



TO: Shaun Groden, County Administrator

FROM: Brent Bogardus & Marie Metzler

RE: 2015 Annual Report

DATE: April 1, 2016

The Greene County Board of Elections continues 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 as well in recognition of the fiscal challenges faced not only by our county government, but also by the citizens we serve.

2015 was once again a busy year for the BOE as we conducted four village elections in March, six primary elections in September and the General Election in November. Each of those election cycles also included various caucus and/or petition filings. Inspector training, voter registration, absentee ballot preparation and ballot coding activities also were conducted as they are every year.

For comparison sake, here are some numbers which may be of interest:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Registered Voters	26,815	28,080
Absentee Ballots Sent*	1,783	1,442
Absentee Ballots Received*	1,352	1,059
Petitions processed	46	189

*Absentee numbers are always higher in even numbered years and highest in presidential years which we are entering.

While we do not conduct school district elections, we work in a cooperative fashion with the school districts of Greene County. We provide voter enrollment lists, voting machines, inspectors and technicians as needed or requested to assist our school districts in conducting their elections. We do so at no operational cost to the county as costs are passed onto the local districts but there is staff time and effort required to facilitate these elections. We believe this to be a good example of municipal cooperation in our County. As the State no longer authorizes the use of the old lever machines for school district

elections, more and more schools have requested the use of our ballot scanning machines.

Staff has participated in several conferences conducted by the 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 fashion possible.

Finally, to the extent possible, we began our preparations for the 2016 year in which we are faced with an unprecedented number of elections to administer. In 2016 we will have village elections in March (and one special school bond vote), a Presidential Primary in April, School Board/Budget elections in May, a June federal offices (congress) primary, a September state and local office primary and the General Election in November for which we anticipate a record number of voter registrations and absentee requests.

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