

1933

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
OF JEFFERSON COUNTY.

December 1st, 1933.

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

The Board of Elections of the County of Jefferson is organized pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 17 of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York. The board consists of two commissioners, appointed by the Board of Supervisors upon the recommendations of the two major political parties. William K. Lott, Republican and Bernard J. Redmond, Democrat, are the commissioners. Their term of appointment for four years, began January 1st, 1933.

The board is charged with all duties in connection with special, primary, town and general elections in all districts of the county and with nonpartisan primaries in the City of Westerlo.

The functions and scope briefly described are as follows:

First,- Preparation of the ballots to the end that all party positions and public offices may be filled.

Second,- Making it possible for qualified voters to exercise their right of franchise, and giving voters every opportunity to exercise that right and to vote for whom they choose.

Third,- Canvassing votes, publishing the results and issuing certification of nominations and elections to successful

candidates.

Fourth,- Preparing for personal and non-personal registration and becoming a Board of Central Registration during the month of August.

Fifth,- Canvassing party enrollment and publication thereof.

Sixth,- Furnishing information to various welfare departments of this county and the various counties of this state, in order to aid in the investigations in connection with old age pensions, child welfare, widows relief and workmens' compulsory citizenship requirements and issuing certificates of citizenship to voters who wish to return to the United States following visits to the Dominion of Canada.

Special Election, May 23rd, 1933.

On May 23rd, 1933, a special election was called by the governor and state legislature to vote for or against the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment. A special registration day was held on May 13th, 1933. The results of this registration were as follows:

Registration 1932	Added May 13th	Taken off May 13th	Final
Towns	33065	1074	32208
Watertown	<u>15480</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>15669</u>
Total	48545	1323	45871

Paper ballots were used in all election districts. All provisions in the conduct of elections were required in this special election and although 55,605 ballots were printed; but 14585 votes were cast. The ballots contained 150 delegates for repeal and 150 delegates against repeal, and were the largest ballots ever voted in New York state. The vote was as follows:

Total number of ballots voted	14825	
" " " votes cast		2,178,750
Votes for Repeal	1,406,800	
" against Repeal	763,221	
" written in	5	
" blank	5,194	
" void (23 ballots)	3,450	
Total		2,178,750

The State will reimburse the towns and the city for this election expenses, in amounts which have been allowed by the state auditor.

Primary Election, September 19th, 1935.

The following party positions were elected: Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Judicial Conventions.

The following public offices were nominated: Member of Assembly, Special Surrogate and District Attorney.

In eleven towns, including, Adams, Alexandria, Brownville, Champion, Clayton, Hillsburg, Henderson, Lyme, Rutland, Theresa and Watertown, the Republicans abandoned the caucus system of nominating town officers and adopted the primary system. This greatly increased the work in this office. It was necessary to file designating petitions of which there were 151 for town offices, and 66 contestants. The greater number of these petitions were filed on August 23rd, the last day fixed by law. Petitions were stamped, examined and contests ascertained in preparation for printing the ballots. Declinations then followed the filing of petitions. Notices were mailed to each candidate and their committees on vacancies where there were contests informing them that drawings for positions on the ballot would be made by lot in our office in the presence of those who saw fit to attend. In the City of Watertown, there were also 20 Republican designations and seven contests. Nearly all the contestants with the members of their committees on vacancies were present for the drawing on Saturday, September 23rd, 1935.

The Democratic Party and the remaining 11 towns continued with the caucus system of nominating town officers.

The vote in the Primary was as follows:

Towns	Dem	Rep	Soc.
City	<u>510</u> <u>1125</u>	<u>5563</u> <u>5675</u>	<u>9</u>
	1635	9238	9

The names of the successful candidates in the Fall Primaries including the eleven Republican Primary towns, then become the nominees for the General Election. There were two independent nominations for town offices, one in Clayton and the other in Lorraine. They were for the office of town superintendent of highways.

CITY OF WATERLOO

In the City of Watertown a city judge was nominated and 12 supervisors of each party for the wards of the City.

At the time of the Official Fall Primaries a Nonpartisan Primary was also held in Watertown. Five candidates were designated for the Office of Councilman for Four Years. Four candidates were nominated, (twice the number to be elected), and their names appeared on the voting machines, pursuant to determinations of the city supervisors, who acted as a board of city canvassers on the Friday following the Nonpartisan Primary.

The vote in the Nonpartisan Primary was 9782.

REGISTRATION

Registration in the personal election districts, City of Watertown, was held on October 13, 14, 20 and 21st, and in the non-personal election districts, the 23 towns of the county, on October 14th and 21st. During the month of August, the Board of Elections acted as a Board of Central Registration, at which time voters could register, enroll and make application for absentee ballots.

The total Registration for 1938 was:

37034	Towns
9436	City of Watertown
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43140	Total Registration in Jefferson County

GENERAL ELECTION

General Election was held November 7th, 1938, at which time the following public offices were elected:

Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals
Two Supreme Court Justices
Member of Assembly
Special Surrogate
District Attorney

In the City of Watertown:

City Judge
Two Councilmen for Four Years
Supervisor in each ward

In the towns:

Supervisor
Town Clerk
Justices of the Peace
Assessors
Collector
Superintendent of Highways
School Directors

One Proposition and four Amendments were also submitted to the voters for their approval on Election Day.

The vote in Jefferson County was as follows:

33334	Towns
8657	City of Watertown
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38041	Total vote in Jefferson County