

25th Anniversary

1936

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

Due to the fact that the Office of the Board of Elections is this year celebrating its 25th anniversary, I believe that it is fitting and proper that the clerk of this office should advise your board of the rating of the office and of the drastic changes, duties and functions, which by law have been added in the conduct of elections.

This office is considered the very best small office in the State. The records are quickly available and entirely correct. The Department of State to whom we are responsible has informed us on many occasions that our records and statements are the first filed in its office and never have they been returned for corrections.

One announcement, which no doubt will appeal to your board and also to your personal pride, is that our printing expenses are exceptionally low and far under the majority of other counties.

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of the Election Law, the Jefferson County Board of Election herewith submits its annual report for the year 1936, and as a part of the same, as required by law, will be found statements showing the number of voters enrolled in each political party, the registration of voters, the vote of the Spring and Fall Primaries and the party vote of the General Election.

The 1935 registration of 11569 in the City of Watertown and the 1935 vote in the towns of the county, amounting to 23837, totaled the enrollment of 35406 for the year 1936.

The number of voters enrolled in each party for the year 1936 was as follows:

	Dem	Rep	Soc	Com
Watertown	3688	7607	44	8
Towns	7053	16074	63	6
Total County	10741	23681	107	14

Blank and void enrollments were 863

SPRING PRIMARY, APRIL 2nd, 1936.

Because of the Spring Primary, it was necessary to complete the enrollment by January 16th, 1936, which was the first day to sign designating petitions. This great task was completed on time and we are pleased to announce that we do not know of one error, either in the registers or in the printed copies of the enrollment.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 184 of the Election Law, approximately 200 changes, transfers and additions were made in the enrollment registers.

Nearly 600 petitions were filed in this office for the Spring Primaries. There were contests for county committeemen in practically every district in both the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Because of drastic changes in the Election Law, much study, care and attention had to be given to the new form of Primary Ballots.

The following party positions were elected by the Democratic, Republican and Socialist Parties:

Two Delegates and two Alternate Delegates to the National Convention.

One Member of State Committee (Male)
One Member of State Committee (Female)
Two Members of County Committee in each of the 114 districts

For the Spring Primary, 40885 ballots were printed, of which 36625 were Official Ballots and 4260 were Sample Ballots.

The Spring Primary Vote was as follows:

Democratic	4533
Republican	5841
Socialist	18

CENTRAL REGISTRATION, AUGUST 1st to AUGUST 31st, 1936.

During the month of August, this board became a Board of Central Registration, at which time electors who expected to be unavoidably absent from the county on the regular Registration Days could centrally register, enroll and make application for absentee ballots. Under this law, 288 voters took advantage of this opportunity.

CIVILILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS REGISTRATION

About 100 applications were filed by the Secretary of State for this form of registration and about 75 were accepted by this Board.

FALL PRIMARY ELECTION, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1936.

Approximately 500 changes were made under Section 184.

The following offices were nominated:

Representative in Congress, 32nd District
State Senator, 37th District
Member of Assembly, First District
County Judge
Special Surrogate
District Attorney

The following party positions were elected:

12 Delegates and 12 Alternate Delegates to Republican State Convention
12 Delegates and 12 Alternate Delegates to Judicial District Convention
6 Delegates and 6 Alternate Delegates to Democratic State Convention
6 Delegates and 6 Alternate Delegates to Democratic Judicial Convention
1 Delegate and 1 Alternate to Socialist State Convention.

We will long remember the intense activity and bitter strif in the contests for Delegates and alternate Delegates to the State Convention of the Republican Party.

As in the Spring Primary, 40885 ballots were printed.

The Fall Primary Vote was as follows:

Democratic	1704
Republican	9904
Socialist	12

REGISTRATION

Because of the purchase of voting machines, nine districts were eliminated, making a total of 105 districts in the county.

The Registration of 1936 was as follows:

33962	22 towns, 73 nonpersonal districts
<u>14648</u>	Watertown, 27 personal districts
48610	Total Registration of county

GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 3rd, 1936.

Because of the excessive Registration throughout this State, a Special Session of the Legislature was held, the State Constitution amended and the hours for voting were changed to 6 A. M. to 9 P. M.

The following officers were elected:

- 47 Electors of President and Vice-President
- Governor
- Lieutenant-Governor
- Comptroller
- Attorney-General
- Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Two Representatives in Congress at Large
- Justice of the Supreme Court, Fifth Judicial District
- Representative in Congress, 32nd Congressional District
- State Senator, 37th Senatorial District
- Member of Assembly, First Assembly District
- County Judge
- Special Surrogate
- District Attorney

The following were also voted:

Proposition, \$30,000,000. for Welfare Relief
 Question, Shall there be a convention to revise the
 State Constitution and amend the same ?

The Town of Henderson voted on a Town Proposition

The Towns of Brownville and Orleans voted on three Excise Questions.

Voting machine districts	27 Watertown	
	29 Towns	
Total		56
Paper ballot districts		<u>49</u>
	Total	105

The General Election Vote was as follows:

Vote for Presidential Electors

Democratic	13773
Republican	24923
Socialist	544
Communist	23
American-Labor	202

Party Vote	Total	Dem	Rep	Soc	Com	Am-Lab	Dem-Am	B	V
Towns	25839	7072	17243	317	20	141	6	1013	77
City	<u>14171</u>	<u>6258</u>	<u>7190</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>69</u>		<u>422</u>	
	40060	13340	24433	532	27	210		1435	77

Voting Machines

As in all past elections, the voting machines worked perfectly. The voting was rapid and accurate, and the canvass completed a few minutes after the polls were closed. This board is greatly indebted to the Automatic Voting Machine Corporation of Jamestown, N.Y., for the instructions which its representatives rendered to the new custodians and some of the old custodians, servicing each of the new 18 districts preparatory for voting and for a complete check of every new district on Election Day.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the Board of Supervisors, and especially our Committee on Elections, for their considerations and extend to all a cordial invitation to visit our office at any time and seek the benefits of any information or assistance within our jurisdiction.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Jefferson County Board of Elections

William K. Mott, Republican Commissioner

Bernard J. Redmond, Democratic
Commissioner

Kate E. Grant, Clerk

Twenty-fifth Anniversary

This year, 1936, is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the Jefferson County Board of Elections and its supervision of elections. It was not until the creation of bi-partisan boards of elections in this State in 1911, that real progress along proper administrative lines was made possible. The best evidence of the wisdom of bi-partisan boards of elections is the fact that throughout the 25 years of this board's existence no scandal of any kind, and indeed, no serious criticism of its actions has ever attached to the Board of Elections of this county.

Many of the duties of this office are difficult and onerous, but we believe they have been performed with remarkable intelligence, thoroughness and dispatch. Thus, the preparation for taking enrollments, the transcribing thereof and the formulation and publication of enrollment lists and the correction thereof have been promptly and carefully done.

This board has always considered that its duties are purely ministerial and in answering questions relating to elections has yet to ask the politics of a single voter. The board has been ever watchful for the convenience of its electorate. Its paramount aim has been that everyone qualified to vote shall exercise his or her right of franchise with as little trouble as possible and that the vote shall be correctly counted to the end that the candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall receive their certificates of election.

We call attention to the amazing growth of the Registration and Vote of Jefferson since 1911, when the office was created.

1936	48810	Registration	40060	Vote
1911	21594	"	15538	"
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Increase	27216	"	24522	"

This Board is charged with the duty of executing the laws relating to all elections held in the 22 towns and the City of Watertown, Jefferson County.

Added Functions since 1911

- 1918 Women received the right of franchise. Registration and vote was nearly doubled.
- 1920 Absentee voting. It became the duty of this board to pass on the legality of hundreds of applications for absentee ballots for those entitled to receive them, and mail ballots to all parts of the United States/ When voted absentee ballots are returned, they are then sent with the election supplies to the proper polling place for canvass. This year, 527 absentee ballots were voted.
- 1922 Since 1922, the county canvass has been made by Board of Elections and not by the Board of Supervisors.
- 1928 Central Registration. During the month of August, 288 Central Registrations were filed in this office, for 1936 election.
- 1931 Veteran Absentee Registration. Persons honorably discharged from military or naval service may have the privilege of this method of registration. Our county has been most fortunate in that all absentee registrations by veterans have been from voters who live in non-personal districts. The year, 1935, was the only year that it was necessary for a Republican and a Democratic inspector to go to a military hospital for veterans registration.
- 1935 Approximately 100 applications were received in 1935 and also in 1936, from the Secretary of State under this new act. Not one voter knew his election district and it has been most difficult to place the registrants in the proper districts.

Jefferson County

Since 1933, the Republican Party in 16 towns has abandoned the old party caucus and has adopted the Primary system of nominating town officers. This work has greatly increased our labors, as your board will clearly understand when we state that nearly 300 petitions are filed disclosing nearly 75 contests. The majority of the petitions, like all the petitions for county offices are filed on the last day for filing. The cost of the Republican Primaries has been materially increased, because it is necessary to print 16 different ballots.

City of Watertown

In 1920, the City of Watertown adopted city managerial form of government and pursuant to a special act, nominates a mayor and four councilmen in a Nonpartisan Primary. Again the work was added to this office. The expense of this decidedly different form of Primary, ballots and printing supplies is bory by the City of Watertown.

After perusing the above added functions which by law have come to this office since the year 1911, you will very quickly realize that the conduct of elections at the present time is entirely different than it was 25 years ago.

Permanent registration is anticipated in this State within the next five years, and in that event this office will be a board of registration every working day throughout the year. We look with pleasure to the adoption of permanent registration because many thousand dollars will be saved in this county every year, and the State will save such an amount that the cost of a vote will be comparable with the low costs in the 26 states where it is operating so successfully.

Trusting that I have been able to convey to your board, the points which I had intended for your consideration, and that when the fiftieth anniversary arrives, I shall be able to present to you a resume OF The changes, duties and functions of the Jefferson County Board of Elections.

Respectfully yours,

Kate E. Grant, Clerk.