

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

To The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County:

The Board of Elections of the County of Jefferson submits herewith its annual report for 1928.

Total Number of Election Districts	111
Paper Ballot Districts	89
Machine Districts	22
Total number of Machines	28

The Total Enrollment of 1928 was

	Towns	City	Total
Republican	12578	5866	18444
Democrat	5359	2051	7390
Socialist	49	33	82

The Total Number of Votes Cast in the Spring Primary was

Republican	1553
Democrat	756
Socialist	5

The Total Number of Votes Cast in the Fall Primary was

Republican	10728
Democrat	792
Socialist	4

The Total Number of Applications for Central Registration was 303, of which 213 were accepted and registered.

The Total Number of Requests for Absentee Applications was 1050, of which 782 were returned and accepted and Absentee Ballots mailed. There were 731 Absentee Ballots returned and voted, either in the Office of the Board of Elections or at the respective polling places. Ten ballots were received after the hour for acceptance and could not be voted.

The Total Registration of 1928 was

Towns	32646	City	14953	Total	47599
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The Total Vote at the General Election of 1928 was

Towns	25499	City	14416	Total	39915
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The Total Enrollment of 1929 will be 40452

During the year, four elections were held; two Primaries, a State and a National Election. As you well know, this has been the busiest year in regard to the amount of work in the voting and election history of Jefferson County. In all of these elections, not a single hitch of any inconvenience was encountered.

This year, for the first time, was held what is known as Central Registration for the City of Watertown. Although the law was not generally understood, 303 voters sought to enjoy its privileges. Central Registration was held in the Office of the Board of Elections every Monday, Friday and Saturday, between July 1st and September 20th. As is invariably the case, there was a mad rush on the last few days. At this time central registrants had the opportunity of enrolling. Applications had to be acted upon, accepted and entered in four registers.

Two Primaries also caused much labor. Although the vote in the Spring Primary was very small, just as much preparation had to be made as if there had been a spirited contest and many votes cast. The Fall Primary of 1928, will go down in history as the largest primary ever held. The office of surrogate was the cause of this. At one time, there were nine candidates in the lists. Five candidates were designated on the Republican ballot and the designating petitions were all checked by this office, because of the fear that while the petitions had a thousand or more signers, the signatures were not valid or in proper form.

The unprecedented registration of 1928 was a source of much surprise.

The whole election system of the county is dependent on the integrity, intelligence and experience of the Board of Elections. The office is, therefore, of more importance than ordinarily believed. While the office does not demand for 365 days in the year, the immediate and personal presence of the election commissioners themselves, it is well to bear in mind that the office is opened on all business days for the transaction of business relating to the election affairs of the county.

The intelligent conduct of the affairs of the election officers requires a degree of accuracy and a thoroughness of application and experience which apparently has escaped the notice, not only of the board of supervisors, but of the public generally. We believe that it is of importance that the attention of your honorable body be directed to the fact that the Office of the Board of Elections is one of the most important offices in the county.

This county, in common with many other upstate counties, many of whose election districts are remote and inaccessible was severely criticised at the last election because of the delay in election returns. The election districts in the county using voting machines were as usual very prompt in their reports and this was true throughout the state. Most and probably all towns in Jefferson County can well afford to purchase machines, and their long and successful use in about 75 % of the election districts of the state had proved their absolute reliability. We earnestly recommend their adoption in all towns of the county.

We pride ourselves on the fact that Jefferson County was one of the few counties of the state in which an out of town representative of a candidate or candidates did not reconvene the returns of the Board of Elections.

We can not speak but in complimentary terms of the work of the election officers in the various districts of the county. We do urge very strongly that great care be exercised in the selection of inspectors of election, as it is a very important office and requires inspectors who possess clerical ability as well as honesty. Next year occurs the town elections and it is especial importance that all inspectors of election be competent, because invariably in town elections, town officers are elected by one or two votes. We will appreciate the co-operation of the members of your honorable body in the selection of efficient inspectors.