

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2025 Annual Report

The 2025 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.

As noted in previous Annual Reports, the ongoing implementation of numerous changes in NYS Election Law has presented many challenges for the Board. 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.

Some examples of changes in State Law over recent years include:

- *The implementation of Early Vote by Mail ballots which fundamentally codified the expansion of absentee voting 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.
- *Moving contests for judicial races to the end of the ballot.

The most significant modification coming from the NYS Legislature and Governor that impacted the 2025 Election Year was moving many local elections into even numbered years. While our local board expressed opposition to this when it was initially proposed, it was enacted nonetheless. As a result, there was much confusion over how long a term local offices were being elected for. For example, many local offices that were normally two-year terms became one-year terms and will have to run again in 2026. Normal four-year terms became three, requiring those offices to appear on the ballot again in 2028, rather than 2029.

Please note an "Even-Year Elections – Transition Guidance" memo from the NYS Board of Elections is included with this report. This guidance outlines which local offices are impacted, and which are not.

Our primary concern here is that voter attention to these local offices will greatly diminish when running in years with high profile federal and state elections taking place. We are also concerned that this may force us to use two-page ballots given the number of offices that will be required to appear on the ballot. This will add additional costs for the board, and slow the processing of voters at the poll site.

There were no national or state level positions for election in 2025. 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 2025, specifically, March 18th. The Board administered five village elections for the selection of Mayors and Trustees in those villages. This was the first year we administered all five village elections as the Village of Hunter opted to have the County BOE conduct their election. Additionally, we administered two special village elections. One in the Village of Tannersville in January, and one in the Village of Catskill in September.

***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 scheduled for June 24th, 2025. While there were no Primary Elections in Greene County last year, we anticipate numerous primaries in 2026. Again, as a result of State Law changes in past years, this will require an early voting period of nine days prior to election day which is on June 23rd.

***GENERAL ELECTION:** The 2025 General Election was conducted on November 4th. Again, as mandated by State Law, nine days of early voting were required. This cycle included elections in all of Greene County's 14 towns 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 was a contested election for a NYS Supreme Court Seat. Additionally, one amendment to the NYS Constitution was 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 spent a great deal of time in November and December preparing for the challenges the 2026 election cycle will present. With contests for Governor, Attorney General and State Comptroller, as well as a high-profile Congressional race, 2026 will be extremely busy. As previously noted, many local elections will also be taking place again along with contests for NYS Senate and Assembly. The relatively new Early Vote by Mail requirement will greatly increase mail in ballots which will require an extensive time commitment on the part of BOE staff to process.

Finally, the Greene County Board of Elections has worked diligently to maximize access to various grant programs available from the state. In total, during the 2025 year we were able to draw down \$94,451 from the six grants we were able to secure. While the equipment and training that came with these funds directly impacted the Board, working with our IT department and others, these funds also provided a benefit to other county departments and IT infrastructure needs.

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 statical comparisons of recent election year data.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted.

Debbie Fromer,
Democratic Commissioner

Brent Bogardus,
Republican Commissioner

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS STATISTICAL REPORT

CATEGORY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Registered Voters	29,549	29,337	29,968	30,417	32,829	32,335	31,178	31,889	33,033	32,658
Absentee Ballots Sent	2,198	1,160	2,053	1,080	4,692	1,207	1,821	1,025	3,397	1,072
Absentee Ballot Recevied	1,978	798	1,792	826	3,185	860	1,506	722	3,088	667
Petitions Processed	35	94	60	133	30	23	39	151	32	44
Registrations Processed	2,926	1,297	635	449	2,412	1,246	2,528	3,917	4,330	3,296
Early Voting										
Presidential Primary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85	n/a
Special	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	380	n/a	n/a	n/a
Primary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	71	12	203	2	125	n/a
General	n/a	n/a	n/a	630	4,308	650	1,921	722	5,568	757

Peter S. Kosinski
Co-Chair

Anthony J. Casale
Commissioner

Raymond J. Riley
Co-Executive Director



**Board of
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Henry T. Berger
Co-Chair

Essma Bagnuola
Commissioner

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky
Co-Executive Director

EVEN-YEAR ELECTIONS – TRANSITION GUIDANCE

On December 22, 2023, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 741 of the Laws of 2023, which moves elections for a number of local offices outside of New York City to even-numbered years. The legislation goes into effect on January 1, 2025.

The law primarily impacts town offices (including Town Supervisor, Town Board Member, Town Clerk, and Highway Superintendent), as well as certain county offices (including County Executive, County Comptroller, and County Legislator). However, it does NOT affect any of the aforementioned offices should they have a three-year term.

All currently serving elected officials will fulfill the entirety of their term. Should an office be impacted by this legislation, that election will fall into one of the three categories below. The process to be followed is laid out below:

- 1) Two-Year Term (to be elected in 2025):
 - Election in 2025 for a one-year term
 - Election in 2026 and thereafter for regular two-year term
- 2) Four-Year Term (to be elected in 2025):
 - Election in 2025 for a three-year term
 - Election in 2028 and thereafter for regular four-year term
- 3) Four-Year Term (to be elected in 2027):
 - Election in 2027 for three-year term
 - Election in 2030 and thereafter for regular four-year term

THIS LEGISLATION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- Elected offices within the City of New York
 - Any town or county office with a three-year term
- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| • City offices | • County Sheriff | • Family Court Judge |
| • Village offices | • County Clerk | • Surrogate's Court Judge |
| • School Boards | • District Attorney | • Town Justice |
| • Fire Districts | • County Court Judge | |