

Board of Elections



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE – BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Legislators Andrew Aronstam, Jake Brown, Ronald Ciotoli, and Bill Standinger.
Commissioner James Wahls.

Guests: County Administrator Jackson Bailey, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Legislative Clerk Cathy Haskell, and Legislator Jo Ellen Rose.

Absent: Commissioner Kelly Johnson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Legislator Brown. Seconded by Legislator Ciotoli. All in favor. Carried.

FINANCIAL

The YTD Budget Report was presented. No questions.

OLD BUSINESS

See April minutes.

Update on petitions: The period to carry independent petitions is in progress. The Commissioners anticipate one Independent Petition, possibly two, to be filed for local offices based on people who have expressed interest to our office. Legislator Ciotoli asked what the deadline was to file independent petitions. Commissioner Wahls stated the last day to file is the day after Memorial Day (May 26th), but they can also be filed the week before (as early as May 19th).

Mail Check cards dropped timely in the mail on April 21.

Commissioner Johnson and Deputy Hoover presented to another Government class at Waverly High School on April 13.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2026 Primary ballot has been certified. The State BOE certified their portion on April 29, and counties certified on April 30th. Ballot creation is in progress and pre-election testing is scheduled for later this month.

Primary Election information has been shared with media, social media, and posted on the county website.

The absentee ballot transmittal deadline for Military, Federal, UOCAVA (overseas) voters is this Friday, May 8. The Board is on track to meet the deadline. Regular mail ballots are planned to be mailed out by the end of next week.

School elections are on May 19. BOE provides services to Waverly, Candor, and Owego-Apalachin school districts, including ballot creation and use of voting machines.

State BOE recently approved new voter registration forms. The State provides the forms at no cost to the counties. The affidavit oath envelopes for affidavit ballots also must be updated to align with the new registration form, so we have ordered a fresh stock of those.

Due to a law passed in 2024, the NYSBOE has created a new Voting & Elections Database (VEDA) which will be a central repository for election data from all election authorities in NYS, including county boards of elections, village clerks, and school districts, for elections held after April 1, 2026. NYSBOE has begun holding meetings about the new reporting requirements with those affected. VEDA is expected to be fully functional by January 2027.

PERSONNEL

A training class for new election inspectors was held on April 15. There were 13 attendees, but one has chosen not to continue. The second class scheduled for April 29th was cancelled due to lack of interest.

The inspector training schedule for summer/fall has been set and mailed out to current and prospective inspectors. A request for availability to work the June primary was also sent to currently certified inspectors so work assignments can be made. We plan to mail the primary election assignment letters by May 15th.

BOE office staff are attending on-site Liberty Vote software training May 5-7, so staff are cross trained in using the ballot creation software. Commissioner Wahls also explained that election projects are now being developed entirely in-house rather than using a vendor to start the projects, which eliminates a (small) cybersecurity risk, and improves staff proficiency with and understanding of the election management software.

RESOLUTIONS / PROCLAMATIONS - None

Meeting adjourned.