

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

Pursuant to Section 34 of the Election Law, the Board of Elections herewith presents its Seventeenth Annual Report for the year ending November 30, 1927.

The year 1927, has been the busiest for the Board since the office was created. Our daily record shows that during the year there was an increase in the number of changes of enrollment, in new voters becoming of age, in mistakes by voters, in hotel and rooming house reports and in applications and determinations of absentee voter's ballots. There were nearly 450 applications for absentee ballots and 180 voted ballots. We have been called on by state departments, political organizations, persons and concerns to look up records and furnish information and the office has been utilized to a greater extent than ever before.

The Nonpartisan Primary Election in the City of Watertown, at which time 2862 names were written in on the ballot, the Official Fall Primary Election, at which time the vote of 101 candidates was counted, the Registration of 39, 311, voters and the General Election of state, county and town officers and the submission of nine amendments were conducted in a very satisfactory manner, and we have not heard one word of criticism.

The use of the voting machines in the city has been a great success. The largest districts were voted without confusion and within the time limit. The statement that the voter dare not split his vote for fear of making an error when voting on the machine

was clearly contradicted. All of the printing on the voting machine is entirely different from the printing of the paper ballots, and we consider that in having paper ballots and using machines, we are conducting two separate and distinct elections at the same time, and this entails a considerable amount of extra work.

Contracts for all supplies, stationery and printing have been awarded, as far as possible, by competitive bidding. We have adopted a system of economy of which we are justly proud, and we are advised by other commissioners that our prices are lower, if not the lowest of any county in the state. We have had inquiries from many counties asking how we are able to keep our expenses so low, and have been requested for many of our forms. We saved a large sum this year by combining with St. Lawrence County in the printing of the pamphlets containing the proposed amendments. The price paid by many counties was \$ 30. per thousand, but by having them printed with St. Lawrence County, we were able to have them printed for \$ 8. per thousand.

Much of the work in the office, so to speak, comes in a bunch and must be completed within a prescribed day and hour. The work in preparation of the enrollment, registration and elections must be so arranged that it will not interfere with the time that has to be devoted to printers, canvass, tabulation and compilation. During the rush work when the returns have to be completed with a certain hour, we have employed additional help, which has been a personal expense of the commissioners. It has been necessary for us to work Sundays and nights, and some of the work has been done in our families.

By your resolution, we were allowed to attend the Election Commissioners Convention in Jamestown. We believe that our attendance at this meeting saved the county \$ 226.20, which was the cost of printing the Amendment Ballots. We learned at this meeting that the

attorney-general might possibly change the wording of the Nine Amendments to be submitted and that if we waited to print the ballots, the cost of the printing would be saved. In many counties, we have heard that they had their ballots all printed and had to reprint them in order to comply with the new ruling of the attorney-general.

The commissioners believe that there will be many changes in the Election Law, the coming year, and that a revision of the law in accordance with the recommendations of the Election Commissioners' Association meeting in Jamestown, will be drawn wherein considerable unnecessary expense and red tape incident to the conduct of elections will be eliminated and a large expense will be saved the county and the state.

It is a source of gratification to our board to be informed by the Secretary of State's Office that the returns of Jefferson County are the first returns reported and excell in neatness and accuracy and that our office is regarded as one of the best in the state. Officials of the Automatic Registering Machine Company complimented our office for the valuable information which is quickly obtained from our county.

The year 1928, being a presidential year, will be an extremely busy year for our office. Immediately after the compilation of the enrollment, in which we are now engaged, we must prepare for the Spring Primary in April, which only occurs in presidential years. During the year, we propose to follow our usual methods by which the expenses of our office are kept to the minimum.

We wish to express our appreciation to Your Honorable Board as a whole and to the individual members for the many courtesies extended to us and to our efficient clerk, Miss Kate Grant, and we court any suggestions by which our administration can be improved.

Respectfully submitted,  
EUGENE F. LIVERMORE,  
WILLIAM K. MOTT,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.....1927

In the 22 towns of Jefferson County there are 89 Election Districts

In the City of Watertown, there are 22 election Districts

Voting machines are used in the City of Watertown

Total Registration for the year 1927 was 39311

Towns 31183

Watertown 8128

Total vote in Fall Primary 9527

Republican 8397

Democratic 1120

Socialist 10

Total vote in General Election 25963

Towns 18842

Watertown 7121

Total Enrollment

Towns	5339	Dem	12578	Rep	49	Soc	637	Blank	53	Vol
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Watertown	2051		5866		33		167		6	
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Total	7390		18444		82		804		59	
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