

December 16, 1976

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS - ANNUAL REPORT - 1976

TO: Jefferson County Board of Supervisors,  
County Building,  
Watertown, N. Y.

First day of central registration for the year of 1976 in Jefferson County; December 4, 1975, and continued through September 3, 1976. 1,330 registered in person during this period.

Effective December 4, 1975, Application for Registration and Enrollment by Mail forms were available to unregistered voters of Jefferson County. Between December 4, 1975 and October 4, 1976, 2,435 persons registered to vote by mail. October 4th was the last date for an application for registration by mail to be received by the Board of Elections for the voter to qualify for the General Election, November 2nd, 1976.

October 25, 1976, a show cause order was served on Commissioners Lewis G. Spicer, Jr. and Victor J. LaTemple and clerk, G. L. Kavanaugh. This was signed by Supreme Court Justice, Donald Miller, and related to approximately 200 students at Jefferson Community College registering at the college on the mail registration forms. Said forms were not received at our office until the afternoon of Oct. 8, 1976, a Friday. October 4th was the last date. This order was returnable before Judge Miller on October 27th. This date of October 27th, Judge Miller signed an order directing the Board of Elections to register these same registrants and which would allow them to vote November 2, 1976. This order was complied with and a total of 195 registrations from JCC were completed.

July 26, 1976 and through July 30th, our office personnel registered 215 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Two days of Local Registration in the polling places were (1st day) October 2nd, 1976, a Saturday; (second day and last date) a Tuesday, October 5, 1976. A total of 2,349 registered to vote on the two days of Local Registration.

Therefore, 6,524 registered to vote for the year of 1976. Of course, many of these registrations were re-registrations (ones who had moved from one residence to another).

There was a Democratic Party spring Primary, April 6, 1976, at which time Delegates and Alternate Delegates were elected from the 30th Congressional District to represent candidates at the Democratic Party Convention. 2,270 enrolled Democrats voted in this Primary. The Republican Party did not have a Spring Primary for the 30th Congressional District.

September 14, 1976, another county-wide Primary of the Democratic Party, and also the Republican Party, and in addition the Non-Partisan Primary for the City of Watertown. This was held for public offices in Jefferson County. There was a contest for the United States Senate and Member of Assembly (111th Assembly District) within the Republican Party. 4,357 enrolled Republicans voted in this Primary. Within the Democratic Party there was a Primary contest for the United States Senate. 1,440 enrolled Democrats voted. In the City of Watertown as per the Non-Partisan Primary law a contest for the office of Councilman (to fill vacancy) was held. 1,493 votes were cast in the Non-Partisan Primary.

Registration listing for October, 1976, and tabulated after the two local registration dates, October 2 and 5, plus the show cause order registration of 1976 the last of October revealed the following:

City of Watertown	12,556
Towns of Jefferson County	26,627
Total County	39,183

39,183 qualified to vote in the General Election, November 2nd, 1976.

449 valid applications received from Servicemen and spouses for absentee ballots for the general election, November 2, 1976. 449 absentee ballots were sent to the servicemen. 284 ballots of the 449 were voted and returned in time to be tabulated with the vote on November 2nd, 1976.

15 valid applications for Special Presidential Ballots were received and this same number of special ballots were sent. 13 were voted and returned by the close of the polls on election night to be tabulated.

6 valid applications for Special Federal Voter ballots were received and the same number of ballots were sent. 5 were voted and returned by the close of the polls on election night.

1,587 applications were received for absentee ballots from voters who were to be outside of Jefferson County on November 2nd (students, ones on vacation, the ill and the permanently confined. This same number of ballots were sent out.

General Election, November 2nd, 1976  
Ballot for Electors for President-Vice President; United States Senator;  
2 Justices of the Supreme Court (5th Judicial District); Representative  
in Congress (30th Congressional District); State Senator (45th Senatorial  
District); Member of Assembly (114th Assembly District); Jefferson County  
Judge; District Attorney; County Clerk; County Treasurer; City Judge  
(City of Watertown); Councilman (to fill vacancy - City of Watertown);  
and vacancies on Town Boards existing in 7 towns.

34,330 registered voters did vote for electors of President-Vice  
President (this number includes Special Presidential and the Special  
Federal Voters). 34,313 voted for the other offices. 39,183 were  
registered to vote.

Re-canvass of the voting machines started November 3rd, 1976 and  
was completed November 8th, 1976.

A review of the voter registration books for all districts of  
Jefferson County was started in late November, 1976. It was determined  
that 389 voters who had not voted in 1974 or 1975, but were reinstated  
in early 1976, did not again vote November 2nd, 1976. As per the Election  
Law, this number of 389 has been cancelled. A letter advising each voter  
will be sent forthwith advising of our cancelling their voter registration.

At this date, another review of the voter registration books has been  
completed and reveals that 1,221 voters in Jefferson County did not vote  
in 1975 or 1976. A dual postal card has been prepared, addressed, and  
will be mailed the week of December 27th to each person who failed to vote  
in 1975 or 1976. Per the Election Law, one is given three weeks to return  
this affidavit request form. The cards that are not returned, then, of  
course, their voter registration card will be cancelled in late January,  
1977. They will also be advised of our action.

Respectfully submitted,

G. L. Kavanaugh, Clerk.  
Board of Elections