

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2023 Annual Report

The 2023 Election Year saw the Greene County Board of Elections focused primarily on local elections as State and Federal election cycles take place in even numbered years. With that said, it still was an extremely busy and challenging year for the Board.

Fortunately, the COVID challenges of recent years were behind us for the most part, but we were still faced with the implementation of numerous State Law changes and modifications resulting from the COVID years.

One of the more significant changes centered around the continued implementation of how absentee ballots are processed. Absentee ballots are now opened and prepared for scanning throughout the election cycle. Here in Greene County, we open absentees on Tuesday's and Friday's. Then they are scanned the day prior to the start of early voting. Absentees that arrive during the early voting period continue to be opened on Tuesday and Friday, and are scanned on the Monday following the close of early voting. NO VOTE TOTALS are downloaded and reported until after the close of voting on election day at 9:00PM.

As previously stated, there were no national or state level positions for election in 2023. Therefore, 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 2023, specifically, March 21st. The Board administered four village elections for the selection of Mayors and Trustees in those villages.

***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 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 27th, 2023. While there was only one local primary (Republican Primary for Highway Superintendent in the Town of New Baltimore), as mandated by State Law, nine days of early voting had to be accommodated.

***GENERAL ELECTION:** The 2023 General Election was conducted on November 7th. Again, as mandated by State Law, nine days of early voting were required. This cycle included elections in all of our county's 14 towns for a variety of offices including Supervisors, Justices, Council, Clerk, Highway Superintendent and Tax Collector. In total, 76 town positions were on the ballot in our fourteen towns. Additionally, there was a contested election for three NYS Supreme Court Judges. At the County level, there were elections for County Judge, Sheriff, County Clerk and two Coroners. Additionally, two amendments to the NYS Constitution were on the ballot.

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. These include:

- *The continuation of enhanced access to absentee voting given changes made to State Law during the COVID period.
- *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.

The Board spent a great deal of time in November and December preparing for the challenges the 2024 election cycle will present. A new Early Vote by Mail requirement has the potential to greatly increase mail in ballots. It should be noted here that this new law is being challenged in the Courts on its' constitutionally but for now it is in place, and we must prepare to accommodate it.

We also had a Presidential Primary (April 2, 2024) to prepare for in addition to the other elections in this cycle. This will require an early voting period and potentially increase absentee and mail in voting.

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. Meeting our mandate would not be possible without assistance from our partners in county government. Therefore, we wish to acknowledge the noble efforts and spirit of cooperation from:

- *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 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

CATEGORY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Registered Voters	29,549	29,337	29,968	30,417	32,829	32,335	31,178	31,889
Absentee Ballots Sent	2,198	1,160	2,053	1,080	4,692	1,207	1,821	1,025
Absentee Ballots Returned	1,978	798	1,792	826	3,185	860	1,506	722
Petitions Processed	35	94	60	133	30	23	39	151
Registrations Processed	2,926	1,297	635	449	2,412	1,246	2,528	3,917
Early Voters								
Primary	0	0	0	0	71	12	203	2
Special	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	0
General	0	0	0	630	4,308	650	1,921	722