

Tompkins County Board of Elections

2014 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

2014 brought us mostly Federal and State Offices with a few local offices (ex. City of Ithaca Court Judge). A Federal Court Judge voted to move the Federal Primary to June, however Tompkins County did not have a Primary for Federal offices which saved the taxpayers the cost of running two Primary Elections in a single year. The State/Local Primary was held in September.

This year also brought us a new way of processing Absentee Ballots (Central Count Scanner), Countywide Poll Site Surveys, New Voter Outreach Opportunities, and a Technician Procedures Manual.

ELECTIONS

On March 18 we ran Village Elections in Cayuga Heights, Dryden, Groton and Trumansburg. On April 22 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 State and Local Primaries were held on September 9, and finally, on November 4, we had the General Election. We had 26,597 voters, for a turn out rate of 53%. A decrease in turnout since the 2010 General Election which had a turn out rate of 58% (29,994 voters).

POLL SITE SURVEYS

We've completed new and more detailed ADA surveys for all of our Tompkins County poll sites. Measurements were taken and drawings were created. The drawings served multiple purposes. We had to show that the poll site was in compliance and we also used the drawings to create the best possible layout of voting equipment (booths, tables, chairs and voting machines.) This helped us to ensure that any ADA individuals would be able to navigate the poll site and vote independently. As a result of the survey and through grants (HAVA) we made permanent ADA improvements to the Caroline Center Church and the Etna Fire Station.

VOTER OUTREACH

Republican Deputy Commissioner Kari Stamm and Republican Senior Technician Grace McMenammin taught ESL classes on voting and voter registration. They demonstrated the importance of voting and how to go about the voting process.

CENTRAL COUNT SCANNER

In 2014 we started using a Central Count Scanner to count Absentee Ballots. Using a scanner to count Absentee's make's the process faster and more accurate. After running all ballots through the scanner we then run a 3% audit to ensure all eligible votes are counted and election results are accurate.

TECHNICIAN PROCEDURES MANUAL

Since we did not have a complete Procedures Manual for the Technicians (creating the ballot in the EMS, test decking machines, programming machines etc...) the Senior Technicians, Jim Gustafson and Grace McMenammin wrote a new Procedures Manual. The manual was tweaked during the 2014 Primary/General elections. They then made additions/corrections as needed. This is very important as should neither of the senior technicians be available; the Board of Elections would have the ability to progress on an election without delay.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2015 Tompkins County voters will shift their focus from State and Federal offices to local offices. A Special Election for County Legislator District 9 will be held on February 10, 2015. Village elections for Cayuga Heights, Dryden, and Groton will be March 18, 2015 and, the Lansing Village Election is April 28, 2015. We will help the Ithaca City School Board with their election in May. The State and Local Primary is tentatively set for September 15, and the General Election will be November 3. We will continue to provide poll books and lists and other election needs for many of the schools and fire districts throughout the year.

We look forward to 2015 being as another highly successful year serving the needs of Tompkins County's voters, candidates, and elected officials.

2014 BY THE NUMBERS

Voter Database:

Active Voters	49,306
Inactive Voters	6,470
New Registrations Processed	3,052
In County Address Changes	3,700
Enrollment Changes	530
Name Changes	648
Registrations Cancelled	6,031

Inspectors:

Inspectors Appointed & Trained	440
Classes Held	22

Mailcheck:

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

Mailed out	46,098
Returned	3,564

Absentee Ballots Out:

State & Local Primary	377
General Election	1510

Petitions Received:

Designating	15
Independent	5