



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

Coming Attractions

We only have two very small Primaries this September (see Important Dates at right), so most Inspectors won't work until the November General Election. We expect a very large turnout in November, which is good for democracy, and should help your day pass quickly!

As far as we know right now, November 2008 will be the last election we use our old lever-style voting machines. This November we will also have one of our new voting machines, the Sequoia Image Cast, at each poll site. These machines are actually two units in one: a ballot marking device (BMD) which allows voters with disabilities to prepare a ballot, and an optical scanner/tabulator. With optical scan voting, voters fill out a paper ballot, marking their preferences, and then insert the paper into a scanner/tabulator. This year we will only use the BMD part of the machine. Past elections we had a BMD in our office. We are now required to have one at each poll site.

In November we will have an extra worker at each poll site who will be trained to assist any voter who wants to use the BMD. These extra workers, who we're calling Coordinators, will also be available to help the regular Inspectors with their duties (though the Coordinators won't be allowed to vote on any decisions the Inspectors must make). BMD training for the Coordinators will be held in October.

New Tompkins County Voting Machine Center

Our old lever-style voting machines have been housed in the old Public Library building on Cayuga Street. For a number of reasons, (like a leaky roof) this space was not a good choice for storing and working on the new machines, so we have opened a Voting Machine Center at 1771 Hanshaw Rd. (Just off Rt. 13, previously home to Cayuga Press.) We expect to utilize this new space for various trainings, too. As of this writing, our techs are conducting acceptance testing on the new machines.

Important Dates

**Sept. 9:
Primary Election**
Polls open noon to 9 p.m. (Inspectors arrive by 11:30 a.m.) Two Races: Enfield Highway Superintendent, *only Enfield Republicans can vote*, and Ulysses Town Justice, *only Ulysses Working Family party can vote*.

**November 4:
General Election**
Polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Inspectors arrive by 5:30 a.m.)

Tips for Election Day

The **Chairperson** is a team leader who supervises Election Day activities at the poll site. The Chairperson is elected by vote of the inspectors in each election district. If the inspectors cannot agree on a Chairperson, you can draw names. *Even if the district is using two or more voting machines, only one Chairperson is elected.*



Poll Site Consolidation

In an effort to hold down costs and increase efficiency, we have consolidated a number of poll sites. This will result in significant savings, especially as we begin to use our new voting systems. Here are the changes:

Town of Dryden:

- Dryden Districts 6 (previously Dryden Village Hall) and 11 (previously Dryden Baptist Chapel) are now combined with Dryden 3 and 7, and all vote at the Dryden Fire Station, 26 North St.

Town of Ithaca:

- District 7 (previously Cayuga Heights Fire Station) is now combined with 6, voting at BOCES, 555 Warren Rd.
- Districts 8 (previously Cayuga Heights Fire Station) and 9 (previously Boynton Middle School) will now both vote at the First Congregational Church, 309 Highland Ave.
- District 13 (previously Hospicare) will be combined with 3 and 10, all voting at the College Circle Community Center, 1033 Danby Rd.

Town of Lansing:

- Lansing 1 (previously Lansing Central Fire Station) combines with 3, voting at the Lansing Town Hall, 29 Auburn Rd.
- Lansing 6 (previously Oakcrest Fire Station) will now vote at the Lansing Village Hall, 2405 N. Triphammer Rd.
- Lansing 7 (previously Bill Cooke/Maguire Cadillac) is combined with Lansing 5 at the County Fire and Rescue Building, 72 Brown Rd.

Town of Ulysses:

- Ulysses 1 (previously Ulysses Town Hall) combines with Ulysses 3 at the Trumansburg Fire Station, 74 West Main Street, Trumansburg NY.

Vote NY Web Site

The New York State Board of Elections has a new web site that aims to be a resource for voters and Election Workers. There will be lots of information on the new voting machines, as well as training modules for inspectors. We'll let you know more as this develops, but you can check it out now: www.vote-ny.com.

Contact Information

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Check our Web site:
www.votetompkins.com,
for the latest election related information. Back issues of *Election Worker News*, as well as other election worker information may be found by clicking the link on the left side column labeled "Election Workers."

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