

**MARCH 16, 2004 ELECTION
NORTH SIDE REPORT**

**04-15-04 Peter Zelchenko (312) 733-2473
Observer: Peter Zelchenko, LEAP**

My focus was on legislative split precincts. On information suggesting that there could be problems connected with the split between the 39th and 40th Representative Districts, I studied several precincts in the area. When convenient, I also checked and corrected split precincts nearby which were split on a line other than the 39/40 districts.

**31st Precinct of 1st Ward, 8:30 a.m.
Chicago Ward Yard Labor Rooms, 2460 W. Cortland St.**

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (080)	12		6		427	262	689
A (086)	6		13		136	108	244
Totals	18	19	19	19	563	370	933

The PBC was down. R Votomatics were in all 5 booths and the A Votomatic was not in sight. The discrepancy between the hardcard R/A ratio and that from the stubs made it apparent that judges were confused about their use. Corrected by instructing judges to put the A Votomatic into a booth and to put up appropriate signage to indicate this. Because it was so early in the day, there were only a few votes compromised.

**16th Precinct of 32nd Ward, 9:15 a.m.
Holstein Park Game Room, 2200 N. Oakley Ave.**

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (082)	25		1		427	98	525
A (086)	20		47		233	44	277
Totals	45	45	48		660	142	802

On arrival, I discovered that the A Votomatic was locked in the ESC. Further, a count of the stubs indicated judges had inadvertently given A ballots to almost all voters, including R voters. Corrected. Approximately 25 morning R votes for the State Representative race compromised. Another precinct in the same facility, 14/32, was not a split and appeared to be operating normally as of 9:40 a.m.

**29th Precinct of 32nd Ward, 10:05 a.m.
Pulaski School Annex Building Hallway, 2230 W. McLean Ave.**

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (080)	48		55		482	69	551
A (082)	16		10		153	23	176
Totals	64	65	65	64*	635	92	727

***1 spoiled ballot**

Stub vs. hardcard discrepancy suggested the ballot judge was occasionally handing R ballots to A voters. Corrected.

34th Precinct of 32nd Ward, ~10:30 a.m.
Covenant Presbyterian Church Classroom, 2012 W. Dickens Ave.

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (080)	44		49		618	156	780
A (082)	7		6		177	29	202
Totals	51	52	52*	52	597	190	787

*3 spoiled ballots

Appeared to be a near-perfect precinct, with perhaps only one or two mixups with A and R ballots. A voters were correctly being sent to the A Votomatic.

37th Precinct of 32nd Ward, 11:05 a.m.
Fullerton Courts Community Room, 2303 N. Clybourn Ave.

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (095)			55		627	241	868
A (093)			1*		2	4	6
Totals		46	56	43	629	245	874

*Voter was mistakenly given provisional A ballot

Very small number of voters in A split. Confusion among the 14 different ballot designs caused quite a few spoils. In addition, some voter was mistakenly given a provisional A ballot even though neither of the two A voters the precinct had arrived to vote yet. Corrected by clarifying about the A Votomatic and recommending a re-reading of the section on partisan, nonpartisan, and split precinct balloting in the judge's handbook.

50th Precinct of 32nd Ward, 11:27 a.m.
Oscar Mayer School 1st Floor Gym, 2250 N. Clifton Ave.

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (145)	71		25		675	181	856
A (095)	10		51		130	28	158
B (144)	0		10		60	14	74
Totals	246*	82	86	81	865	223	1088

A three-way split precinct in Lincoln Park, with a number of Republican voters. The low number of R stubs indicated that a large number of the wrong ballots were being handed out indiscriminately. This precinct corrected itself with the help of a CBEC official. "We started at 6 a.m. with two judges," someone commented. The split precinct problem "was not figured out until 9:30."

What is interesting about this precinct is that it is in an affluent area. All of the judges were college educated, and two said they had advanced degrees. Yet even they were stymied by the split precinct problem and said they did not learn about it in judge training.

9th Precinct of 32nd Ward, 12:00 p.m.
Christian Fellowship Free Church Back, 3425 N. Damen Ave.

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (096)	66		73		411	169	580
A (094)	42		50		324	265	589
Totals	113*	118	117†	118	735	434	1169

*Total includes 5 voters not on pollsheet †Deducted 6 spoiled ballots

A near-perfect precinct, in a tight room with three polling places. This entire room was well managed by a general “boss” pollwatcher and strong precinct captain, 32nd Ward Superintendent George Rendon.

15th Precinct of 32nd Ward, 12:10 p.m.
Christian Fellowship Free Church Back, 3425 N. Damen Ave.

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (082)	40		45		427	98	525
A (086)	9		14		233	44	277
Totals	49	52	51*	52	660	142	802

*Deducted 8 spoiled ballots

See 9th Precinct above. Another near-perfect precinct, in a tight room with three polling places. This entire room was well managed by a general “boss” pollwatcher and strong precinct captain, 32nd Ward Superintendent George Rendon.

19th Precinct of 32nd Ward, 1:00 p.m.
Chicago Fire Station Bay Area, 2214 W. Barry Ave.

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (094)	39		47		261	115	376
A (096)	27		34		235	149	384
Totals	66	72	76*	71	496	264	760

*Deducted 5 spoiled ballots

There was potentially some confusion with approximately 1 in 8 Republican voters, but this appeared to be generally well managed.

28th Precinct of 1st Ward, 1:30 p.m.
Schneider School Art Room, 2957 N. Hoyne Ave.

Style	Vote Counts				Registered Voters		
	Hardcard	Spindle	Stubs	PBC	Active	Inactive	Total
R (088)					489	187	676
A (094)					172	43	215
B (109)					109	30	139
Totals		90		90	770	260	1030

Pollwatcher was using an old pollsheet that did not show R, A, and B split voters, so no data collected. However, brief questioning confirmed that the judges understood the problem and were handling it properly.

Summary

Catching these problems early in the day is obviously very important, but it is also easier to calculate the incidence of problems at an early time. Many of the North Side precincts were quite well managed, although several needed correcting, even some in affluent areas with judges who had advanced university degrees. Many South Side precincts (see other report) were so thoroughly mismanaged that it was sometimes impossible to straighten anything out. In retrospect, we should have hit the South Side in the morning. The North Side was largely handling itself and there was no indication that there was any mischief regarding split precincts there, even in areas where it had been strongly suspected in the 2001 election.