



Tompkins County Election Worker News

Tompkins County
Board of Elections

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"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers."— Louis L'Amour

Cool New Tool for the Poll Site!



The BOE recently purchased HP tablet computers for use at poll sites. We set them up with programs to look up voters, follow checklists, and help troubleshoot various voter or technical problems. It is also a way to make our elections more "green." We will be able to avoid printing a lot of the material

(manuals, lists, etc.) that is usually sent to the poll site. We had a limited number to tryout during the Republican Primary. The feedback we received was very, very positive. Our hope is to have one for each poll site in time for the fall elections.

Redistricting

Tompkins County will no longer have two Congressional Districts. The whole county is now in the 23rd District. Also, the towns that were in the 53rd NY Senate District (City of Ithaca, Towns of Ithaca, Enfield, Newfield and Ulysses) are now in the 58th. Caroline, Danby, Dryden and Groton are still in the 51st, and Lansing is still in the 54th. All of the County is still in Assembly District 125.

As of this writing, the County Legislature is likely to change from 15 districts to 14, but the City of Ithaca hasn't decided on their number of Wards. If they change from five wards to four, then each ward will also be a Leg district. If not four wards, then eight would be the second choice of our Commissioners.

The County and City districts won't go into effect until 2013. Depending on how things end up, we may need to add or remove poll sites. We'll keep you informed as we learn more.

Proper Shut Down - Part One - Results Tapes

It is extremely important that the PSM shuts down the machine correctly. First, follow the checklist! Then look at your Poll Closing Reports. After the signature line you will see the message "Poll Closed." You should also see a vote breakdown by office. If the message is "Results are nonzero. Unit Ready," you did not close the polls correctly—that is a Status Report.

Important Dates

June 26:
Federal Primary -
Polls open noon to 9 p.m. (Poll Site Managers arrive by 11:00 a.m., Inspectors by 11:30 a.m.)

September 13:
State and Local Primary - (if needed - also note that this is a Thursday) Polls open noon to 9 p.m.

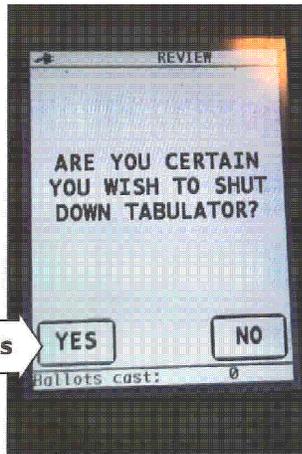
November 6:
General Election -
Polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Poll Site Managers arrive by 5:00 a.m., Inspectors by 5:30 a.m.)

PSM: Rise and Shine!

Poll Site Managers must be at the poll site one hour before the polls open. For Primaries that's 11:00 a.m. and for the General it's 5:00 a.m. Inspectors need to be on site a half hour before the polls open.



Proper Shut Down - Part Two - Flash Card Out



After you print the correct Results Tapes choose "Power Down." You will be prompted "Are you certain you wish to shut down tabulator?" Press "Yes." Wait for screen to go black. Only after that should you cut the #1 seal and remove the Poll Worker flash card.



Bag It

Reminder— the small "A" bag must come back to the BOE ASAP! Either a police officer will pick it up, or someone at your site will have been designated to get it back to us.



The "B" and "C" bags come back after you're finished with everything at the site, but do NOT put the "B" into the "C."



Why Tuesdays?

Ever wonder why Americans pick their president on a Tuesday? The short answer is that it's the law: In 1845, Congress voted to standardize Election Day as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. (They included that "after the first Monday" part to make sure the election wouldn't be held on November 1, the date of the Catholic holy day known as All Saints Day.) Lawmakers chose Tuesday in order to give voters one travel day after the Sunday day of rest to get from their farms into town to vote. But non-presidential elections can be on another day; as of this writing New York is planning on having this fall's Primary on a Thursday so as not to conflict with 9/11 memorial events.

Contact Information

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Don't Wait!

Reminder — Poll Site Managers must give the Inspectors the "B" bag, the black suitcase, and the ballots as soon as the Inspectors arrive so they can start their set up.

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Tom Paolangeli, 274-5522, or email:
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