

Yates County Board of Elections

2010 Annual Report



Robert F Brechko, Democratic Commissioner
Susan Griffin, Deputy Commissioner
Susan Wolff, Technician
Pat Selwood, Election Operations Assistant
Rich Stewart, Poll Site Coordinator

Amy J Daines, Republican Commissioner
Helen Scarpechi, Deputy Commissioner
Charlie Kreuzer, Technician
Deb Craig, Election Operations Assistant
Pam Welker, Poll Site Coordinator

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Pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-212(4)(a) of the New York State Election Law, we hereby submit our Annual Report for the period beginning January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

Mission Statement

The Yates County Board of Elections works to furnish the voting public, candidates, and all individuals interested in Yates County Elections with professional service and efficiency. We also strive to provide the voters of Yates County with elections that are administered in a fair and democratic manner, as well as election results that are completely accurate, and for which we are 100% accountable to the voters.

Introduction

The Yates County Board of Elections is made up of two (2) full-time Commissioners, two (2) part-time Deputy Commissioners and two (2) part-time Election Operations Assistants, two (2) Machine Technicians and four (4) Poll Site Coordinators. Perceived by some as a simple clerical operation, we are indeed more than that. We provide our county with many important services related to the democratic election process which is the foundation of our government. In order to insure non-partisan elections, our procedures are continuously scrutinized, questioned and challenged. Since HAVA became law in 2002, but not passed into law in NY until 2005, we have had to change many of our operating procedures in order to offer every U.S. citizen the opportunity to vote and to insure that their vote counts. Boards centralized in 2006, taking over the voting machines, inspectors and custodians. We have done this with very minor staff increases. Some of the services we offer the community includes voter registration, information to candidates running for office, absentee ballot process and elections that offer the opportunity to vote and an assurance that every legal vote is counted before the election are certified. In 2008 the new voting machines were partially implemented. Ballot Marking Devices for individuals with disabilities. In 2009 we decided to participate in a Pilot Program fully implementing the new voting machines and processes county wide. In doing this we were faced with educating the voting public in a manner that would encourage their desire to participate in the democratic process. Certification of the new voting system was granted to Yates County in the first half of 2010. This proved difficult within today's current financial crisis. We are challenged to manage our department, which is mandated by state law, within our budget restraints. As managers of the election process we did just that with few problems.

Our office is also charged with the following responsibilities:

Oversee the printing of ballots and administer all federal, state, county and town elections.

And in 2010 for the first time conduct the Penn Yan Village Election.

Interact with town officials to map out voting districts and boundaries, interpret maps, legal descriptions and geographical data.

Provide materials to each candidate to ensure the petition process goes smoothly – receive and file petitions.

Prepare public service announcements, legal notices and maintain working relationship with the media.

Recruit, train, certify, schedule and supervise election Inspectors.

Report to the State Board of Elections, including preparation of enrollment reports, yearly statistical, data and annual reports.

Provide statistical data and voter lists to potential candidates and their consultants, staff, political committees and interested parties.

Track pending legislation on federal, state and local basis concerning Election Law recommending changes as needed.

Prepare and oversee department budget and supervise Deputy Commissioners, Election Operations Assistants, Technicians, Inspectors and Poll Site Coordinators.

Maintain voter registration database, monitor NYSVOTER (Statewide voter registration Website) and correspond with voters when additional data is required.

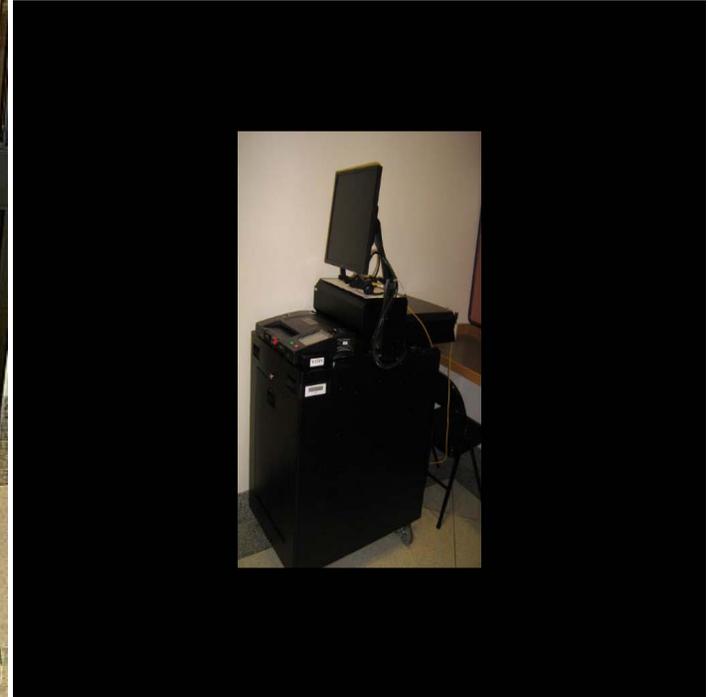
Instruct the voters of Yates County on voting machine usage.

Provide outreach to unregistered voters and high school seniors.

File and monitor candidate campaign finance filings and provide information to interested parties.



As the saying goes “What goes around, comes around”



From paper to paper! The introduction of new voting machines in New York has been the source of debate across the state since 2002. In 2008 we introduced the Ballot Marking Device portion of the Sequoia (Dominion) Image Cast voting machine. In 2009, we fully implemented the Dominion Image Cast voting machine to replace the levers by participating in a full county wide Pilot.

Yates County was included in the first round of certifications in early 2010.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT "NVRA STATISTICS"

A voter registration record is never cancelled without verification that the voter is no longer eligible to vote in our jurisdiction. Cancellations are recorded on a daily basis, and there are several reasons for this process: voter is deceased, voter sends letter in writing to the Board of Elections requesting that their registration be cancelled due to personal request or as a result of a move, voter is incarcerated due to a felony conviction, confirmation is received from another Board indicating that the voter is registered in another jurisdiction, duplicate information is received from NYSVOTER, or we receive a court order from the Supreme Court Clerk's Office confirming that a voter has been judged incompetent. Obituary records are reviewed in several local newspapers and the New York Department of Health also provides a computerized list of deaths. During 2010, there were 1849 registrations cancelled. A breakdown of the cancellations is as follows:

| Reasons for Cancellation of Records | Number |
|---|---------------|
| Deceased | 185 |
| Duplicate | 10 |
| Judged Incompetent | 1 |
| Moved out of County and Registered with other Board | 277 |
| Felony Conviction | 10 |
| Inactive and have not voted in two previous Federal Elections | 1145 |
| Incorrectly Registered & Incomplete Registrations | 29 |
| Cancelled at Voter's Request | 8 |
| Miscellaneous | 184 |
| TOTAL | 1849 |

We inactivate voter records throughout the year due to National Change of Address Records (NCOA) as received from the US Postal Service in April, Mail Check cards sent out in August, undeliverable mail or returned mail with a change of address notification, license surrenders to other states and felony conviction notifications received from court administrators. During 2010 there were 254 records inactivated. The breakdown is as follows:

| Reasons for Inactivation of Records | Number |
|--|---------------|
| Mail Check | 103 |
| National Change of Address (NCOA) | 103 |
| Mail Undeliverable | 42 |
| Moved out of County | 4 |
| License Surrender | 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 |
| TOTAL | 254 |



REGISTRATION PROCESSING AT A GLANCE

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) was passed in 1994, and was implemented by County Boards of Elections in 1995. NVRA significantly impacted voter registration and has permanently increased activity within our office due to the many agencies that we interact with daily. In 2010 we received 1166 registrations from NVRA agencies; Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Labor, Office of the Aging, Department of Social Services and other county agencies. All registration forms received from NVRA agencies are delivered or mailed to our office without any indication as to where they originated with the exception of DMV registrations, as they are openly identifiable and we therefore group them under "Agencies"; this protects the identity of those voters receiving county benefits.

| Registration Sources | Number Received |
|--|------------------------|
| Affidavit Ballots provided at Polls | 65 |
| Agencies/DMV Transmittals | 1166 |
| Blue Dot | 2 |
| Board of Elections Office/Our Registration Efforts | 894 |
| Election Inspectors | 39 |
| Mail | 856 |
| Other Local County Boards | 43 |
| TOTAL | 3065 |

| TRANSACTION DATA 2010 | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | YTD |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| New Voters | 56 | 23 | 36 | 32 | 105 | 50 | 31 | 47 | 76 | 86 | 48 | 34 | 624 |
| Change of Address | 28 | 16 | 20 | 23 | 206 | 303 | 300 | 269 | 30 | 46 | 45 | 22 | 1308 |
| Name Changes | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 4 | 76 |
| Inactivated | 8 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 172 | 30 | 33 | 82 | 1 | 2 | 57 | 426 |
| Re-instated | 10 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 45 | 26 | 11 | 20 | 24 | 21 | 186 |
| Purged | 59 | 20 | 37 | 21 | 31 | 128 | 59 | 29 | 33 | 41 | 28 | 1171 | 1657 |
| Cards Mailed | 105 | 63 | 68 | 70 | 340 | 542 | 411 | 389 | 202 | 160 | 167 | 97 | 2614 |
| Duplicates Received and Searched | 15 | 6 | 20 | 135 | 53 | 55 | 43 | 61 | 20 | 51 | 33 | 16 | 508 |
| Registration Forms Distributed | 36 | 66 | 32 | 114 | 208 | 78 | 557 | 755 | 16 | 95 | 26 | 11 | 1994 |
| Absentee Applications Mailed/Distributed | 7 | 17 | 9 | 2 | 192 | 4 | 4 | 351 | 44 | 220 | 1 | 0 | 851 |
| Absentee Applications Submitted | 5 | 17 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 171 | 58 | 377 | 6 | 1 | 647 |
| Absentee Ballots Mailed/Issued | 0 | 0 | 137 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 273 | 29 | 726 | 5 | 0 | 1170 |
| Absentee Ballots Returned | 0 | 0 | 89 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 0 | 614 | 95 | 0 | 882 |
| Military Ballots Mailed | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 32 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 108 |
| Military Ballots Returned | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 13 |
| Agency/DMV Transmittals | 43 | 10 | 54 | 36 | 90 | 30 | 53 | 95 | 38 | 46 | 41 | 50 | 586 |
| Party Enrollment Change Requests | 7 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 18 | 29 | 16 | 18 | 8 | 148 |
| Check Cards Mailed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12,820 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12,820 |
| Check Cards Returned | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 549 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 557 |
| Lists/Disks Requested | 12 | 14 | 18 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 10 | 9 | 18 | 16 | 5 | 6 | 138 |
| Inspector Tests Given | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 93 |
| Candidate Petitions Accepted | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 110 |
| Financial Disclosures Submitted | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 21 |
| Transfer Notifications sent to State Board | 11 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 63 |
| Signatures Digitized | 116 | 56 | 34 | 31 | 126 | 55 | 40 | 90 | 124 | 78 | 195 | 38 | 983 |
| Incomplete Registrations | 30 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 66 |
| HAVA Letters | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 29 |
| Blue Dot Forms | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

| Town | Con% | Dem% | Rep % |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Barrington | 0 | 19 | 27 |
| Benton | 5 | 9 | 25 |
| Italy | 21 | 11 | 28 |
| Jerusalem | 18 | 16 | 29 |
| Middlesex | 16 | 8 | 33 |
| Milo | 13 | 12 | 27 |
| Potter | 11 | 11 | 37 |
| Starkey | 14 | 12 | 23 |
| Torrey | 0 | 12 | 30 |
| County | 13 | 12 | 28 |



2010 Primary Election Turnout & Polling Location Changes



Milo 3, 5 & 6 to St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church located on Hamilton St. Penn Yan



Jerusalem 1 & 4 to Branchport Keuka Park Firehouse located on Assembly Ave. Keuka Park

2010 General Election Turnout

| <i>Elected Officials in Yates County</i> | | | | | | | | | | <i>November 2010</i> | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Office</i> | <i>First Name</i> | <i>Mi Name</i> | <i>Last Name</i> | <i>Jurisdiction</i> | <i>Party</i> | <i>Sex</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Village</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Zip Code</i> | <i>Years In Term</i> | <i>TERM EXPIRES</i> |
| COUNTY CORONER | BRIAN | T | MURPHY | YATES COUNTY | REP | M | 2230 BELLONA STATION RD | PENN YAN | NY | 14527 | 4 | 2013 |
| TOWN JUSTICE | MARGARET | | RANDOLPH | MIDDLESEX | REP | F | 923 STATE ROUTE 245 | MIDDLESEX | NY | 14507 | 4 | 2014 |
| TOWN COUNCIL | CALVIN | A | CROSBY | BARRINGTON | REP | M | 2021 HOBSON RD | PENN YAN | NY | 14527 | 1 | 2011 |
| TOWN COUNCIL | JOHN | H | MARTINI | TORREY | DEM | M | 1031 ANTHONY RD | PENN YAN | NY | 14527 | 4 | 2014 |

| Town | % |
|---------------|-----------|
| Barrington | 51 |
| Benton | 52 |
| Italy | 53 |
| Jerusalem | 60 |
| Middlesex | 64 |
| Milo | 49 |
| Potter | 57 |
| Starkey | 48 |
| Torrey | 60 |
| County | 54 |

Deploying Election Materials



Technician - Charlie Kreuzer



**Technician - Susan Wolff
And the new Ballot Cart**



Significant Office Project for 2010



The Board of Elections kicked off the year with Election Management Systems (EMS) training. The EMS training purpose was for the attendees to learn how to create ballots to be forwarded on to the printer for printing. Seneca County Commissioners and Technicians traveled over and shared the cost of the sessions. Upon completion of the training and not without a storm delay the first Penn Yan Village Election Ballot was ready for the printer (saved a few bucks there too). Not to remain idle, Commissioners and staff then received computer training on the "Microsoft Access" software program, conducted on premise by bring an Instructor and laptops to us. The Commissioners in Yates County decided on a full 100% rollout in the New York State Pilot Project to vote using only the Dominion Image Cast and NO Lever machines in 2009. Having successfully completed all aspects of the certification process with all of the written procedures in place, to the Commissioners credit Yates County was among the first few counties to be New York State Certified early in 2010. Not a pair to remain idle the Commissioners embarked on cost effective measures to enable the existing storage spaces currently used by the Board of Elections to better serve the needs. One storage room required all existing shelving to be removed and relocated and the door was fitted with a card reader to provide for Vault like conditions (allowing track able limited access) when needed at election time. Carts were designed and built to allow for workers to safely manage individual supplies & Ballot Bags, transport and store year round. The machine storage room also received shelving to better utilize the space. First ever, poll site evacuation procedures were developed and implemented with Emergency Management review, and seal of approval. Monthly meetings were held with the Commissioners and their affiliate party Chairpersons discussing and planning with costs always a major concern, mandate verses recommendation. Meet the Candidate events were attended, senior high school students were preregistered to vote. Special Election for the 29th conducted. Election Commissioner Conferences were attended and last but not least, Election Worker Appreciation by the Legislators of Yates County.

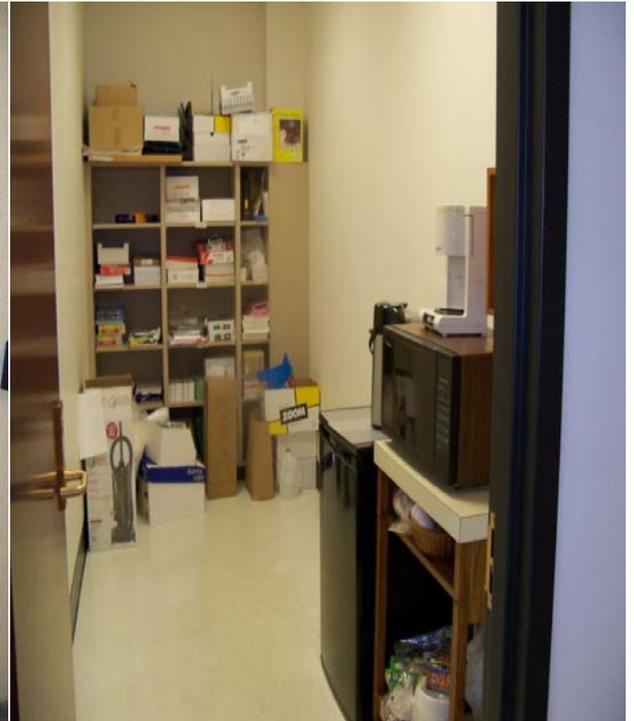




Storage - before



Storage to Vault - after



Office Closet - before



Office Closet – after



Machine room w/ shelving



Equipment Storage



Blue Wheeled Ballot Box piled in the storage room - before



Blue Wheeled Ballot Box & Suitcase supplies organized for transport for 8 sites



April 15th Voter Outreach

In 2010, at the Winter New York State Election Commissioners Association Conference, for the very first time in the history of the Association (95 years) we were honored to receive a very special visitor. While in attendance we had a chance to speak and hear speak then **Governor, David A. Paterson**. It was quite a surprise and what a sense of humor he has.



MONTHLY NARRATIVE

January 2010

- The Republican County Party Chair Robert Schwarting joined the Commissioners, Deputies, Technicians and Assistants for the annual meeting.
- Annual statistical and narrative report was prepared and submitted to the New York State Board of Elections
- The Commissioners attended the New York State Election Commissioners Winter Conference in Albany, January 24th through January 27th. We were very pleased to share minor issues involved with our implementation of the new voting systems and remain pleased with the decision to participate fully in the Pilot Program. The work load for all Board of Elections has increased considerably due to machine testing, voter and poll worker training, mandatory re-canvas audits and other duties related to the new system and HAVA.
- Penn Yan Village petition packets prepared and picked up by Candidates.
- Year - end report data collection has begun.
- Democracy Suite software installed in the new Election Management Hardware.
- Received training from FLCC's Judy Smith in Microsoft Access.
- Held monthly office meeting.
- Received the annual Calendar for 2010 from the State.

February 2010

- The Commissioners continue revising the board's procedural manual.
- Received notification from all County Towns with positions up for election in 2010, we notified the State.
- Held monthly office meeting.
- Commissioners continue to put Annual Report together.
- Received petitions from Village Candidates.
- Records were reviewed preparing for NCOA (Nation Change of Address).
- Contacted schools to prepare for registering high school seniors.
- Received training in the Election Management software enabling us to create our Ballot layouts for the printer.
- Commissioners met with County Party Chairs Schaeffer & Schwarting to expand the bipartisan relationships creating a stronger, more knowledgeable, cost effective Board of Elections Team.

March 2010

- Finish Annual report and submitted to County Legislature and State.
- Commissioners continue to update procedures manual with new operating procedures for the Board of Elections.
- Re-stocked the county Post Offices, Libraries and Town Offices with voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications.
- Received the Political Calendar for 2010 from the State.
- Held monthly office meeting.
- Commissioners started recruiting additional Inspectors.
- Commissioners and staff toured completed Branchport Keuka Park Firehouse located on Assembly Ave in Keuka Park in preparation of moving Jerusalem 1 and 4 polling site.
- We ran the Penn Yan Village Election.
- Started performing first quarter maintenance on Voting machines.
- Commissioners met with County Party Chairs Schaeffer & Schwarting.

April 2010

- Held monthly office meeting.
- Commissioners Brechko & Daines conducted a voter registration drive at the Penn Yan Academy, registering 95 new voters
- Completed testing on voting machines.
- Prepared trailer for voter outreach programs with the theme being “Voting History in New York.” Trailer was set up on display for the Finger Lakes Tea Party Rally ending at the County building on April 15th and also attended the meet the Candidates event on April 12th at Benton firehouse.
- Scheduled Inspectors May training
- Updated training manuals with a few simple changes.
- Toured and received permission to use St Paul’s Lutheran Church on Hamilton St in Penn Yan, for use as Milo 3, 5 & 6 polling locations.
- Commissioners met with County Party Chairs Schaeffer & Schwarting.
- Met with Dominion staff at a Region 5 gathering to discuss machine issues and updates.
- April 26th and 27th Commissioners Brechko & Daines attended New York State Board of Elections Annual Conference held in Albany. Due to budget constraints Yates County did not remain in Albany for the 3rd day thus they were not present to receive their Achievement Award for Voter Outreach and Training programs during the Professional Practices Program. Certification for the new Voting Systems is emanate for Yates.

We count our blessing we have approx 120 Inspectors: we recently learned New York City has to train 35,000

This was part of the information gleaned from the Federal Representatives at the NYSBOE Conference in April.



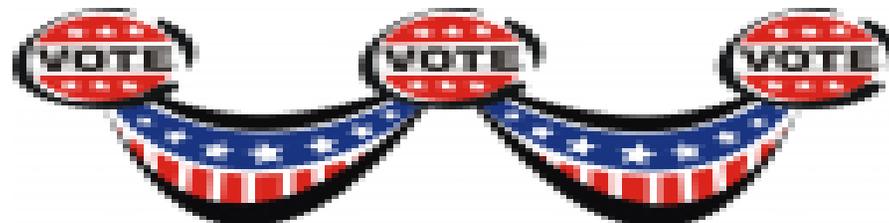
May 2010

- Elections Operations Assistants began preparations for up-coming elections training and also continued recruiting more Inspectors.
- National Change of Address (NCOA) lists were received the end of May.
- Voter Outreach location and schedule being developed.
- Held monthly office meeting.
- Commissioners met with County Party Chairs Schaeffer & Schwarting.

- Registered **95** Penn Yan Academy Seniors during an all day event and **45** Dundee Seniors during a 2 hour lunchtime program.
- Conducted Inspector training certifying 65 of the 80 needed. Additional classes to be held in August.
- Received training on our new Custodian software (Inventory management system required for maintaining chain of custody of the new voting machines and supplies.
- Refresher training classes via Webinars issued from NTS for TEAM issues (except it was feeling all new for Amy & Susan).
- We have been updating our address records with changes as Jerusalem renumbers, names and renames addresses in Jerusalem. Jerusalem Voters were also sent notification that their addresses had been updated at our office.
- With certification emanate we have begun sharing our materials with our fellow Commissioner's as requested.

June 2010

- The Petition process began on June 8th.
- Additional Inspector Training classes scheduled
- Amy attended the summer conference June 22nd – 25th held in Lake Placid. The information was earth shattering – seriously, there was an earthquake!
- Held monthly office meeting.
- Commissioners met with County Party Chairs Schaeffer & Schwarting.
- Commissioners met with Sharon Hogan-Risk manager and Glen Miller-EMS Coordinator to begin developing Election Operations Contingency plans. While together polling site evacuation plans were discussed site specific plans could be developed from the same basic template. Glen will discuss our plans with the EMS Advisory Board and alert the departments with plans will be forth coming for their review.
- It has been determined after meeting with Glen and Sharon that the polling site currently located in the basement of the County building will be moved to the ground level.
- Unable to confirm a date for our desired visit to Marcus Whitman school to register Senior students, so we will start earlier next year.
- Continuing with Jerusalem renumbering.
- Real Property created and gave us a copy of their new school district map.
- NCOA updates were processed.
- Staff participated in additional Webinars from NTS for TEAM issues.
- HAVA Poll Site reviews were completed for the 2 new polling sites.



- Election worker recognition was conducted at the June Legislative meeting, the Chambers were full. Senator George Winner was unable to attend to present, but sent his aide Phil Palmesano to present on his behalf. Democratic Party Chair Carolyn Schaeffer and Republican Party Chair Robert Schwarting were on hand assisting Legislative Chairman H Taylor Fitch with distribution of certificates for years of service 1-53.



Phil presented Commissioner Brechko and Commissioner Daines with the Achievement Award they should have received at Conference in April. Former Commissioner Pam Welker was invited to share the moment. Democratic Party Chair Carolyn Schaeffer and Republican Party Chair Robert Schwarting were on hand assisting with the distribution of the certificates. H Taylor Fitch said “The innovative processes and procedures you came up with are being copied. You took on the challenge and showed you are leaders and role models for the rest of the state.” What a great evening!



July 2010

- Monthly department meeting held.
- The Commissioners began work on the 2010 budget.
- Plans were made with NTS to submit mail check file to NTS for Annual mail check cards due out in August.
- Independent nominating petitions began circulating July 7th..
- 36 Designating Petitions were filed between July 12th and July 15th. No objections were filed.
- Commissioners met with County Party Chairs Schaeffer & Schwarting.
- The trailer was set up at the Yates County fair and manned by Inspector volunteers July 13th thru 17th, unfortunately the location was in a low traffic area and visitor were few in number.
- Additional Inspector training was held this month.
- Milo 6 Republican Town Committee will be determined by vote in the Primary Election as there are 5 interested persons for 4 vacant seats. This may be the history in the making for Yates County.
- We visited Steuben County Board of Elections to observe their Inspector training. We were able to exchange beneficial practices to incorporate into our own training activities. Having the opportunity to tour their facilities also caused us to identify areas within our facilities to make improvements.
- Amy has begun to research available carts to transport and store the election supplies.
- Ontario County Democratic Commissioner Mary Salotti and her Clerk paid us a visit to discuss training and certification materials. Ontario will be using the new voting system county wide for the first time this year. We will be forwarding a great deal of information to assist Ontario on their journey.
- Received notice from State BOE as to 4 Candidates who were “5-day delinquent”. All were notified to timely file financial disclosures and to contact the state.
- Commissioners met with County Party Chairs Schaeffer & Schwarting.

August 2010

- There will be a County wide Primary in Yates County for the Republican and Conservatives.
- Monthly department meeting held.
- 2011 budget being developed and submitted.
- We received NO Independent nominating petitions
- We received 549 returned mail check cards from the mailing this year.
- Primary Ballot design completed, ballots ordered and received.
- Military & Federal Overseas Absentee Voter Ballots were mailed on time.
- We received the first instructional from the State concerning the MOVE act (Military Overseas Voter Empowerment).
- Voting machines and supplies were being assembled for the Primary.

- Poll Site Evacuation Plans have been created and sent to Glen Miller and on to the Fire Advisory Board and individual Fire Departments for review during the Primary election. Fire Chiefs were asked to observe the polling site and our plans, to verify meeting places are appropriate and so emergency personnel know where to look for our workers and voters. Fire Chiefs were also asked to look at our equipment so they could understand our needs once the time was right should there be a need. We also sent the same information on to Ontario County and the Naples Fire Department who protect the Italy Polling site. We received very prompt responses and verifications they would do everything they could to assist and protect. After the Primary final plans were in place. We pray we never need them.
- Met with Sheriff Spike to discuss ballot transportation needs, assistance will be provided.

September 2010

- Prepared 4 ballot styles programmed 49 ballots into voting machines. Technicians testing ballots even with the Poll Site Coordinators assistance it is a long slow process.
- Inspectors reviewed Poll site evacuation plans on Election Day where they were working.
- Poll Site Coordinator training.
- Final Inspector training class.
- A revised budget was submitted.
- Process Absentee ballots, received 217 back from 336 that were mailed..
- Conduct Primary election September 14th
- Certified the Primary Election results.
- 3% Audit conducted on voting machine September 16th. All good!!!
- Prepare Ballot definition for General election.
- Order 3 rolling ballot carts for safe handling and storage of our 20 Ballot boxes and bags. Extensive research provided nothing currently on the market to fit our needs so custom fabrication is required. A local fabricator, CM Fabrications (Craig McMinn – owner), can make all 3 carts for less money than 1 barely similar available stock cart can be purchased for.
- Efforts to secure our storage closet to meet election law requirements are under way. Vault like conditions need to be met, as currently candidates running for office, currently in office have access. Just on principle alone, this is not a desirable situation.
- Met with Sherriff Ron Spike, Court Security Randy Schwingle and Building and Grounds Bruce Warfield to continue the discussion about transforming out storage room into the secure area (Vault). The decision was made to secure both our machine room and storage room (Vault) areas to meet requirement of 6210.11 of Election Law and have it done in time for the General Election 2010. New Lock cores were installed that are not part of the County master Key System. A card reader will be installed on the door of the storage room (Vault). One already exists on the machine room.
- Participated in Conference call with the State and other 29th District members to clarify instructions for the 29th Congressional Special Election to be held in conjunction with the General Election.
- Web site was updated Election night with Election Results.
- We were pleased to hear Democratic Commissioner Robert Brechko was reappointed to another 2 year term.

October 2010

- Held monthly office meeting.
- One final new inspector training class to be held due to last minute illness and injury.
- We continued to receive absentee ballot requests and began mailing the ballots as soon as they arrived.
- Inspectors were invited from all voting districts to assist with machine testing, saving the Tech's significant HOURS, but providing inspectors with SIGNIFICANT hands on experience without the pressures felt on Election Day. The financial benefit was far outweighed by the Inspectors increased confidence levels. While Technicians and Inspectors ran test decks on the new voting systems and preparing to certify for the General Election problems developed with the 22" ballots, but close work with Dominion allowed us to successfully test a "retrofit" and have procedures in place to work through any Election Day complications. Retrofit and complications found in testing were only an issue in the write in compartment.
- Prepare for Budget Workshop.
- Prepare the ballot definition for the Special Election Ballot for those who cannot vote in the general.
- Prepare the ballot definitions for the General Election. The Special Election for the 29th Congressional District will be added to the General Ballot. A separate ballot won't be needed for the General Election voters. Only those people who did not register in time for the General Election and within the time limit of the Special Election will receive a separate ballot with the one race on it. It will not be run through the scanner, but will be counted as an emergency ballot. This will save the county the cost of printing 2 ballots for everyone (approximately \$6400.00).
- Just in Time training to allow for a smoother transfer of information to our Inspectors when they need it most. The very best class ever 60 of 85 scheduled to work was able to attend.
- Order ballots.
- MOVE Act compliance requires additional mailings and Ballots.
- Finalized Poll Site Evacuation Plans.
- Process Military and Special Federal Ballots.
- Attended a Regional meeting in Tompkins County for Commissioners and Technicians with Dominion.
- BOE office to be open extended hours, until 7pm on the 19th & 26th and Saturday the 23rd & 30th from 9 to 1.

November 2010

- Deploy machines and supplies for General Election and then retrieve.
- The general Election was held on November 2nd.
- 3% Audit conducted and passed.
- 641 Absentee Ballots received back from the 758 that were sent.
- Certified election results November 24th.
- Village of Penn Yan election to be conducted by this board, public notice out.
- There were 47 affidavit ballots cast during the election, of those 35 were counted. Letters were sent to each voter advising them whether or not their vote was counted.

- Processing Check Cards
- Processed Voter registration changes received after October cutoff date.
- Party Affiliation changes made after the November election were 149
- Monthly office meeting conducted.
- The card reader has been installed on the door of the storage room and will now be referred to as the Vault.
- The Ballot Bag Carts have been delivered and work well.
- Web Site has been updated with Official Election Results and Amy is participating on the management team web update committee.

December 2010

- We continue to process all voter registrations and registration and enrollment changes received after October cut off.
- We began working on our year end reports. Surveys from the State have yet to arrive.
- Continue processing check cards
- Penn Yan Village election petition preparation.
- Submit to Commissioners Association processes, procedures and training materials used and developed by Yates Board of Elections for training purposes at the January Conference being held in Rockland County Jan 25th – 28th.

Commissioners Thoughts

Robert F Brechko – 2007

The year 2010 was a milestone for the Yates County Board of Elections. To become one of the first counties in New York to certify using the new Image Cast voting system was a major accomplishment. It took a team effort and a mindset early on to move forward. The several meetings with our county party chairs were very helpful in developing an image we wanted to make for our Board, one of cooperation, professionalism and change. The elections held this year were very successful technically, but disappointing in the turnout of voters. How do we get the voters to vote? The year to come will be a greater challenge for our department with the budget limitations and decrease in staffing. I believe we are up for the challenge and that we will succeed.

Amy J Daines – 2009

My first six months as Commissioner are nearly a blur, my first week my father passed away. He was happy for me: I was excited and had found something I was meant to do. Little did he realize the influence he would have as I scrutinize the budget, research and design carts, consider 3 or 4 points of view before I make decisions I believe in. As I look back over this year I am nearly overwhelmed at our accomplishments. I personally try to hit the ground running when I take on a task and have been compared to a bulldog when I take hold of something. I am fortunate I believe to be this way for the sake of the Voters in Yates County. Please notice I did not say Republican Voters of Yates County. I am the Republican Commissioner and am mindful of my responsibility, but ours is a bipartisan office where all Voters and Candidates are treated fair and equal.

Change, surely is in the air and likely to remain a constant for quite some time. Change was needed on many levels as we move through the election process, but the single greatest change has been to our image. Bob and I were very fortunate to have Carolyn and Rob also agree to sit at a bipartisan table and discuss issues facing the Board of Elections and help us move forward. We appreciate all of their efforts and believe the efforts have not been wasted. Rob reminded us often of our need to commit to cutting costs and as a result we were able to prepare with “forward thinking” a far reduced budget proposal that was accepted and we will work within in 2011.

The most rewarding days at work for me have to be the days we register the senior students in our area schools. The greatest challenge we face is getting registered voters to actually vote. We are as visible as we can be, we attend functions when invited, haul around a big trailer blazed with our trade. And the happiest day was when my assistant got married and became Deb Craig.



“Progress is a nice word, but change is a motivator. And change has its enemies.”

Robert F Kennedy