

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY.

December 1st, 1930.

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

The Board of Elections of Jefferson County, established in the year 1901, is a body vested with the authority and charged with the duty of arranging for and conducting Registrations, Enrollment and Elections within Jefferson County, comprising the City of Watertown. It is constituted pursuant to the State Election Law (Chapter 17 of the Consolidated Laws), and functions as a bi-partisan board under two commissioners and one clerk. In addition to being Custodians of Primary Records, the board is also charged with the conduct of Non-Partisan Primary Elections in the City of Watertown, and town elections in the 22 towns of the county.

The Commissioners of Elections of Jefferson County are appointed by the Board of Supervisors of the county for a term of four years upon the recommendations of the County Committee of the two dominant parties in the State.

In Jefferson County there are 114 election districts
 Personal Registration 27
 Nonpersonal " 87

27	Voting Machines in operation in City of Watertown
5	" " " " Town of Alexandria
1	" " " " Henderson
1	" " " " Lorraine
1	" " " " Pamela
1	" " " " Rodman
1	" " " " Orleans (2nd District)

77 Election Districts using paper ballots

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

The Official Fall Primary Elections for the Republican, Democratic and Socialist Parties were held September 16, 1930, at which time the following public offices and party positions were nominated and elected:

Public Offices:

- Representative in Congress for the 32nd Congressional District
- State Senator for the 37th Senatorial District
- Member of Assembly (Jefferson County one Assembly District)
- County Judge
- Special Surrogate
- District Attorney

Party Positions:

- Ten Delegates and ten Alternate Delegates to the Republican State Convention
- Seven Delegates and seven Alternate Delegates to the Democratic State Convention
- One Delegate and One Alternate Delegate to the Socialist State Convention
- Two Members of the State Committee for the Republican and Democratic Parties
- One Member of the State Committee for the Socialist Party
- Two Members of County Committees (as provided by the rules of the political parties).

The Board of Elections furnished the following ballots for the

Primary Elections:

Party	Official	Sample	Color of Official
Republican	24740	1065	Cherry
Democratic	10415	300	Green
Socialist	108	100	Cannery
Totals	35263	3065	

The official votes in the county in the Primaries were as follows:

Party	Town	Water town	Totals
Republican	4995	2854	7849
Democratic	481	524	1005
Socialist	2	4	6

The Primary Enrollment for 1930 was as follows:

Party	Town	Water town	Total
Republican	14005	3851	17856
Democratic	5643	1449	7092
Socialist	22	22	44

CENTRAL REGISTRATION

The Election Law of this State, as amended, permits Central Registration by electors of the City of Watertown, in any case where the voter may be unavoidably absent from the county of his or her residence during all the hours fixed for the registration of voters, because his or her duties, business or occupation require him or her to be elsewhere in the United States. Such person shall apply in person at the Office of the Board of Elections on any day other than a Sunday or a holiday, during regular office hours within the period beginning July 1st and ending September 10th.

The Election Law also provides that any qualified voter who registers by Central Registration may enroll, prepare and file an application for Absentee Ballots at the time he or she so registers. However, in order to apply for such absentee ballots the applicant must declare under oath that his or her duties, business or occupation require him to be elsewhere within the United States, and the reasons for such absence must be those provided in the Election Law governing Absentee Voters' Ballots.

An applicant who is going outside the United States may register centrally but he or she may not apply for Absentee Voters' Ballot unless the absence on the day of next General Election shall be within the United States.

REGISTRATION

Registration Days in the City of Watertown, where there is Personal Registration were October 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th.

Registration Days in the towns, where there is Nonpersonal Registration were October 11th and 18th.

The Registration for 1930, was as follows:

31421 Towns	9394 City	40815 Total
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GENERAL ELECTION

General Election was held November 4th, 1930, at which time the following public offices were elected:

Governor
Lieutenant-Governor
Comptroller
Attorney-General
Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals
Representative in Congress, 38nd Congressional District
State Senator, 37th Senatorial District
Member of Assembly, First Assembly District
County Judge
Special Surrogate
District Attorney

A Proposition, known as Emergency Construction Bonds for an appropriation of \$50,000,000, for the constructions of buildings under the control of the department of mental hygiene and the department of correction, was voted on by all the electors of the State.

Ballots for Propositions in the City of Watertown, Town of Henderson, Town of Rodman and Town of Theresa were prepared by this office.

The official vote on the General Officers Ballots and on Proposition Submitted Ballots was as follows:

16545 Towns	3542 City	35087 Total Vote
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CERTIFICATES OF CITIZENSHIP

During the period between January 1st and this date, the Board of Elections issued 493 certificates of citizenship. The sum collected for such certificates was \$124.50, which sum has been turned over to the county treasurer and receipts therefor obtained. The issuance of certificates has brought much work to this office, because not one certificate has been issued until the records were checked and the voter's authority established. We have been handicapped in this work, because voters can not remember when and where they last voted.

VOTING MACHINES

During the year, five voting machines were purchased in Alexandria, one in Henderson, one in Lorraine and one in Pawelis, making a total of 10 districts in the county in which machines were used. The Town of Rodman and the Second District of the Town of Orleans adopted voting machines in 1929.

By the purchase of a voting machine, three districts were consolidated into one district in the town of Henderson.

The use of the voting machines greatly expedite the canvass and tabulation of the vote, and considerably lightens the duties performed by the inspectors of elections at the close of the polls, when the boards are weary after a 12 hour's session. The machines worked perfectly. Election officials welcomed the machines because they eliminate contention over questions as to whether ballots are properly or improperly marked and whether they should be accepted or rejected.

We recommend the adoption of machines in all the towns of the county. Government officials acknowledge their advantages because they remove the human element in counting, the impossibility of spoiled ballots and give complete and accurate returns on every candidate and proposition which are available the moment the polls are closed.

The commissioners of elections and clerk attended the State Convention of Election Commissioners in Buffalo in July, and through such attendance received most valuable information, especially in the conduct of elections and the lessening of their expenses. There were many discussions concerning the betterment of conditions in the smaller counties of the State, many of which were incorporated in resolutions and will be acted upon by the 1931 Legislature.

It has been our aim to render prompt and efficient service to the public. We desire to thank the chairman and the members of your board for their co-operation during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Mott,
Bernard J. Redmond.