

Leon County Weighs in on the Election

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Leon County can be proud of how fairly the election was conducted according to an Election Day survey of 355 voters by *Voices*, an Internet survey panel sponsored by Kerr & Dows Research and *The Tallahassee Democrat*. Only 3% of voters claimed that they personally witnessed actions that they perceived were intended to intimidate or prohibit people from voting. Most explanations offered by voters who felt intimidated seemed tame. One voter claimed that the City of Tallahassee was affecting the election by performing road repairs on Pedrick Road. Another voter felt intimidated because she was required to show a photo ID. A few voters complained of partisans holding signs for their candidates. Another voter believed that a poll worker glared at voters and “did his best to look like a vulture.” Only 1 voter reported a challenge to her right to vote. Another voter complained about “an inordinate number of Move On folks crowding the door” to his polling place. And one voter was apparently unnerved by the presence of a policeman.

Six out of ten voters were ready to move on no matter who wins and no matter by how many votes rather than have a repeat of the 2000 experience. Republicans (87%) were much more likely than Democrats (46%) to want to get the election past us regardless of how slim the victory by either candidate.

Only half of voters believed that all parties and candidates wanted the elections to be fair and honest. Nearly as many voters (46%) disagreed with this premise. Republican voters (62%) were more likely than Democrats (43%) to believe that all parties and candidates wanted the election to be fair and honest.

Two out of five voters (38%) believed their party and their candidates were just as likely to cheat in elections as other parties and candidates. Democrats (40%) were slightly more likely than Republicans (32%) to think their party/candidates were as likely to cheat as other parties/candidates.

While the news networks are on the verge of announcing the final results as this report went to press, 4 in 10 Leon County voters believed that the final results would not be certified until at least 1 week after the election. Only 1 in 10 thought the election would be decided on Election Day.