

Yates County Board of Elections

2012 Annual Report



“The strength of any great nation rests upon its election process” – NIS

*Robert F Brechko, Democratic Commissioner
Susan Griffin, Deputy Commissioner
Susan Wolff, Voting System Technician*

*Amy J Daines, Republican Commissioner
Helen Scarpechi, Deputy Commissioner
Charlie Kreuzer, Voting System Technician*

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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, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

“If you want to make enemies, try to change something.” - Thomas Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)

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, two (2) Machine Technicians and four (4) Poll Site Coordinators and 86 Election Inspectors. 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. Some of the services we offer the community include voter registration, information to candidates running for office, absentee ballot processing and elections that offer the opportunity to vote and an assurance that every legal vote is counted before the elections are certified. We continue to educate the voting public on how to use the voting system in a manner that would encourage their desire to participate in the democratic process. We educate and register the high school seniors from Penn Yan, Dundee and the Marcus Whitman school districts explaining the voting process and giving them the opportunity to mark and cast a practice ballot so they are familiar and comfortable with the voting process when they vote for their first time. We also visit the Keuka College campus educating and encouraging students to not only register to vote but assist them to vote by using the Absentee Ballot process. We are continuously challenged to manage our department, which is mandated by state law, within our budget constraints. We constantly review our processes and procedures to find ways to reduce our budget going forward. In 2012 we were very successful as we were able to reduce or prevent expenditures by **\$7410.00**.



Boards of Elections are “The Foot Soldiers of Democracy”

The Board of Election office is also charged with the following responsibilities:

Oversee the printing of ballots and administer all federal, state, county, town, Penn Yan Village and Penn Yan Central School elections.

Interact with United States Postal Staff, Yates County 911, Village and Town officials to map out voting districts and boundaries, interpret maps, legal descriptions and geographical data.

Provide materials to candidates to ensure the petition process goes smoothly, receive and file petitions and maintain campaign finance records.

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

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

We provide the Yates County Legislature, Town Board members and the State Board of Elections with enrollment reports, yearly statistical data and annual reports and fulfill any additional requests for information as needed.

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, then complying with the changes as required.

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

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 the proper way to mark their ballot and voting machine usage to ensure their vote counts.

Provide outreach to unregistered voters in area high schools, Keuka College, home school groups and the public.

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

Maintain Board of Election website with informative and useful information for all interested individuals.

Yates County Board of Elections - 2012 Goals

1. **Fulfill all of the requirements listed in our annual calendar.**
2. Run six successful elections by not disenfranchising the voters, inspectors following procedures, accurate and timely results and meeting all time lines involved.
 - Penn Yan Village Election (March 20th)
 - Presidential Primary (April 24th)
 - Penn Yan School District Election (May 15th)
 - Federal Primary Election (June 26th)
 - State Primary Election (September 13th)
 - General Election (November 6th)
3. Determine if Benton 1 & 2 can be combined into one district by reviewing voter lists to find inactivate and purge Voters who have moved or died based on the check cards, Benton Town Assessor and Clerk input. This effort is to eliminate 1 voting district in Benton by March 1st, 2012. ***The goal requires compliance with Current Election Law which does not allow having districts larger than 1150 active voters. Benton currently has 1366 active voters.***
 - *If able to eliminate a district, complete the voter notification process by March 31st to facilitate a seamless voter experience for the Presidential Primary April 24th.*
4. Conduct Voter Registration Drives in Marcus Whitman, Penn Yan, Dundee and **Naples** in an effort to Register High School Seniors by April 13th in time for the Presidential Primary. This includes;
 - Introducing them to the voting process (from signing the poll book to casting their ballot).
 - Allowing them vote on the voting machine utilizing a sample ballot.
 - Encourage their participation in all elections.
 - Invite Ontario County BOE to join in the activities for the Marcus Whitman and Naples School since the districts overlap.
5. Continue to review procedures looking for additional cost savings measures continuously throughout 2012 and budget submission for 2013; ***Example:*** Learn any new features the new web site may offer including possible Inspector scheduling for training, testing and working thus freeing up man hours for other office/election related tasks.
6. Election Inspector recruitment and training by June 1st.
 - Find Inspectors in towns were we currently do not have enough from within that town.
 - Look at the distance between polling sites vs. outside of Town – revise the resolution paying election workers the travel rate (resolution attached to Monthly report) – **cost savings measure.**
7. Publish election results electronically by 10:30 PM on Election nights utilizing the lessons learned from the General Election in 2011 and the Election Management Software report feature. Test with the village election in March and put into practice in time for the Presidential Primary in April. **This does not pertain to any hand counts required or results for write in campaigns.**
8. Eliminate the leave report process for paying Election Workers. Learn the TEAM Poll Worker payroll module and export capabilities to Treasures office and MUNIS. Provide a dual report (if needed) after the Presidential Primary to allow the Treasurer's Office time to review. Timeline dependent upon available time in treasurer's office as they learn the new time clock system which may or may not impact temporary/seasonal workers in the BOE department. (This process actually began during the 2011 Primary). This will eliminate redundancy and improve efficiency.



“A Vote Is A Terrible Thing To Waste”

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 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 on the internet for local newspapers, funeral chapels and the New York State Department of Health which also provides a computerized list of deaths. During 2012, there were 1040 registrations cancelled. A breakdown of the cancellations is as follows:

Reasons for Cancellation of Records	Number
Deceased	174
Judged Incompetent	0
Moved out of County	316
Felony Conviction	8
Cancelled at Voter's Request	16
Inactive Voter's Purged	439
Miscellaneous	87
TOTAL	1040

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 (12,996 in 2012), 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 2012 there were 492 records inactivated. The breakdown is as follows:

Reasons for Inactivation of Records	Number Received
Mail Check	355
National Change of Address (NCOA)	93
Mail Undeliverable	36
Miscellaneous	0
Moved out of County	8
TOTAL	492

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 2012 we received 349 registrations from NVRA agencies; Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Labor, Office of the Aging, Department of Social Services and other Yates 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	22
Agencies/DMV Transmittals	349
Blue Dot	2
Board of Elections Office/Our Registration Efforts	335
Election Inspectors	5
Mail	189
Other Local County Boards	37
TOTAL	939

Beginning in 2012 the DMV (at the Governor's directive) implemented a new process whereby registrations would be transmitted to the Boards of Elections electronically. The process may be completed during 2013 and any associated cost is unknown as yet.

TRANSACTION DATA 2012	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year To Date
New Voters	39	43	127	34	46	47	34	77	111	171	2	141	872
Change of Address	28	21	31	20	17	26	20	319	28	50	79	52	691
Name Changes	0	1	1	3	3	6	5	9	11	10	21	10	80
Inactivated	3	2	5	62	2	0	1	3	169	2	0	4	253
Re-instated	11	5	12	7	17	17	10	14	24	31	37	14	199
Purged	46	27	35	51	41	25	27	31	108	93	18	489	991
Cards Mailed	81	72	176	126	85	96	70	422	343	264	139	221	2095
Duplicates Received and Searched	26	9	9	5	13	16	10	24	21	25	1	45	204
Registration Forms Distributed	18	67	308	595	61	54	31	156	387	119	32	4	1832
Absentee Applications Mailed/Distributed	3	8	10	42	15	41	8	119	369	352	34	0	1001
Absentee Applications Submitted	3	26	10	26	24	33	17	88	117	561	52	0	957
Absentee Ballots Mailed/Issued	0	128	222	11	236	25	0	8	0	989	50	0	1669
Absentee Ballots Returned	0	23	122	43	59	70	0	3	0	785	175	0	1280
Military Ballots Mailed	0	6	13	1	32	0	0	8	62	39	0	0	161
Military Ballots Returned	0	0	5	2	4	1	0	0	1	27	16	0	56
Agency/DMV Transmittals	63	57	66	39	52	80	63	84	70	79	47	78	778
Party Enrollment Change Requests	8	8	9	11	13	9	6	13	26	40	19	39	201
Check Cards Mailed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,996	0	0	0	0	12996
Check Cards Returned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	851	1	0	0	0	852
Lists/Disks Requested	8	5	15	11	9	43	24	23	5	8	7	9	167
Inspector Tests Given	0	0	0	1	50	17	0	0	0	18	0	0	86
Candidate Petitions Accepted	0	5	0	0	0	0	104	1	0	0	0	0	110
Financial Disclosures Submitted	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Transfer Notifications sent to State Board	3	2	7	4	8	8	3	10	15	16	0	4	80
Signatures Digitized	39	42	116	119	80	83	58	103	117	189	300	194	1440
Incomplete Registrations	1	6	2	0	8	2	9	13	5	2	0	0	48
HAVA Letters	2	0	4	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	13
Blue Dot Forms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Letters to Voters	14	14	13	25	17	9	18	25	39	24	10	38	246
TOTALS													
NOTES:	Due to deadlines and budget needs, the statistical data may not reflect the date in which a voter registration form was received, however the registration date is the date received at a Board of Election Office.												

February: 43 letters and registration cards sent to "do not use" party members
March: 81 high school seniors that will be 18 before election day registered at voter outreach events
April: old registration forms at public locations replaced with NEW registration forms - 575 Total with 345 Absentee Forms. 63 high school seniors were processed as pre-registrations (17 yr olds turning 18 during 2012)
May: 32 students registered at Keuka College event with 1 additional registration for another state
September: voter drive @ Keuka College 15 Registrations & 45 Absentee Applications completed / 126 Voter Registration forms w/ 164 Absentee Application forms distributed at all public locations
December: 422 NVRA purges

Significant Office Projects for 2012



The Yates County Board of Election assisted Penn Yan Central School with their first election in 2012 using the new voting system. This is what they had to say:

PENN YAN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office
One School Drive
Penn Yan, NY 14527

(315)536-3371

David Hamilton
Superintendent of Schools

May 21, 2012

Amy J. Daines, Republican Commissioner
Robert Brechko, Democratic Commissioner
Yates County Board of Elections
417 Liberty Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Amy and Bob:

I'd like to take a moment to formally express my appreciation to both of you for working so diligently with my office staff to implement the use of the new voting machines at our school budget vote on May 15.

Your willingness to allow the District to use the County's voting machines and supplies is a testimony to your commitment to providing high quality, cost efficient services to our constituents. I think we can be very proud that we did not burden our taxpayers with any additional costs by working collaboratively on this venture. I know that not all school districts are receiving the same level of support from the Boards of Election in their home districts. Many will need to incur the cost of purchasing their own machines and training their own machine custodians and inspectors.

I understand you held several training sessions for our inspectors. In addition, Machine Custodians Charlie Kreuzer and Susan Wolff were invaluable in their assistance throughout this entire process and on the actual vote day.

Thank you again for all that you've done to assist the Penn Yan Central School District and to promote cooperative inter-agency collaborations that benefit our entire community.

Sincerely,



David Hamilton
Superintendent of Schools

DH/bb

C: Sarah Purdy, Yates County Administrator
H. Taylor Fitch, Chair of YC Legislature

Elections - Cost Savings Measures in 2012

Traveling Inspectors: Reduced labor costs and compensated Inspectors fairly when traveling to a polling site to work when it is not their “home” site. There is a cost reduction by creating working “cells” but the cells also provide for Inspectors to travel shorter distances home after having worked for an extended period of time. When we developed these “cells” it also allowed Inspectors to become familiar with Inspectors in their nearby communities (within 10 miles of their home polling site) besides the reduce labor costs. Due to the wording of the previous resolution Inspectors could travel from Penn Yan to Benton and be paid an additional \$1.00 per hour (instead of calculating and paying mileage) but could travel from Penn Yan to Himrod and be paid nothing additional. We always try to keep Inspectors in their home sites, but due to experience levels it is not always possible. We previously budgets for 25 traveling inspectors and have reduced our number to fewer than ten usually 5 or 6. An average cost saving for average reduction of 15 is \$165 for Primary / \$240 for General or **\$405 per year**.

Primary Staffing: One political party only election, results in our ability to combine voting districts as the registrants must be 1150 or less per district. District reductions were possible in Benton, Jerusalem, Milo and Starkey. Each site generates a saving of \$467.50 totaling **\$2805**.

Annual Voter Registration Drive held every Presidential year. This past year Bob discovered the ability, due to our level of registered voter’s vs of eligible registrants that we qualified to eliminate the need to staff a registration site in every Town. We still maintained Open Registration hours at the Board of Election offices but were able to save the labor cost for 8 sites or 16 Inspectors @ **\$1680**. Cuddo’s to Bob as this was a benefit enjoyed by many counties across the state, all much larger than ours.

Equipment Deployment and Retrieval Costs were reduced from inception of 112 to 56 man hours or a savings of **\$840 per election** (in 2012 there were 3 elections or \$2520.00)

\$7410.00 Total

An ongoing cost saving that we cannot put a dollar amount on are our efforts reducing paper costs by saving everything we can electronically. This process is also allowing for a more efficient work flow saving even a few seconds here and there, as they add up too!

The savings notes above only reflect the labor costs noted. In several instances there are additional cost saving benefits from not having to prepare, deploy and retrieve items, reduced printing and shipping costs, there may also be reduced liability from voter disenfranchising as there are fewer Inspectors and less confusion for voters.

“The only man who makes no mistakes is the man who does nothing.” - Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)

MONTHLY NARRATIVE

JANUARY

- We held our annual meeting of the Board of Elections on January 11th. Guests included Rob Schwarting from the Legislature and Freeman Freeman from the Democratic Committee Executive board.
- We attended the Election Commissioners Winter Conference. Our costs to attend were paid by our respective county committees. The information we received at the conference will be very helpful to us in the future.
- We met with the Penn Yan Central School officials and will be going forward with plans to help them with their election in May. A contract will be prepared to outline the agreement.
- We met with Scott Falvey to draft a general contract for entities wishing to use the voting systems and specific details for the Penn Yan School election in May. We also discussed a few issues with election law that concern us.
- We completed the annual statistical report required by the State Board of Elections.

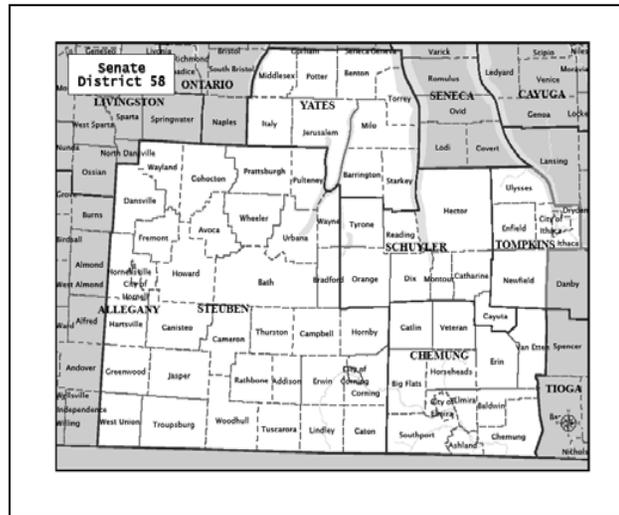
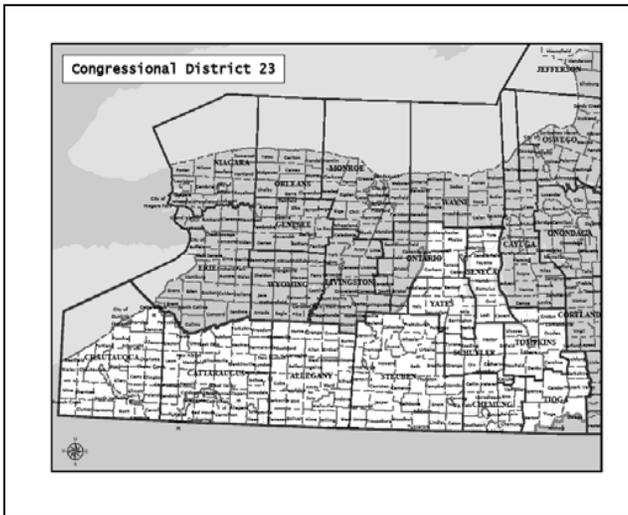
FEBRUARY

- We prepared the ballot for the Penn Yan Village election, assigning Inspectors and preparing for the election.
- We received the political calendar for the Federal Primary from the State Board of Elections. This will affect our calendar going forward.
- Village of Penn Yan petitions were received for the March 20th village elections. We received 5 petitions for 5 vacancies.
- The Penn Yan Village absentee ballots have been printed and mailed and the ballots for Election Day have been ordered.
- We continued working on our annual report for the County Legislature that is due April 1st.
- We are still waiting on the official State redistricting information. When it is received we will have to update our records where necessary.
- Resolution to approve contract with Branchport/Keuka Park Fire Dept for use of their facilities for elections this year was written and passed. Since we have been using their facility regularly in the past, the Fire Board has decided that we will not be required to continue to fill one out going forward.

“The ballot is stronger than the bullet” - Abraham Lincoln

MARCH

- We held registration sessions at each of the major high schools in the county this month (Dundee, Marcus Whitman, and Penn Yan).
- The Penn Yan Village Election was held on March 20th. We had 73 absentee ballots and 76 people voting in person out of 2766 registered voters (5%).
- We entered into an Election Services Agreement with Penn Yan Central School Board.
- We prepared the Ballot for the Presidential Primary Election and assigned inspectors. Military and Overseas absentee ballots were mailed March 8th. This was ahead of the deadline of March 9th. We printed our own Absentee Ballots on premise.
- A resolution was submitted to have the Chairman sign HHS Voting Access Grant for \$965.00.
- We received notification of a Congressional District change and as well as State Assembly and Senate. We are now the 23rd Congressional District, the 132nd Assembly District and the 58th Senate District.



"It is easier to do a job right than to explain why you didn't" – (Martin Van Buren (1837-1841))

This month ended with great sorrow as former Commissioner of Elections for the Republican Party, Pamela Welker passed away as a result of a fall while rollerblading. Pam will be remembered for her sense of humor, her calm quiet nature and her absolute zest for life. Pam's family meant the world to her. We miss her laughter, guidance and her absolute love of animals.

In Memory of

Pamela A. Welker

November 11, 1948 - March 24, 2012



Yates County Republican Commissioner 1996 - 2009

ELECTION

APRIL

- The Presidential Primary was held on April 24th.
- The schedule for Inspector training which will take place in late May and early June was announced on April 24th.
- The Penn Yan School ballot has been prepared and submitted to the school for approval.



MAY

- We assisted the Penn Yan School with their Election on May 15th. All thought it was a big success. We developed the ballot for the Federal Primary Election and mailed out the Military and overseas absentee ballots on May 10th. The Federal Primary will involve the Republican and Democratic Parties. It will be a full election and we will not be able to combine districts at the polling sites.
- We were unable to attend any town meetings in May.
- We held 5 inspector training sessions in May.

JUNE

- We held 3 more inspector training classes.
- The voting machines for the Federal Primary were tested successfully.
- The Federal Primary was held June 26th.
- We met with the other county schools to review Penn Yan's success and plan for next year. At this point we have not received commitments from Dundee or Marcus Whitman.
- Bob Brechko was reappointed by the Democratic Committee for another 2 year term starting January 1, 2013.

JULY

- Certified the Federal Primary Election. Voter turnout was 10% Democrats and 6% Republicans.
- Received and reviewed designating petitions for the September Primary. There were 2 Republican candidates who submitted petitions for Coroner. Objections were filed against one of the petitions which led to the determination that the petition was fatally flawed for insufficient number of signatures. If both petitions would have been allowed, it would have necessitated a County-wide primary. Five petitions were filed for Republican Party committee positions in the Town of Barrington resulting in a Primary Election for the Town of Barrington only. Estimated cost will be \$1000. We will be able to cover this expense within our existing budget.
- Ballot position drawings were held for the candidates in the Barrington Primary.
- The Technicians prepared the ballot for the Barrington September Primary.
- Prepared the file for mail check cards. They will be mailed July 30.
- The Commissioners attended the summer Election Commissioners Conference/Training (July 31- Aug 3). Bob & Amy were reappointed to the Legislative Committee with their agenda being presented at the January 2014 Conference to forward to the State Law makers so they understand the concerns the election professional have.
- Machine upgrades consisting of new casters, locks & bumpers were installed by Dominion Technicians.
- Received notice from Jerusalem that the Highway Superintendent has retired.
- Begin the Independent Petition process.



AUGUST

- We developed our 2013 budget.
- We completed ballot testing for Town of Barrington Republican Primary Election.
- We received 849 Mail Check cards returned by the Post Office and started processing the changes.
- We attended the Middlesex Fire Department meeting August 8th and received permission to use their fire hall for elections from here forward due to limited space in the Town Hall. Thank you to Middlesex Town for their facility use to date.
- One Independent Nominating Petition was filed.
- We received a request to hold a voter registration drive in September for Keuka College Students on parents' weekend.
- Participated in a conference call with NTS our software provider to ensure BOE database properly set up for the 2012 General Election for MOVE (Military Overseas Voter Empowerment Act) compliance. We are!



“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.” - John Quincy Adams 6th US President (1825-1829)

SEPTEMBER

- We held the Primary Election on September 13th for the Town of Barrington only.
- Tech's completed the Special Federal and Military General Ballot enabling us to meet the MOVE mandate. Ballots were uploaded the 19th and mailed the 20th. Certification is not expected for the remaining ballot until Oct 1. There will be 3 separate absentee ballots this year due to the deadlines.
- We held a voter registration drive at Keuka College on September 21st and 22nd at their request and processed a total of 98 documents – 2 out of state, 45 registrations with just 15 for Yates County, 48 absentee all for out of Yates County, plus we notified PA of 2 applicants that used our NY forms.
- We continue processing changes to voters' records as a result of the returned Mail Check cards.
- We changed how Inspectors are paid for training (an hourly rate instead of a set amount to expedite payroll reporting).
- Commissioners participated in a series of webinars with the Post Office dealing with mailing procedures for political mailings.
- Yates Commissioners were panelists in a webinar with Orange County Commissioners and NTS staff to provide proactive outreach efforts to the New York State schools for future elections using available services once lever machines are eliminated.

OCTOBER

- Produced a State and Local ballot for the military by deadline of October 5th.
- Produced a General Election Ballot and started issuing absentee ballots.
- Prepared and tested machines for the General Election.
- We trained additional Inspectors for the General Election on October 27th and 31th.
- The election office remained open for extended hours for registration and absentee ballot applications as required by Election Law.
- Prepared for the General Election.
- Managed absentee ballots and registrations (there is a big increase of both in the Presidential Year over normal years). We failed to plan our staffing to manage the increase as we did not remember from the previous Presidential election in 2009 that there were 2 additional staff members who primarily managed the Inspector related activities, supply deployment plus answered phones and performed odds and ends to assist during the month from August until November. It was purely chaotic.

“Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.” – *Ralph Waldo Emerson (Author)*

NOVEMBER

- We held a successful election on November 6th (the longest day).
- We re-canvassed the General Election and certified the results. The unofficial results of the election were on the web by 10:34 PM. Only 69% of the county voted during this General Election compared to 80% in 2008. We did have more absentee voters this year than in 2008.
- The required audit of a voting machine was conducted and the hand counted results matched the machine results.
- We started closing the election year by preparing records for storage.
- Participated in Conference call with ECA Legislative Committee
- Participated in conference Call with State BOE
- Notified there will be no April State hosted conference
- Some say it is not necessary to say thank you as we're just doing our jobs, but personally we happen to believe that for our needs many times departments and staff are asked for extra's, the "above and beyond". There are many situations that we could be forced to hire or contract for and we are grateful we do not have to. Due to the ability, willingness and flexibility within our County management and staff we're able to provide better services at the least cost to our voters and taxpayers. Our equipment is well cared for and not "beaten and battered" by moving company staff who do not understand or care about the condition of the equipment. Thank you for you and your staff assistance, teamwork and camaraderie: Public Safety, IT, Buildings & Grounds, Highway, Veterans, Treasurer's & Clerk's Office's, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Human resource & Insurance & Risk, Judge Falvey.... We could not accomplish all that we do in a 2 day window without each and every one of you and your staff, well we could not do it **COST EFFECTIVELY** and as **Efficient** for sure. ***Thank you so very much!***

"A vote is like a rifle; its usefulness depends upon the character of the user." - Theodore Roosevelt 26th President (1858 - 1919)

DECEMBER

- We completed the NVRA purge of voters that are inactive and haven't voted in the past 2 Federal Election. The quantity was 422. These are mostly made up of voters who have moved and didn't inform us. We get their annual voter mail check card returned to us in August of each year as being unable to be delivered. We then make them inactive.
- We prepared to close the election year by running reports, saving election data and prepared voting machines for storage. We are waiting for a go ahead from our software supplier to proceed. They are working on updates to the software with regards to Military and Overseas Voters.
- We started preparing data for yearend reports to the State BOE.
- We reviewed dates for 2013 events in preparation for our annual meeting to be held January 9th.
- Began to assemble information for annual report.
- Began to consider goals for 2013.

Commissioners Thoughts

Robert F Brechko – 2007

What a year! We ended up having 5 elections, not counting the Penn Yan School election we assisted with. The failure of the State Legislature to change the date of the State Primary Election to the same date as the Federal Primary Election resulted in an additional election to an already busy year and additional costs to the County. I would like to thank our staff, especially our Techs for getting it done with our limited resources.

As a result of our outreach to the School Districts in our county allowing them the use of our new voting machines instead of the old lever machines, Penn Yan Central School decided to give it a go. It was a great success.

I remained a member of the Election Commissioners Association legislative Committee this past year. Our requests to the legislature did not receive the attention they deserved. I am hoping 2013 will prove more fruit-full.

Because the County eliminated our conference and travel expense from our 2012 budget, we had to find other funding in order to attend our conferences this past year. These yearly conferences are important sources of information as well as training on new policies and procedures. The Yates County Democratic Committee voted to pay my way to the Winter Conference as a one-time expense. I had to pay my own way to the Summer Conference. By attending the Election Commissioners Association's conferences we were able to come up with additional cost savings pertaining to Primary Election staffing and mandatory Voter Registration drives.

Our budget has always been a big concern to us and we have found ways of reducing some of our costs. At this point I believe we have reduced our operating costs as much as we can without sacrificing the integrity of the Elections or until we receive some mandate relief from the State. We have asked them to increase the size of the Election Districts which would enable us to reduce staffing requirements for the elections. That would be a considerable cost savings for us.

***“Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is progress,
Working together is success.” - Henry Ford***



Almost done.....

Amy J Daines – 2009

In 2011, I referenced our endeavors to prepare for a very busy Presidential year and if those efforts would prove fruitful. I am very pleased to note that they were. We began 2012 believing we would have five elections and ended up with six. All went very well including managing the deployment of equipment & supplies in April with nearly a foot of snow on the west side of the county.

At budget time in 2012, there was a discussion that about all we could do to reduce our costs and working efficiently had been done and any further budget reductions would depend upon the New York State Legislature making CHANGES to election law. I will always believe with scrutiny, careful thinking and purposeful thought there is always room for improvement. We all must be willing to CHANGE the way we do, CHANGE the way we think and we will be able to CHANGE our bottom line. That CHANGE word continues to appear in my thoughts and I will try to have it always appear in my work, for me to feel I have performed my responsibilities well for all of Yates County voters, residents & taxpayers. CHANGE will never go away, is dreaded by most, but needed by all.

CHANGE is reflected in 2012 with a CHANGED Federal election date, CHANGED local voter registration process, CHANGED voting systems and procedures at the Penn Yan School, and CHANGED election reporting process and a CHANGED voting location. 2013 & 2014 could see CHANGES to the absentee voting processes, the number of days to vote and the size of our voting districts.

Change, Changed, CHANGING, with more CHANGES to come!!!



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