

Watertown, N. Y.
November 21st, 1942.

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

To Honorable Michael F. Walsh, Secretary of State, Albany, N. Y.:

To The Honorable Board of Supervisors of the County of Jefferson:

In conformity with section 34 of the Election Law, the Board of Elections of the County of Jefferson herewith submits its report for the year 1942, and as a part of same, as required by law, will be found a statement of the number of voters enrolled with each party, the total registration of voters and the votes of the Primaries and General Election.

Only those who are directly connected with the Office of the Board of Elections realize how onerous and technical are its functions and duties in complying with the 34E sections of the Election Law and certain sections of the Executive and Penal Laws.

We have definite reasons to support our statements that the Jefferson County Board of Elections has functioned to the finest point in detail in that all vacancies for public offices and party positions have been filled; that qualified voters were given the right to exercise their franchise and that the vote of all electors at all elections were properly canvassed and that a true count given to each candidate.

ENROLLMENT

7931 Personal Registration, City of Watertown, 1941
15055 Vote in the 22 Towns of Jefferson County, 1941
 22986 Total Enrollment of Jefferson County 1942

The following is the party enrollment of 1942:

City	5038	Rep	2694	Dem	39	Am. Lab	160	Blank & Void
Towns	<u>10201</u>		<u>4521</u>		<u>33</u>		<u>300</u>	
County	16239		7215		72		460	

This office, pursuant to law, canvassed the party enrollments of all voters, recorded the voter's politics in two Registration Books, and published the same. We have not heard of one error in this tremendous task.

OFFICIAL PRIMARIES, AUGUST 11th, 1942.

Pursuant to the drastic changes caused by the passage of the New York State War Ballot Commission, all primary dates were advanced five weeks.

More than 200 changes of enrollment caused by moving, becoming of age, gaining citizenship and errors in enrollment were recoded in two copies of the registers.

There were 161 petitions filed in this office for county and town officers, state committeemen, delegates and alternate delegates to state conventions, state committeemen and Democratic County Committeemen. All petitions had to be thoroughly checked and 201 notices of filing were mailed on postals to candidates.

The following offices were nominated:

- Representative in Congress, 32nd Congressional District
- State Senator, 37th Senatorial District
- Member of Assembly
- Special Surrogate
- District Attorney
- Supervisor, Town of Wilna
- Justice of the Peace, Town of Hounsfield

The following party positions were elected:

- 16 Delegates to Republican State Convention
- 16 Alternate Delegates to Republican State Convention
- 5 Delegates to Democratic State Convention
- 5 Alternate Delegates to Democratic State Convention
- 2 Delegates to American Labor State Convention
- 2 Alternate Delegates to American Labor State Convention
- 2 Members of State Committee, Republican and Democratic
- 2 Members of State Committee, American Labor Party
- 2 Members of County Committee, 95 districts, Democratic Party

For the Primaries 26144 Official and Sample Ballots were provided, which included three party ballots with 143 changes.

The Primary votewas as follows:

Watertown	2657	Rep	468	Dem	10	A. L.
Towns	<u>8441</u>		<u>356</u>		<u>2</u>	
County	8298		824		12	

Immediately after the primaries 247 Postal Determinations of election and nomination were mailed to the candidates for offices and party positions.

REGISTRATION

During the present year, six kinds of registration were conducted in this office, viz: Personal, Nonpersonal, Central, Military, Veterans and Federal Registration, under the Ramsey Act.

The amendments to the Election Law, passed by the 1942 Legislature, entailed much extra work in this office.

The time of Central Registration was extended from one to four months.

Approximately 80 voters, centrally (personally) registered in this office. These voters enrolled and made applications for absentee ballots.

New York State voters who were in the armed or naval services of the United States and who were within the county were entitled to apply for registration and absentee domestic war ballots. The forms on which these applications were made were very inadequate in that no provision for the designation of the election district was listed. In this county 291 war ballot applications were received and 280 accepted.

Much trouble was experienced by this office in establishing the proper election district in which these soldiers were inducted into the service because of the lack of the designation of the election district on the application and also because the majority of these voters were voting for the first time.

It then became the duty of the Board of Elections to transfer the data appearing on each registration form, regular absentees and soldier absentees, to the three registers, to detach the applicant's signature and affix the same to the signature column of the register. This means that 1080 entries were listed in the registers before they were delivered to the various polling places for the regular registration days.

The war ballot law provided for a new and decidedly different absentee ballot. Much study and interpretation followed. We are pleased to announce that our war ballots were adopted by other counties and were highly commended.

The following is the registration of 1942:

Towns	31673	in 66 Nonpersonal districts
City	9187	in 28 Personal districts
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County	40860	in 94 districts

GENERAL ELECTION

November 3rd, 1942.

About 200 applications for absentee ballots were received in this office, of which 174 were accepted. All applications were thoroughly checked and absentee ballots mailed to qualified electors.

The following officers were elected:

Governor
Lieutenant-Governor
Comptroller
Attorney-General
Two Representatives in Congress at Large
Representative in Congress, 32nd Congressional District
State Senator, 37th Senatorial District
Member of Assembly
Special Surrogate
District Attorney

In the Towns of Hounsfield, Lyme, Famelis and Wilna vacancies were filled in certain town officers.

For the General Election of 1942, the foll wing ballots were provided:

- 6 kinds for voting machines
- 6 kinds for regular absentee ballots
- 5 kinds for war ballots
- 1 for question.

On October 31st, Miss Grant, Clerk of this office, gave a school of instructions to 128 inspectors of the City of Watertown. We believe this instruction was productive of much good, because it was not necessary to recall one board of inspectors to this office to correct their returns.

The total and party vote of the General Election was:

Watertown	8511	5414	Rep	2775	Dem	240	A.L.	9	Soc	2	Com	1	Ind.G
Towns	16987	18714		3881		175		14					3
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County	25498	18128		6656		315		23		2			4

There were 72 blanks in the City of Watertown and 198 in the towns, making a total of 270 blank votes.

We wish to extend our sincere commendation to the 25 custodians of voting machines, who perfectly equipped their voting machines although the arrangement of the machines was very intricate.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the members of the Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County for their many favors and extend a cordial invitation to each member of the board and to the public to visit our office at any time, and receive the favors and attention which we are able to provide.

Respectfully submitted,

Jefferson County Board of Elections

Ella R. Overton, Commissioner
Clarence H. Burch, Commissioner
Kate E. Grant, Clerk