

# **Tompkins County Board of Elections**

## **2013 Annual Report**

### ***INTRODUCTION***

Over 75 offices were contested in 2013, which means our focus shifted to providing a lot of assistance to candidates. We help them with customized voter lists, political calendars, and information about petitions, caucuses, and campaign finance laws.

We also undertook a mandated update of our Election Management System, (EMS), which requires a complete reinstall of its dedicated server. We also had to update the software on our voting machines to meet new State regulations.

The County rolled out a new, integrated website in 2013, we converted our department's site to the new format. (For anyone interested, we moved from a Dreamweaver based site to one that is powered by Drupal, open source software; very popular for government websites.) We've always been pleased that our web site is considered an excellent example and leader in BOE sites, and are anxious to improve it any way we can.

### ***ELECTIONS***

On March 19 we ran Village Elections in Cayuga Heights, Dryden, and Groton. On April 23 we had the Village of Lansing election. In May we provided machines and support for the Ithaca City School District election. Throughout the year we also provided support (voter lists, poll books, etc.) to many other schools and fire districts.

Countywide Primaries were held on September 10, and finally, on November 5, we had the General Election. We had 18,243 voters, for a turn out rate of 35%. The 2011 General Election had a turn out rate of 34% (16,753 voters).

### ***REDISTRICTING***

In 2013 we had many redistricting changes. Our County Legislature went from 15 districts to 14, and the City Ward lines were redrawn. It was an enormous task to modify and proof the election districts using our street finder software.

In the Town of Newfield, we reduced the election districts from 4 to 3. This allowed us to equal out the registered voters in the districts. The town of Enfield increased their

election districts from 2 to 3. This was necessary to even up the districts due to a change in the legislative boundary. In the Town of Ithaca we reduced the election districts from 15 to 12. The combined changes enabled us to reduce the total number of polling sites in the county from 43 to 39.

### ***POLL SITE MANAGER ASSISTANT***

In 2012 we began a pilot program to provide tablet computers to poll workers. We purchased 10 HP Slates, and then Senior Clerk Laura Norman programmed them with customized voter look up databases; open and close check lists; voter flow charts; poll site maps; and all sorts of useful information. Due to the tremendous success of this program, we have purchased an additional 30 HP ElitePad's, we now provide one tablet for each polling site.

### ***PERSONNEL CHANGES***

We have had many personnel changes this year. In February Patricia Wiedman our Republican Deputy Commissioner of 5 years retired and has been replaced by Kari Stamm. Kari worked for the county for many years and was previously with the D.A.'s Office.

In September, Tom Paolangeli our Democratic Deputy Commissioner of 10+ years left us to accept a job offer from NTS Data Services. He was replaced by Laura Norman who was the Democratic Senior Elections Clerk for over 9 years, this left us with one more opening to fill. We were excited to find Jocelyn Jones, a recent graduate of Elmira College and a former Personnel Assistant Trainee with the Tompkins County Personnel Department to replace Laura Norman as the Democratic Senior Elections Clerk.

### ***LOOKING AHEAD***

In 2014 Tompkins County voters will shift their focus from local to State and Federal elections. Village elections for Cayuga Heights, Dryden, Groton, and Trumansburg will be March 18, Lansing Village is April 22. And we will help run the Ithaca City School Board Election in May. The date for the Federal Primary is June 24, the State and Local Primary is tentatively September 9, and the General Election will be November 4. W4 will continue to provide poll books and lists and such for many of the school and fire districts throughout the year.

We look forward to 2014 being another highly successful year serving the needs of Tompkins County's voters, candidates, and elected officials.

## **2013 BY THE NUMBERS**

### **Voter Database:**

Active Voters	49,625
Inactive Voters	9,038
New Registrations Processed	2,305
In County Address Changes	3,308
Enrollment Changes	520
Name Changes	434
Registrations Cancelled	1,832

### **Inspectors:**

Inspectors Appointed & Trained	236D
Classes Held	16

### **Mailcheck:**

(Used to verify voter's residence and mailing address, notify them of election dates and their polling site, and recruit inspectors.)

Mailed out	47,999
Returned	4,044

### **Absentee Ballots Out:**

State & Local Primary	
General Election	1094

### **Petitions Received:**

Designating	149
Independent	26