

## **2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **ORGANIZATION**

The Onondaga County Board of Elections is a County Office, responsible for all Federal, State, County, City and Town elections, along with the Villages of Camillus and Manlius. Under present law, all villages (except Camillus and Manlius) and school district elections, as well as fire, water and other special district elections, do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Elections at this time.

The structure, responsibilities and duties of the Board are set forth in the New York State Election Law. Formal Board meetings and documentation of actions, discussion and decisions are being maintained.

The Board of Elections is located on the 15th floor of the Civic Center at 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York.

### **HAVA/NEW YORK STATE ELECTION CONSOLIDATION/IMPROVEMENT ACT**

In March of 2006, the Federal Department of Justice initiated a lawsuit to force NYS to create a specific written HAVA implementation and compliance plan. A consent order issued by US District Court Judge Gary L. Sharpe (Albany, NY) provided for an interim disabled voter-accessible ballot marking device (BMD) to be used on a limited basis in each county only in the 2006 elections, as well as specific timelines for full implementation of new voting systems after August 2007.

The state was not able to comply with the 2007 implementation time line. In December of 2007, Judge Sharpe ordered all NYS Counties to use a Ballot Marking Device in every polling place for September 2008 primary and 2008 general election. On June 4, 2009, Judge Sharpe signed an order allowing the State Board of Elections the options to roll out the new Voting Systems (Imagecast or ES & S) without being certified to all counties in New York State who wanted to participate in a Pilot Program.

### **PILOT PROGRAM (IMAGECAST VOTING SYSTEM)**

Our office participated in the Pilot Program deploying 86 Imagecast Voting Systems to 13 towns, which involved 158 election districts with 69 polling sites. The rest of the county used the lever voting machines with the Ballot Marking Devices.

Our office needed to develop a plan for deployment of the Imagecast Voting System, temporary fixes and voting supplies for the September Primary and November General Elections. Meetings were held with our trucking companies on what was the most efficient way to deploy this election material to our polling locations. Security of the stubbed ballots was a concern especially on how the voted ballots would be returned and secured on Election night. Through these meetings, it was decided to return all ballots (voted and unused) to the Thompson Road Service Center on Election night. In the larger towns, the truckers were at the town clerk's office to pickup the black suitcase from the inspectors. The smaller towns' supplies were retrieved by the voting machine technicians and return to the Thompson Road facility. The Imagecast machine and all temporary fixes started to be returned to the Service Center the day after the election.

Our staff worked together to create extensive training program for the election inspectors working in the Pilot Program locations. Our staff along with four (4) of our temporary machine technicians taught and demonstrated the Pilot Program process. In October, thirty-nine (39) three-hour training classes were held with class size limited to 16 per class. This gave the instructors, along with our additional staff, time to spend with the election inspectors to make sure they were comfortable with the election process and the Imagecast voting machine. Only inspectors who attended class were allowed to work in a Pilot location.

Our greatest challenge was deciding how many black suitcases would need to be deployed to each voting district because of the weight of the stubbed ballots. Not all elections district require the same number of ballots as each other. The ballots needed are based on 110% of the registered voters. It was decided that the black suitcases should be able to hold the ballots for two (2) election districts.

The 275 Imagecast voting systems needed to have software upgraded to allow the scanners on these machines to tabulate the election results. It took our 2 voting machine custodians and 4 additional machine technicians to complete the upgrade.

Our office was also mandated by the New York State Board of Elections Regulations 6210 to do a 3% audit on all ballots in the Pilot Program. We manually audited all or part of 13,362 ballots. This is equal to 15% of all ballots. It took 22 people 20 hours to complete this. We do believe an audit is necessary, but it should truly be 3% of the systems. The trigger requiring a full audit if the race is within 1%.

## **PERSONNEL AND BUDGET**

In keeping with state mandate, two Commissioners, one Republican and one Democrat administer the Board of Elections. The Commissioners are recommended by their respective County committees and appointed by the County Legislature every 2 years. The Board had 20 full time positions.

Both Commissioners' terms will end on December 31, 2010.

2009 Was A Local Election Year. The board conducted a September 15<sup>th</sup> primary election and November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election which included races for 2 justices of the supreme court, county court judge, 19 county legislators', City of Syracuse Mayor, President of Common Council, 2 Councilors-at-Large, 5 district councilors, 3 Commissioners of Education, several Town offices, and 2 State propositions. Sixty-five (65) different ballot styles were used in the General Election.

The Board of Elections is funded solely by the County of Onondaga. The 2009 adopted appropriations include the following:

### **Total 2009 Budget**

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Total County Budget  | \$ 3,219,570 |
| Salaries (full time) | \$ 831,337   |
| Salaries*(temporary) | \$ 486,673   |

(\*includes temporary clerks, election inspectors, voting machine technicians, training consultants)

## **ELECTION COST**

Onondaga County is responsible for paying all election costs. These costs include storing, transporting and maintaining both the lever voting machines and the Imagecast machines, paying machine custodians, political party representatives and election inspectors.

The County Board of Elections reviews all polling places for use and accessibility and tests and certifies all voting machines in Onondaga County. There are **537** lever voting machines and **275** Imagecast machines in Onondaga County. In 2009, our office had to deploy two separate voting systems for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election.

There were no county election charge backs to municipalities for 2009. HAVA will have some one time reimbursements that will require future annual operating expenditures. HAVA requires the county to maintain a pre-HAVA level of expenditures. There will be a need to follow federal and NYS contract processes especially for the purchase of new voting systems.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

The qualifications for voting in New York State are as follows: 18 years of age by Election Day, citizen of the United States, and a resident of the State and County for 30 days prior to election.

Residents of the County are allowed to register up to 25 days prior to an election during the year.

**476** voter registration forms were delivered to the Office of the Board of Elections in person.

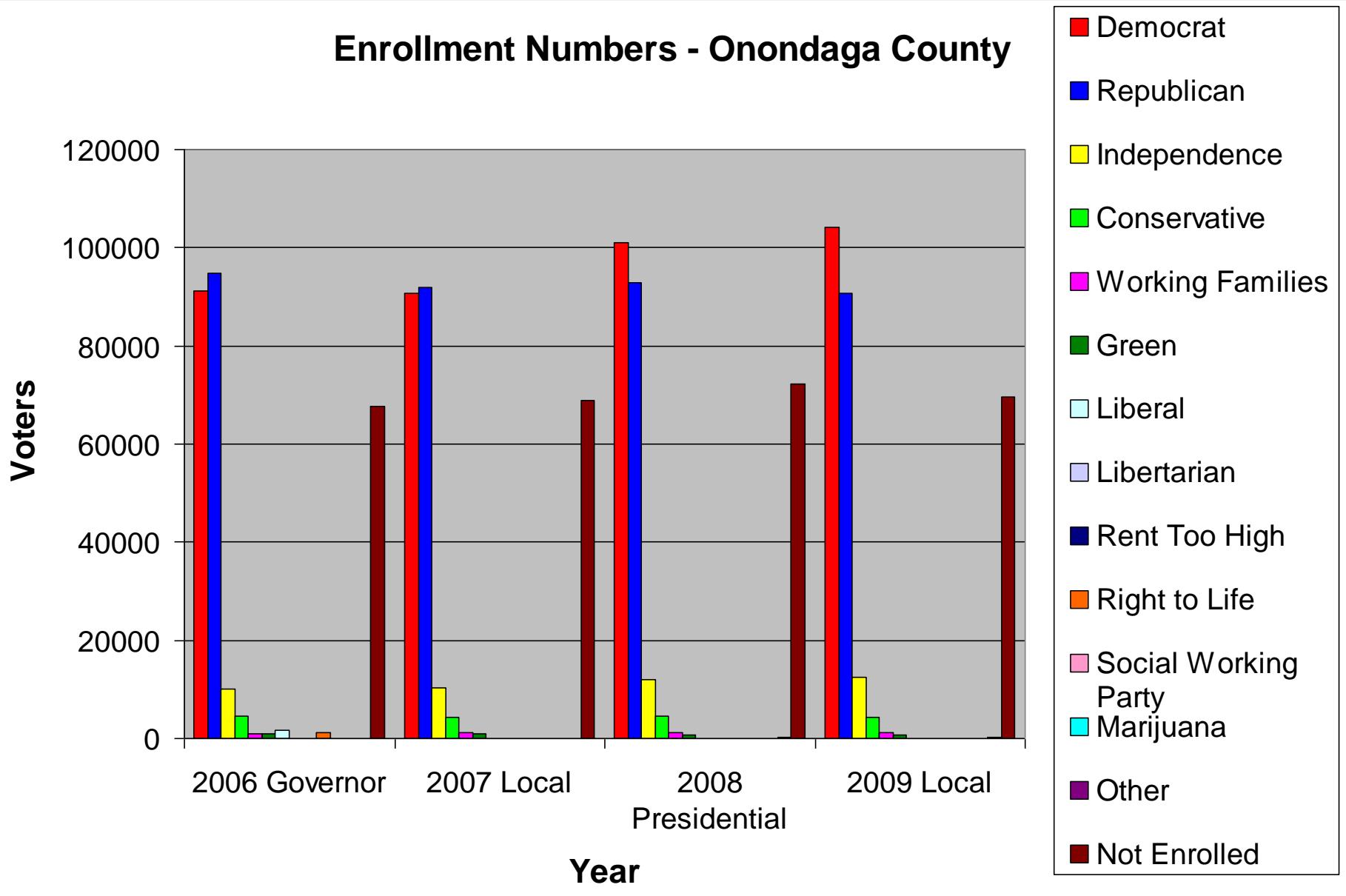
Four (4) temporary staff were hired to help our staff process all the voter registration applications received in our office for the Primary and General Elections. Our regular staff could not keep up with the incoming mail received daily. The temporary staff helped with address changes on returned mail check cards, scanning/indexing and cropping of all documents received, registering voter registration forms and answering phone calls from voters.

301,666 (**Active/Inactive**) residents of Onondaga County were registered to vote for the 2009 General Election. This number includes **18,210** inactive voters. Under the National Voter Registration Act [NVRA] a voter must be made inactive if mail sent to them is returned as undeliverable. If they remain inactive for 2 successive Federal elections, their registration will be canceled. Voters can activate themselves by voting, signing a petition or notifying the Board that they still reside at the address indicated in the Board's files.

The Board processed **18,788** registration application forms during the year. This number includes **13,529** mail registration applications and **5,305** applications received over the counter through registration drives or other types of resources. Not all of these registrations were new voters. Many of them moved from one part of Onondaga County to another. Registered voters who move within Onondaga County remain registered and can vote at their new polling place on election day by affidavit ballot. We processed **173** affidavit ballots during the September 15<sup>h</sup> primary, of which **79** were valid and **336** for the general elections on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, of which **278** were valid in 2009.

Pursuant to the federal court decision in the Green Party case of 2005, local election boards are mandated to keep enrollment numbers for the following groups/independent bodies until 2010: Green, Libertarian, Socialist Workers, Rent Too High Party. These are independent bodies which had gubernatorial candidates on the November ballot in 2006. These independent bodies are treated as though they are recognized parties for enrollment purposes only. In 2009, there were a total of **720** Green, **109** Libertarian, **0** Socialist Workers, **0** Rent Too High and **156** other parties. (See chart #1)

## Enrollment Numbers - Onondaga County



## **VOTER REGISTRATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Our Commissioners reviewed the election process with some groups during the year. They included students in the Fabius-Pompey High School Government Classes, Onondaga Community College and Syracuse University Newhouse School. The Board of Elections is often asked to speak at high schools and community meetings on such topics as the importance of voting; registering to vote; organizing a registration drive; and voting procedures.

Staff demonstrated the Imagecast Voting System at town clerk's offices, festivals throughout the county, senior luncheons, and several disabled groups (Aurora, Enable and Arise).

New York State Election Law 3-212.4(b)(1) requires each Board of Elections to designate a registration activity coordinator. It is the responsibility of this coordinator to develop a written voter education and registration plan, to contact every school district, college, and university in our county, and to implement this plan, in conjunction with the educational institutions' plans and programs.

In 2009, **13,220** registration forms were distributed to the high schools, town and village offices, various libraries and post office branches. An additional **4,740** voter registration forms were distributed to various other groups along with **570** forms mailed out to individuals upon request.

The following is a partial listing of the many diverse groups that organized registration drives:

**Colleges and most area High Schools**

Syracuse University, Syracuse Educational Opportunity Center, and Delta Sigma Theta Society

**Professional Associations & Labor Unions**

C.S.E.A. Local 834, Painters Local #31 and Teamsters Local #317.

**Human Services, Community, & Neighborhood Organizations**

The League of Women Voters, South Side Neighborhood, Brady Faith Church, Brighton Towers, CNY Works and National Action Network

As registration deadlines approached, press releases were faxed to all area media in August, September and October. General information faxes were also sent to local media as Election Days grew nearer informing the general public of polling hours, polling places, and phone numbers to call for questions. Public access television stations and a number of radio stations agreed to regularly broadcast registration deadlines and phone numbers at the Board of Elections to call for more information. Registration deadlines and mail registration forms were posted on our website for voters to access.

Currently, about **81%** of approximately **350,000** eligible voters (citizens' 18 years and over) are registered to vote in Onondaga County.

## POLLING PLACES

There were **201** polling sites in Onondaga County in 2009.

In 2007 we eliminated polling places that clearly were not accessible per Federal ADA standards. Starting in 2006, we required that all polling sites in Onondaga County sign a five (5) year lease.

As a result of using lever machines and Imagecast voting system for the 2009 General Election, we at the Onondaga County Board of Elections were forced to change 12 polling sites due to lack of space, construction, voter complaints, and HAVA requirements. The voting area in some of the locations had to be mapped out differently to accommodate the integration of the lever machines and the Imagecast Voting System.

The County HAVA Funds Program for Polling Place Access Improvement allowed the Board of Elections to permanently fix the parking area at the Camillus Elk's Lodge and Bellewood Baptist Church. The parking area was paved and restriped for handicap accessibility at the Elk's Lodge. Railings were installed at Bellewood Baptist Church. Along with the polling site changes, a re-evaluation of approximately 17 other sites resulted in the need for more temporary fixes. Eighty polling sites throughout the county needed temporary fixes in order to be ADA compliant.

The delivery and pick up of lever and Imagecast voting machines to and from polling sites resulted in the need for better contact information on the polling site and better communication between the delivery personnel and the BOE. 2008 was the first year that lever and Imagecast machines were picked up and delivered to all 203 polling sites. This was a trial and error period for the BOE, delivery drivers, and polling sites. Two delivery companies were hired to perform this task. In 2009, letters and contact information sheets were sent to be filled out by all the polling places in Onondaga County. Having the correct information such as contact names, phone numbers and address resulted in a much smoother transition of the voting machines from place to place.

## ELECTION DISTRICTS

In 2009, there were **464** Election Districts in Onondaga County. Five (**5**) of these were non-working districts. There is an average registration of **617** voters in each district. In 2009, the smallest district contained **4** voters (City 5-8) and the largest had an enrollment of **1,750** voters (City 16-1). Normally, a district would be split if it contained more than 1000 voters.

## MAIL CHECK CARDS

Each year the Board is required to send a notice to each voter to determine if they still reside at the same address as in our files. The card also contains information that can be useful to the voter, including polling place location, dates and times for primary and general elections and information about registration and absentee voting. In 2009, **280,200** mail check cards were mailed out in late July. Of those cards, **19,566** were returned to the Board as moves within the county, moves outside of the county/state, undeliverable, post office boxes, left no forwarding address, etc. A number of these voters use post offices boxes and have not moved. The Board again used NTS Data Services to process our mail check cards.

All in-county address changes were processed before the general election which reduced affidavit voting by 33%.

## **VOTING MACHINES TECHNICIANS/CUSTODIANS**

Two (2) full time Onondaga County Voting Machine Custodians are responsible for maintaining, testing, and preparing the new Imagecast voting systems for each election site within Onondaga County with the assistance of centralized voting machine technicians.

In 2009, there were 27 additional voting machine technicians in Onondaga County. Voting Machine technicians are appointed by the Board of Elections each year. In 2009, the voting machine technician rate of pay was \$18.50 an hour.

All 27 technicians were trained on the operations and troubleshooting for the Imagecast voting machines. Two of the machine technicians however, did provide field support for all the voting systems.

Temporary fixes were again used to bring Onondaga County polling places into compliance with the Federal Help Americans Vote Act. The technicians were successful at setting up and taking down the temporary fixes in a 48 hour time frame around each election day.

In 2009, every lever voting machine in Onondaga County was tested by a technician and another staff person prior to each of the elections to insure that the correct ballots were in the voting machines and that the machines were working properly.

The number of machines used for each election in 2009 was as follows:

| <b>ELECTION</b>                    | <b>PILOT<br/>IMAGECAST</b> | <b>LEVER MACHINES</b> | <b>BMD</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Primary September 15 <sup>th</sup> | 14                         | 89                    | 80         | 183          |
| General November 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | 86                         | 293                   | 115        | 494          |

Additional spare machines were prepared in case of breakdowns before each election. Also, **147** voting machines were loaned to unions ( 21 ), schools ( 104 ), villages ( 15 ), towns (2), fire districts (2) and libraries ( 3 ) for elections and to schools for demonstration purposes during the year.

## **SERVICE CENTER**

**175** lever machines are housed at the Onondaga County's North Area Facility. The remaining **362** lever machines are stored in numerous sites throughout the county. We worked with the town clerks and town supervisors to store the machines within their towns. They also assist with the delivery and retrieval of the lever machines and the temporary disability fixes. On election nights they return the sensitive voting materials to the Civic Center. Their willingness to remain partners with us has enabled us to conduct difficult primary and general elections.

In July 2008, Onondaga County rented a facility to house the 275 Imagecast voting system and the supplies needed to conduct elections. This building is located on Thompson Road. Because of the sensitive nature of the Imagecast, we install a security system. We have 2 full time voting machine custodians assigned to this site. We are required to have a democrat and republican on site whenever the building is open. If someone is unable to be there, we either need to send someone of the appropriate party to Thompson Road or require the remaining individual to come to the Civic Center. It would make sense to relocate the Board of Elections to one facility. This would provide more oversight to the new voting system and better access to voters and candidates. Much time is wasted traveling between three (3) locations.

The State mandates quarterly testing of the Imagecast voting system. It takes a bipartism team approximately 1 hour per machine. This testing is done to ensure that the machines are functioning properly.

Memory cards are programmed and installed in each Imagecast. We are required to perform a process called pre-lat. This process requires the creation of a test deck requires someone to vote each position on the ballot and requires them to use all disability apparatus. Also 6 seals are attached to each machine and their numbers are recorded on the Statement of Canvass sheet. The machines are packaged for delivery to the polling places. This also had to be done with a bipartisan team and took nearly an hour per machine.

## ELECTION INSPECTORS

New York State Election Law requires 4 inspectors (2 Republicans and 2 Democrats) in each election district. The chairs of the (2) major political parties recommends these inspectors. In 2009, **1,949** election inspectors were appointed. Due to the consolidation of election activities regarding election inspectors' pay and annual training, an increased work load has fallen on our election inspector coordinators. Election inspectors are paid **\$160** for working the General Election Day and **\$100** on Primary day. The Board of Elections also recruits inspectors from mail registration forms, signing up on Election Day and mail check cards. More than **352** people responded on the mail registration forms. In addition, inspector-recruiting signup sheets were put in each supply bag that were sent to the polling sites throughout Onondaga County for those voters who may be interested in this position. There were approximately **300** such prospective inspectors.

The new voting system, a new focus on disability sensitivity and NYS laws created a new requirement to train and test all inspectors annually versus one third of inspectors every three years. In order to accomplish this, we had more hands on classes with fewer inspectors in each class. This created a need for more than our one team to train and test them.

We developed and implement a training program with Onondaga Community College (OCC) for inspectors. To get young people interested in the election process, we worked with OCC and the Political Science Department to make the election process part of the accreditation of the course assignment. If the student did not complete this assignment, he did not receive the credit.

Our office created an extensive training program for the election inspectors. Our staff establish a process for scheduling the election inspections for their Hands On training. We establish three locations within the county to hold the inspector training sessions. A total of 52 training sessions were scheduled from late April through June with a capacity of 50 inspectors per sessions which lasted about 2 1/2 - 3 hours.

In 2009, a total of **2,267** election inspectors were invited to attend a 3 hour Hands On training session and take the inspector test for certification. Out of this number a total of **18** inspectors failed the test. The training included the actually handling of all the paperwork used at a polling place during an election. Each inspector was also shown, as part of their training, how to open and close the Imagecast voting machine. In October, **39** Pilot Program sessions were held on training inspectors who would be working in pilot program locations on the new Imagecast voting system. Each session lasted about 2 1/2 hours with approximately 16 inspectors per session.

## ADDITIONAL INSPECTORS

Onondaga County has a goal to maintain a list of 50 Emergency Inspectors for Election Day. These inspectors are never assigned to a polling place prior to Election Day. They are called into service if a regular inspector becomes ill or fails to appear at the polling place. These people sign a contract agreeing to work anywhere in the county where they are needed. They must remain by their phone until 4PM on primary and general election days. Attendance at a training meeting is also required. If a vacancy does occur, they are paid the daily rate. If they are not used, Emergency Inspectors are paid \$40 for General Election, \$40 for Primary Election and \$25 for a training meeting. A total of **8** emergency inspectors were used for the general election.

## BALLOT ACCESS

Certain towns hold caucuses to select their candidates, but most candidates are required to file petitions to seek public office. All petitions for candidates for public office or party position, entirely within Onondaga County, are filed with this Board. Anyone seeking an office that crosses county lines is required to file in Albany at the New York State Board of Elections.

In 2009, candidates for public office filed **233** party designating petitions and **22** Party position petitions along with **4** opportunity to ballot petitions. Each petition is logged in by Board staff and each candidate for public office is notified in writing that a petition has been filed on his/her behalf and the candidate is given an opportunity to accept or decline the designation or nomination. Any objections to the designation of a candidate are filed with the Board and ruled upon by the Commissioners. In 2009, there were **33** challenges to petitions filed. The Board received specifications on **(7)** of the challenges. Also, candidates desiring to run on an independent line are required to file independent nominating petitions. In 2009, **14** independent nominating petitions were filed. Additionally, **27** Certificates of Nomination were filed. There were **(4)** challenges with specifications filed on the certificates. Party authorizations are filed for candidates who are not members of a Party for which the candidate wants that Party endorsement/line.

A vacancy occurred in the office of Town Justice – Town of Tully on September 24, 2009, due to the death of a candidate. State law allows for a substitute candidate if a vacancy occurs more than 7 days before the election. Only the Republican and Conservative Parties nominated a replacement candidate.

A total of 74 designating petitions were submitted to our office by the independence party. Of those candidates, a portion of them were authorized by the interim county char and a portion was authorized by the state executive committee. As a result of a court case that ensued because of this, the state executive committee authorization was upheld.

## **ABSENTEE VOTING**

Registered voters who will be outside of Onondaga County on Election Day and those who are physically unable to appear at the polls are eligible to receive absentee ballots. There are several types of absentee voters:

- A. *MILITARY*--Members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.
- B. *REGULAR*--Voters who are out of the county or ill on Election Day or Primary Day.
- C. *PERMANENTLY DISABLED*--These voters are on a permanent list and receive a ballot for each election.

In 2009 the numbers of absentees processed are as follows:

| TYPE OF<br>ABSENTEE       | ELECTION DATE |     |     | Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>ALL |       |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----|-----|----------------------------|-------|
|                           | Sept 15th     | DEM | REP | CON                        |       |
| <b>Military</b>           |               |     |     |                            |       |
| <i>Mailed</i>             | 62            | 33  | 1   |                            | 664   |
| <i>Returned</i>           | 4             | 5   | 0   |                            | 66    |
| <b>Regular</b>            |               |     |     |                            |       |
| <i>Mailed</i>             | 207           | 89  | 1   |                            | 3,176 |
| <i>Returned</i>           | 155           | 62  | 1   |                            | 2,230 |
| <b>Permanent Disabled</b> |               |     |     |                            |       |
| <i>Mailed</i>             | 287           | 239 | 6   |                            | 2,187 |
| <i>Returned</i>           | 181           | 118 | 1   |                            | 1,394 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              |               |     |     |                            |       |
| <i>Mailed</i>             | 556           | 361 | 8   |                            | 6,027 |
| <i>Returned</i>           | 340           | 185 | 2   |                            | 3,690 |

The total number of voters that voted in person at their polling place that had returned an absentee ballot to our office in 2009 were 6 at the September Primary and 7 at the General Election.

In 2009, the Board of Elections hand delivered ballots to nursing homes with more than five residents voting absentee. The ballots are delivered and voted under supervision of a bipartisan team from the Board. During the September Primary Election, 5 nursing homes were visited for a total of 92 ballots processed and in the General Election, 13 nursing homes were visited with a total of 372 ballots processed.

## PAPER BALLOT COUNTING

The Board counts all paper ballots centrally using a Sequoia Voting System optical scanner and ballot tabulating machines. The electronic absentee counting system greatly enhances and expedites our recanvass procedures. This machine counts all paper ballots – absentees, affidavits and emergencies. Candidates receive their official vote tally earlier and this office can certify election results with the State Board of Elections prior to the deadline.

## COURT ORDERS

Voters who failed to register in time for the primary or general elections can obtain a court order. Our office had lawyers from the Democratic and Republican parties available at the Board of Elections to assist voters in completing the necessary forms to present to the Supreme Court Judges on Election Day. There were **3** Court Order processed at the September 15<sup>th</sup> Primary and **11** court orders processed for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. After obtaining a court order, a voter is allowed to vote on the machine in their home election district.

## ELECTION RESULTS

In 2009, a bipartisan team of supervisors, appointed by the Commissioners, operated the Election night reporting system. The Board of Elections staff set up the Election Center. The system provides the public, candidates, and the media with quick and accurate unofficial results. Election Central is located in Room 803 in the County Office Building. Live results were available on our website.

In 2009, we used a phone bank of **20** phones for the September Primary Election and **55** phones for the General Election where results are called in by election Inspectors and entered directly into terminals by County Information Technology personnel. Results are available within minutes of the close of polls. An election night phone bank was not needed due to a very small September primary Election.

Election Night Personnel are compensated at a rate of \$15 for working 2-2 ½ hrs. It is becoming more difficult to recruit election night personnel based on the rate of compensation for that night.

The Board requires Inspectors to return their supplies on election night. City inspectors are required to deliver their supplies directly to the Civic Center. The lever machine towns, however, with the help of the town clerk, assists the Board in the return of voting materials on election night. This method provides increased security for elections materials and also prevents a last minute scramble if the Board receives a Court Order to secure election materials.

## CANVASS OF RESULTS

All lever voting machines are recanvassed by paid party representatives--one representing the Republican and one representing the Democratic parties. They are responsible for verifying the machine results reported by the election inspectors. This is usually completed within 48 hours of each special, primary or general election.

The Commissioners oversee the counting of absentee, affidavit, emergency and military ballots. They are responsible for ruling on any questionable ballot. According to New York State Election Law, Section 10-114 increased the time for military ballots to be received at a Board of Elections from 7 days to 13 days after a General Election. Absentee ballots are not counted on election night after the polls close. The paper ballots were counted 13 days after the General Election due to the 3% Audit of the Imagecast voting system.

All paper ballots were inspected and scanned with appropriate headers and end sheets. After all paper ballots were scanned, a final summary report was generated. The results were then downloaded and merged with the voting machine totals.

The paper ballot and machine results are merged and entered directly on the computer terminal. Board personnel then verify all entries. The official canvass is certified by the Commissioners and forwarded to the State Board of Elections. Bound copies of this document are printed in February and distributed to candidates and other interested parties upon request.

## VOTER PARTICIPATION--2009

|   | <u>NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTER'S</u> | <u>NUMBER VOTING</u> | <u>TURNOUT %</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b><i>Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Primary:</i></b>        |                                   |                      |                  |
| DEM (Syracuse Mayor)                                | 38,863                            | 9,536                | 25%              |
| REP (Syracuse Mayor)                                | 12,980                            | 3,131                | 24%              |
| REP (2 <sup>nd</sup> Legislative District)          | 5,253                             | 781                  | 15%              |
| REP (Camillus 5 <sup>th</sup> Ward)                 | 1,101                             | 219                  | 20%              |
| REP (Camillus 6 <sup>th</sup> Ward)                 | 1,043                             | 305                  | 29%              |
| REP (Geddes Supervisor)                             | 4,212                             | 907                  | 22%              |
| REP (Marcellus Councilor)                           | 1,777                             | 238                  | 13%              |
| IND (Town Of Pompey – Hgwy Supt)                    | 226                               | 40                   | 18%              |
| CON (4 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Dist)              | 272                               | 35                   | 13%              |
| CON (9 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Dist)              | 193                               | 22                   | 11%              |
| CON (Syracuse 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dist Councilor)       | 143                               | 13                   | 9%               |
| CON (Geddes Supervisor/Clerk/Councilor)             | 213                               | 44                   | 21%              |
| <b><i>Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election:</i></b> |                                   |                      |                  |
| All Parties   | 301,666*                          | 93,260               | 31%              |

\*includes 18,210 inactives

## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

New York State Election Law requires all local candidates and committees to file electronically with the State Board of Elections as well as a hard copy with the county Board of Elections. Candidates for state offices are required to file only with the state. Candidates for Federal offices file with the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C. As of September 2, 2009 any local candidates and committees that are making duplicate filings, are no longer required to file with our office. Local filers who do not intend to raise or spend over \$1,000 are still required to file with our office.

Candidates running for office in 2009 were required to file reports preceding and following each election or primary in which they were involved. There were 132 active local candidates, 28 party committees and 12 PACs in 2009 who filed.

Additionally, approximately 189 political committees and candidates remain active throughout the calendar year. They file periodic statements each January and July. After petitions are filed, candidates are mailed a kit containing the necessary forms, a financial disclosure filing calendar, and a Guide to Financial Disclosure. The financial files are open to the public and are kept at the Board for seven (7) years.

Financial Disclosure training for treasurers and candidates was presented by the New York State Board of Elections on May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Onondaga County Curtain Auditorium at the Galleries in Syracuse, New York.

## **WEB SITE**

The Board of Election's web site, which was launched in 2000, continues to thrive.

The Board and the County's Web Site Administrator jointly revise the website to improve navigational ease for the end user. We have now added pages of information and instructions for:

- Press Releases
- Election Inspectors
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Clickable button directing voters to the 2009 General Election Results
- Clickable button directing voters to education on voting machines sponsored by the State Board of Elections (VoteNY.Com)

The polling place locator feature can now be updated as frequently as necessary through an updated web table builder from the vendor.

We continue to place an emphasis on educating the public as to those services available through the internet, and the ease in obtaining necessary forms (and instructions). Callers continue to be informed of their options when requesting forms.

## **LONG RANGE GOALS**

The Dominion ImageCast voting system was certified by the NYS Board of Elections on December 15, 2009. The new voting system is an integrated ballot marking device for people with disabilities and an optical scanner for the remaining voting public. Voters in Onondaga County will be voting on paper ballots.

All lever machines will be replaced for the 2010 Primary and General elections.

The transition to a new voting system will require additional training of inspectors and technicians. Inspectors will be required to account for many more ballots than they currently do. The layout of polling places will change dramatically. Voters will be given a paper ballot, sent to a privacy booth to vote their ballot and then will be required to insert it in a scanner. The board plans on having a large number of demonstrations to allow voters to try the new equipment prior to Election Day.

With the new technology also comes a need to recruit a new type of election inspector. Many of our inspectors have indicated that they would no longer work once the transition is made. We need to find people who are comfortable with electronic equipment.

We will continue to seek a higher pay scale for inspectors. Finding qualified inspectors at our current pay is becoming increasingly difficult.

A paper based system will result in the need to print many more ballots than we currently do. We are also investigating the possibility of the county print shop printing our ballots and other election supplies. This would save a substantial amount of money.

During the Pilot Program, a big concern was the lack of privacy for the voters. In the future, our office will supply a privacy folder to each voter to assure the secrecy of their vote.

On October 28, 2009 the governor signed into law a bill that mandated all county boards of election to supply to each election district either a countywide street finders or maps for voters who may show up at the wrong polling site on election day. The cost to the county is approximately \$21,000 an election.