

Watertown, N. Y.

December 3rd, 1941.

To :

The Honorable Michael F. Walsh

Secretary of State

Albany, N. Y.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County

In conformity with Section 34 of the Election Law, the Jefferson County Board of Elections herewith submits its Report for the year 1941, and as part of same, as is required by law, will be found statements showing the number of voters enrolled with each party, the registration and vote of the Primaries and General Elections.

The year 1941 is the thirtieth anniversary of this board's supervision of elections in Jefferson County. It was in 1911 that a bi-partisan system of authority and control of elections was established under the provisions of Section 30 of the Election Law.

The Board of Elections is charged with the duty of executing all laws relating to all registrations and Primaries, Special and General Elections. There are six separate and distinct kinds of registration in our county.

Briefly analyzed, this means the preparation of ballots for all elections, to the end that all vacancies for public offices and party positions may be filled; that qualified voters may exercise their right of franchise and that they be given the opportunity to execute that right and to vote for whom they choose with the least possible effort; that the vote of all elections be properly canvassed and a true count be given to each candidate.

We have definite reasons which bear out our statements that the Board of Elections of Jefferson County has followed the 350 sections of the New York State Election Law with remarkable intelligence and thoroughness with the least possible expense to our county.

E N R O L L M E N T

The 1940 Registration of the City of Watertown of 15407, and the 1940 vote in the 22 towns, of 25657, constituted the 1941 enrollment of 41064.

1941 Enrollment:

Watertown	9426	Rep	5526	Dem	54	A. L.	401	Blank-Void
Towns	<u>17980</u>		<u>7122</u>		<u>56</u>		<u>499</u>	
Total County	27406		12648		110		900	

OFFICIAL FALL PRIMARY ELECTION, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1941.

Nearly 200 changes of enrollment, caused by moving, becoming of age, gaining citizenship and errors in enrollment were recorded in two copies of the registers.

There were 399 petitions for county, town and city offices filed in this office. All petitions had to be thoroughly checked and candidates notified of the receipt of the petitions. Of this number, there were 95 contests. Contestants and at least three of their committees on vacancies were advised of the drawing of positions on the ballots.

This unprecedented large number of petitions was caused by the Primary system of nominating town officers in 16 towns and of the election of 190 members of the Republican County Committee.

There were printed for the Primaries, -Partisan and Non-Partisan, 65570 ballots, which were divided as follows:

- 95 different Republican ballots
- 13 " Democratic "
- 4 " American Labor ballots
- 1 Nonpartisan ballot for the City of Watertown

The 1941 Primary and nonpartisan Primary vote was as follows:

Watertown	2305	Rep	1292	Dem	4 A. L.	3710	Nonpartisan
Towns	<u>2753</u>		<u>274</u>		-	<u>      </u>	
Total	5058		1566		4	3710	

The following officers were nominated:

Sheriff  
County Clerk  
207 Town Officers in 16 towns  
28 City Supervisors  
4 City Councilmen (Double the number to be elected)

The following party positions were elected:

16 Republican Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention  
16 "            Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District  
                  Convention  
5 Democratic Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention  
5 "            Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District  
                  Convention

190 Members of the Republican County Committee.

Immediately after the Primaries, 414 Determinations were mailed to the nominated and elected candidates.

#### PARTY CAUCUSES

Then followed the Democratic Caucuses in 22 towns and the Republican Caucuses in 16 towns.

The certificates, showing the offices to be filled in the General Election, which this office received from the town clerks, were most unsatisfactory and entailed much extra work on the Board of Elections in an effort to have uniform town ballots.

#### CUSTODIANS

On August 30th, this board appointed 25 custodians of voting machines for the 1941 General Election. Appreciating the highly technical sections of the Election Law, that the custodians are governed by and with the situations that may arise, perhaps there is no class of public servants surrounded by more opportunities to commit technical violations of law, errors of omission or commission which may be unimportant to them but may result in criminal prosecution. With this in mind, each custodian was personally instructed on the adjustment and equipment of the machines to the end that the conduct of the election might be as perfect as humanly possible.

R E G I S T R A T I O N S

Central Registration: During the month of August, the Board of Elections served as a Board of Central Registration. About 75 voters took advantage of the privilege of personally registering, enrolling and making applications for absentee ballots. All registrants' names had to be inscribed in three registers and their signatures pasted in the Signature Copy of the Register.

Military Registration: Pursuant to a new section in the 1941 Election Laws, voters of the State in military service of the United States had the privilege of registering, enrolling and applying for absentee ballots. About 90 applications were received by this office and registered in three registers. Many of these soldiers in the service were voting for the first time, and it was a very difficult task to register them in the proper election districts.

The Registration of 1941 was as follows:

32247	22 towns,	67 nonpersonal election districts
<u>7931</u>	Watertown,	<u>28</u> personal election districts
40178		95 Total

GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 4th, 1941.

About 200 applications for absentee ballots were received. These applications had to be carefully checked and allocated in the proper districts.

The following officers were elected:

Justice of the Supreme Court  
Sheriff  
County Clerk  
In the City of Watertown  
Two Councilmen for Four Years  
Supervisor in each of the 12 wards  
in the towns  
Supervisor  
Town Clerk  
Justices of the Peace  
Councilmen  
Assessors  
Collector  
Superintendent of Highways  
School Director

The following questions were voted:

Four Amendments to the New York State Constitution  
Towns of Antwerp, Brownville and Orleans on the continuance  
of Justices of the Peace or the adoption of the office of  
Councilman.

Outline of the General Officers' ballots

297 candidates  
117 contests  
34 different ballots

The total vote and party vote was as follows:

	Total	Rep	Dem	A. L.	Blank
Watertown	6960	3214	2037	164	1545
Towns	<u>15055</u>	<u>8477</u>	<u>3844</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>2584</u>
County	22015	11691	5881	314	4129

This office endured much extra work and anxiety caused by the elimination of the Office of Comptroller from the ballots. Our ballots, labels, statements of canvass and tally sheets had all been printed. Seven days before the election, we were informed by the Secretary of State that the Office of Comptroller must be stricken from the ballots and new ballots printed.

To Mr. John M. Nolan, our sincere thanks is extended. By putting on an extra force of printers and working through the nights, Mr. Nolan was able to deliver the printing supplies in time for the custodians to equip the machines. Had voting machines not been used, it would not have been possible to have the paper ballots printed in time for the election.

We have encountered many entanglements incident to the preparation of elections, but this year climaxed all previous hardships.

About 200 air mail stamps were placed on the absentee ballots, and we are happy to advise that but three ballots were returned too late to be canvassed.

Following the recanvass of the 95 voting machines by the Commissioners of Elections and the canvass by the Board of Supervisors, 207 Determinations of Elections were mailed to the successful candidates.

The Commissioners of Elections and Clerk desire to thank each supervisor for the many courtesies shown to this office and again extend a sincere and cordial invitation to you to visit our office at any time and solicit any assistance or information within our jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella R. Overton, Commissioner

Clarence H. Burtch, Commissioner

Kate E. Grant, Clerk.

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STATE OF NEW YORK, )  
Board of Elections of Jefferson County, ) ss:

We, WILLIAM K. MOTT and ELLA R. OVERTON, Commissioners of Elections in and for Jefferson County, do hereby certify that we have compared the foregoing statement of canvass with the original statement thereof, filed in the Office of the Jefferson County Board of Elections on the..... day of....., and that the same is a true and correct transcript thereof, and of the whole of said original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of said office at the City of Watertown, N. Y., on this..... day of.....

.....  
.....  
Commissioners of Elections in and for  
Jefferson County.