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

To: *Mr. Curran*

January 14th, 1946.

Hon. Thomas J. Curran  
Secretary of State, Albany, N. Y.  
Honorable Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County,  
Watertown, N. Y.

In conformity with section 34 of the Election Law, the Board of Elections in the County of Jefferson submits its Report for the year 1946, and as a part of the same, as required by law, will be found a statement of the number of registered voters, number of voters enrolled with each party, ~~Primary~~ and the votes cast in the Primaries and General Election.

ORGANIZATION

The Jefferson County Board of Elections is organized pursuant to the State Election Law (Chapter 17 of the Consolidated Laws). This statute, consisting of 342 sections, is designated to regulate down to the finest point in detail the conduct of elections throughout the State. The Board consists of ~~a Republican and Democratic~~ Commissioner of Elections, appointed for a term of two years, <sup>President</sup> ~~Commissioner~~ Clarence H. Burtch, Republican, Alexandria Bay, <sup>who</sup> was appointed February 12th, 1941, and <sup>Secretary</sup> ~~Commissioner~~ Doctor William P. Gillick, Democrat, Clayton, <sup>was</sup> appointed June 25th, 1945. The term of office is for two years. ~~Commissioner Burtch is President and Commissioner Gillick is Secretary of this board.~~ *Miss Kate E. Grant is the clerk*

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		1946 q ENROLLMENT				
City	5359	Rep	2121	Dem	28	Am. Lab
Towns	9003		3596		31	
	—		—		—	
County	14363		5717		59	

135B

216

351

7 ✓

65

72

Blanks and voids numbered 542

PRIMARIES, AUGUST 20th, 1946.

Primary dates were advanced four weeks in order to provide for the "Voting of Members of Armed Forces During Time of War."

There were approximately 200 changes of Enrollment because of sickness, moving, becoming of age, naturalization and returning from military service.

Petitions for the Primary numbered 258 of which 22 petitions were for public office and 236 were for party positions. All petitions were carefully checked and ~~253~~ <sup>253</sup> were accepted and filed.

Pursuant to Section 131, (postal card) notices of filing petitions were mailed to 253 designated and nominated candidates.

There were but eight contests and followed 32 postal <sup>card</sup> notices of drawing for positions on the ballots to the candidates and committees on vacancies.

The following offices were nominated: Representative in Congress for the 34th Congressional District, State Senator for the 42nd Senatorial District, Member of Assembly for the First Assembly District, Special County Judge and County Treasurer, certain town offices in the Towns of Ellisburg, Hounsfield, Watertown and Wilna and

The following party positions were elected: supervisor in the Eighth Ward of Watertown.

- Eight Delegates <sup>and 9</sup> to the Republican State Convention
- Eight Alternate Delegates to the Republican State Convention
- Four Delegates to the Democratic State Convention
- Four Alternate Delegates to the Democratic State Convention
- Five Delegates to the American Labor State Convention
- Five Alternate Delegates to the American Labor State Convention
- Two Members of Republican State Committee, Male and Female.
- Two Members of Democratic State Committee, Male and Female
- Five Members of American Labor State Committee Male
- Five Members of American Labor State Committee Female
- Two Members of Democratic Party for each of the 94 Election Districts of Jefferson County.

Pursuant to the new law, it was possible to reduce the required number of Official and Sample Ballots, <sup>effecting</sup> making a saving of \$ 50.44. in the cost of printing.

Ninety-nine different ballots were printed.

The Primary vote was as follows:

City	448	Rep	228	Dem	4	Am. L ab.
Towns	640		252		1	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
County	1088		480		5	

Following the Primaries 251 postal card notices of nominations and elections were mailed.

The year 1946 has been extremely hectic, due to the fact that 73 Amendments to the Election Law and two Amendments to the Penal Law (as it applies to Elections) were enacted. These Amendments <sup>caused</sup> caused much concern and study in an effort to assure correct interpretation and application.

Pursuant to several Amendments in the Election Law, the power of appointment of town and city inspectors of elections was removed from the town boards and the Mayor of Watertown, and delegated to the Board of Elections, (following recommendations of the Chairmen of the Republican and Democratic County Committees.)

The law also provided that the Election Commissioners or a designated employe of the board, must instruct, administer the oath of office and issue a certificate of appointment to all inspectors. In order to comply with these provisions, eight meetings were held in Watertown, at which times 342 of the 376 inspectors, appeared, were instructed, sworn in and received certificates of appointment.

We were highly pleased with the results of these instructions, because we have never received better returns and not one board was summoned to this office to correct their <sup>statements</sup> returns and canvass.

Handwritten initials and date: 3/7/46

REGISTRATION

Five systems of Registration were conducted during the year, which included Central, Personal, Nonpersonal, Military and Veterans Registration.

There were Central Registrations in this office. These Registrations had to be entered in three copies of the regular registers and in one copy of the War Registers.

The 1946 Registration was as follows:

Towns	32018	16328	Males	15690	Females
City	9243	4763	"	4480	"
<hr/>					
County	41261	21091	"	20170	"

*This was the first year registration was divided into male and female*  
GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 5TH, 1946.

Only those who are directly concerned in the conduct of elections understand the anxiety which the 1946 General Election caused.

On September 16, The Secretary of State certified the list of Nominations for *duly recognized* three ~~parties~~ <sup>parties</sup> and five independent parties. Although actions were pending in the courts, restraining five independent party nominations, *from appearing on the ballots*, on October 18th, we were directed to print all *War + regular* absentee ballots, ~~and~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~. It was not until October 26th, that we received a mandate from the Secretary of State to eliminate the Socialist, Socialist Workers and Industrial Gov't Party. The Liberal and Communist Parties remained *on the* ~~on the~~ voting machine *Printing ballots, two different ways, was comparable*, ~~this was compared to having two elections in one year, because~~ the ballots and statements of canvass printing *were* ~~was~~ decidedly different. The time for printing the supplies was so short that it was necessary for the printer and the clerk in this office to work all day Sunday and four nights; but we accomplished this gigantic task in time for their receipt by the custodians.

The 25 custodians were personally instructed *on the care, adjustment and operation of the machines* on their duties, and *were* took the required oath. We are highly pleased with the services of the custodians, and have *no* ~~not~~ ~~a word~~ <sup>the slightest</sup> of criticism *any one* ~~against~~ ~~one~~.

Appreciating the highly technical sections of the Election Law that the inspectors of elections and the custodians of voting machines are governed, and with the situations that may arise, there are no

This board is a ministerial office, and if at any time you are in need of assistance, please feel free to call upon us and we shall be very happy to submit our availabilities to you.

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class of public servants surrounded by more opportunities to commit technical violations of Law, errors and or omissions which may be unimportant to them, but may result in criminal prosecution. Their work was as perfect as humanly possible.

The General Election Vote was as follows:

City 8604  
Towns 16765

County 25369

This vote included 10 War Ballots.

The following offices were voted:

Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, United States Senator, Representative in Congress, New York State Senator, Member of Assembly, Special County Judge, County Treasurer, Certain town offices in four towns and Supervisor in the Eighth Ward. There was one Proposition.

Immediately following the Election, the Commissioners recanvassed the 94 election district voting machines. There were but three slight errors in transposition. While the recanvass was being made by the commissioners, the clerk recanvassed the absentee ballots.

We wish to extend our thanks to Sheriff Brayton E. Peck who furnished an automobile and a deputy to ~~convey~~ transport the commissioners throughout the county for the recanvass.

We are very happy to relate that we are not aware of one error in the printed copy of the enrollment or in the ~~intrinsic~~ intricate printing of ballots and supplies. We wish also to thank the H. & H. Company and Weston Printing Company for their painstaking efforts in our most intrinsic printing. The Board of Elections must have implicit confidence in the printers ~~who~~ if not, we hesitate to anticipate the trouble which might follow.

Before the recanvass was made, as provided by law, the State and county chairmen of each party and each candidate were notified of the time and place of such recanvass so that they might attend or send a representative to be present.

appearing in the ballot

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

Watertown, N. Y.  
December 18th, 1946.

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

Honorable Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County,  
Watertown, N. Y.

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President Clarence H. Burtch, Republican, Alexandria Bay, was appointed February 12th, 1941 and Secretary (Doctor) William P. Gillick, Democrat, Clayton, was appointed June 25th, 1945. The term of office is for two years. Miss Kate E. Grant is the clerk.

1946.....ENROLLMENT

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Towns	9003		3596		31	
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County	14362		5717		59	

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The following party positions were elected: Eight Delegates and Eight Alternate Delegates to the Republican State Convention; Four Delegates and Four Alternate Delegates to the Democratic State Convention; Five Delegates and Five Alternate Delegates to the American Labor State Convention; Two Members of Republican State Committee (Male and Female); Two Members of Democratic State Committee (Male and Female); Two Members of Democratic County Committee for each of the 94 Election Districts of the County

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Ninety-nine different ballots were printed.

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Towns	640		252		1	
	<u>        </u>		<u>        </u>		<u>        </u>	
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Pursuant to several new Amendments, the power of appointment of town and city inspectors of elections was removed from the town boards and the Mayor of Watertown, and delegated to the Board of Elections, (following recommendations of the Chairmen of the Republican and Democratic County Committees).

The laws also provided that the Election Commissioners or a designated employe of the board, must instruct, administer the oath of office and issue a certificate of appointment to all inspectors. In order to comply with these provisions, eight meetings were held in Watertown, at which times 342 of the 376 inspectors appeared, were instructed, sworn in and received certificates of appointments.

We were highly pleased with the results of these instructions, because we have never received better returns and not one board in the county was summoned to this office to correct statements and canvass.

#### REGISTRATION.

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There were more than 100 Central Registrations in this office. These Registrations had to be entered in three copies of the regular registers and in one copy of the War Ballot Register.



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Printing ballots and supplies two different ways was comparable to two elections in one year, because the ballots and supplies were decidedly different. The time for printing the voting machine supplies was so short that it was necessary for the printer and the clerk in this office to work all day Sunday and four nights; but we accomplished this gigantic task in time for their delivery to the custodians.

The 25 custodians were personally instructed on the care, adjustment and operation of the machines and took the required oath of office. We were extremely gratified with the services of the custodians and have not the slightest criticism against any one.

Appreciating the highly technical sections of the Election Law that the inspectors of elections and the custodians of voting machines are governed, and with the situations that may arise, we believe there are no class of public servants surrounded by more opportunities to commit technical violations of law, errors or omissions which may be unimportant to them, but may result in criminal prosecution. Their work was as perfect & humanly possible.

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Towns	16765

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County	25569
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This vote included 10 War Ballots.

State Officers, County Officers, Town Officers in four towns and a Supervisor in the Eighth Ward were elected. But one Proposition was submitted.

Before the recanvass of the voting machines was made, as provided by law, the State and County Chairmen of each party and each candidate were notified of the time and place of such recanvass so that they might attend or send a representative to be present.

Immediately following the Election, The Commissioners recanvassed the 94 election district voting machines. There were but three slight errors in transposition. While the recanvass was being made by the commissioners, the clerk recanvassed the absentee ballots.

We wish to extend our thanks to Sheriff Brayton E. Peck, who furnished an automobile and a deputy to transport the Commissioners throughout the county for the recanvass.

We do not wish to appear too egotistical; but we are so elated that we can not refrain from including in our Annual Report our sincere happiness to be able to advise that we are not aware of one error in the printed copy of the Enrollment or in the intricate printing of ballots and supplies.

Our gratitude is also extended to the Hungerford-Holbrook Company and the Weston Printing Company for their painstaking efforts. We must have implicit confidence in the printers, if not, we hesitate to anticipate the trouble which might follow.

This office is definitively a ministerial office. If at any time you are need of assistance, please feel free to call upon us and we shall be very happy to submit our availabilities to you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clarence H. Burtch, Commissioner  
William P. Gillick, Commissioner  
Kate E. Grant, Clerk.  
Jefferson County Board of Elections.