



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

Primary Notes:

A big round of thanks to all the inspectors and technicians who worked the September 12 Primary! This was the first county-wide election where the Board of Elections, as per recent State law, was responsible for all the activities the town clerks used to help us with. In addition to our normal duties, we also had to certify accessibility for disabled voters, arrange access to poll sites, maintain and coordinate delivery of the machines, and oversee payment of inspectors and technicians. Most everything went smoothly, but we have learned a few lessons that should ensure the November election runs even smoother. Thank you for your patience as we all adapt to new ways of doing things. And we do welcome your suggestions!

General Election

The following offices will be on the November ballot:

FEDERAL OFFICES: US Senator, Congressional Representative, 22nd District, Congressional Representative, 24th District,

STATE OFFICES: Governor/Lt. Governor, NYS Senator, 51st District, NYS Senator, 53rd District, NYS Senator, 54th District, Member of Assembly 125th District, Attorney General, Comptroller,

COUNTY OFFICES: County Clerk, County Sheriff,

TOWN OFFICES: **Dryden** – Town Councilperson, 1 yr. to fill vacancy, **Groton** – Town Justice, **Newfield** – Town Justice

HAVA Update

If all goes as planned, we should finally have new voting machines in place for the 2007 elections. Many of you attended demonstrations earlier this year of the various voting systems being submitted for State certification. (See vote-tompkins.com for pictures and survey results). As of this newsletter, no machine has been certified. The State informs us that they plan to complete testing by December 4th, and will expect us to choose a machine by December 21st. Delivery would start early in 2007. We plan to offer extensive training and opportunities next year for inspectors and voters to practice with the new machines before we have to use them in a real election.

Important Dates:

Machine Schools:

When your assignment letter arrives be sure to check for the time and place of your machine school. Call us right away if you can't make your scheduled time.

November 7:

General Election

Polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (*Inspectors arrive at 5:30 a.m.*)

Tips for Election Day

Check your supplies at 5:30 a.m. and immediately call us if something (*or someone!*) is missing.

The **canvass sheet** will now have a new line where the **Chairperson** must print their name. (*That's how we'll know who gets paid for being chair!*)

New phone number to report voting machine problems:
274-5532.



Affidavits

In this last election, we issued 115 affidavit ballots. 103 were accepted as valid. In most cases (90), the reason the person needed to vote affidavit was because they had moved and weren't in the poll book.

12 affidavits were not counted. In most of these cases (9) it was because the person tried to vote for a party that they were not enrolled in. By the way, we do send letters to any voter whose affidavit vote is not allowed, explaining to them exactly why it was refused.

Reminders: Please be sure the affidavit ballot applications are *completely* filled out on both sides by the voter. Especially be sure that **the voter signs** the form, and that an **inspector signs** and fills in the Town and Election District information. Mistakes with the Affidavit envelope could mean the vote is NOT counted!

Speaking of Elections...

George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles. ~Author Unknown

I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them. ~Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952

During a campaign the air is full of speeches - and vice versa. ~Author Unknown

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Tom Paolangeli, 274-5522, or email: tpaolangeli@tompkins-co.org.

Tompkins County Board of Elections
128 East Buffalo St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Contact Information:

Democratic Inspectors:

Call 274-5522, or email:

Stephen DeWitt:

sdewitt@tompkins-co.org

or Laura Owens:

lowens@tompkins-co.org

Republican Inspectors:

Call 274-5521, or email:

Elizabeth Cree:

ecree@tompkins-co.org

or Jennifer Terpening:

jterpening@tompkins-co.org

Check our Web site:

www.votetompkins.com,
for information about upcoming and past elections.