

To the Honorable, the Board of Supervisors:

Section 34 of the Election Law makes it mandatory for the Boards of Elections throughout the state to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors in every county, where such board exists and to the Secretary of State. In accordance with this section, we hereby submit our annual report.

During the year, two Primaries have been held as well as both the state and national elections. As you well know, this has been the busiest year in four, as the Spring Primary is held only in Presidential years. In all of these elections, not a single hitch of any consequence was called to our attention.

The expense incident to the conduct of elections, has been unusually high this year, simply because of the additional Spring Primary. Every effort has been made by our office to keep this expense at the lowest possible figure, and in this connection, let us say that almost everything necessary has been purchased through competitive bidding. As a result, we feel that the expense in proportion to the vote is as low as almost any county in the state, if not the lowest. Inquiries from other Boards of Elections have come to us, seeking information as to how we are able to keep down the expense.

As evidence of this, we found that when a local printer refused to carry out his contract for the printing of Presidential Ballots, that printers in Onondaga and Albany Counties, charged more than twice the amount of his bid. At the same time, when we went

To St. Lawrence County to have the job printed, we found that strong competition among printers had forced the price of these ballots below the regular figure, and that we obtained the Jefferson County allotment at a slight advance over the figure made us in early winter by Mr. Parker, the successful bidder. This low figure was due to the fact that the St. Lawrence concern had the type all set to print exactly the same ballot for that county.

As the Registration is always considerable larger in a Presidential year, it necessitated the printing of far more ballots than in other years, and this naturally added to the cost.

The use of the voting machines in the City of Watertown adds very materially to the work at election time in the Board of Elections. All of the printing is entirely different and it might be said that it practically resolves itself into preparing for two elections at the same time. Four wards in the City of Watertown were unable to use the voting machines this year, because of the lack of machines and paper ballots were consequently used.

Compliance with the absentee voters' laws adds both to the cost and to the work in our office. Almost any possible excuse under the sun is now given by the person who desires to go visiting, hunting or fishing on Election Day, why he or she should not have such a ballot. Not less than 350 applications were made this year for absentee ballots, and in the neighborhood of 300 were accepted and ballots furnished.

In the last election 32202 persons availed themselves of the opportunity of voting, of this number 21127 were residents of the country districts while 11075 voted in the City of Watertown. In the country 21127 enrolled or were furnished a blank, while in the city, the enrollment totalled 11634. The work of compiling the enrollment consisting of 32761 names is nearing completion in our office.

This year an unusually large number of inspectors of election failed to place the number on the enrollment blank in the column in the enrollment books designated for such purpose. As a result, we are obliged to summon these inspectors and have them either put in the numbers or provide for the work being done. They were all reminded of their duties in this respect in the future.

Through the kindness of Secretary of State Hamilton, a place was provided on all of the election registers for the name and address of every inspector, and as a result, for the first time, we were enabled when poor registers came to our office, to know just who kept this book. In this way we were enabled to send for such inspectors as we needed. This makes it unnecessary for the other inspectors in the district to be summoned.

It is not necessary to advise Your Honorable Body that next fall will occur the biennial election of town officers and of the city supervisors. The election of town officers has always given us a great amount of trouble and at this time, early as it may seem, we ask the supervisors from the towns to render us all possible assistance. No records are filed in our office as vacancies and new appointments occur. We know not how many town officers in any town, who qualified and are still in office. Consequently we can not tell where a vacancy occurs of an assessor or a justice of the peace. Every two years in some towns, one party will nominate so many candidates for justice of the peace and the other party will nominate one more or one less. In the canvass, members of the same party will disagree as to whose terms or term expires. After the ballots are printed, then a howl goes up that another should have been nominated or one name should have been omitted.

We beg of you as town officials and not as party members to see to it that proper certificates of nominations are filed in this office and that the correct number of persons to be nominated for office, especially for justice of the peace and assessor, and that the number of years for which ^{he} is to be nominated, be stated on blanks which will be

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furnished you at the expense of Jefferson County. This is of great importance and again we urge your co-operation.

We would be glad to have you take up any matter which you desire pertaining to the election or to this office. Pursuant to the Election Law, a daily record is kept in this office and shows the work that is prepared day by day.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated December 9th, 1924.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

By Eugene F. Livermore

William K. Hott,

Commissioners.

Jefferson County

In the 22 towns of the County there are 89 election districts

In the 12 wards of the City of Watertown, there are
22 election districts

The total Registration for the year 1924 was: 43900

In the towns 32266

In Watertown 11634

The total vote at the Spring Primary:

Republican vote	1155
Democratic vote	468
Socialist vote	3

The total vote at the Fall Primary:

Republican vote	1103
Democratic vote	386
Socialist vote	0

The total vote at the General Election: 52202

In the towns 21127

In Watertown 11075

The total enrollment for 1925 is 32153

Towns	Rep	Dem	Soc	Blank	Void
	13760	5307	77	1356	36
City	<u>7549</u>	<u>3307</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>507</u>	<u>23</u>
Total	21309	8614	308	1863	59