

1948

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Watertown, N. Y.
January 15th, 1949.

To:

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

Honorable Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County

In conformity with Section 34 of the Election Law, the Board of Elections of the County of Jefferson, herewith submits its report for the year 1948, and as a part of same, as required by law, will be found statements showing the number of registered voters, male and female; the number of voters enrolled with each political party, and the vote cast in the Official Primaries and General Election.

ORGANIZATION

The Jefferson County Board of Election is organized pursuant to the State Election Law and functions as a bi-partisan board under two commissioners. The present commissioners are Dr. William P. Gillick, Clayton, N. Y., appointed June 25th, 1945 and Mr. Manford H. Jerome, appointed January 2nd, 1947. Miss Kate E. Grant is the clerk.

ENROLLMENT.....1948.

Watertown	6386	Rep	3023	Dem	46	Am. Lab.	16	Liberal
Towns	10037		3993		23		10	

County	16423		7016		69		26	
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Blanks and voids numbered 860

SPRING PRIMARIES, April 6th, 1948.

"Each year in which a President of the United States is to be elected an additional Official Primary Election shall be held on the first Tuesday in April."

Four parties, who were entitled to do so under the statute, participated in the Primaries.

The following party positions were elected:

Two District Delegates and Two Alternate District to the National Convention

Two Members of State Committee, a male and a female, of the Republican and Democratic Parties.

Five Members of State Committees, American Labor and Liberal Parties.

Two Members of County Committees, Democrat, American Labor and Liberal Parties.

For the Primary 223 petitions were filed. All petitions were acknowledged by postal cards. There were three contests. Different ballots printed numbered 109.

The Spring Primary Vote was as follows:

Watertown	324	Rep	249	Dem	2	Am. Lab.	8	Liberal
Towns	597		306		-		-	
County	921		555		2		8	

There were 36 changes of enrollment because of sickness, moving, errors, becoming of age, naturalization and returning from military service. (Sec. 184). Postal card determinations were mailed to 199 elected candidates.

FALL PRIMARIES, August 24th, 1948.

Again the date of the Official Primaries was advanced to assist members of the armed forces to receive absentee ballots.

The following offices were nominated:

Representative in Congress in the 34th Congressional District

State Senator in the 42nd Senatorial District

Member of Assembly, First Assembly District

Special Surrogate

District Attorney

Justices of the Peace to Fill Vacancies in the Towns of Hounsfield and

Rodman

Eight petitions were filed and acknowledged by postal cards. There were no contests. Five different ballots were printed.

The Fall Primary Vote was as follows:

Watertown	2139	Rep	239	Dem	3	Am. Lab	7	Liberal
Towns	3551		323		-		-	
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County	5690		562		3		7	

During the year, 78 Election Bills were introduced in the Legislature of which 24 were passed and signed by Governor Dewey. These bills had to be studied for correct interpretation, application and preparation for new printing forms.

Postal card notices to 112 newly recommended city inspectors were mailed. Four instructions, three in the evening and one in the afternoon, were given after which inspectors were sworn in and certificates of appointment were issued. We believe these instructions have proved to be of great value, because it was not necessary for this office to call in one of the city boards of inspectors to correct their returns.

REGISTRATION

During the year, five systems of Registration were conducted by this office, which included Central Registration from July 1st to September 20th, Personal Registration for four days, Nonpersonal Registration for two days, Servicemen's Registration and hospitalized Veterans' Registration.

There were 267 voters, who came to this office and Centrally Registered and enrolled. Of this number, about 200 applied for absentee ballots. These 267 Central Registrations had to be entered in the three 1948 Registers by this office before they were taken over by the regular inspectors.

The 1948 Registration was as follows:

Watertown	12836	6400 Males	6436 Females
Towns	33030	16713	16317
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County	45866	23113	22753

GENERAL ELECTION, November 2nd, 1948.

Twenty-five custodians were instructed on the care, adjustment, equipment and operation of the 94 voting machines. It is gratifying to state that during the year, not one voting machine was replaced. The county emergency machine and the city emergency machine were fully equipped and ready for immediate replacement, but it was not necessary to use these machines.

The following officers were elected:

Forty-seven Electors for President and Vice-President, (occupying one space on the machine)

- Representative in Congress
- State Senator
- Member of Assembly
- Special Surrogate
- District Attorney

A Justice of the Peace to Fill Vacancy in the Towns of Hounsfield and Redman.

Eleven different ballots were printed.

There were 710 absentee ballots of which 47 were War Ballots.

The General Election Vote was as follows:

Total	Rep	Dem	Am. Lab.	Liberal	Socialist	Ind. Gov't	Soc. Workers
City	12308	6325	5464	212	144	50	3
Towns	21424	13336	7318	200	250	45	1
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County	33732	19661	12782	412	394	95	4
	Blanks	City	109				
		Towns	271				

County 380 1 Void absentee ballot.

The Board of Elections served as the Board of County Canvassers. Immediately after the Election, the Commissioners recanvassed the 94 machines in the county. This recanvass was completed in five days, which was the shortest time this work was ever accomplished. During the recanvass of the machines, the clerk recanvassed the absentee ballots, and

the board was able to mail Statements of Canvass to the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General and the Determinations of Elections to the local candidates on November 11th, 1948.

Our policy of economy has prevailed throughout the year; this we believe mandatory because of the excessive cost of supplies and printing labor.

In conclusion, the commissioners and clerk desire to thank the members of the Board of Supervisors, the painstaking printers, the police department and all who have rendered assistance during the year.

Gratefully acknowledging your co-operation and extending the availabilities of our office, we remain

Respectfully yours,

William P. Gillick, Democratic Commissioner

Manford H. Jerome, Republican Commissioner

Kate E. Grant, Clerk