

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

In conformity with Section 34 of the New York State Election Law, the Jefferson County Board of Elections herewith submits its report for the year 1937, and as a part of the same as required by law, will be found a statement showing the number of voters enrolled with each political party, the registration of voters and the vote of the Official Fall Primaries and the General Election.

This board will present as concisely as possible, current election items and facts which are regarded as being of the most concern. This report should prove of special value to those who have recourse to it for information and to all who are concerned in the efficient and economical conduct of the elections in Jefferson County.

This office has been ever watchful for the convenience of the electorate of our county. Its paramount aim has been to see that all qualified to vote shall exercise their right of franchise with as little trouble as possible, that their vote shall be correctly counted and that the candidate received the determination of his nomination or election.

The 1936 Registration of 14646 in the City of Watertown and the 1936 vote of 25389 in the 22 towns of the county, constituted the total enrollment of 40,537 for the year 1937. This enrollment is the largest in county voting history.

The number of voters enrolled in each political party for the year 1937, was as follows:

	Dem	Rep	Sec
City of Watertown	5292	8892	62
22 Towns	7413	17958	48
Total County	12705	26850	110

OFFICIAL FALL PRIMARY ELECTION

September 16th, 1937.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 184 of the Election Law, approximately 600 transfers after moving from one district to another, errors in enrollment and special enrollment on becoming of age or acquiring citizenship were entered in the two enrollment copies of the registers.

Nearly 250 petitions were filed in this office for the Primaries, all of which were acknowledged by postals. This large number of petitions was due to the fact that in 16 towns, the Republican town officers were nominated in the Primaries. The old caucus system still prevails in the Democratic Party and in seven towns.

The following party positions were elected:

Seven Delegates and seven Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention by the Democratic Party

Eighteen Delegates and eighteen Alternate Delegates to the Fifth Judicial District Convention by the Republican Party

One Delegate and one Alternate Delegate to the State Convention of the Socialist Party

The following public offices were nominated:

Three Senatorial District Delegates to Constitutional State Convention

Member of Assembly
Special County Judge
County Treasurer

Fifty-three different ballots were printed for the Primaries and were distributed as follows:

43250	Official
<u>3890</u>	Sample
47120	Total

The Republican ballot for the 1937 Primary was the largest ever printed in this county

The Primary vote:

	Dem	Rep	Soc
City of Watertown	1792	4178	8
22 Towns	466	5018	4
Total County	2258	9196	12

NONPARTISAN PRIMARY

September 16th,
1937.

A Nonpartisan Primary Election applicable only to the City of Watertown, was held at the same time of the Official Fall Primary.

Four candidates were nominated for the office of Councilman for Four Years. There were ten candidates for this office. Four candidates, double the number to be elected in the General Election, were nominated for councilman.

The following official and sample ballots were printed:

16010 Official
1490 Sample
17500 Total

12208 Votes canvassed
6104 Ballots canvassed

CENTRAL REGISTRATION

During the month of August, the Board of Elections also serves as a Board of Central Registration, when approximately 60 voters who expected to be unavoidably absent on the regular registration days appeared, registered enrolled and made application for absentee voters' ballots.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS REGISTRATION

About 35 applications for registration under this act were received and filed in this office. This entailed a vast amount of work, because those who applied for registration had not the faintest idea of the election district in which they resided.

Then followed the Republican caucuses in seven towns and the Democratic Caucuses in 22 towns. From these certificates of nominations as made in the caucuses and from the nominations as resulted in the Primaries, the town officers ballots were prepared.

REGISTRATION

Four days of registration in the City of Watertown and two days of registration in the towns.

Registration for 1937	Watertown	9009
	22 Towns	33087
	Total County	42096

GENERAL ELECTION

November 2nd, 1937.

Number of Voting Machine Districts

	Towns	34
	Watertown	27
	Total Machines	61
Number of paper ballot districts	Towns	61
Total number of districts in county		102

Three ballots, General Officers, Delegates at Large to Constitutional Convention and Question Submitted Ballots were all placed on the voting machines. In paper ballot districts, three separate and distinct ballots had to be printed for the 61 districts

Number of ballots of each kind printed for General Election

16490	Official		
1250	Sample		
300	Absentees	Total	18040

The following offices were elected:

- 15 Delegates at Large to State Constitutional Convention
- Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals
- 2 Justices of the Supreme Court
- 3 Senatorial District Delegates to State Constitutional Convention
- Member of Assembly
- Special County Judge
- County Treasurer

In the City of Watertown:

- Two Councilmen for a term of four years
- Supervisor in each of the twelve wards

In the Towns

- Supervisor
- Town Clerk
- 2 Justices of the Peace
- Assessor for Four Years
- Assessor for Two Years
- Collector
- Superintendent of Highways
- School Director

The official canvass of the General Election vote was as follows:

90 Candidates on the Delegates at Large to Constitutional Convention
379 " " the General Officers' Ballots

One Proposition and six Amendments on the Question Submitted Ballots

On the General Officers' Ballots there were 176 Contests

502 Applications were received for absentee ballots
261 Ballots mailed of which 238 were voted and canvassed

Of the 408960 votes cast on the Delegates' Ballots the proportionate vote was as follows:

5986 Democratic
12696 Republican
177 American Labor
52 Socialist
25 Industrial Government
24 City Fusion

Party vote of Jefferson County

	Dem	Rep	Soc	Blank	Void
City of Watertown	1794	4020	28	2042	0
Towns	4812	11421	76	2992	79
Total	6606	15441	104	5034	79
Grand total	27264				

The Towns of Alexandria, Hounsfield and Wilna voted upon town propositions.

In 1937, a legislative enactment transferred the canvass of the ballots for town officers from the town boards to the County Board of Canvassers, which work in order to assist your Committee was performed by the Board of Elections. This meant a great amount of additional work had to be performed with the greatest speed, and following the signing of the canvass, determinations of elections were mailed to 199 town officers.

The Board of Elections wishes to acknowledge and tender its cordial appreciation for the cooperation extended to this office by your honorable body in the discharge of our numerous duties and functions.

Jefferson County Board of Elections
William E. Mott
Ella R. Overton
By Kate E. Grant, Clerk