

December 26, 1978

TO: JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County Building  
175 Arsenal St.  
Watertown, NY 13601

SUBJECT: JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS - ANNUAL REPORT - 1978

This annual report of the Board of Elections of Jefferson County for the year ending December 31, 1978, is hereby submitted.

Number of Election Districts in the County.....	95
Number of Voting Machines in the County.....	104
Number of Districts using one machine.....	90
Number of Districts using two machines.....	6
Machines owned by the County.....	2
Extra machines owned by the Towns & City.....	6

The first day of central registration for the year 1978 in Jefferson County started December 9, 1977 and continued through September 1, 1978. 550 registered centrally during this period. One day of local registration was held this year on October 14, 1978, from 12:00 Noon until 9:00 PM with 694 registrations at the polling places.

This office processed and approved 2,514 applications for registration and enrollment by mail during the year 1978. A total of 1,416 applications for registration and enrollment by mail forms were dispersed to schools in Jefferson County for registrations of students who would be 18 years of age on election day or the day after. Other Civic organizations requested and received mail registrations forms for voter registration. A total of 3,758 registered to vote for the year 1978, which includes re-registrations of voters who have moved within the county.

The process of preparing the Primary Enrollment Books starts in mid-November of each year and requires at least 6 weeks work by every one in this department. A careful review of each voters registration record is made by checking serial number, name, address and party enrollment with a master list and recording any changes thereto. Primary Enrollment Books were printed in February 1978 by Jefferson County Printing Department containing 38,950 registered voters. At the request of the State Board of Elections, an updated primary list was printed in July containing 39,369 registered voters.

Enrollment tables are prepared after the publication of primary enrollment books, showing prior year registration by district, total votes cast by district in the last election, current enrollment by party and district. Printing is done by Jefferson County Printing Department

Primary Enrollment lists were supplied for Village and School elections from March thru June 1978.

Primary Election was held on September 12, 1978 from 12:00 Noon until 9:00PM. A State wide Democratic Primary was held for Governor and Attorney General, in addition, Democratic candidates were nominated for town offices in Antwerp, Champion and Philadelphia. The Conservative Party held a state wide primary for Attorney General. The voters of the 114th Assembly District were given an opportunity to write-in a candidate of their choice on the Conservative line thru an "Opportunity to Ballot". The only Republican Primary was held in the Town of Champion for Superintendent of Highways. Candidates were nominated by the Republican Party for Town Offices in Antwerp, Champion, Henderson, LeRay, Lyme, Pamela, Philadelphia, Rodman and Theresa.

The first Special Election in Jefferson County, which was proclaimed by Governor Carey, was held on September 12, 1978, in the Town of Wilna, for Supervisor (to fill vacancy). 1,279 voted in this Special Election.

The City of Watertown Non-Partisan Primary was held on September 12, 1978, for Councilman (to fill vacancy). 820 votes were cast in this primary.

Hungerford Holbrook Printing Company announced in May they would not be in the position to print election material. Other printing companies were contacted to see if they were interested in printing of election material for Jefferson County. Of primary importance was their background in election printing and the type of equipment with back-up machines for contingencies, and of course what the cost would be for Jefferson County. United Printing Company, Inc., Fayetteville, New York was the only company interested in doing this work.

Ballots and supplies for the Primary Election, Special Election and City of Watertown Non-Partisan Election were printed by United Printing Co., Inc. at a cost of \$1775, of which, \$370 was a City charge.

Applications for Absentee Ballots for the Primary, Special and General Election are as shown below. 1,563 requests were made for applications, with the same number being mailed.

<u>BALLOTS</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SPECIAL</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>
Regular	91	11	736
Confined	135	23	165
Military	129	27	246
Total	355	61	1147

Registrations lists for October, 1978, tabulated after the one day of local registration on October 14, 1978, and a Supreme Court Order for registration and enrollment on one voter revealed the following:

City of Watertown	12,557
Towns of Jefferson Co.	27,332
Total County	39,889

Other Supreme Court Orders were issued for the general election, one directing this office to deliver an application for an absentee ballot and a absentee ballot. This was issued because the deadline for application had expired. The second order, after consideration by the Supreme Court, ruled in favor of the Board of Elections not to register a voter, again the reason being the deadline for registration had expired.

The General Election was held on November 7, 1978, at which candidates were elected to the following State Offices.

Governor and Lieutenant Governor	
Attorney General	
Representative in Congress	30th Dist.
State Senator	45th Dist.
Member of Assembly	114th Dist.

The re-canvass of voting machines started on November 8, 1978 and was completed on November 13, 1978.

Nine towns in Jefferson County elected candidates to offices to fill vacancies.

The voters in the City of Watertown elected a new Councilman to fill a vacancy on the Council in the Non-Partisan Election.

General Election ballots and machine supplies were printed by United Printing Co., Inc., at at cost of \$1598.80

26,468 of 39,889 registered voters cast their vote in the November 7, 1978 General Election. This represents 66.35% voter participation on a County wide basis.

An Election Inspectors school was conducted in August for 2 weeks, during which 360 inspectors were trained. Election inspectors examinations were given to 65 inspectors.

A school of instruction on voting machines for City Election Inspectors was conducted by this office in August at the Municipal Building, City Hall. 41 city inspectors attended this school. Instructors were Mr. Fred Bates and Mr. Michael Flanagan, city machine custodians.

Old enrollment books of historical value were removed from storage at Glen Park and placed in a more suitable area under the County Court building.

A review of voter registration books for all districts of Jefferson County was started in late november. It was determined that 206 voters who had not voted in 1975 or 1976, but who were reinstated in 1977, did not vote again on November 7, 1978. In compliance with the Election Law, this number of 206 has been cancelled, a letter sent advising each voter of their cancellation.

At this date another review of the voter registration books has been completed and reveals that 5,382 voters in Jefferson County did not vote in 1977 or 1978. A dual postal card has been prepared, addressed and will be mailed to each person who failed to vote in 1977 or 1978. In compliance with Election Law, a voter is given three weeks to return this affidavit request form, the cards that are not returned, then of course their voter registration will be cancelled in late January 1979 with a letter advising each voter of this action.

During the year, information is received by this office of registered voters who have moved within the county or who have moved out of the county, these voters are then advised by mail of their status, ie, re-registration or cancellation.

Financial reporting forms are filed in this office for candidates for public office, except for state wide offices. Political committees, clubs and organizations must also file financial reports.

A program is in process to micro-film several thousand cancelled voter registration records. This should be completed in the near future.

The cost of Registrations and Elections to Jefferson County for the year 1978.

A1450.1	Personal Services	\$34,268.85
A1450.2	Equipment	10.00
A1450.4	Contractual Expenses	12,123.78
	Total	\$46,402.63

All of which is respectfully submitted.

*W. L. Milton*

W. L. Milton  
Chief Clerk  
Board of Elections