

May. 04, 2006 Few voting glitches pop up
Results not affected by minor malfunctions in new machines
CARRIE LEVINE
clevine@charlotteobserver.com

Mecklenburg New voting machines worked well in Tuesday's primary, Mecklenburg County Elections Director Michael Dickerson said, and more training for poll workers can likely address the few glitches:

- Printers on 10 machines had paper put on backwards, and poll workers didn't realize the printers weren't working properly, Dickerson said.

He said the machines still recorded votes electronically and they were tallied properly, but the backup audit log did not print.

- One precinct had trouble setting up the new machines, and instead asked voters to use paper ballots meant for curbside voting until midmorning.

Dickerson said the poll workers should have called election officials for help, but everyone who came to the precinct was able to vote.

- One precinct at Davidson Town Hall had machines run out of printer paper at roughly 7:10 p.m., 20 minutes before the polls closed. Dickerson said precinct workers then had about 10 voters use the paper curbside ballots instead of the machines.

Dickerson said election officials received the machines recently, and weren't able to do as much training as they wanted to before the primary.

He said he will conduct more training sessions before November's election, and will make sure someone at each precinct can load paper when machines run out.

- Fewer than 30 votes on two machines couldn't be downloaded Tuesday night, probably because of human error, Dickerson said.

The ballots were downloaded Wednesday morning, and the results added to the county's tally. Dickerson said he will investigate the problem.

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