

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 of the Election Law of the State of New York, the Jefferson County Board of Elections herewith submits its Twenty-seventh Annual Report, -for the year 1938. As a part of the same as required by law will be found a statement showing the number of voters enrolled with each political party, the registration of voters and the vote of the Official Fall Primaries and the General Election.

Election items and facts which are considered of most concern will be herewith presented as concisely as possible. This report, one of which is also filed with the Secretary of State, is of a special value to those who have recourse to it for information, and to those interested in the economical conduct of elections in Jefferson County.

Mindful of the opinion in the case of People ex rel Stapleton vs. Bell, 119 N. Y., page 175, that "The right of suffrage is one of the most valuable and sacred rights which the constitution has conferred upon the citizens of the State," our office is ever watchful for the convenience of the electorate of our county. Our paramount aim is to see that all eligible voters shall exercise their right of franchise with as little trouble as possible, that their vote shall be accurately canvassed and finally that the candidates receive determinations of their nominations and elections.

It is agreed that because the Board of Elections is bi-partisan in character that the machinery of elections has ceased to be more or less a political asset of one or another of the local political organizations. It is solely because this bi-partisan board has direct control over elections and election officials that our splendid record and progress along proper administrative lines has been made possible.

ENROLLMENT

The 1937 Registration of 9009 in the City of Watertown and the 1937 vote of 19380 in the 22 towns of the county, constituted the total enrollment of 28389 for the year 1938.

The number of voters enrolled in each political party for the year 1938 was as follows:

	Democrat	Republican	American Labor	Socialist
City of Watertown	2824	5845	28	18
Towns	5838	13005	29	26
Towns of County	3662	18950	57	44

OFFICIAL FALL PRIMARIES, SEPTEMBER 20th, 1938.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 184 of the Election Law, approximately 350 transfers of enrollment after moving from one district to another, errors in enrollment, special enrollment on becoming of age and acquiring citizenship by naturalization were entered in two enrollment copies of the registers.

About 505 petitions were filed in this office by the Democratic, Republican and Socialist Parties. This exceptionally large number was due to the fact that county committeemen were elected this year in 105 election districts.

The following party positions were elected:

Seven Delegates and seven Alternate Delegates to the Democratic State Convention; Eighteen Delegates and eighteen Alternate Delegates to the Republican State Convention and One Delegate and One Alternate Delegate to the Socialist State Convention.

Eighteen Delegates and Eighteen Alternate Delegates to the Republican Judicial District Convention; Seven Delegates and seven Alternate Delegates to the Democratic Judicial District Convention and One Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the Socialist District Convention.

Two Members of State Committee of each party

Two Members of County Committee for each election district by each party.

The following public offices were nominated:
Representative in Congress, State Senator, Member of Assembly, Sheriff
and County Clerk.

Two hundred and forty-seven different ballots were printed
for the Primaries, which were distributed as follows: 32500 Official
and 2740 Simple; making a total of 35340 ballots.

We are happy to advise that we are not aware of one
error on any ballot,-a record of which we are justly proud.

The Primary vote was as follows:

	Democrat	Republican	American Labor	Socialist
City of Watertown	657	3144	4	5
Towns	840	7050	0	0
Total County	1497	10194	4	5

CENTRAL REGISTRATION

The Board of Elections serves as a Board of Central
Registration, when approximately 75 voters who expected to be unavoidably
absent on the regular registration days, personally appeared, registered,
enrolled and made application for absentee ballots.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

About 30 applications for registration under this act
were received from the Secretary of State, filed and assigned to proper
election districts. Scarcely one registrant knew the number of his
election district. Ascertaining proper election district of the C.C.C.
applications entailed much correspondence and telephoning.

REGISTRATION

Two days of Registration in the non-personal districts
of the 22 towns.

Four days of Registration in the personal districts of
the City of Watertown.

The following is the registration of 1938:

City of Watertown	11695
Towns	<u>32600</u>
Total	44295

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GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 8th, 1938.

State legislation made it mandatory that voting machines be used in every district throughout this State for the General Election of 1938. As a result of the installation of machines, the number of districts was reduced from 114 to 95. Custodians for the new voting machine districts were instructed by experts of the Automatic Voting Machine Corporation and previous to their appointment had to pass tests given by the company representatives on the adjustment and operation of the machines. A company employe was on duty from 5:30 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Election Day in order to relieve any trouble which might occur. During the day, he called on most of the new districts, reporting to this office after every visit.

We are happy to state that no trouble reports were received in this office. Any trouble or delay occurring was caused by voters who were unfamiliar with the operation of the machines.

Returns filed in this office were nearly 100% perfect. It is the first time since 1911, that several boards of inspectors were not called to this office to correct returns.

The following officers were elected: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney-General, United States Senator, Long Term, United States Senator Short Term, two Representatives in Congress at Large; three Justices of the Supreme Court, Representative in Congress, State Senator, Member of Assembly, County Judge, Sheriff and County Clerk.

Nine Amendments to the State Constitution were voted.

Three Excise Questions in the Town of Ellisburg were voted upon by the voters of that town.

One local question in the Town of Henderson

One local question in the City of Watertown

The party vote in Jefferson County was as follows:

Democrat	6323	
Republican	22143	
Am. Lab.	687	
Socialist	60	
Ind. Prog.	452	
In'd Govt.	25	
Blank votes	455	Grant total 32125

Because of the use of voting machines no void votes were counted.

The members of the Board of Elections attended the 1938 Convention of the Election Commissioners' Association at which time a general ballot was drafted for the voting machine and also for absentee voters' ballots. We believe that the saving made on the printing of our absentee ballots was three times greater than the amount of our expenses to the convention. We had occasion to observe the two ballots which were used in counties not having this knowledge, because of their non-attendance at the convention, and we know the statement of our saving to be correct.

The Board of Elections wishes to acknowledge and tender its cordial appreciation for the co-operation accorded it in the discharge of its functions and duties. We extend to your honorable body an invitation to visit our office at any time, and to solicit information or assistance within our jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

William K. Mott

Ella R. Overton

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

By Kate E. Grant, Clerk