

1953

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Watertown, N. Y.  
January 12th, 1954.

To:

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

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of Jefferson:

In conformity with the provisions of Section 34 of the Election Law, of the State of New York, the Jefferson County Board of Elections, herewith submits its report for the year 1953, and as a part of same, as required by law, will be found statements showing the number of registered voters, males and females, the number of voters enrolled in each political party, the vote cast in the Official Primaries, the Nonpartisan Primaries and the General Election.

ENROLLMENT - 1953.

Watertown	9815	Rep.	4904	Dem	19	Liberal	13	American Labor
Towns	18122		6912		38		11	
County	27937		11816		57		24	

Blank and void enrollment blanks numbered 893

OFFICIAL FALL PRIMARIES AND NONPARTISAN PRIMARIES, September 15th, 1953.

Four official parties participated in the Official Primaries. All registered voters in the City of Watertown were eligible to participate in the Nonpartisan Primary.

The following offices were designated by petitions: County Judge, Sheriff, County Clerk, District Attorney, town officers in 16 towns, supervisors in each of the 12 wards of the City of Watertown and four councilmen for four years in the Nonpartisan Primary.

The following party positions were nominated by party petitions:

Republican: Eight Delegates and Eight Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention

Democrat: Five Delegates and Five Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention.

Liberal: One Delegate and One Alternate Delegate to the State Convention

Two Members of the Republican County Committee in each of the 95 election districts of the County of Jefferson.

Changes of enrollment because of becoming of age, sickness, moving, errors, naturalization and return from military service numbered approximately 60.

For the Primaries, 380 petitions were filed. Postal card notices of filing of petitions were mailed to all 380 candidates

The Primary vote was as follows:

Watertown	1868	Rep	337	Dem.	4	Liberal	1	A. L.	4837	Nonpartisan
Towns	6367		416							
County	8235		753		4		1		4837	

Postal card Determinations of Nominations and Elections were mailed to 166 candidates.

Postal card notices for the instruction of city inspectors were mailed to 116 inspectors. Three instructions were given; one in the afternoon and two in the evening. Inspectors were sworn in and received certificates of appointments.

The town clerks of the various towns performed similar duties.

#### CAUCUSES

Republican Party Caucuses were held in six towns and Democratic Party Caucuses were held in 15 towns.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Election Law, it was necessary to receive acceptances of nominations before candidates' names could be printed on the General Election Ballots. This office mailed 183 double postal cards; from which 175 acceptances and eight declinations were received.

#### REGISTRATIONS

As has been the custom for the past few years, five systems of Registrations were conducted by this office, including Central Registration from May 1st to September 18th; four days of Personal Registration, two days of Nonpersonal Registration, Servicemen's Registration and Hospitalized Veterans Registration.

The 1953 Registration was as follows:

City	7117	3463 Males	3654 Females
Towns	33321	16635	16686
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County	40438	20098	20340

During the year, there were 88 Central Registration and 22 Servicemen's Registration. This necessitated 330 entries in the three registers for 1953, before they could be delivered to the inspectors.

#### GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1953.

Twenty-five custodians were instructed, appointed and sworn in by this office.

The machines in the towns were perfectly equipped and all worked satisfactorily. We are extremely grieved to admit that we are unable to make the same statement about the city machines.

Section 250 of the Election Law requires that all offices where there are no nominations must be covered with a shield. This provision was not followed on the city machines. Because of these errors, it was possible for the voter to pull down levers for a blank nomination; thus losing his vote for that panel on the machine. These errors are chargeable to eight election officials. Fortunately, but one office, the office of Supervisor in the Twelfth Ward, suffered.

Because of the resignation of Surrogate Russell Wright, it was necessary for the county committees to meet and nominate a candidate for Surrogate. Leon Schwerzmann, Jr. was nominated for Surrogate by both the Republican and Democratic Parties.

The following offices were elected in the 1953 General Election:

Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals  
Two Justices of the Supreme Court, Fifth Judicial District  
County Judge  
Surrogate  
Sheriff  
County Clerk  
District Attorney  
Town officers in 22 towns  
Supervisor in each of the Twelve Wards of the City of Watertown  
Two Councilmen for Four Years in the City of Watertown

Nine Amendments to the State Constitution were also voted on.

The 1953 General Election Vote was as follows:

City	6250		
Towns	13783	Total County	20033

Postal card notices giving the dates for the Recanvass of all voting machines by the Commissioners of Elections were mailed to 360 candidates and to state and County Chairmen

Postal card Determinations of Elections were mailed to 217 elected officers.

PURGING OF REGISTERS IN THE 66 ELECTION DISTRICTS OF THE TOWNS

The year 1954 will go down in history as the year when the gravest and most laborious task was assigned to the Board of Elections.

This is the year all rural eligible voters who have not voted at least once in the last four years at a General Election are to be notified of such failure and if no request is made to retain the name on the register, his name must be purged from the 1954 Registers.

We have already started purging over 33,000 voters because this work must be completed by April 1st, 1954. At this time double post card notices must be mailed to each non-voter telling him that Section 157-a of the Election Law required that his name be removed from the voting list as the result of his failure to vote at least once at a General Election during the past four years.

A voter wishing to continue his name on the register must return a postal application not later than September 15th, 1954. The applications for re-instatement must be processed and a list of same mailed to each polling place.

We sincerely trust the Board of Elections will be able to perform this tremendous task on time and without any entanglements. Ofcourse, extra clerical assistance must be employed.

The Board of Elections wishes to acknowledge and tender its sincere appreciation and thanks for the co-operation extended to this office by the Board of Supervisors, printers and Sheriff's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jefferson County Board of Elections

Manford H. Jerome, Republican Commissioner

Elmer C. Gosler, Democratic Commissioner

Kate E. Grant, Clerk