



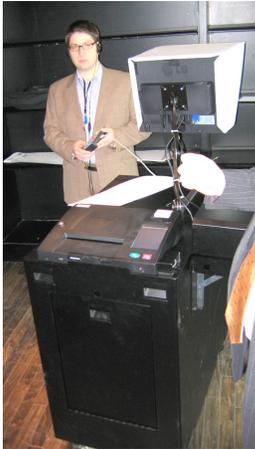
Tompkins County Election Worker News

Tompkins County
Board of Elections

Spring 2008
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"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers." – Louis L'Amour

New Voting Machine for 2009!



Above is the Sequoia ImageCast voting machine. The picture at left shows the Optical Scan side, and the picture at right shows the Ballot Marking Device side.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) mandated that we replace our old lever-style mechanical voting machines. All the twists and turns and drama at the State and Federal level over the last few years regarding this process might make a good reality TV show (Survivor: Voting Machine Island?). But finally in January we chose the Sequoia ImageCast.

So how does this affect inspectors and technicians? Not too much, just yet. This fall we will continue to use our old machines, but we will have one new ImageCast machine in each poll site that can be used as a **ballot marking device (BMD)**. This feature allows a voter with disabilities to prepare and print a paper ballot without assistance. The machine can display the ballot in larger sizes, or it can read the ballot to a voter. The voter uses a special controller to navigate around the ballot and make choices. Once the voter has printed his ballot, it is inserted in an envelope, and will be treated much the same as an emergency ballot (that is, you will count it at the end of the night.) **Note:** Though primarily intended to help voters with disabilities, *any* voter may choose to use the BMD; we do not ask for any "proof" of disability.

We will hold special training later this year so that each poll site will have at least one "expert" inspector who is familiar with the Ballot Marking Device. If you're interested in this training, let us know.

In 2009 we will stop using the old lever machines, and we will begin to use the **optical scanner** component of the ImageCast. In some ways, this machine will be easier to set up and operate than the old machines. We will have plenty of training and demonstrations next year to familiarize inspectors and voters with the new machine.

Important Dates

**Sept. 9:
Primary Election**
(If there are contested races.) Polls open noon to 9 p.m. (Inspectors arrive by 11:30 a.m.)

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

Can You Work? this Fall?

We hope you are still interested in working as an Election Inspector this fall. Please email or call our office, (see back) or mail us the enclosed availability form, and let us know. As always, we can never thank you enough for your help and dedication.

Tips for Election Day

All four inspectors should vote to elect one **chairperson** before the day begins.



Affidavits - The Three C's

People vote by **affidavit** when their name is not in the pollbook. (Usually it's because they have recently moved, but there are other possibilities). Unless you see a court order, a voter *not* in the poll book *must* vote affidavit, and is NEVER to be allowed to vote on the machine. Every step of the process is extremely important: the vote might not be counted if the form is not filled out correctly! To help avoid any problems, follow these three C's:

First, CALL US: Unless the voter has an Inquiry Sheet, call us and we will check to see if the voter is *registered*, and if they are at their *correct poll site*. (Often voters who have moved go to their old poll site instead of their new one.)

Second, CHECK OVER: Make sure the voter completes *both* sides of the envelope, *signs* and *dates* and *seals* it.

Third, COMPLETE THE ENVELOPE: The inspector completes the form, filling in the *poll site information*, and must also *sign* and *date* it. Then put the affidavit in the large envelope labeled "Unopened Affidavits Ballots."

Calling in Results

We're very much aware that it is sometimes difficult for inspectors to reach us at the end of the night when you call in results. The problem is we often have about 50 pollsites all calling in at the same time, but we only have about 8 phone lines. We're exploring ways to free up more phone lines. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience.

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 the latest election re-
lated information.