



Tompkins County Election Worker News

Tompkins County
Board of Elections

Spring 2013
Volume 9, Issue 1

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

Redistricting Changes

This year we are running elections based on the new redistricting lines. The biggest change is we now have 14 Legislative Districts instead of 15. This mainly affects the City of Ithaca. Previously each Ward was a Leg District, but now 4 Leg districts are divided among the 5 Wards. Outside the City, the Leg lines have only shifted a little.

At the Election District level, the Town of Enfield now has 3 EDs (previously 2), Newfield now has 3 EDs (previously 4), and Dryden has 10 (previously 11). In the City, the 4th Ward is all one ED, (previously 3) and the 5th Ward now has 3 EDs (previously 4).

Of course we will provide you with maps at the poll sites, but you can look online if you want to see the new districts. Go to votetompkins.com, select "Additional Information" and look for map links.

Poll Site Changes

As part of the redistricting effort, we also have some poll site changes. In Caroline we will no longer use the Brooktondale Community Center or the Caroline Town Hall. Voters who went to those sites will now go to the Brooktondale Fire Hall, located at 786 Valley Rd. This is an excellent new site with lots of room and good lighting inside, and plenty of parking outside.

In Dryden, we will no longer use Reach Out For Christ Church, and in Town of Ithaca we won't use Hasbrouck Community Center. We will mail these voters info about their new sites, and of course they can call us.

ED lines have shifted slightly in a number of places, so some voters will be going to a new or different poll site. We will do our best to get the word out, but inevitably a few people will go to the wrong place. Please be very careful when you send them to their new poll site — do not rely on any old maps or lists. If you have a Slate or laptop with a current voter database, you can check by name, or by their new address if they have moved. But if you have ANY doubt at all about where someone should go, please call the BOE. Voters get very upset if someone sends them to the wrong site, especially if it's the second site they've been to!

Important Dates

September 10: Primary Election (where applicable)

Polls open noon to 9 p.m. (Poll site managers arrive at 11:00 a.m., inspectors at 11:30) *Please note: we won't know until the end of July which municipalities will have Primaries, so we can not make your work assignments until then.*

November 5: General Election

Polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Poll site managers arrive at 5:00 a.m., inspectors at 5:30)

Election Worker Voting

Current law says Election Workers who need to vote absentee can not do so earlier than 2 weeks before an election. This law may change to allow even earlier voting. We will let you know if it does.



Start Up Procedure Changes



Poll Site Managers please note that the voting machine start up procedure is a bit different this year. After you turn on the machine and use your security Key you will see a prompt that says “Please Enter Security Code to Unlock Device.” We will give you the code at your training.



After you enter the code you should see “Security Key has Been Verified” and then “Key Accepted, Validating Election Files.” Next, you will be prompted to verify the current date and time. If it is not correct, please contact the BOE before you go any further.



Also, note that we will not be resealing the ballot box door until you close up at the end of the night. This will make it easier if you need to get in to the box to clear a jam, etc. But otherwise the door must remain locked.

Welcome New Rep Dep and Dem Tech!

Earlier this year Deputy Republican Commissioner Patricia (Trish) Weidman retired, and we were fortunate to find **Kari Stamm** to replace her. Kari comes to us from the District Attorney’s office, but is no stranger to the BOE, as she worked here part-time in the late nineties. Kari will handle everything Trish used to do, so Republican Inspectors especially will be hearing from her. But all workers please say “Hello” and introduce yourself if you stop by the office. (After all, she helps process your paychecks!)

This year we also welcomed a new Democratic Senior Technician, **Jim Gustafson**, replacing Catherine McGrath. In March, Jim survived learning how to program the Village elections in the midst of a major software/hardware upgrade, so we’re confident he can handle whatever else we throw at him now.

Online Inspector Availability Questionnaire

We can save a lot of time and money by using email and the internet as opposed to regular mail. So this year we are asking inspectors to let us know if they are available to work by filling out a short online questionnaire. If you haven’t given us your email address, please do so, and we will send you the link. You can also get the link by going to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/votetompkins. If you don’t use computers or email of course you can still call or write to us.

Contact Information

Democratic Workers:
Call 274-5522, or email:
Stephen DeWitt:
sdewitt@tompkins-co.org
or Laura Norman:
lnorman@tompkins-co.org.

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

Affidavit Reminder

Inspectors: Please remember to fill out the box at bottom of the affidavit envelope that asks for the Town and ED, and your initials. This is very important if questions arise when we go to count the ballots.

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