

# ELECTION INSPECTOR NEWSLETTER

Tioga County Board of Elections

March 2020



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## What's New for Tioga County Elections?

The year 2019 was a whirlwind of change for elections in New York State. The following are some of the notable changes to Election Law:

**June Primary:** The State & Local Primary previously held in September was moved to the fourth Tuesday in June from here forward, coinciding with the Federal Primary.

**Early Voting:** There is now a nine-day early voting period before each election, where anyone in our county can

come to the Early Voting Center and cast their ballot on a voting machine.

**Electronic Poll Books:** These allow the Board of Elections to efficiently track voter history, prevent voting multiple times, and are designed to reduce the time it takes to sign in voters, reducing lines and overall wait times.

**Uniform Primary:** All primary elections in NYS will have polls open from 6 am to 9 pm. Formerly, polls were open from Noon to 9 pm for primary elections in many counties,

including Tioga County.

**Automatic Transfer of Voter Registration:** The voter registration of any voter who moves within New York State will automatically follow them to their new address.

**Party Enrollment Changes:** Changes of party enrollment status will now be effective immediately, except if filed between February 15th and seven days after the succeeding Primary. Any enrollment changes filed in that timeframe will take effect seven days after the Primary. ■

## Board of Elections' Response to COVID-19

We know that many of you are concerned about the Board of Elections' response to the Coronavirus emergency. At this time, it remains uncertain how New York State is going to address the situation with respect to the upcoming primary elections. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to be prepared for any scenario.

Until we hear otherwise, we must proceed as if the elections will be held as usual. Therefore, we are working to procure adequate sanitizer and disinfectants to be distributed to each poll site for Election Day. We will also provide guidance for cleaning privacy booths, ePoll-books, and voting machines throughout Election Day.

We have also working on election inspector assignments for the upcoming Presidential Primary. We will need everyone to work together to run a smooth election while maintaining a calm, collected, and clean environment for our voters.

In the meantime, protect yourself from COVID-19 and stop the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating.
- Keep your distance from others, and avoid touching your face.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- If you feel sick, stay home. ■

### 2020 ELECTION DATES

#### April 28: Presidential Primary

Early Voting: April 18-26

#### June 23: Federal, State & Local Primary

Early Voting: June 13-21

#### November 3: General Election

Early Voting: October 24-November 1

### EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

**Location:** The Tioga County Early Voting Center for 2020 elections will be located at the Tioga County Board of Elections, 1062 State Route 38, Owego, NY.

#### Early Voting Days and Times:

DAY	TIME
1: Saturday (10 <sup>th</sup> day prior to election)	9AM – 2 PM
2: Sunday	Noon – 5 PM
3: Monday	Noon – 8 PM
4: Tuesday	10AM – 6PM
5: Wednesday	Noon – 8 PM
6: Thursday	10AM – 6PM
7: Friday	10AM – 6PM
8: Saturday	9AM – 2PM
9: Sunday	9AM – 2PM

## Election Inspector Recruitment and Training

Election Day for an election worker is a loooong day! We at the Board of Elections definitely understand that. Now that polls are open from 6 am to 9 pm for every election day, including primaries, the pressure is on us to find some relief. Therefore, we are amping up our inspector recruitment efforts. Our goal for this year is to not be short-handed on Election Day, as we so often are in many districts. Our long-term goal is to provide opportunities for split-shifts to those inspectors who have a hard time working the full day.

To do this, we need your help! If you have a friend or neighbor who you think would be a great election inspector, please send them our way!

**INSPECTOR TRAINING 2020:** We held two classes in February for brand new election inspectors, so some of you may see a new face at your poll site for the next election. Our regular training sessions will be held in the summer. Expect a notice in June with the class schedule. ■

# Checking In with Electronic Poll Books

**IMPORTANT:** Starting with the 2020 Presidential Primary on April 28, the voter check-in process will be different from what we've been used to. Previously, voters could check in only at their district table, and then they received their ballot at the same table. Now, in order to streamline the process with E poll books at our disposal, the poll site layout and check-in process has to shift:

1. The poll site will have a check-in area, with a number of E poll books relative to the number of election districts and voters served by the poll site. Any voter eligible to vote at that location can check in on *any* of the E poll books.
2. After a voter signs in, the inspector will hand them a ballot voucher printed by the E poll book, which will include their Election District/ballot style information.
3. The inspector will direct the voter to take their voucher to their district ballot table and exchange it for a ballot. The inspectors at the district table will verify the ballot style and issue the voter their correct ballot. Then the voter will proceed to vote as normal.



The Asked Electronic Poll Book by Robis Elections, Inc.

## When and How to Issue an Affidavit Ballot

### When?

- Voter has recently moved into the county or to a different Election District within the county.
- Voter does not appear in the E poll book. If voter is listed on Inactive List, they must still vote by Affidavit.

### How?

- First, read and follow the instructions on the E poll book. Check the *Inactive* List for voter's name. Make sure the voter reads the Notice to Voter form. Voter is issued a ballot voucher that says "Affidavit".
- Hand voter a blank Affidavit Envelope, and instruct them to fill it out completely. Send voter to the appropriate district/ballot table.
- Fill in the Challenge Report with the complete voter's name and address.
- Inspector at district table verifies Affidavit voucher and issues voter an Affidavit ballot.
- When the voter gives the envelope back, make sure it is completely filled out, signed, and sealed.
- The Inspector must fill in the Town and E.D. at the bottom of the envelope.
- Place the voter's completed Affidavit into the white envelope labeled "AFFIDAVIT."

## OFFICES TO BE FILLED IN 2020

### FEDERAL:

- ◆ President of the United States
- ◆ Representative in Congress: 22<sup>nd</sup> District
- ◆ Representative in Congress: 23<sup>rd</sup> District

### STATE:

- ◆ State Senator: 52<sup>nd</sup> District
- ◆ State Assembly Member: 124<sup>th</sup> District
- ◆ State Supreme Court Justice: 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

### LOCAL:

- ◆ Candor Town Justice
- ◆ Spencer Highway Superintendent—Unexp. Term

## 2020 Inspector Pay Rates

- Election Day Inspector: **\$200.00**
- Chairperson: **+\$25.00**
- Speed Bag, Ballot Bag, and E Poll Book Delivery: **+\$10.00**
- Early Voting Weekend: **\$68.75**
- Early Voting Week Day: **\$106.25**
- Training: **\$25.00**



## Contact Information

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