

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY.

December 4th, 1929.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

The Board of Elections of the County of Jefferson, established by the State Legislature in the year 1901<sup>1901</sup>, a body vested with the authority and charged with the duty of arranging for and conducting public elections, is constituted pursuant to the State Election Law, Chapter 17 of the Consolidated Laws, and functions as a bi-partisan board under two commissioners, one Republican and one Democrat.

The Board of Elections likewise performs many of the duties heretofore devolved on the State Superintendent of Elections, which office has been abolished. These new duties include the receiving, listing and investigating of reports of and from hotels, lodging houses, boarding houses and rooming houses and of the residents therein and of the preparation of lists for Registration and General Election of persons entitled to vote at public elections.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

During the year 1929, an Official Fall Primary Election and an Official Nonpartisan Primary Election for the City of Watertown were held. At the two said Primaries candidates for the following party positions and public offices were chosen:

Official Fall Primary Election,- Delegates and Alternate

Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention.

Two Members of the County Committees (as provided by the rules of the party.)

- Member of Assembly
- Sheriff
- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- Supervisor in each of the 12 wards of the City of Watertown.

Nonpartisan Primary Election,-

Four Councilmen for Four Years  
Two Councilmen for Two Years

The following votes were cast in the Primaries:

Official Fall Primary

|            |      |       |      |      |       |       |
|------------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Republican | 7568 | Towns | 4001 | City | 11569 | Total |
| Democratic | 590  | "     | 534  | "    | 1124  | "     |
| Socialist  | 4    | "     | 4    | "    | 8     | "     |

Grand Total 12701

Nonpartisan Primary

Councilmen for Four Years, 9148 (including 74 names written in on ballots)  
 Councilmen for Two Years 4574 ( including 8 names written in on ballots)

The Election Law of this State as amended in 1928-29, permits Central Registration by electors of the City of Watertown, who apply in person at the Office of the Board of Elections for registration, enrollment and making application for absentee voter's ballots, on any day other than Sunday beginning the first day of June and ending on the 10th day of September.

The law requires that the Board of Elections shall provide suitable accommodations for the use of such Central Registration, and during that time this office was virtually a polling place.

Owing to the excessive registration in the City of Watertown in 1928, five new districts were added and two districts altered, making it necessary to purchase one more voting machine. The city now has 27 election districts and owns 28 voting machines. In the Towns of Rodman and Orleans, two districts were so large that they had to be divided or a voting machine used. The result was that machines were purchased, one in the Town of Rodman, and one in the Second District of Orleans. The machines proved very satisfactory, both in saving of expense and accuracy and speed in tabulating the returns.

Persons entitled to vote in the Primaries by reason of becoming of age, naturalization or illness during the period of registration or election was 56.

The number of voters who transferred their enrollment by removal in the county between registration and 30 days before the next ensuing Primaries was 231.

Registration in 1929 was

31668 Towns      7788 City      39456 Total

Enrollment in 1929 was

|            |       |       |       |      |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Republican | 17762 | Towns | 10108 | City | 27870 | Total |
| Democratic | 6695  | "     | 4310  | "    | 11005 | "     |
| Socialist  | 33    | "     | 42    | "    | 75    | "     |
| Blanks     | 642   | "     | 344   | "    | 986   | "     |
| Voids      | 40    | "     | 17    | "    | 57    | "     |

GENERAL ELECTION

The following offices were elected:

- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Member of Assembly
- County Clerk
- County Treasurer

In the City of Watertown:

- Two Councilmen for Four Years
- One Councilman for Two Years
- One Supervisor in each of the 12 wards

In the 22 Towns of the County

The vote in 1929 was

20738 Towns      6867 City      27605 Total

In the General Election 47 separate and distinct ballots had to be printed; one for each of the 22 towns of the county, one for each of the 12 Wards of the City of Watertown for absentee voting, one for each of the 12 Wards of the City of Watertown for voting machines and one for Questions Submitted. These ballots were absolutely perfect. The certificates of nominations in the Towns of Adams and Philadelphia were incorrect. These errors are chargeable to these towns and not to this office.

During the period between July 19th and November 21st, this office issued 1510 certificates of citizenship. The sum collected for such certificates was \$377.50, which sum has been turned over to the county treasurer and receipts therefor obtained. The issuance of certificates has entailed an endless amount of work because not one certificate has been issued until the right of the voter to obtain such certificate had been established by looking up in our records and a check made for such delivery.

During the months of September and October, the fund for running this office having been exhausted, the commissioners found it necessary to use \$33.00, of the money obtained from certificates. The auditors in their report made mention of this fact, and in order to remove any misunderstanding, Commissioner Mott tendered his personal check to the county treasurer for \$33.00, and an itemized statement of expenditures given, so that he may be reimbursed from the money allowed for the conduct of this office.

We are established in our new offices. It was necessary for this office to move at a most inconvenient time when we were busy preparing for the Primaries and when the mad rush was at its height for the issuance of certificates.

It is a source of great pleasure to the Commissioners and the Clerk to know that the returns sent out from this office have been perfect, and that we have been highly complimented for the excellence and speed in delivering them. Our office is frequently referred to as the very best "country" office in this State, both in the accuracy of our available records and in our ballots, printing and returns. Samples of our printing and records have been requested by many of the counties of the State, and have been adopted in these counties.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the members of your Honorable Board for your many favors, and extend a cordial invitation to you and to the voters of Jefferson County to visit our office at any time, and become acquainted with the work in which we are engaged.

Respectfully submitted,

William K. Mett

Bernard J. Redmond

Commissioners of Elections and  
Custodians of Primary Records of the  
County of Jefferson.

By Kate E. Grant, Clerk