

1945

Jefferson County Board of Elections

County Building

Watertown, N.Y.

November 28th, 1945.

To The Honorable Thomas J. Curran
Secretary of State
Albany, N. Y.

and
To The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Jefferson:

In conformity with section 34 of the Election Law, the Jefferson County Board of Elections herewith submits its report for the year 1944, and as a part of same, as required by law, will be found statements showing the number of voters enrolled in each party, the total registration of voters and the votes cast in the Primaries and General Election.

ORGANIZATION. The Jefferson County Board of Elections is organized pursuant to the State Election Law, and consists of a Republican and a Democratic Commissioner of Elections.

On the 28th day of June, 1944, following the recommendation of the Democratic County Committee, your Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. William R. Gillick of Clayton, N. Y. to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Ella E. Overton of Adams, N. Y., who is serving as the postmaster of Adams. Following the first meeting of the commissioners, Clarence H. Burch was elected President and Dr. William R. Gillick was elected Secretary of the Board of Elections.

ENROLLMENT. 13657 Civilian Personal Registration of 1944, City.
21743 " vote of 1944, Towns

35400 Total Enrollment of 1944.

The Enrollment of 1944, was divided as follows:

City	3309	Rep	5052	Dem	45	Am. Lab.
Towns	15131		6080		47	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
County	28440		11132		92	

Blanks and voids numbered 836.

No provision was made in the War Ballot Law to allow members of the armed forces to enroll, but returned soldiers who wished to specially enroll and participate in the Primaries, took advantage of section 184 of the Election Law and were enrolled.

PRIMARIES, OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL.

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PRIMARIES, OFFICIAL AND NONP OFFICIALS.

July 31, 1948.

Primary dates were advanced seven weeks in order to provide for the "Voting of Members of Armed Forces During Time of War."

The intense activities of the many candidates for offices caused more than 300 changes of enrollment by those who had moved, become of age, gaining of citizenship by naturalization, errors in enrollment and by returned soldiers.

Petitions filed for Primaries:

156	petitions for offices
123	" " party positions
<u>279</u>	Total petitions filed.

There were 369 postal notices of filing mailed to designated and nominated candidates. In the Primaries, there were 42 contests, necessitating the mailing of 168 postal notices to the contestants and their committees on vacancies.

All petitions were counted, examined, passed upon, filed and recorded.

The following offices were nominated:

County Judge, Surrogate, Special Surrogate, District Attorney, City Judge of Watertown, City Supervisors, City Councilmen and Town Officers in the 17 towns having Primary nominations.

The following party positions were elected:

Eight Delegates and eight Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention of the Republican Party.

Four Delegates and four Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention of the Democratic Party.

Two Republican County Committee Members in each of the 94 election districts of the county.

One hundred and nine different ballots were printed.

Primary Party Vote.

City	4301	Rep	938	Dem	3	Am. Lab	5410	Nonpartisan
Towns	7926		357					
<u>County</u>	<u>12227</u>		<u>1295</u>		<u>3</u>			

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Results of the Primaries:

312 party positions elected
210 Offices nominated
422 Postal Determinations mailed

CAUCUSES. Republican caucuses were held in five towns and Democratic caucuses were held in fifteen towns.

The Election Law was amended or affected by a total of 54 changes by the Laws of 1945. Practically all of these added new duties for the Board of Elections. The change which caused the greatest labor for this office was Sec. 41, which provides that the Board of Elections, instead of the mayor of a city, shall appoint election inspectors for each district, fill vacancies and perform other duties as to appointments. There were 112 city inspectors appointed, "sworn in" and certificates issued by this office.

REGISTRATION.

Five systems of Registration were conducted during the present year; consisting of Central Registration, which lasted four months, personal, nonpersonal, military and veterans.

There were 72 Central Registrations in this office. These registrations had to be entered in the three copies of the Registers. There were 104 Military Registrations, which had to be entered in the special war registers.

GENERAL ELECTION.

November 6th, 1945.

Besides the county, town and city offices elected, six amendments to the State Constitution and one proposition was submitted.

For the General Election, 102 different ballots were printed, which comprised voting machine ballots, war ballots and regular absentee ballots.

The following was the General Election vote:

19725 civilian vote on voting machines
84 soldier vote
19809 Total vote.

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Following the election, the Board of Elections served as the County Board of canvassers. This board certified and issued 209 postal determinations of elections.

Pursuant to section 273-a of the Election Law, the Commissioners of Elections reconvened the 94 voting machines of the county and found but few slight errors in tabulations, which did not change the final results. For this reconvening, 541 postal notices were mailed to the State and County Chairmen of the two major parties, all nominated candidates and custodians, giving the time and place where each machine was to be reconvened.

Although, Miss Grant, clerk in the office, was confined in a hospital for seven weeks, she was in daily contact with the office and took charge of every detail. We are very happy to state, the election was conducted very satisfactorily.

During the past year, callers in the office on business incident to the Primaries, Central Registration and elections, were more numerous than in any previous year. We were called upon by many state and county departments, persons and concerns to look up information and to furnish certified copies of such findings.

We have endeavored to cut costs to a minimum and have effected great savings in printing because we salvaged all returned printing matter and reduced the orders for ballots to an amount which in our judgment would be sufficient.

This board wishes to acknowledge its sincere appreciation to your board for the co-operation accorded it in the discharge of its duties and functions, all of which are made mandatory by the provisions of the Election Law.

Respectfully submitted,

Clarence M. Burtch, Commissioner

William F. Gillick, Commissioner

Kate E. Grant, Clerk

Jefferson County Board of Elections.