



Tompkins County Board of Elections

128 East Buffalo Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Fax: (607) 274-5533

www.Votetompkins.com

Stephen M. DeWitt
Democratic Commissioner
(607) 274-5522

Elizabeth W. Cree
Republican Commissioner
(607) 274-5521

July 28, 2015

Dear Election Inspector,

The Board of Elections is gearing up for a Democratic Primary for Alderperson in the City of Ithaca 2nd ward and a Republican Primary for Supervisor in the Town of Lansing. It will be held on **Thursday, September 10, 2015**. Compensation for the Primary Election will be \$100 for Inspectors and \$130 for PSM's.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Compensation for the General Election will be \$160 for Inspectors and \$190 for PSM's.

Please indicate on the form below which elections you will be able to work. If possible, we would like a response by **August 17th, 2015**. You can respond in one of the following ways: by mail: use attached coupon and send to the above address; by phone: 274-5522 or 274-5521 from 8:30am to 5:00pm; or by E-Mail: sdewitt@tompkins-co.org or jjones@tompkins-co.org.

If you know someone who might be interested in learning more about the election procedure and would enjoy working at the polls, please have them contact us. We look forward to working with you this year and we truly appreciate your dedication to the democratic process.

Best regards,

Stephen M. DeWitt
Democratic Commissioner of Elections

Inspector Name: _____

E-Mail _____ Phone # _____

Available to work September 10, 2015 Primary _____; Not Available _____

Available to work November 3, 2015 General _____; Not Available _____

I would like to be kept on the list: _____; Please remove my name: _____

Comments _____



Tompkins County Election Worker News

Tompkins County
Board of Elections

Summer 2015
Volume 10, Issue 3

Jeff Walker

Republican Senior Elections Technician



As of January 2015 we welcomed our newest member to the Board of Elections, Jeffrey Walker. Jeff is a tremendous asset to our team, willing to lend a hand or an ear. Jeff works very hard to learn any and all aspects of the election process. During the upcoming election season Jeff is looking forward to assisting you on machine questions via phone or a visit to your poll site. Jeff and Jim our Democratic Senior Technician are teaching the Poll Site Manager classes in August and October. He looks forward to meeting you this fall.

Upcoming Events

Primary Election:
Thursday, September 10, 2015

General Election:
Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Contact Information

Democratic Workers:
Call 274-5522, or email:
Stephen DeWitt:
sdewitt@tompkins-co.org
or Jocelyn Jones
jjones@tompkins-co.org

Republican Workers:
Call 274-5521, or email:
Elizabeth Cree:
ecree@tompkins-co.org
or Kari Stamm:
kstamm@tompkins-co.org

Polling Site Arrival Times

	Primary	General	Instructions
Poll Site Managers (PSM)	Arrive at poll site at 11:00 AM	Arrive at poll site at 5:00 AM	Leave when everything on closing checklist is done, all paperwork is signed and inspectors have left.
Election Inspectors	Arrive at poll site at 11:30 AM	Arrive at poll site at 5:30 AM	Leave when everything on closing checklist is done and all paperwork is signed.

 DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE A POLL WORKER?

ELECTION OFFICIAL

Contact the Board of Elections (607) 274-5521 or email one of the people above.

For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Jocelyn Jones 274-5522, or email: jjones@tompkins-co.org

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Commissioners Corner

Your Vote Counts...Every Year!

By Kari Stamm
Deputy Commissioner

2015 Elections will comprise only of local races in each town and the city of Ithaca. But, 2016 will be the busiest year in this office. The general election in November 2016 is the Presidential Election, and we know that it will bring certain things – early campaigning, political ads every time you turn on the TV, and everyone being encouraged to get out and vote in such an important election. People are already coming into the office worried about being able to vote in next year's presidential primaries before we even know the official candidates!

We can always count on extremely high voter participation in the presidential race. Celebrities issue their endorsements and remind us that if we've never voted before, this is when it matters. But it's rare that I hear people being encouraged to come out and vote the "in-between" years like this year where we have local offices being filled. These are your real representatives – the ones who make decisions truly impacting you and your community. These elected officials are the ones who influence what goes on in your backyard. And yet these elections consistently have low voter turnout. I cannot believe how often people are surprised when they find out there is a general election EVERY year, not just occasional elections for president or governor! During petition passing this summer most people I ran into seemed shocked to hear there were offices to be filled in November's general election.

We all know that every vote counts, but this is especially true in the local elections. No one is elected president by just one vote, but going back over the last several years of local elections in Tompkins County, we have many cases of just a few votes making the difference. In the past 10 years, we have had 10 races decided by 6 or less votes, and 3 of those were just a 1 vote difference. And you think your vote doesn't matter? Think again!

Polls are open morning, noon, and night. And, don't forget that there's absentee voting if you will be out of town, so there's no excuse not to vote in your local elections. Let your ONE vote be the decider this year.



Call US !!!



Dear Inspectors & Poll Site Managers,

Please call the staff at the Tompkins County Board of Elections regarding any questions or concerns you may have on Election Day; questions or problems need to be addressed immediately. On occasion, a voter's right to vote has been compromised or lost because we were informed of a problem the following day or even later. Never guess, please call us first!

For Example:

A) You are an Inspector working on Election Day and you know the inspectors job inside and out and can do it with two hands tied behind your back. (exaggerated example) You are using your Inspector checklist and doing your duties when the Poll Site Manager comes over and asks you to do a job completely different than what you've been taught in training. They say they have been doing it that way for years and they know better than you. At that time ask to be excused and call the Board of Elections. This is not only helping you but it is helping the Poll Site Manager get a clearer understanding of that issue and preventing it from happening again.

B) You are checking in a voter and you hand them a ballot. Some time passes and the voter turns with a frantic look on their face asking for another ballot because they made an error. You know from training that all voters are entitled up to 3 ballots. Your co-workers frown at you and the voter and say they are not allowed to obtain another ballot. Please ask your Poll Site manager for assistance but if they too are not giving the correct information, please call the Board of Elections to clear up the misunderstanding.

By contacting us, you are helping to ensure that each voter gets the opportunity for their "voice" to be heard.

Thank you for all you do,

Best regards,

BOE Staff

