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**GREENE COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
ELECTIONS  
2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**Greene County  
Board of Elections**

411 Main Street, Suite 437  
Catskill, New York 12414

**Brent E. Bogardus**  
Commissioner (R)

**Marie Metzler**  
Commissioner (D)

TO: Shaun Groden, Administrator  
FROM: Brent Bogardus & Marie Metzler, Commissioners  
RE: Annual Report of 2017  
DATE: March 26, 2018

## **GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

### 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Thankfully, 2017 saw the return of a more normal cycle of elections following the intenseness of the 2016 presidential election cycle. While 2017 proved to be an extremely busy year, it did not present the level of challenges that we saw in 2016.

Once again, 2017 saw the Greene County Board of Elections strive to operate in the most efficient and effective manner possible in serving the residents of our county. We do so in the most cost efficient manner possible recognizing the fiscal challenges faced not only by our county government, but by the citizens we serve as well.

The 2017 year saw the Greene County Board of Elections administer four Village Elections in March, assist area school districts with their budget/board vote in May, primary elections in three towns for various local offices in September and the General Election in November for local offices in all fourteen townships.

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.





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It should be noted here that our deputies continue the task of programming/coding our election machines saving the county over \$12,000 for each November General Election and several thousand dollars for each smaller election through the year.

As noted previously, 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.

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>	<u>2017</u>
Registered Voters	26,815	28,080	29,549	29,337*
Absentee Ballots Sent	1,783	1,442	2,198	1,160
Absentee Ballots Received	1,352	1,059	1,978	798
Petitions Processed	46	189	35	94
New Registrations	953	1,147	2,926	1,297

\*The reduction in the number of registered voters is reflective of the requirement of the National Voter Registration Act. Following each federal election cycle any voter who had not participated in any election in the previous four years is purged from the list of registered voters and must re-register if still County residents. The vast majority of these individuals have moved out of state, died or simply chosen not to participate.

The resignation of Greene County's representative in the Assembly during 2017 forced us to prepare for a Special Election to fill the vacancy. The Governor has called for a Special Election to take place on April 24, 2018 to fill the vacancy in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District as well as a number of Assembly and Senate Districts throughout the state. The last time the Greene County Board of Elections was involved in a special election was April of 2009 in our Congressional District. All 52 Election Districts in the county will be open on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00am until 9:00pm.





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In addition to the initial preparation that took place in 2017 for the special election cited above, we also spent a great deal of time and effort over the last few months of the year preparing for the year ahead. We anticipate 2018 to be another extremely challenging year given races for U.S. Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Congress, NYS Senate, NYS Assembly, Greene County District Attorney, County Treasurer and all County Legislative Districts.

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.



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