

1934

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

In accordance with the provisions of Section 54 of the Election Law, the Board of Elections of the County of Jefferson, herewith submits its report for the year 1934, and as a part of the same, as required by law, will be found statements showing the number of voters enrolled in each political party, the registration of voters, the vote of the Primaries and the party vote of the General Election.

The Board of Elections is organized under the provisions of Chapter 17 of the Consolidated Laws of New York State. The Board consists of two members, appointed by your Board of Supervisors, upon the recommendations of the two major political parties. The Commissioners of Elections are William K. Kott, Republican, and Bernard J. Redmond, Democrat. Their term of appointment for four years began January 1st, 1933.

The Election Law charges the Board of Elections with all details in the preparation of ballots and supplies for primaries, special and general elections and the Non-partisan Primary Election in the City of Watertown, to the end that all vacancies in party positions and public offices may be filled. Every provision of the Election Law must be followed in order that all qualified voters may exercise their right of franchise and vote for whom they choose. The vote of the electors at Primaries, special and general elections must then be canvassed and true and accurate counts be given for each candidate, question or proposition.

In the above analysis are included the following duties of the Board of Elections:

Receiving, examining, passing upon and filing of all names of candidates, designated or nominated for public offices or party positions.

Notifying all persons who have been designated and those who have declined, and informing their committees on vacancies where there are contests that drawings for positions on the ballots would be made by the Board in the presence of those who saw fit to accept the invitation to attend.

A final preparation of ballots, statements of canvass and tally sheets, stationery and supplies for each election and registration.

Supervising the hotel, rooming and boarding house reports, which have been filed by the Chief of Police of the City of Watertown.

Publishing election notices and lists of nominations.

Tabulation of party enrollments and publication thereof.

Keeping a daily record of all business and proceedings of the office.

Furnishing certificates of citizenship to persons visiting the Dominion of Canada.

Furnishing information to the various Welfare Departments of this county and the many counties of this State, as to the age and whether or not the applicants were citizens of our county.

PRIMARY ELECTION

September 13th, 1934.

The following offices were nominated by the Democratic, Republican, Socialist, Law Preservation and Communist Parties:

- Representative in Congress
- New York State Senator
- Member of Assembly
- Special County Judge
- Surrogate
- County Treasurer

The following party positions were elected by the Republican, Democratic, Socialist, Law Preservation and Communist Parties:

- Delegates to State Convention
- Alternate Delegates to State Convention
- Delegates to Judicial Convention
- Alternate Delegates to Judicial Convention
- Members of State Committee
- Members of County Committee

To the above conventions Jefferson County was apportioned the following number of delegates:

Democratic	7	Delegates
Republican	16	"
Socialist	1	"
Law Preservation	2	"
Communist	1	"

There were spirited contests in the Republican Party for the Offices of Member of Assembly and County Treasurer and in the Democratic Party for State Committeemen. Contests always magnify the vote, and the year 1934, will be recorded in the political history of Jefferson County, as the one when the greatest number of voters enjoyed their right of franchise and sought to establish party leadership and the solution of issues which had been injected in the campaigns.

The Enrollment of 1934 was as follows:

Towns	15378	Rep	7232	Dem	58	Soc	33	Law	4	Com
Watertown	<u>6173</u>		<u>3063</u>		<u>62</u>		<u>7</u>		<u>6</u>	
Total	21551		10295		120		40		10	

The Primary Vote of 1934 was as follows:

Towns	8335	Rep	3513	Dem	3	Soc	2	Law
Watertown	<u>3501</u>		<u>1506</u>		<u>9</u>		<u>2</u>	
Total	11834		5119		12		4	

Because of a Jewish Holiday, the Official Fall Primary was advanced five days, and as a result thereof, it was necessary for this office and the printers to work Sunday, Labor Day and nights in order to have the ballots and supplies ready for distribution on the Saturday preceding the election.

REGISTRATION,

Central Registration by the Board of Elections during the month of August.

Non-Personal Registration, 67 districts of the towns,
October 15th and 20th

Personal Registration, 27 districts of Watertown,
October 12th, 13th, 19th and
20th.

The Registration of 1934 was as follows:

Towns	32635	Non-Personal
Watertown	<u>9669</u>	Personal
Total	42304	

GENERAL ELECTION,

November 6th, 1934.

The following officers were elected:

Governor
Lieutenant-Governor
Comptroller
Attorney-General
Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
Two Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals
United States Senator
Two Representatives in Congress at Large
Justice of the Supreme Court
Representative in Congress, 32nd Congressional District
Senator, 57th Senatorial District
Member of Assembly, First Assembly District
Special County Judge
Surrogate
County Treasurer

One Proposition for the appropriation of \$ 40,000,000.
for Welfare Relief was also voted.

Henderson was the only town which voted on a town proposition. This was a very simple matter, because Henderson uses a voting machine, and there is a special attachment on the machine which permits only those whose names appear on the assessment rolls to vote on an appropriation.

The General Election Vote of 1934 was as follows:

Towns	19182
Watertown	<u>8916</u>
Total	28098

The vote for Member of Assembly upon which the party vote of the county is ascertained was as follows:

9669 Democrat	Sternberg	
16177 Republican	Wright	
71 Law.Pres	"	
5	"	(cross x marks in both squares)
390 Socialist	Tooley	

The Board of Elections had a most hectic experience preceding the General Election. The paper ballots, of which there were 32755, could not be printed, pending a court action which decided whether or not the nominees of the Recovery Party would be printed on the ballots. Printing presses were "held-up" for nearly a week, and it was only through the most active co-operation of the printers that the necessary printing was completed.

This ~~1934~~ election proved to be of greater magnitude than anticipated, consequently certain emergencies arose which prevented our accomplishing the many economies which ordinarily we have affected. Because of the great increase in printing costs, due to the Code, from which there is no redress, we believe that the bills for election printing will be substantially increased in 1935. As the printing expenses and the costs of paper are increasing by leaps and bounds, it is most apparent that the towns which fail to adopt voting machines are not exercising good financial judgment; but are allowing unnecessary expenditures which could be avoided and applied on the purchase price of a voting machine.

The 37 voting machines of the county worked perfectly. The voters have full confidence in the machines because they are aware they prevent frauds and that their interest has fully and positively been recorded. We doubt if any voting machine district could be induced to return to the use of paper ballots.

In conclusion, the Board of Elections, desires to thank the members of your Board for the many courtesies shown, assistance rendered and the appreciation of our work. We extend a cordial invitation to the individual members of your Board to visit our office and solicit the assistance and counsel which is within our jurisdiction.

Respectfully yours,

William E. Mott
Bernard J. Redmond

Commissioners of Elections of
Jefferson County.

Kate E. Grant, Clerk.

Dated at Watertown, N. Y., this 21st day of November, 1934.