

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2021 Annual Report

The Greene County Board of Elections saw a return to more normalized election cycles in the 2021 year. Following the tremendous challenges presented in 2020 by the pandemic and an unprecedented voter participation level in the general election, this was a welcome relief.

As there were no national or state level positions for election in 2021, our focus was directed at the numerous local offices up for election throughout the year. These elections included:

***VILLAGE ELECTIONS:** Village elections were held on the third Tuesday in March in 2021, specifically, March 16th. As you may recall, in 2020 Village Elections were postponed until September of that year due to COVID issues. The Board administered four village elections for the selection of Mayors and Trustees in those villages. In July of 2021, the Board administered a Special Village Election for a Trustee position in the Village of Catskill.

***SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS:** While the Board does not directly administer school district elections, we do work with our school districts in a cooperative fashion to facilitate those elections. We provide access to our voting machines which saves districts from having to purchase their own at a cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000 per machine. We also provide voter enrollment information and access to our trained election inspectors if a district so desires. At the end of the day, this saves our local taxpayers money.

***PRIMARY ELECTION:** Pursuant to State Law, Primary Elections were conducted on June 22nd of 2021. While there were only a small number of local primaries (Republican Primary for County Legislator in District 8/Town of Cairo and a Republican Primary for Committee seats in the Town of Prattsville), as mandated by State Law, nine days of early voting had to be accommodated.

***GENERAL ELECTION:** The 2021 General Election was conducted on November 2nd. Again, as mandated by State Law, nine days of early voting were required. This cycle included elections for 14 County Legislative Seats in Greene County's Legislative Districts and local town level elections for a variety of offices including Supervisors, Justices, Council, Clerk, Highway Superintendent and Tax Collector. In total, 71 town positions were on the ballot in our fourteen towns. Additionally, there were uncontested elections for three NYS Supreme Court Judges and one County Coroner position resulting from a vacancy. Voter turnout was enhanced for a local election year as five amendments to the NYS Constitution were on the ballot, several of which were hotly contested.

All of these elections came with petition and/or caucus filing requirements, absentee voting periods and ongoing voter registration processing.

The Board continues to implement numerous changes in Election Law coming from the State Legislature in 2021 taking effect in the 2022 year. These include:

- *The continuation of enhanced access to absentee voting given the ongoing pandemic issues.
- *Creation of a permanent Absentee Ballot Application transmittal system.
- *A complete overhaul for the canvassing of absentee ballots requiring review of such ballots within four days of receipt by the BOE.
- *Changes to the way and timeline for calling special elections for Congress, State Senate and Assembly.
- *Creation of an online absentee ballot tracking system.
- *Expansion of early voting hours required on weekends.

As has been our tradition and history, the Greene County Board of Elections diligently works to conduct fair and impartial elections in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. The issues presented in 2020 made this an almost impossible task that year. Ongoing issues from 2020 made conducting the 2021 elections slightly more challenging. Had it not been for the noble efforts and spirit of cooperation from so many we may have very well failed. With that said, we wish to once again acknowledge:

- *The staff of the Greene County Board of Elections.
- *County Administrator Shaun Groden and our County Legislators.
- *County Department Heads and their staff.

Please see the attached for some statically comparisons of recent election year data noting the uniqueness of 2020.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted.

Marie Metzler,
Democratic Commissioner

Brent Bogardus,
Republican Commissioner

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
STATISTCAL ANALYSIS

CATEGORY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Registered Voters	29,549	29,337	29,968	30,417	32,829	32,335
Absentee Ballots Sent	2,198	1,160	2,053	1,080	4,692	1,207
Absentee Ballots Returned	1,978	798	1,792	826	3,815	860
Petitions Processed	35	94	60	133	30	23
New Registrations	2,926	1,297	635	449	2,412	1,246
Early Voters						
-Primary	0	0	0	0	71*	12
-General	0	0	0	630	4,308	650