count, and to Victorian's Midnight Café for the ambiance.

Submitted by

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