

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

The Official Fall Primary Elections for the Republican, Democratic and Socialist Parties were held September 15th, 1931, at which time the following public offices were nominated and party positions elected:

Public Offices,

Member of Assembly, First Assembly District,

Special County Judge,

A Supervisor in each of the Twelve Wards of the City of Watertown

Party Positions,

Four Republican Delegates to Judicial Convention
Four Republican Alternate Delegates to Judicial Convention

Seven Democratic Delegates to Judicial Convention
Seven Democratic Alternate Delegates to Judicial Convention

One Socialist Delegate to Judicial Convention
One Socialist Alternate Delegate to Judicial Convention

Two Republican County Committeemen for 114 districts
Two Socialist County Committeemen for 42 districts

In the Nonpartisan Primary Election held in the City of Watertown the following nominations were made:

Mayor of Watertown

Four Councilmen for a term of four years.

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

Party	Vote in Towns	Vote in City	Total Vote
Republican	1094	2970	4064
Democratic	296	686	981
Socialist		4	4

In the Nonpartisan Primary 3700 ballots were voted.

There were 818 names written in on the ballots for the office of mayor, and 291 names written in on the ballots for the Offices of Councilmen.

The Primary Enrollment for 1931 was as follows:

Party	Towns	City	Total
Republican	11187	6749	17936
Democratic	4917	2374	7291
Socialist	31	40	71

REGISTRATION

The Election Law of this State, as amended, permits Central Registration by electors of the City of Watertown. Any elector may apply in person at the Office of the Board of Elections for registration by the Central Registration Board on any day, other than a Sunday or a holiday, during regular office hours and Saturday before Noon, within the period beginning August 1st and ending August 31st.

The Election Law, further provides that any qualified voter who registers by Central Registration may make and file an application for Absentee Ballots and may also enroll.

In the City of Watertown, where there is personal registration, there were four registration days.

In the 22 towns of the county, where there is non-personal registration, there were two registration days.

Registration in Watertown	7725	
" " Towns	32321	
Total		40046

GENERAL ELECTION

General Election was held November 3rd, 1931, at which time the following public offices were elected:

- Justice of the Supreme Court, Fifth Judicial District
- Member of Assembly, First Assembly District
- Special County Judge.

In the City of Watertown the following offices were elected:

- Mayor
- Two Councilmen for Four Years
- One Supervisor in each of the twelve wards of the city.

In the towns, the town tickets included the offices of supervisor, town clerk, justices of the peace, assessors, collectors, constables, superintendent of highways and school directors.

Six proposed amendments to the State Constitution were also voted on.

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

21510	Towns	6260	City of Watertown	27770	Total
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During the period between December 1st, 1930, and December 1st 1931, 292 certificates of citizenship were issued. The sum collected for such certificates was \$73.00, which amount has been turned over to the county treasurer, and receipts therefor obtained. The issuance of certificates entails much extra work, because every application is closely checked before the certificates are issued. These certificates are made use of by persons visiting the Dominion of Canada, and are very necessary and effective in establishing and proving the holders' American citizenship at the border upon their return to the United States.

VOTING MACHINES

It is a matter of regret to the Board of Elections that no additional towns in the county have been this year equipped with voting machines. Probably because of the fact that this year was the year when town officers were elected. There are several towns in the county having too many districts and in those towns by combining districts or slightly changing district boundaries large savings could be made because of the fact that the law permits districts having voting machines to have as many as 600 voters, instead of 450 voters permitted by law in paper ballot districts.

The coming year we shall have the presidential and gubernatorial elections. The canvass of the results of presidential electors in paper ballot districts is a very complicated proceeding by this office and would be enormously simplified if voting machines were in use throughout the towns in the county.

Our Governor and Secretary of State have for sometime urged the state wide use of voting machines as a means of procuring quick and accurate returns and preventing election frauds, and this added to the fact that the installation of voting machines actually saves money for the towns would seem to indicate the probability of the passage of legislation in the near future, making the use of machines mandatory in all of the districts of the state. There is little question that the passage of such legislation would mean an enormous saving of money and time.

We have seen in our own county, the expense involved in a contest for a town office; but these contests never arise where voting machines are used. If questions should arise, the expense of settling the argument is practically nothing because there is no question of void or valid ballots to be considered.

We desire to repeat our recommendations of previous years, that the towns of the county, which are not equipped with machines, should at the earliest possible moment purchase and install such equipment. The entire cost of machines would have been saved to the towns in a comparatively short term of years if this were done. A number of paper ballot districts in the county exceed the 450 voters permitted by law, and in these towns, we urge, that some action be taken immediately by the town boards, in order to comply with the provisions of the election law.

By your resolution the commissioners and clerk were allowed to attend the Election Commissioners' Convention in Utica. We believe that our attendance at these meetings was productive of much good. We assisted in drafting and passing resolutions, which we are confident will be passed by the 1932 legislature, and will save our county and every county in the state large sums of money.

It was a source of gratification to our board to be informed by the Secretary of State's office that Jefferson County Board of Elections reported the first official returns of the vote cast on justice of the supreme court and the six proposed amendments.

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 Miss Kate E. Grant, Clerk. We extend to you a cordial invitation to visit our office at any time and become acquainted with the work in which we are engaged.

Respectfully submitted,

William K. Mott,

Bernard J. Redmond, Commissioners

Kate E. Grant, Clerk