

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2017

Greene Co. Legislature

TO: Shaun Groden, Administrator
FROM: Brent Bogardus & Marie Metzler, Commissioners
RE: Annual Report of 2016
DATE: March 29, 2017

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

As noted in our 2015 Annual Report, we anticipated that 2016 would present unique challenges and an unprecedented level of activity for the Board of Elections due to the activity surrounding the presidential campaign last year. This expectation proved to be true.

2016 saw the Board administer five separate election cycles and assist in one other. We were responsible for administering four Village Elections in March, a Presidential Primary in April, Federal Primary in June, State Primary in September and the General Election in November. We also assisted area school districts administer school budget/board elections in May.

Each of these elections can include various caucus and/or petition filings, Inspector training, voter registration, absentee ballot preparation and ballot coding activities. Compliance with a number of State Board of Elections reporting requirements throughout the year also require staffs attention.

Staff has also participated in a number of conferences and training sessions conducted by the NYS Election Commissioners Association and NYS Board of Elections in an effort to stay current on ever changing state and federal mandates and changes to the various election laws we are responsible to administer. These Conferences are an invaluable resource to the Commissioners and staff and enable us to meet our responsibilities in the most effective manner possible.

It should be noted here that our deputies continue the task of programming/coding our election machines saving the county thousands of dollars in each election cycle.

As noted above, we do not directly administer school district elections. However, we do work in a cooperative fashion with districts by providing enrollment lists, voting machines, inspectors and technicians as needed to assist them in conducting their elections. We perform these activities at no operational cost to the county as costs are passed onto the local districts. As stated in past reports, we believe this to be a good example of municipal cooperation in our County.

In recognition of the fiscal challenges all levels of government face, including those of us here in Greene County, we continue to operate in the most efficient and effective manner possible in serving the citizens of our County. One example of this is that in working with our vendors last year we were able to identify an alternative bulk mailing process for sending out the mandated "mail check" cards to every voter in Greene County. This effort resulted in approximately \$2,000 in savings.

Outlined below are some of the more significant statistical figures comparing activity over the last three years for comparison purposes.

<u>Category</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Registered Voters	26,815	28,080	29,549
Absentee Ballots Sent	1,783	1,442	2,198
Absentee Ballots Received	1,352	1,059	1,978
Petitions Processed	46	189	35
New Registrations	953	1,147	2,926

In closing we wish to extend our gratitude to Building and Grounds, the Highway Department and Sheriff's Office for the assistance they provide us in storing and moving our voting machines and collecting results on election night. It is only with their assistance that we are able to administer local, state and national elections without expending resources by engaging private outside vendors for these purposes.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to the County Legislature and Administrator for providing us with the resources necessary to fulfill our mandate in assuring the smooth operation of democracy here in Greene County.