

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
175 Arsenal St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 785-3027 Fax (315) 5197

David Whitmore, Commissioner
Sandra L. Corey, Deputy Commissioner

Peggy L. Zeccolo, Commissioner
Cindy S. Corbett, Deputy Commissioner

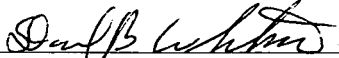
January 31, 2000

TO: Jefferson County Board of Legislators

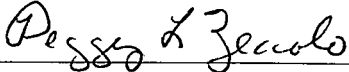
RE: 2000 Annual Report

The Jefferson County Board of Elections respectfully submits its annual report for your inspection.

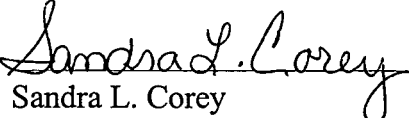
We hope that this report will keep you updated on the operations of the Board of Elections.




David B. Whitmore
Republican Commissioner



Peggy L. Zeccolo
Democrat Commissioner



Sandra L. Corey
Deputy Commissioner



Cindy S. Corbett
Deputy Commissioner

cc: NY State Board of Elections

Organizational Chart

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

COMMISSIONERS

REPUBLICAN

David B. Whitmore

DEMOCRAT

Peggy L. Zeccolo

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

Sandra L. Corey

Cindy S. Corbett

REGISTRATION CLERKS

Karen R. Parker

Babette M. Hall

PART-TIME CLERKS & ELECTION WORKERS

Types of Services and Assistance

- **To provide voter registration forms and assistance to those persons wishing to register**
- **To provide training of election inspectors in procedures used in elections**
- **To provide training of machine custodians in procedures of the set up and repair of voting machines**
- **To provide assistance to town and village clerks, school districts and fire districts relative to their elections**
- **To provide a directory of elected officials in Jefferson County**
- **To provide educational background on the procedures of registering to vote and voting to schools and organizations**
- **To assist other county and state departments**
- **To provide assistance to candidates and potential candidates**
- **To aid political parties with procedures of the election law**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT - 1999**

THE 12 MONTHS OF OUR LAST CENTURY

1999 - The last year of the millennium. A year spent in suspense as to what our future was going to be. Will the computers crash? Will we be a lost society? The hour will come...

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

We started this final year with a very quiet time. January and February were spent cleaning files and beginning preparations for Election Year 1999. Voting machine custodians were appointed - 22 in all - 11 from each party. The town clerks were sent Polling Place forms, Offices to be Elected forms, and Election Worker pay-scale forms. These forms came back showing all polling places were handicap accessible according to NYS Election Law. The pay scales for election workers were showing some improvement over last year. The majority of the towns increased all workers pay which might help us in finding new workers. The pay scales for inspectors averaged \$6.50. The offices to be elected were many.

MARCH

March brought telephone calls from village clerks asking for advice in their village elections. Several of these clerks were also asking for the procedure to change their election date to November, and have the county board supervise the election. Our county board manages four of the twenty village elections at this time. We told the clerks if their village was not within its own election district they would have to wait until the year 2001 before our board could take over the election. In the meantime, they could go to their town board and ask them about the possibility of redistricting when the law permits. We also told them to talk to their village attorney about their plans.

Our outreach program was adhered to by the registration clerks. Registration forms were sent to 38 post offices, 12 banks, 25 libraries, and town and village clerks. The registration clerks went to six high schools and registered students. The other three high schools preferred having our office send them the forms, and they registered the students in their classrooms. Our clerks registered 218 students. The other schools sent in approximately 50 registrations.

APRIL - MAY

April and May were spent preparing for the huge inflow of petitions that we knew would be arriving. We set up our petition packets for those who would need them. Our packet includes a petition, sample petition, number of signatures needed, petition rules, Section 8-500 of NYS Election Law pertaining to watchers, and a copy of the fair campaign code. We also

our inspectors when we visited some of our polling sites. This made us wonder because no one had contacted this office to let us know about it. We received a telephone call from the news media in the afternoon asking for a comment on the attorney general going to the polls to check on the handicap accessibility of the poll. We said we had no idea this was going on, but we would look into it. We made some telephone calls and found out this was happening throughout the state. We weren't too worried about it because we knew our sites were within the legal realm of handicap accessible. Our biggest problem with the whole investigation was the fact it was being done on election day and no one from that office called us to let us know they would be in the polling sites. We felt these people were in the polls illegally according to the NYS Election Law. They weren't there to vote or work and they did not have a watchers certificate. The inspectors should have asked them to leave, but they were intimidated by the office. The day after the election the news media again called about this investigation. They had received a copy of the survey and the reporter was somewhat skeptical of some of the allegations against certain polling places. The reporter called to ask our opinion. As we had no idea what was on the survey we opted to wait to comment until we could read the survey. We then called the attorney generals office and asked if we could have a copy sent to us. In the meantime, the reporter faxed a copy to us so she could get a comment. All of the polling places in question were either schools or municipal buildings. This made no sense to us because schools and municipal buildings have a more stringent law for handicapped than our election law has. We could not understand why this office was not going to the schools and municipalities to find out why they had these deficiencies. After we received the paper work from the attorney generals office our office called the person handling this problem. She was very abrupt about the whole thing and said we had better fix the problem before the next election. We questioned the feasibility of this office being able to make these changes. We asked why their office did not go after the schools because of the importance of having handicap accessibility for the safety of our handicapped children using this facility everyday. The exact reply was "It is not for you to question the attorney general". We were shocked by the response of this person and decided to let the NYS Board of Elections deal with it.

In the evening of election day a candidate called and said his first name was misspelled. We knew this was a problem with some of the first ballots sent out, and by the time we found the error it was too late to send out new ballots. We agreed to quickly change the machine fronts with the printer so the machine would be correct at least. Now this person was calling and saying the machine wasn't correct. At first we didn't understand what he was saying and thought he was complaining about the absentee ballots. We tried to explain to him that it was impossible for us to do anything about it by the time the mistake was found. We were very sorry but we did get the machine changed. And then the realization hit - he was talking about the machine, not the absentees. It was now late evening. No one had called us throughout the day and told us there was a problem- including our inspectors. We had spelled the mans first name which was Louis as Louise. We felt bad, but didn't know what we could do about it at this point in time. The candidate was an incumbent and he was well known in his community. The first name was in small print with the last name in very large print and we felt that was why no one called us. No one noticed it. We agreed by the time we reached the custodian and he went to four different sites (a matter of several miles in between most sites) it would be after 9:00 pm and the polls

would be closed anyway. We apologized and told him we felt there was nothing we could do at this late time. The rest of the evening was trouble free. We got the unofficial results out to the media as quickly as we could and everyone seemed happy. It looked as though Louis lost his election. Then a week after the election we were served with papers. It seems that Louis felt he lost the election due to being called Louise. He felt voters traditionally voted for male candidates and that was the main reason he lost the election. There was many other items within the legal papers, but we proved to him that men did not traditionally win elections in his district. In fact, every female candidate that ever ran for office, and there were many, won overwhelmingly in his district over a male candidate. In the end, the Supreme Court Judge agreed that this was not a fatal error for his loss and refused him the opportunity for another election.

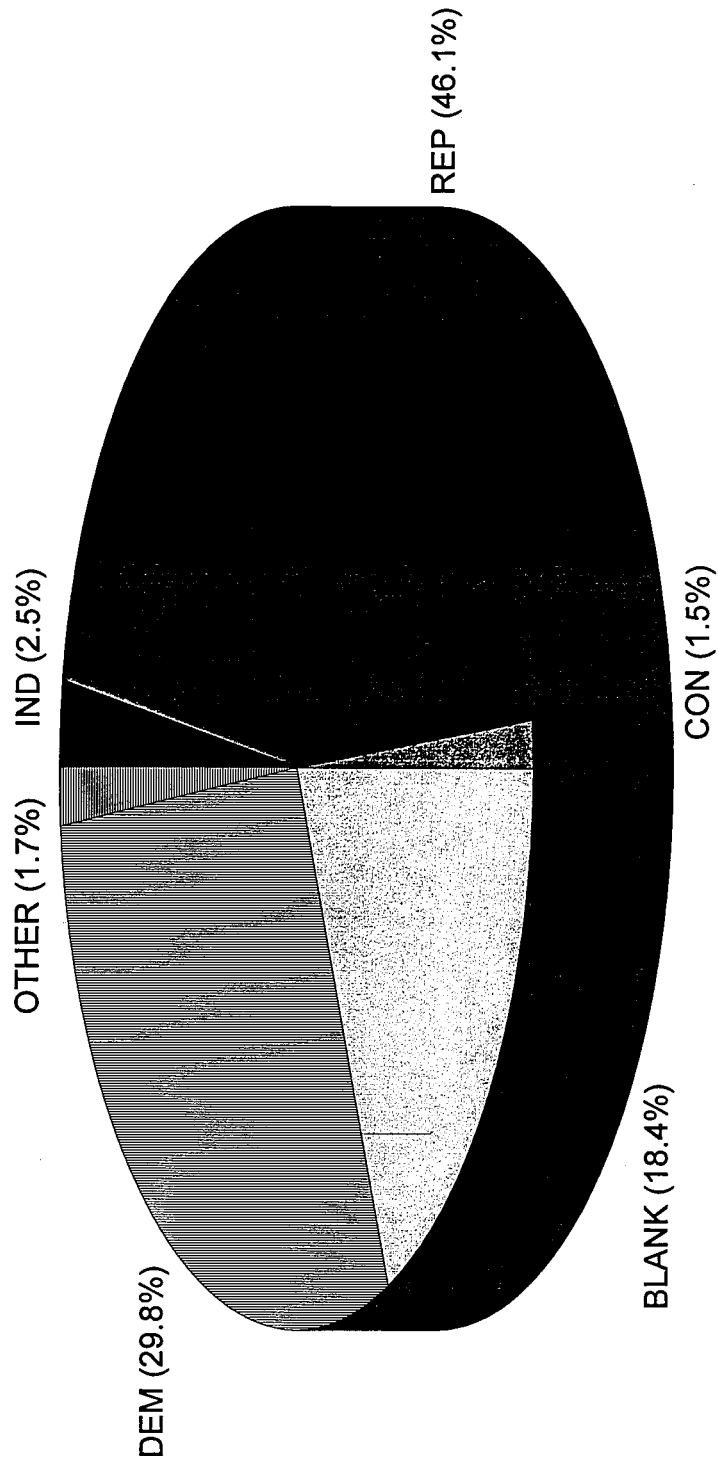
We learned from this. We have set up new rules on checking ballots. It is now done by the deputies as a team and then given to the registration clerks and they will check them as a team. Each candidate will receive a sample ballot as soon as they are available so they can also check their own names. This should prevent any further mistakes from occurring. The only reason we felt the machines didn't get fixed was because each of the deputies thought the other one did it and neither of them double checked when the machine fronts came in.

We received our final financial reports without any problems. Everyone handed their report in on time or within a couple of days.

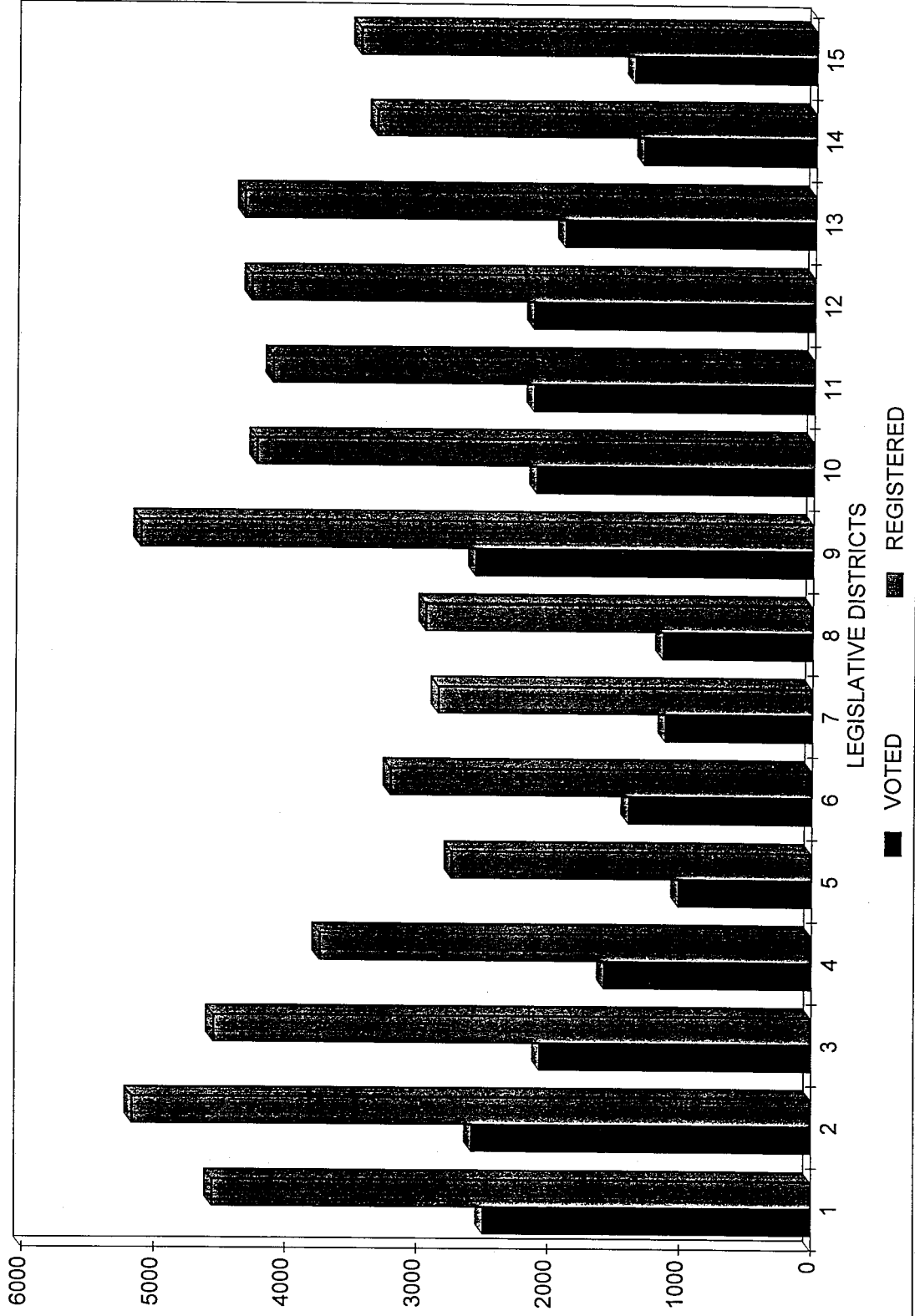
DECEMBER

Finally another election year at a close. The final results have been sent in to the NYS Board of Elections and to the Secretary of State. The boxes of 1999 election papers have been retired to a shelf in the back room until we can throw them away in 2001. Christmas is coming and we're taking vacations and having parties. What a great way to end the last month of this century. What will happen when December 31st comes and goes? You'll just have to wait until next years report - TO BE CONTINUED IN 2000 *maybe!!*

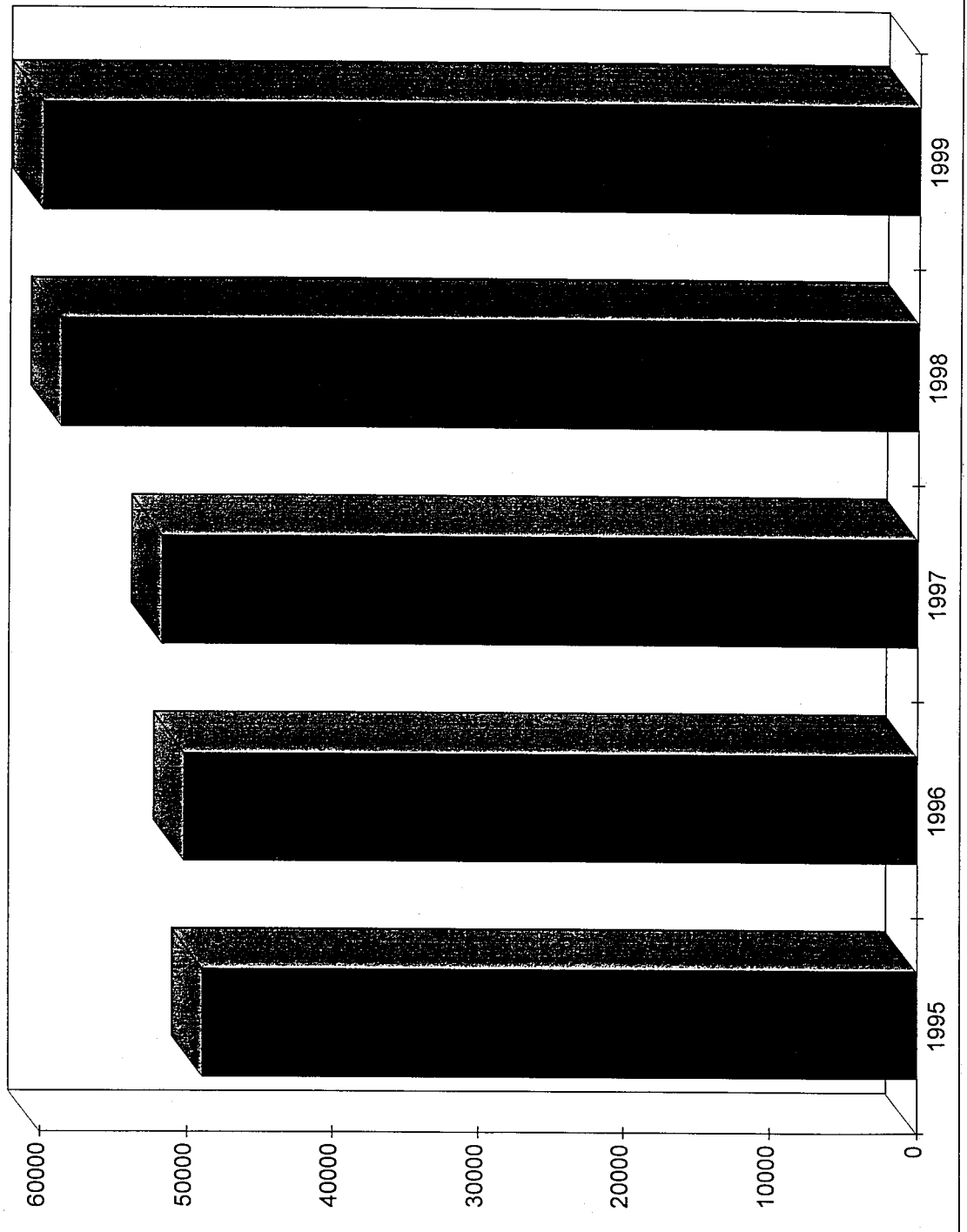
ENROLLMENT 1999



VOTER TURNOUT



VOTER REGISTRATION 1995-99



1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION REPORT

PAGE 1

COUNTY *Jefferson*

DATE *3/00*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BUDGET

TOTAL BUDGET FOR 1999	\$ <i>202,964</i>
AMOUNT 99 BUDGET INCREASE OR (DECREASE) FROM LAST YEAR'S BUDGET	\$ <i>22,888 +</i>
AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR 99	
SALARIES	\$ <i>109,311</i>
PRINTING	\$ <i>30,000</i>
SUPPLIES - <i>telephons - postage - Maint - advertising - Oprtg Supp. Contracts</i>	\$ <i>34,956</i>
TRAINING	\$ <i>2,960</i>

STAFF SUMMARY

COMMISSIONERS

DEMOCRATIC COMMISSIONER SALARY	\$ <i>2,500</i>
REPUBLICAN COMMISSIONER SALARY	\$ <i>2,500</i>
2 OR 4 YEAR TERM	<i>2</i>
FULL OR PART TIME	<i>Part-time</i>

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

DEMOCRATIC DEPUTY SALARY	\$ <i>30,050</i>
REPUBLICAN DEPUTY SALARY	\$ <i>30,050</i>
FULL OR PART TIME	<i>Full-time</i>

EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDE COMMISSIONERS & DEPUTIES)

NUMBER OF FULL TIME BOARD EMPLOYEES	<i>2</i>
NUMBER OF PART TIME BOARD EMPLOYEES	<i>2</i>
NUMBER OF TEMPORARY OR SEASONAL BOARD EMPLOYEES	<i>20</i>

INSPECTOR INFORMATION SUMMARY

TRAINING AND SALARY

NUMBER OF INSPECTORS APPOINTED	<i>350</i>
NUMBER OF INSPECTORS ATTENDING CLASS	<i>249</i>
NUMBER OF INSPECTORS WHO TOOK EXAM	<i>249</i>
NUMBER OF INSPECTORS WHO FAILED EXAM	<i>0</i>
NUMBER OF ALTERNATE INSPECTORS APPOINTED AND TRAINED	<i>53</i>
NUMBER OF CLASSES GIVEN	<i>6</i>
CLASS SIZE	<i>app 50</i>
AVERAGE LENGTH OF CLASS SESSION	<i>2-3 hrs.</i>
INSPECTOR SALARY RANGE (IF YOU HAVE A COUNTY-WIDE SALARY ENTER THAT AMOUNT IN BOTH THE LOW AND HIGH BOX)	LOW <i>6.00</i> HIGH <i>9.00</i>
RATE OF PAY FOR INSPECTORS ATTENDING TRAINING SESSION	\$ <i>En. Town different</i>
NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CHECK MAIL REG OR CALLED BECAUSE OF MAIL CHECK CARD ASKING TO BE PUT ON LIST AS INSPECTOR	<i>7</i>

POLLING SITE SUMMARY

NUMBER OF POLLING SITES IN COUNTY	<i>61</i>
NUMBER OF POLLING SITES ACCESSIBLE TO HANDICAPPED	<i>61</i>
NUMBER OF ELECTION DISTRICTS IN COUNTY	<i>83</i>

VOTING EQUIPMENT SUMMARY

NUMBER OF VOTING MACHINES	<i>101</i>
WHO OWNS VOTING MACHINES	<i>municipality</i>
WHO MAINTAINS VOTING MACHINES	<i>municipality</i>
NUMBER OF VOTING MACHINES ACCESSIBLE TO HANDICAPPED	<i>app. 21</i>

ELECTION RESULTS

ELECTION NIGHT QUICK RETURNS DONE	<i>Both</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMPUTER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANUALLY
RECANVASSED AND CERTIFIED RESULTS DONE		<input type="checkbox"/> COMPUTER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANUALLY

PETITIONS

DESIGNATING PETITIONS

NUMBER RECEIVED	353
NUMBER CHALLENGED	1
NUMBER OF SPECS FILED	1
NUMBER INVALIDATED BY BOARD	0
NUMBER OF COURT CASES	0
NUMBER OF CASES UPHOLDING BOARD POSITION	0
NUMBER OF CASES REVERSING BOARD POSITION	0

INDEPENDENT PETITIONS

NUMBER RECEIVED	18
NUMBER CHALLENGED	1
NUMBER OF SPECS FILED	1
NUMBER INVALIDATED BY BOARD	0
NUMBER OF COURT CASES	0
NUMBER OF CASES UPHOLDING BOARD POSITION	0
NUMBER OF CASES REVERSING BOARD POSITION	0

CAUCUS CERTIFICATES

NUMBER RECEIVED	41
NUMBER CHALLENGED	0
NUMBER OF SPECS FILED	0
NUMBER INVALIDATED BY BOARD	0
NUMBER OF COURT CASES	0
NUMBER OF CASES UPHOLDING BOARD POSITION	0
NUMBER OF CASES REVERSING BOARD POSITION	0

CAMPAIGN FINANCE SUMMARY

NUMBER OF COUNTY COMMITTEE FILERS	4
NUMBER OF CANDIDATE FILERS	2
NUMBER OF PAC FILERS	5
TOTAL NUMBER OF FILINGS RECEIVED	12
NUMBER OF FIVE DAY LETTERS SENT	5
NUMBER OF CURRENT DELINQUENT FILINGS	0
NUMBER REFERRED TO COUNTY ATTORNEY OR DA	0

REGISTRATION AND ENROLLMENT SUMMARY

REGISTRATION	14
NUMBER OF CENTRAL REGISTRATION FORMS PROCESSED	302
TOTAL NUMBER OF MAIL FORMS PROCESSED	2134

FORMS DISTRIBUTION

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAIL FORMS USED	50000
NUMBER OF FORMS ISSUED TO GROUPS	20000
NUMBER OF FORMS USED IN YOUR OWN OUTREACH PROGRAMS (BANKS, POST OFFICES, TOWN/CITY HALLS, ETC)	15000
NUMBER OF FORMS PROCESSED FROM TAX PACKETS	14

REGISTRATION SUMMARY FROM ALL SOURCES

NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRANTS PROCESSED IN 1999	3,615
NUMBER OF MOVERS WITHIN YOUR COUNTY PROCESSED IN 1999	4,583
TOTAL NUMBER OF ENROLLMENT CHANGES	1,188
TOTAL NUMBER OF NAME CHANGES	431
TOTAL NUMBER OF DUPLICATES	1,418
TOTAL NUMBER OF OTHERS + Incompletes-	21,211
TOTAL NUMBER OF MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS PROCESSED	32,446

CONFIRMATION NOTICES

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMATION NOTICES SENT IN 1999	4,465
NUMBER OF PERSONS REREGISTERED AS A RESULT OF YOUR CONFIRMATION NOTICE	4,155

CANCELLATIONS

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS CANCELLED	1,798
NUMBER OF CANCEL NOTICES SENT TO OTHER COUNTIES	278
NUMBER OF CANCEL NOTICES SENT TO SBOE FOR OTHER STATES	227
NUMBER OF PERSONS CANCELLED BY RETURNING POSTAGE - PAID CARD IN CONFIRMATION NOTICE	9

ABSENTEE AND AFFIDAVIT BALLOT SUMMARY

PRIMARY ABSENTEES

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	780
NUMBER OF BALLOTS MAILED	780
NUMBER OF BALLOTS RETURNED	556
NUMBER INVALIDATED (NOT SIGNED, DATED AFTER ELECTION, ETC.)	9
NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO VOTED IN PERSON AFTER VOTING ABSENTEE	1

PRIMARY AFFIDAVITS

NUMBER OF AFFIDAVITS RECEIVED	17
NUMBER OF AFFIDAVITS COUNTED FOR TRANSFERS/MOVERS	12
NUMBER OF AFFIDAVITS COUNTED FOR OTHER REASONS	5

REASONS FOR REJECTION

TOTAL PRIMARY AFFIDAVITS REJECTED	0
NUMBER NOT SIGNED	0
NUMBER NOT IN DISTRICT	0
NUMBER FILLED OUT INCORRECTLY	0
NOT PROPERLY ENROLLED	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0

PRIMARY COURT ORDERS

TOTAL COURT ORDERS PROCESSED	0
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GENERAL ABSENTEES

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	1534
NUMBER OF BALLOTS MAILED	1534
NUMBER OF BALLOTS RETURNED	1234
NUMBER INVALIDATED (NOT SIGNED, DATED AFTER ELECTION, ETC.)	78
NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO VOTED IN PERSON AFTER VOTING ABSENTEE	10

GENERAL AFFIDAVITS

NUMBER OF AFFIDAVITS RECEIVED	58
NUMBER OF AFFIDAVITS COUNTED FOR TRANSFERS/MOVERS	21
NUMBER OF AFFIDAVITS COUNTED FOR OTHER REASONS	11

REASONS FOR REJECTION

TOTAL GENERAL AFFIDAVITS REJECTED	26
NUMBER NOT SIGNED	3
NUMBER NOT IN DISTRICT	6
NUMBER FILLED OUT INCORRECTLY	4
MISCELLANEOUS	13

GENERAL COURT ORDERS

TOTAL COURT ORDERS PROCESSED	10
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NURSING HOMES ABSENTEE BALLOT PROGRAM

WE DISTRIBUTE ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN NURSING HOMES	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NUMBER OF HOMES VISITED FOR PRIMARY		
NUMBER OF HOMES VISITED FOR GENERAL		
NUMBER OF BALLOTS PROCESSED - PRIMARY AND GENERAL TOGETHER		

GENERAL INFORMATION

NUMBER OF MILITARY VOTERS ON FILE IN YOUR COUNTY	89	
NUMBER OF SPECIAL FEDERAL VOTERS ON FILE IN YOUR COUNTY	13	
TOTAL NUMBER OF INACTIVE VOTERS ON FILE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1999	2,907	
DO YOU HAVE A FAX MACHINE IN YOUR OFFICE?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
DO YOU RUN ANY VILLAGE ELECTIONS?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
DO YOU HAVE A WEB SITE (IF SO, PLEASE PROVIDE WEB PAGE ADDRESS BELOW)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Sandyc@mailrelay.sunyjefferson.edu
Cindyc@mailrelay.sunyjefferson.edu

COUNTY JEFFERSON COUNTY

1. **POSTAL PROGRAM.** Report your current method of monitoring program supplies at postal sites. What systems are in place to ensure an adequate supply of forms is available at all times?

Each post office in Jefferson County receives a packet of 25 registration forms in January. The post offices then call our office requesting more whenever they run low on supplies. We have announced to voters that if they want to register they can come to our board office, call our office, or go to their post office and pick up a registration form. This has helped us in making the post office personnel aware of the importance of having registration forms on hand at all times.

- II. **SCHOOLS PROGRAM.** Describe any school registration programs conducted in the past year.

We have twelve high schools, one BOCES, and one junior college in Jefferson County. We call the high schools in February or March and set up a day when our registration clerks can visit the school and register students. This year our clerks went to six of the nine high schools. They registered approximately 218 students. The other three schools were sent registration forms so the teachers could register their students. We received approximately 50 registration forms. The Jefferson County Community College usually does two registration drives each year. Our office supplies them with registration forms and someone from the office usually stops each day to pick up the filled out forms. This works well because the registration clerks don't get inundated with forms at the last minute and forms aren't as apt to get lost.

- III. **MEDIA.** Describe any media program, either paid or public service, involving Radio/TV/Print you have conducted. Provide statistics where possible.

We work very closely with all media throughout the year. We have two local television stations, one educational station, several radio stations, three weekly newspapers, and one daily newspaper. The deputy commissioners keep everyone updated at all times. We have always tried to give them information before they could ask for it. We are very comfortable with all of our various reporters. They keep our local office in the forefront throughout the year and especially during the election period. This is good because it serves as a constant reminder to the voter to register and vote.

- IV. **PRINT RESOURCES.** Describe how your board utilizes any brochures or posters that may be available.

We hand out brochures at the high schools when we register students. We also

make them available at the office if anyone wants them. We would like to see the NYS BOE come up with a larger variety of brochures to hand out.

ACTION PLAN FOR YEAR 2000

Please describe your County Voter Registration Action Plan for the coming year. You should include information relating to your Postal, School, Media and Print Programs, as well as any other programs you may be considering. It is especially important to give a detailed description of your ideas for a school program pursuant to the requirements of 3-212.4.

We plan to do the same things that we have been doing in the past. We hope to initiate our High School Inspector Program again this year. We will go to a high school and speak with seniors who will be 18 by General Election Day. We will explain the duties and responsibilities of an inspector. If they are interested in working for us election day, they will have to go to the inspector classes in August. These students will be used as election coordinators. If we do not need them in the field, we will use them in the office for that day. This has worked well before, and the school we worked with was very pleased with the program.

We would also like the NYS Board of Elections to come up with some different brochures that we could hand out at different functions throughout the year.