

TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Board of Elections

1062 State Route 38 P.O. Box 306 Owego, NY 13827



Democratic Commissioner James C. E. Wahls
Democratic Deputy Commissioner Amber Duke
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Republican Commissioner Kelly A. Johnson
Republican Deputy Commissioner James Hoover
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BOARD OF ELECTIONS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING Tuesday, January 20, 2026 2:30 p.m. MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Commissioners James C.E. Wahls and Kelly A. Johnson
Guests: Deputy Commissioners Amber Duke and James Hoover; Voting Machine Technician Michaela Nelson; Public Participant Dan Cacciaglia (incoming Voting Machine Technician)

ELECT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

Commissioner Wahls nominated for President by Commissioner Johnson. Both commissioners are in favor. Commissioner Wahls elected President. Commissioner Johnson was elected secretary by default.

OLD BUSINESS

2025 in Review: Primary and General Elections were both ran successfully despite losing long-time voting machine technician, Bruce Layman during the General Election.

Commissioners gave a briefing on the court case that arose from the Newark Valley Town Supervisor race.

NEW BUSINESS

Hired new voting machine technician, Daniel Cacciaglia. His first day will be January 28.

Staff discussed plans in place for vacation/time off.

Calendar 2026 -

Party change deadline is February 14. This year the deadline falls on a Saturday and our office will be open. Discussed informing the public with a press release and social media. Noted to include that DMV will be closing early on February 13.

Petitions will begin in February. Discussion on all important dates.

Primary Election Date is June 23. Early Voting is June 13 – 21.

General Election Date is November 3. Early Voting is October 24 – November 1.

NCOA will be completed in February or March, before Mail Check cards go out in spring.

Mail Check dates are April 21 – May 8.

School Elections are May 19. We provide services for Waverly, Candor and Owego-Apalachin. All schools will require voter lists and mail ballots lists.

Village Elections are March 18. Villages will need voter lists and mail ballot lists.

Inspector Training Classes will be scheduled once new Voting Machine Technician is on board. Discussed some changes to be made to training class and the manuals. Notably, the challenge reports should be completed in training or added to the manuals.

Plans to import the NYSBOE election calendar directly into our own calendars.

Office Procedures –

Even year election law has passed, and staff discussed implications including longer ballots, 2-sided or 2-page ballots.

Petition deadline modified due to the “Protect Passover Act of 2025” being renewed for 2026.

Discussed doing heavy PR regarding mail ballots as they are not being postmarked at their city/town of origin unless manually taken inside. Press releases and social media to include telling voters best mail by dates. Set meeting date to review mail ballot policies.

Projects and Goals for 2026 –

Outreach to schools. One more attempt with PIG teachers. Deputy Commissioner Hoover suggested setting up at career days if schools have them. He will reach out to all the schools again.

Commissioners will visit poll sites to complete ADA questionnaires for some of the sites that do not have one filed with the state currently or have had changes to

their facilities. It was brought up that two of our churches utilized as polling locations may be merging this year. Discussion on alternative sites.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution was proposed to adopt a Comp Time Policy for Full-Time Election Employees. Commissioner Wahls and Commissioner Johnson both voted in favor of adopting the policy and signed it.

Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Wahls. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson
Meeting adjourned at 3:50.