

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Watertown, N. Y.

November 30, 1944.

To :

The Honorable Thomas J. Curran
Secretary of State
Albany, N. Y.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
of the County of Jefferson.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 of the New York State Election Law, the Jefferson County Board of Elections herewith submits its report for the year 1944, and as a part of same, as required by law, will be found statements showing the number of voters enrolled with each party, the total registration of voters and the votes cast in the Spring and Fall Primaries and the General Election.

The Board of Elections is charged with the duty of executing more than 350 sections of the Election Law, as well as, certain sections of the Executive and Penal Laws, in order that all qualified voters of the county may exercise their right of franchise and that every opportunity be given to voters to execute that right and to vote for whom they choose.

The Jefferson County Board of Elections has every reason to be sincerely proud of its endeavors and believes it has functioned with greatest dispatch and accuracy, as well as, greatest economy.

The year 1944, will go down in history as the busiest year the Board of Elections ever encountered. The reason for such statement was caused by the early Spring Primary and the office serving as a Board of Central Registration for four months, the soldier registration and vote in the Presidential Election.

ENROLLMENT of 1944

The 1943 Registration in the City of Watertown of 7177, and the 1943 vote in the 22 towns of the county of 15112, constituted the total enrollment of 22289.

The following was the party enrollment of 1944:

City	4888	Rep	2074	Dem	44	Am. Lab	171	Blanks and Void
Towns	10776		3993		34		309	
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County	15664		6067		78		480	

OFFICIAL SPRING PRIMARIES

March 28th, 1944.

Because of the Spring Primaries which occur only in Presidential Years, it was necessary to complete printing the enrollment by January 18, 1944, which was the first day to circulate designating petitions. This enormous task was completed in the limited time and we have yet to hear of an error of enrollment, either in the two registers or in the printed copies.

The following Party Positions were elected:

Republican and Democrat
Two District Delegates to the National Convention
Two Alternate District Delegates to the National Convention
One Member of State Committee, Male
One Member of State Committee, Female

Democrat
Two Members of County Committee, each of 94 election districts.

American Labor Party
Five Members of State Committee
Two Members of County Committee.

There was very little activity in this Primary, nevertheless, the same procedure had to be followed as would had there been several animated contests.

Ninety-six different ballots were printed for the Spring Primaries of which 21720 were Official and 2045 were Samples, making a total of 23765 ballots.

The following was the Spring Primary vote:

771 Republican 459 Democrat 22 American Labor

Following the Primaries 190 Determinations on postal cards were mailed to elected candidates

OFFICIAL FALL PRIMARIES

August 1st, 1944.

For the Primaries 264 changes were made in the registers, caused by voters moving, becoming of age and naturalization.

The following offices were nominated:

Representative in Congress
State Senator
Member of Assembly
County Judge
Sheriff
County Clerk
Town Offices in Brownville, Rodman and Theresa.

There was but one contest in the Primaries, which was for the Republican nomination for Member of Assembly.

Pursuant to law, the same number of ballots were printed, composed of six different kinds.

The following was the Fall Primary vote:

4230 Republican 418 Democrat 2 American Labor

Twelve postal Determinations on postal cards were mailed to nominated candidates.

REGISTRATION

During the year five kinds of registration were in progress. They were Central, Nonpersonal, Personal, Veterans Bureau Hospitals and Returned Veterans, and Registration by members of the armed forces.

CENTRAL REGISTRATION, June, July, August and September.

Pursuant to Article 12 of the Election Law, which pertains to voting by members of armed forces during time of war, the Board of Elections served as a Board of Central Registration for four months.

There were 116 Central Registrations. These registrations had to be entered in the three copies of the 1944 Registration Books. Enrollments in the office numbered 111 and 141 applications for regular absentee ballots were taken in this office.

War Ballot Registrations

This office received 3589 applications for registrations and war ballots. Of this number 769 were duplicates and triplicates, leaving 2820 applications which were accepted, registered in the new War Registers and war ballots mailed to that number.

Allocating war vote applications in the proper election district was the greatest assignment ever encountered by the Board of Elections. The addresses on the applications were insufficient, incorrect and indistinct.

Our office labored with the greatest dispatch in an effort to register the applications and mail the ballots on September 7th, 1944.

Five different ballots were printed and mailed.

In order to aid the soldier, the War Ballot Commission and this office in reallocating the returned voted ballots, we entered the county the election district town and ward on each oath envelope.

Of the 2820 ballots mailed 2079 were voted, returned and canvassed in the proper election district. Nearly every day an unvoted war ballot is returned to this office with the notations, "deceased or missing in action."

GENERAL ELECTION

November 7th, 1944.

The following offices were elected:

47 Presidential Electors in six parties
Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals
United States Senator
Representative in Congress, new 34th Congressional District
State Senator
Member of Assembly
County Judge
Sheriff
County Clerk
Town officers in Brownville, Cape Vincent, Rodman and Theresa

Three political parties and three independent bodies had nominations on the ballot

There were five different ballots on the voting machines, on the war ballots and on the regular absentee ballots.

The following was the vote in the General Election:

34530	Civilians voted on the voting machines
484	" voted regular absentee ballots
2079	Soldiers voted War absentee ballots
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37063	Total vote in Jefferson County

CUSTODIANS. Twenty-five custodians of voting machines were appointed by this office, sworn in and individually instructed. These officials deserve much commendation, having performed their duties perfectly with complete co-operation and sincerity.

Following the election, each party, independent body and three candidates made personal requests for the tabulation of the canvass. Because the official canvass is no longer published and incorporated in the Supervisors' Journals, it was necessary for this office to make nine copies of the canvass. This work alone caused unprecedented labor.

Pursuant to Section 273-a of the Election Law, the commissioners of elections made a complete re-canvass of the 94 voting machines of the county and found but few slight errors in tabulation, but no changes in the final result.

Before such re-canvass was made, and as provided by law, the State and County Chairman of each duly recognized party and independent body, each candidate voted for and each custodian was notified of the time and place of such re-canvass, so that they might be present or send a representative.

The Board of Elections desires to express its thanks to all our good friends for their whole hearted co-operation. In a special manner do we express our gratitude to the printers who devote themselves so selflessly to the preparation of their work, although all printing had been submitted to bids. It is with a sense of gratitude that we thank the sheriff's office for supplying a deputy and a car for the re-canvass of the voting machines and to the City Police Department in supplying

lists of hotels and rooming houses in the City of Watertown.

The facilities of our office are opened to all, and we encourage the residents of our county to enjoy its unbiased information and assistance. We might add that this office has become a bureau of information and there are few days in the year when letters and telephone calls are not received asking for assistance, and on every occasion, when it has been possible, we have gladly answered these communications.

In closing, we add, that we believed that our office has functioned as perfectly as it is humanely possible and every duty as defined by the election law has been followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ella R. Overton

Clarence H. Burtch,

Commissioners of Elections

Per Kate E. Grant, Clerk.