

Yates County Board of Elections

2015 Annual Report



1911

– Created current structure of bi-partisan county election boards.

Direct Primary Law enacted.

*Robert F Brechko, Democratic Commissioner
Sandra P McKay, 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, 2015 through December 31, 2015.



1915

- New York State Election Commissioners’ Association began.
 - Election Inspector pay (NYC) \$7.50 a day.
- Woman’s Suffrage Vote defeated 553,348 Yes to 748,322 No.

1916

- Implemented use of “*war ballots*”.

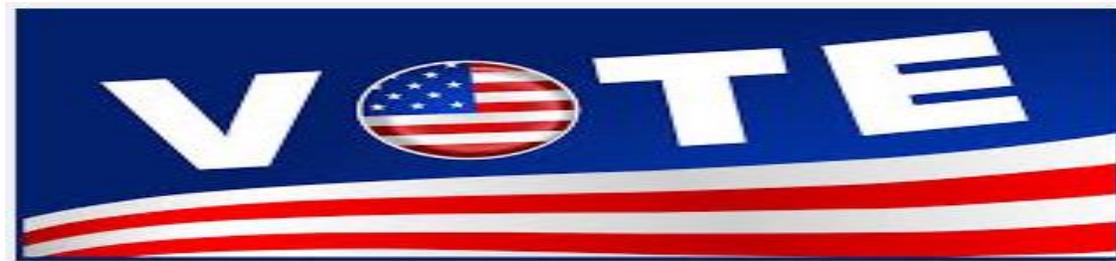


Mission Statement

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, taxpayers and community members 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) part-time Machine Technicians, four (4) Poll Site Coordinators and approximately ninety (90) 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 eligible 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 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 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.



1919

- Absentee voting extended to all eligible voters.
- Increase pay for Inspectors (NYC) \$8.00 a day.
- Woman's Suffrage Vote passed 703,129 Yes to 600,776 No.



1920

- 19th Amendment ratified (Woman's Right to Vote).



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 elections, providing assistance and materials as needed to the Penn Yan Central School and Marcus Whitman Central School elections.

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 and ensure payment to them is accurate.

We provide the Yates County Legislature, Town Board members and the State and Federal Board of Elections with enrollment reports, yearly statistical data, 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. Track and maintain all voting equipment and supplies. Create training programs as needed.

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.

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

The Board of Elections interacts with agencies and county departments to map out voting districts and boundaries, interpret maps, legal descriptions and geographical data, determine correct addresses, locate and manage polling sites; prepare for emergencies, conduct elections in assessable safe locations.

1924

- Voting Machines mandated in New York City.

1931

- New York City first major city to conduct elections exclusively by machine.

The Board of Elections Commissioners and Staff interact with United States Postal Staff – in all areas of the county, Yates County 911, Yates County Legislators, Administrator, Attorney, Budget Officer, Buildings and Grounds, Highway, Yates County Chamber of Commerce, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Town & County Clerk, Treasurer, Court Security, Emergency Management, Historian, Information Technology, State and Local Motor Vehicle, New York State Officials, Office of the Aging – Pro-Action, Personnel and Risk Management, Sheriff, Yates County Real Property Tax Department, Yates County Soil and Water, Village, Area Fire Departments, Town and School officials on a regular basis and could not perform our duties without the aid and support from these individuals and departments. For that we say THANK YOU, your help makes our work more accurate and efficient.



1935

- Voting machines mandated statewide in General Elections.

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 2015, there were 1039 registrations cancelled. A breakdown of the cancellations is shown below on the chart on the left.

Reasons for Cancellation of Records	Number
Deceased	166
Judged Incompetent	0
Moved out of County	630
Felony Conviction	12
Cancelled at Voter's Request	10
Inactive Voter's Purged	1
Miscellaneous	10
Registered Out of County	210
TOTAL	1039

Reasons for Inactivation of Records	Number
Mail Check	63
National Change of Address (NCOA)	143
Mail Undeliverable	123
Miscellaneous	6
Moved out of County	13
TOTAL	348

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 July (12,786 in 2015), 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 2015 there were 348 records inactivated. The breakdown is above on the chart on the right.

1954

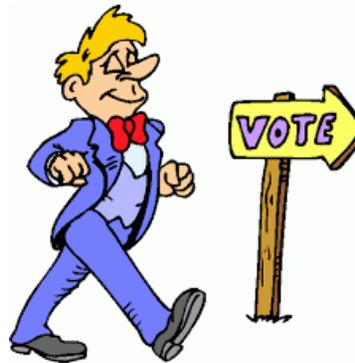
- Optional permanent personal registration.

NEW VOTER 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 2015 we received 246 new 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	1
Agencies/DMV Transmittals	246
Blue Dot	0
Board of Elections Office	38
High School Registrations	156
Election Inspectors / Poll Sites	4
Mail	85
Other Local County Boards	16
Misc.	15
TOTAL	561

Beginning in 2013 the DMV (at the Governor's directive) implemented a new process whereby registrations would be transmitted to the Boards of Elections electronically. The process was completed during 2015 and any associated cost was by the State and the Elections software provider NTS.



2015 Statistical Report

TRANSACTION DATA 2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YEAR TO DATE
New Voters	37	23	48	62	23	23	38	35	72	29	49	35	474
Change of Address	7	9	11	25	216	16	17	160	21	15	39	10	546
Name Changes	4	2	4	3	4	5	5	1	16	5	11	3	63
Inactivated	5	0	53	38	220	12	4	261	6	9	3	13	624
Re-instated	4	1	3	14	20	34	25	13	15	3	31	9	172
Purged	49	40	48	16	28	66	170	257	242	46	29	40	1031
Cards Mailed	57	35	119	142	483	90	89	470	130	61	133	70	1879
Duplicates Received and Searched	8	5	24	12	4	15	29	46	28	20	18	20	229
Registration Forms Distributed	8	1	91	249	673	60	32	21	60	28	27	13	1263
Absentee Applications Mailed/Distributed	0	2	0	0	391	8	4	45	43	98	6	4	601
Absentee Applications Submitted	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	29	50	127	7	10	227
Absentee Ballots Mailed/Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	35	320	7	0	505
Absentee Ballots Returned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	58	294	45	0	480
Military Ballots Mailed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	8
Military Ballots Returned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Agency Transmittals	6	4	6	6	8	8	5	9	7	0	9	12	80
DMV Transmittals	41	21	24	35	17	20	37	24	47	41	27	35	369
Party Enrollment Change Requests	5	4	4	7	8	12	11	10	22	7	25	6	121
Check Cards Mailed	0	0	0	0	0	0	12786	0	0	0	0	0	12786
Check Cards Returned	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	529	8	1	0	0	557
Lists/Disks Requested	4	2	20	4	17	69	15	12	8	10	6	4	171
Inspector Tests Given	0	0	0	15	62	0	0	16	0	0	10	0	103
Candidate Petitions Accepted	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	11	0	0	0	0	95
Financial Disclosures Submitted	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	37	5	0	3	0	56
Transfer Notifications sent to State Board	7	1	1	1	0	3	6	4	4	3	5	3	38
Signatures Digitized	1215	1443	1365	1195	728	512	588	34	227	37	185	30	7559
Incomplete Registrations	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	10
HAVA Letters	0	0	7	10	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	22
Blue Dot Forms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Letters to Voters	1	1	24	96	8	13	25	60	0	1	11	1	241

NOTES: Full Document Imaging remains a priority with daily work including backfile scanning.

Jan & Feb: Pollbook signature rescan clean-up continuing, Backfiles brought up to date from being on hold at election time.

March: Printed new reg forms for school outreach (took 150 to MW) PYA voter outreach - 86 apps returned, pollbook rescans continue

April: Pollbook rescans continue, school voter outreach total reg = 249, Inspector training classes began

May: Pollbook rescans, NCOA address modifications, Inspector training classes, application distribution to towns, libraries, etc.

June: Pollbook rescans winding down, petitions issued therefore generating many list requests, NCOA responses trickling in

July: Pollbook rescans completed! NYS voter juniper device down since 7/16, mail check begins

Aug: Mailcheck up to date, letters sent to Inspectors, absentee apps mailed, ballots available 8/12, technical difficulties resolved just in time to print poll books

September: crazy month, Italy pollbook signatures were not done - are now completed prior to primary...

October: election wrap prep for next, pollbook signatures checked with updates as needed

November: election - no major issues, tests and financial disclosures now up to date - report reflects changes

December: end of year craziness, Laura began in mid month, training...

1957

- Mandated permanent personal registration.
- Rita Blackman of Lowville elected first black woman president of the New York State Election Commissioners' Association.

MONTHLY NARRATIVE

JANUARY

- We held our annual meeting of the Board of Elections as required by EL 3-212. The 2015 Calendar was developed with specific dates as known.
- Attended the Election Commissioners Winter Conference in Albany
- Department presentation to Legislature at Government Operations meeting.
- Finalize presentation for Winter Conference on Voter Education - School Outreach (this will include Student EDU & Registration and School Elections).
- Contact schools for student registration schedule.
- Contact Towns and County Clerk for offices up for election in 2015.
- Letters to polling sites for facility use in 2015.
- Submitted our IT survey to the State with assistance from Tim Growth which will enable the State to develop and implement the much needed upgrades to NYSVOTER.

FEBRUARY

- Review Military absentee voters and contact them verifying current information.
- Plan first quarter testing of voting system.
- Prepare agenda topics and seek presenters for the 100th Anniversary Summer Conference of the Election Commissioner's Association.
- Participate in a conference call with the State and fellow Commissioners.
- Worked with our software provider and IT to upgrade our system to begin accepting the DMV registrations electronically
- Participated in the DMV module training provided by NTS
- Registered for Summer 100th Anniversary Election Commissioners Association Conference
- Amy shared Legislative Proposals for the NYSECA with Congressman Reed
- Met with Dundee School representative for potential election assistance.
- Performed audit on scanned images in full document module.

MARCH

- Completed the Annual Report to the Yates County Legislature.
- No Penn Yan Village Election this year.
- Resolution to extend Voter Education/Poll Worker Training Grant to March 31, 2016.
- Finalize annual report for the Legislature.
- Attached our 2015 goals.
- Start attending Town meetings.
- Start using new DMV function in TEAM.
- Check registration files to prepare for April 1st Enrollment Report.
- Prepare presentation for Summer Conference (Recruiting and Retention of Inspectors).
- Finalize agenda for Summer Conference.
- Send out Inspector Training class schedule.
- Visit schools for Voter Outreach.
- Share Legislative Proposals with Senator O'Mara and Assemblyman Palmesano

APRIL

- Printed annual enrollment April 1st.
- Updated Web site.
- Prepared School Ballots.
- Bob worked on a presentation for Summer Conference (Recruiting and Retention of Inspectors).
- Registered high School Seniors at Marcus Whitman and Dundee Central School April 7th with 136 students registered overall of which 76 were from Yates County.
- Performed first quarter voting machine testing.
- Prepared for Inspector training and held 2 classes.
- Amy attended the GIS meeting.
- Amy finalized presenters for ECA Conference Agenda and sent to printer.
- Finalized some draft procedures.
- Created schedules and invited Inspectors to training.
- Received the new Voter Registration Forms with the new Political Parties and order.

1964

- United States Constitution amended to rescind poll tax.

1965

- Passage of Voting Rights Act.
- Inspector pay increased to \$25.00 a day.

MAY

- Inspector training classes (7) were held with additional training classes to be held in the fall. Inspectors are required by law to receive training each year and pass an exam and be certified. Our policy allows for the individuals to retake the class and exam if they desire to continue to be an Inspector. This allows for graceful retirement if someone so chooses.
- Assist Marcus Whitman and Penn Yan with their School Budget and Board Elections (May 19).
- Bob to finalize presentation for summer conference (Recruiting and Retention of Inspectors).
- Finalize Conference Agenda from printer arrange for delivery to conference site (Amy).
- Begin scheduling Town Board Meetings as soon as Political Calendar is finalized.
- Attend the 100th New York State Election Commissioners Summer Conference held May 26 – 29 at The Otesaga, Cooperstown, NY.
- Begin updating the Polling site Inspector's Manual and other Election Day supplies.
- Finally received Political Calendar from the State on May 15th. The Primary will be held on September 10th.
- Received and processed NCOA file from post office. There were 443 voters affected. They involved both inter-county and out of county moves.

JUNE

- Petition circulation began June 2nd.
- Supplied voter lists to candidates as requested (71 from May to date).
- Due to the Political Calendar being late, we did not get out to the Towns in April instead a packet was mailed to each Town.
- Revise Election Day Flow Chart (Major Inspector Election Day processing tool).
- Recruited new Inspectors for late summer training classes with 9 Democratic and 12 Republican to date.
- Prepared 2016 budget.
- Place order with NTS for annual Mail Check Cards to be mailed the end of July.

1971

- 26th Amendment to ratify giving 18-year-olds the right to vote.

JULY

State Legislative Update: There was no legislation combining the primary elections for 2016. As a result there will be 3 primary elections the Presidential Primary in April, the Federal Primary in June and the State and Local Primary in September. These with the Penn Yan Village in March and 3 schools May, we are in for a very busy and expensive year.

- Processed 69 Designating Petitions which included 81 candidates with no fatal defects nor were there any challenges filed.
- Held ballot position drawing July 14th and completed the coding for the primary ballots.
- Processed Mailcheck card file July 2nd. The cards were mailed to voters on the 27th.
- We started training 2 individuals as we prepare to fill the Technician positions.
- The Deputies completed the signature review and update project with approximately 7100 signatures being updated. This was done to reduce the volume of updates that would be needed next and with an eye on the potential for electronic poll books. Electronic poll books were tested in NY State in 2014.
- Conference call w/ State Board of Elections.

AUGUST

- Continued to prepare for the Primary Election.
- We trained 2 new classes of Inspectors. We expect to have at least one more class in October.
- We mailed absentee ballots to the Military and permanent absentee voters.
- We processed 548 returned Mailcheck cards. This requires inactivating voters or completing resident address changes.
- We tested the ballots for the primary. All tested okay.
- We received a list of Nominations from the new Reform party.
- We finished our budget and met with the budget officer on August 31st.

SEPTEMBER

- Held a successful Primary Election on September 10th.
- Continued to process Check Cards.
- Certified the Republican Primary Election Countywide turnout was 24%.
- Started preparing for the General Election.
- Held a ballot position drawing for the General Election on September 29th.
- Submitted our recommendation for our 2016 department budget to the Legislature.

1973

- NYC Board now constituted by 10 Commissioners representing 5 boroughs also created the positions of Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director.

1974

- New York State Board of Elections created.

OCTOBER

- Completed the General Election Ballot.
- Held an additional Inspector training class October 20th. for 6 people.
- Attended the Budget Workshop.
- Office was open additional hours for absentee voters Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays during the two weeks before the General Election per election law.
- Military absentee ballots were sent out timely.
- Absentee ballots were available for Voters over the counter by October 7th.

NOVEMBER

- Held a successful election on November 3rd.
- Deployed and retrieved voting equipment and supplies securely and safely.
- Entered voting history for voters into TEAM.
- Processed 504 Absentee Ballots and 32 Affidavit ballots.
- Successful 3% Audit of 1 machine and Affidavit and Absentee Ballot Count completed November 12th.
- Notified all Affidavit Voters of their voting status.
- Certified the election on November 20th
- Reviewed Budget for year end.
- Updated Web site.
- We requested reconsideration for money removed from the elections budget for office help. Requested at the very least \$3500 be restored which would be sufficient for coverage for the General Election time period, which is most critical because of last minute registrations and the large amount of absentee ballots requested over the counter.
- Amy was reappointed as Republican Commissioner.

1975

- Legislature approves bill to allow voter registration by mail.
- Voting Rights Act amended to include rights for language minorities.

1984

- Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act requires access to registration and polling places in federal elections.
 - Authorized consolidating of polling places.
 - Authorized county boards to count all absentee ballots centrally.

1985

- Authorized expanded use of new types of voting machines.

DECEMBER

State Legislative Update: Bill number S5908 was signed by the Governor which would amend Election Law 9-211 permitting the use of authorized automated tools independent from the voting system in the auditing of the ballots post-election. (Currently counted by hand.)

- Reviewed the General Election and procedures related to it for revision if necessary in 2015.
- Audit the finance records of the New York State Election Commissioners Association.
- Prepare 2016 Calendar of Office Requirements.
- Laura Wright began her appointment as Republican Deputy Commissioner.
- Prepared information for 2015 annual report.
- Prepared Candidate Petition packets for Penn Yan Village Election for circulation starting December 29th.
- Authorization to travel for Winter Conference (January 11-14) to be held in Albany.
- Prepared for the annual meeting that will be held on January 6th.
- Requested a \$1.34 per hour raise for the Deputy Commissioners. This will amount to \$3,902 increase to that budget line. Compared to the other clerical County Deputies (average \$22.13/hr) and the Deputy Election Commissioners from our bench mark Counties (\$19.77/hr) they are way under paid. In the past our budget has been sufficient to cover our needs but often affords us a surplus due to changes to the actual election schedule (for example: a one party primary). With that in mind we feel we may very well be able to cover the \$3,902 from within our own budget if the Legislators would be willing to consider the contingent fund if all else fails. The Deputies are so very important to our process and are so very under paid for their critical functions within the Board of Elections office.
- Reviewed budget.

1986

- Authorized use of computerized registration list with a computer-generated facsimile of the signature.

1990

- Americans with Disabilities Act requires full access to voting facilities for the disabled.

1993

- National Voter Registration Act enacted.
Major re-design of voter registration form.

2001

- September 11, 2001, a day of national sadness, disrupts Primary Day in New York City and statewide.

In December we traveled to Monroe County Board of Elections. We had the pleasure of touring their warehouse / training center and offices. Pictures speak a thousand words and remind us we're very happy being a small County. Monroe has a mail room area to manage the Absentee Ballots that they ship by pallet loads. There are loading docks, a machine testing room, offices, training room and a specific area that the 2 Absentee Ballot central count machines are located (behind glass walls with a viewing area for Candidates and media). The general offices for the Monroe County Board of Elections is located elsewhere.

Blue Wheeled Ballot Boxes – 8 on this cart with companion supply bags – one of each for each of the 18 voting districts in Yates.



Blue Wheeled Ballot Boxes – approx. 500 of the 900 that are needed in Monroe County.



2002

- Help America Vote Act signed into law providing significant changes in election administration.

Machine Room in Yates County. 21 machines.



Machine Room in Monroe County. Notice the overhead door leading to another room full of voting machines. 750 machines.



2005

- Passage of the Election Consolidation and Improvement Act provided for the ownership, maintenance and transportation of voting machines by county boards of elections, rather than by towns and cities outside of New York City.
- Enacted the Election Reform and Modernization Act.
- Legislature adopted creation of statewide database.



2009

- First use of new voting systems in various counties.

2010

- New voting systems used statewide.

Yates County Voter Turnout								
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Districts	Sherf/Clrk	Gov	Treas / DA	Pres	Sherf/Clrk	Gov	Treas / DA	Pres
Barrington	181	352	270	508	176	378	325	576
Benton 1	179	270	200	407	150	206	221	457
Benton 2	222	359	304	568	267	402	369	625
Italy	170	348	252	497	435	364	423	509
Jerusalem 1	241	381	343	581	306	444	363	631
Jerusalem 2	191	296	262	415	257	342	277	435
Jerusalem 3	165	310	281	467	228	370	255	502
Jerusalem 4	230	312	282	503	266	400	331	552
Middlesex	257	528	394	736	393	598	403	788
Milo 2	271	361	348	605	291	188	380	674
Milo 3	186	279	283	512	202	261	270	553
Milo 4	160	239	212	357	131	318	222	387
Milo 5	217	317	305	530	239	366	330	573
Milo 6	283	351	339	586	258	440	387	622
Potter	210	405	282	605	302	497	350	668
Starkey 1	164	324	248	543	194	420	246	613
Starkey 2	195	384	267	570	235	424	283	642
Torrey	306	347	281	544	415	422	295	576
Total	3828	6163	5153	9514	4745	7196	5730	10383
Turnout %	29	50	41	70	40	49	40	79
Absentee Ballots	459/339	614/469	597/460	1078/954	514/399	756/641	Not available	1011/899

2011

- Congress passes MOVE Act (Military Overseas Voter Empowerment) to assist overseas voters.

Registration Processing								
Type	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
New	474	543	694	872	817	678	657	1189
Mover	546	618	562	691	750	1385	569	692
Enrollment	121	93	186	201	134	161	200	206
Name Change	63	99	228	80	79	86	108	152
Total	1204	1353	1670	1844	1780	2310	1534	2239

Total Registered Voters								
Districts	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Barrington	731	735	758	755	726	731	732	730
Benton 1	586	591	593	579	581	563	555	563
Benton 2	742	779	792	784	796	770	783	776
Italy	645	686	686	696	705	680	690	648
Jerusalem 1	679	715	699	695	681	673	712	731
Jerusalem 2	564	564	561	547	551	563	543	533
Jerusalem 3	625	628	626	629	625	636	632	625
Jerusalem 4	622	643	672	667	662	679	659	662
Middlesex	899	929	958	958	931	936	937	937
Milo 2	875	893	929	925	908	918	916	889
Milo 3	809	842	855	825	811	758	746	767
Milo 4	479	494	499	499	490	472	488	490
Milo 5	746	755	798	778	769	751	739	724
Milo 6	832	848	859	838	824	826	829	811
Potter	838	858	872	859	855	839	850	867
Starkey 1	761	772	808	797	869	857	843	822
Starkey 2	869	876	901	887	875	876	872	859
Torrey	685	703	721	714	720	693	693	699
Total	12,987	13,311	13,587	13,432	13,379	13,221	13,219	13,133

2012

- Hurricane Sandy disrupts election preparation in NYC, suburban counties.

2015

- 100th Anniversary of the Election Commissioners' Association.



THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK IS HEREBY
DEDICATED TO THE FOLLOWING PRECEPTS:

The Preservation of the integrity of the Ballot;
The easiest possible access to the ballot by the voters;
Programs to promote greater voter participation;
Promotion and enactment of the Election Laws for
More effective Election Office procedures and administration;
The enactment of Election laws that will guarantee the
Public the safest and most effective Election Procedures



Commissioners Thoughts

Robert F Brechko – (2007-present)

In 2012 Judge Sharp ordered New York State to hold their Federal Primary in June so there was plenty of time to mail out absentee ballots to the Military and overseas voters (MOVE Act). The New York State Legislature to date has failed to move the State and local Primary held in September to the same date as the Federal Primary, requiring counties to pay for a second election in each Federal year.

The General Election in 2015 had the lowest turnout in years for a contested County race. It was 29%. Normally it is around 40%.

It was difficult to fill our Inspector schedule this past year requiring additional last minute training and assignments. I hope we can find a solution to this continuing problem as more of our senior Inspectors retire from service.



“A Vote Is A Terrible Thing To Waste”

Amy J Daines – (2009 – present)

Each year as I take each step in the journey down the path as Election Commissioner I remind myself to take nothing for granted, in 2015 my thoughts surely paid off. I am so very pleased to have been chosen again as Commissioner. Thank you to the Republican Committee members and the Yates County Legislators for your votes of confidence. I enjoy representing the Yates County Republicans as their Commissioner. I work hard to find ways to improve registrations, turnout, efficiencies and cost savings for our taxpayers, training our Inspectors, assisting Candidates and elected officials.

I am proud to represent Yates County as a member of the New York State Election Commissioners Association and have been recognized as a leader and elevated to multiple rolls within the organization and most recently as the leader for the 2015 conference agenda program committee during one of the most celebrated years. 100 years is a huge milestone. WOW! We were blessed with many of the retired / former Commissioners joining the conference for a day of remembrance and evening of fellowship. I enjoyed meeting Tim Mattice who is originally from the Shortsville New York area and hearing about his career development and involvement as the Executive Director for the National Association of Election Officials (Election Center). Tim was at the State Board from 1995 – 2006.

I was able to spend a fair amount of time with Tom Wilkey who is true believer in a citizen's having the right to vote and having that vote count. Tom began as an Election Clerk and has spent 34 years in election administration soon to retire as a Permanent Executive Director of the US Election Assistance Commission.

The members of the individuals who make up the State Board, the Commissioners, former Commissioners, and the vendors who supply the various items and these two men are a constant reminder of why I wanted to be the Republican Commissioner. The belief in the right to vote, every vote counts and doing all that we can for fair and honest elections is why I am committed to, have and will continue to serve to the very best of my ability. I count my blessings every day. Thank you!



Tom Wilkey

Amy



Tim Mattice



Amy

Bernadette Toombs

Milestones in Elections references were compiled by Thomas Wilkey with the assistance of Donna Mullahey, the State Board of Elections & Pat Cortez, NYC Board of Elections for the 100th year Anniversary.

Photos were taken by Eva Wade.

