

1940

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

TO THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and  
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:

In conformity with Section 34 of the Election Law of the State of New York, the Board of Elections of Jefferson County herewith submits its report for the year 1940, to the Secretary of State and to the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County. There will be found herein, as required by law, a statement of voters enrolled with each party, the total registration of voters, the vote of the Spring and Fall Primaries and the General Election, including the election of presidential electors.

The duties and functions of the Board of Elections are governed by more than 350 separate and distinct sections, comprising the Election Law; designed to regulate down to the finest detail, the conduct of all elections.

Only those who are directly connected with the Board of Elections Office realize how difficult and onerous are the functions and scope of the Election Law and of the office.

We have definite reasons which bear out our statements that the Jefferson County Board of Elections has followed out all provisions of the Election Law which are mandatory with remarkable intelligence, thoroughness and dispatch, to the end that all vacancies for public office and party positions have been filled and that the vote of all elections were correctly canvassed, and a true and accurate count given to each candidate.

ENROLLMENT

The 1939 Registration of 11175 in the City of Watertown and the 1939 vote of 19620 in the 22 towns of the county constituted the total enrollment of 30795. The following is the party enrollment of 1940:

	7237	Rep	3638	Dem	38	A. L.	262	Blank & Void
City								
Towns	13604		5622		44		350	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total County	20841		9260		82		612	

OFFICIAL SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION, APRIL 2nd, 1940.

Because of the Spring Primaries, which occur in Presidential years, it was necessary to complete the enrollment by January 16th, 1940, which was the first day to circulate designating petitions. This great task was completed on time, and we are happy to advise that we do not know of one error, either in the registers or in the printed copies of the enrollment.

The intense activities of the candidates for county committeemen, caused 205 changes, which were entered in the Enrollment Registers.

In this Primary, there were 384 designating petitions with 24 contests, which necessitated examination, passing upon, filing, counting and entering in the Record Book. the names and addresses of all candidates designated or nominated.

Postals were mailed to the 384 candidates, notifying them of the filing and receipt of their petitions. Postals were also mailed to 78 contestants and to 234 members of vacancy committees, notifying them of the date when positions would be drawn by lot for places on the ballots.

There were 38290 ballots printed, which included 194 different ballots.

The following party positions were elected:

- Two District Delegates to the National Convention
- Two Alternate district Delegates to the National Convention
- One Member of State Committee (Male)
- One Member of State Committee (Female)
- Two Members of the County Committee in each of the 95 election districts.

The following is the Spring Primary Vote:

City	1098	Rep	528	Dem	11	American Labor
Towns	2255		606			
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total County	3353		1134		11	

Following the Primary 386 Determinations on postal cards were mailed to the elected candidates.

CENTRAL REGISTRATION

Pursuant to the provisions of the Election Law, the Board of Elections serves during the month of August, as a Board of Central Registration. There were 234 voters who centrally personally registered in this office. These voters also enrolled and made application for absentee voters' ballots. As a comparison, we might make mention the fact that in 1939, there were 76 Central Registrations.

C. C. C. and Veterans Registrations.

About 30 applications for registration and absentee ballots were received from C. C. C. Camps and from Veterans' Bureau Hospitals. Very few, if any, voters indicated their election district and this failure caused much trouble and work in our office.

OFFICIAL FALL PRIMARY ELECTION, SEPTEMBER 17th, 1940.

From the period between the Spring Primary and August 17th, 200 changes were entered in the Enrollment Registers.

In this Primary, 26 petitions, containing 91 candidates were filed. There was but one contest. Petitions were thoroughly checked and entered in the Record Book. Postals acknowledging filing of petitions were mailed to the candidates.

There were 35670 ballots printed, which included four different ballots.

The following public offices were nominated:

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

Justice of the Peace and Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Wilna.

The following party positions were elected:

Republican, 16 Delegates and 16 Alternate Delegates to the State Convention  
16 Delegates and 16 Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention

Democrat, 5 Delegates and 5 Alternate Delegates to the State Convention  
5 Delegates and 5 Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention

American Labor, Two Delegates and 2 Alternate Delegates to the State Convention

The following is the Fall Primary Vote:

City	1077	Rep	186	Dem	11	American Labor
Towns	2804		354		2	
Total	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
County	3881		540		13	

Following the Primary 91 Determinations on postal cards were mailed to the elected candidates.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION.

In early September, our office was advised by Governor Lehman that all Boards of Elections in this State would be charged with supervision and administration of registration in the Selective Service Plan, wherein all males, citizens and aliens alike, within the ages of 21 to 35 inclusive would be required to register personally. The purpose of this registration was to indicate those who might be called upon for military training in the Federal service.

Pursuant to a request by the Governor, which is tantamount to a command, Commissioner Mott and Clerk, Miss Grant, attended a meeting in the Executive Chambers, Albany, N. Y., when instructions and assignment of all duties in connection with the Selective Registration were given by the Governor and the Adjutant-General.

The Board of Elections was charged with the procurement and preparation of polling places and with the notification and direction of inspectors of election for the Special Registration.

Inspectors donated their services and the owners of polling places contributed the rentals. The town clerks also greatly assisted in the Registration.

Although this extra work came at a time when we were extremely busy with the largest Regular Registration in the history of our county, we are pleased to advise that the task was performed very satisfactorily and that no extra help was employed. The greatest evidence which contributes to our delectation is the fact that we did not receive one complaint or a request for a correction from the state departments.

GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 5th, 1940.

During the year, approximately 700 applications for absentee ballots were received. Each application was carefully scrutinized in order that the reasons so stated on the applications are in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law.

About 62 applications were rejected by this Board, because applicant's reason for requesting an absentee ballot did not comply with requirements so stated on the application blank. These 62 voters were immediately notified by this Board that their application had been rejected and the reason given for such denial.

The reports of nearly 50 hotels, boarding and rooming houses were thoroughly checked and assigned to the proper districts.

This office endured much anxiety caused by the Communist Party positions on the ballot. It was not until one week before the election, following a court's decision, that we were able to proceed with the printing of the face of the voting machines and the necessary supplies. Work had to be rushed and the printers worked nights in order to have the ballots and statements ready for the election.

The State Legislature in special session, because of increased registration throughout the State, passed an act under which polling places were kept open three additional hours for voting.

The 95 voting machines used in the General Election worked perfectly and reports revealed that fewer complaints were received than in previous years, and there were none of a serious character.

This office has grave concern because there is not one emergency machine for the 68 districts of the towns. We have advised your Board of this serious situation and we again call it to your attention in order that we may be relieved of any responsibility in the matter.

The following offices were voted for on the voting machines for the General Election:

President and Vice-President, 47 Electors  
Three Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals  
United States Senator  
Two Representatives in Congress at Large  
One Justice of the Supreme Court  
Representative in Congress  
State Senator  
Member of Assembly  
Special County Judge  
Surrogate  
County Treasurer  
Justice of the Peace and Superintendent of Highways in Antwerp and Wilna.

Pursuant to Section 273-a, The Commissioners of Elections and the custodians have recanvassed every one of the 95 voting machines and have found but few slight errors, which have no material effect on the vote of any candidate. In order to avoid extra expense to the county, the Commissioners have waived their rights to appoint a bipartisan recanvassing board and have performed the recanvass themselves.

The following shows the Registration and vote for 1940:

City	15407	Registration	15002	Vote
Towns	<u>33534</u>		<u>29857</u>	
Total County	48941		40659	

During the year 507 certificates of citizenship for citizens returning from Canada were issued. For these certificates, we collected \$126.75, which has been turned over to the county treasurer.

We have endeavored throughout the year to administer the affairs of our office in a satisfactory, yet economical manner, and in this we feel that we have succeeded. During the year, our printing forms have been solicited by eight different counties, because Jefferson County's low cost of printing has become known throughout the State. We understand our forms have been adopted in those counties.

This Board wishes to thank the members of your Honorable Board for your many favors, and we extend to each member a most cordial invitation to visit our office at any time and become acquainted in the work in which we are engaged.

Respectfully submitted,

William K. Mott  
Ella R. Overton

Commissioners of Elections and Custodians of  
Primary Records of Jefferson County

By Kate E. Grant, Clerk.

CENTRAL REGISTRATION

*Annual Report*

1940

Pursuant to the Provisions of the Election Law, the Board of Elections, serves during the month of August, as a Board of Central Registration. There were 234 voters who Centrally, personally registered in our office during August. These voters also enrolled and made application for absentee voters' ballots. As a comparison, we might make mention of the fact that in 1939, there were 76 Central Registrations

C. C. C. and Veterans Registrations

About 30 applications for Registration and absentee ballots were received from C. C. C. Camps and from Veteran Bureau Hospitals. Very few, if any of these voters indicated their election district and this failure caused much trouble and work in our office.

OFFICIAL FALL PRIMARY ELECTION, SEPTEMBER 17th, 1940.

From the period between the Spring Primary and August 17th, 200 changes were entered in the Enrollment Registers.

In this Primary, 26 petitions, containing 91 candidates were filed. There was but one contest. Petitions were thoroughly checked and entered in Record Book. Postals acknowledging filing of petitions were mailed to all candidates.

There were 35670 ballots printed, which included four different ballots.

The following public offices were nominated:

Representative in Congress,

State Senator

Member of Assembly,

Special County Judge

Surrogate

County Treasurer

Justice of the Peace and Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Wilna

The following party positions were elected:

Rep. 16 Delegates and 16 Alternate Delegates to the State Convention  
16 Delegates and 16 Alternate Delegates to the Judicial Convention

Dem 5  
5

A. L. 2  
2

The following is the Primary Vote:

City	1077	Rep	186	Dem	21	A. L.
Towns	2804		354		2	
	3881		540		13	

Following the Primary, Determinations were mailed to 91 candidates.

Although this extra work came at a time when we were extremely busy with the largest regular registration in the history of our county, we are pleased to advise that task was performed very satisfactorily and that no extra help was employed. The greatest evidence which contributed to our is that we did not receive one complaint or a request for a correction from the state departments.

This office endured much anxiety caused by the Communist Party position on the ballot. It was not until one week before the election, following a courts decision, that we were able to proceed with the printing of the face of the Voting Machines and the necessary supplies. Work had to be rushed and the printers worked nights in order to have ballots and statements ready for the election.

The State Legislature in special session, because of the increased registration throughout the State, passed an act under which pollint places were kep open three additional hours for voting.

The 95 voting machines used in the General Election worked perfectly and reports revealed that fewer complaints were received than in previous years, and there were none of a serious characted.

This office has gave concern because there is not one emergency machine for the 68 districts of the towns. We have advised your Board of this serious situation and we again call it to your attention in order that ~~thassssssss~~ we may be relieved of any responsibility in the matter.



OFFICIAL SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION, APRIL 2nd, 1940.

Because of the Spring Primaries, which occur in Presidential years, it was necessary to complete the enrollment by January 16th, 1940, which was the first day to circulate designating petitions. This great task was completed on time, and we are happy to advise you, that we do not know of one error, either in the registers or in the printed copies of the enrollment.

Because of the intense activities of the candidates for county committeemen, 205 changes were entered in the Enrollment Registers.

In this Primary, there were 384 designating petitions with 24 contests, which necessitated, examination, passing upon, filing, counting and entering in the Record Book, the names and addresses of all candidates designated or nominated.

Postals were mailed to the 384 candidates, notifying them of the filing and receipt of their petitions. Postals were also mailed to 78 contestants and to 234 members of vacancy committees, notifying them of the date when positions would be drawn by lot for places on the ballot.

There were 38290 ballots printed, which included 194 different ballots printed for the Spring Primary.

The following party positions were elected.

Two District Delegates to National Convention  
Two Alternate District Delegates to National Convention

1 Member of State Committee (Male)  
1 Member of State Committee (Female)

Two Members of County Committee in each of the election districts.

The following is the Spring Primary Vote.

City	1098 Rep	528 Dem	11 A. L.
Towns	2255	606	
Total			
County	3353	1134	11

Following the Primary 386 Determinations on postal cards were mailed to each elected candidate.

GENERAL ELECTION,            NOVEMBER 5th, 1940.

During the year, approximately 700 applications for absentee ballots were received. Each application was carefully scrutinized in order that the reasons so stated on the application are in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law.

About 62 applications were rejected by this Board, because applicant's reason for requesting an absentee ballot did not comply with requirements so stated on the application blank. These 62 persons were immediately notified by this Board that their application had been rejected and the reason given for such denial.

There were mailed by this office, 638 absentee ballots, which is about double the number of ballots mailed in 1939.

~~Hotels and Boarding Houses~~

The reports of nearly 50 hotels, boarding and rooming houses were thoroughly checked and assigned to the proper districts.

Voting Machines            Selective Service Registration

Appointment and instruction of 25 custodians of voting machines. In early September, we were advised by the Governor that all Boards of Elections of New York State would have have charge of the

In early September, our office was advised by Governor Lehman that all Boards of Elections in this State would be charged with supervision and administration of registration in the Selective Service Plan, wherein all males, citizens and aliens alike, within the ages of 21 to 35 inclusive would be required to register personally. The purpose of this registration was to indicate those who might be called upon for military training in the Federal service.

Pursuant to a request by the governor, which is tantamount to a command, Commissioner Mott and Clerk Miss Grant, attended a meeting in the Executive Chambers, Albany, N. Y., when instructions and assignment of duties were given by the governor and the adjutant-general.

The Board of Elections was charged with the procurement and preparation of polling places and with the notification and direction of inspectors of election for the Special Registration.

Inspectors of Elections donated their services and the owners of polling places contributed the rentals