

2021 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, East Syracuse, Elbridge, Fayetteville, Manlius, North Syracuse, Solvay and Tully. Under present law, all villages (except Camillus, East Syracuse, Elbridge, Fayetteville, Manlius, North Syracuse, Solvay and Tully) 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.

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 has 16 full time positions.

Both Commissioners' terms end on December 31, 2022.

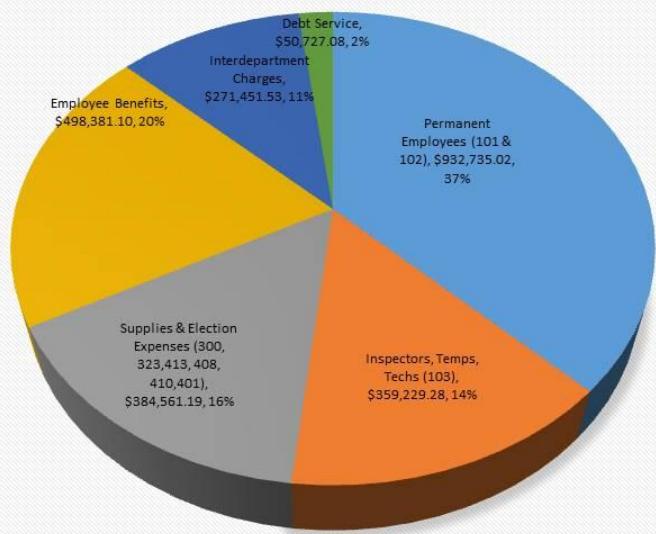
2021 was a local election year. Offices to be filled included; (1) Justice of the Supreme Court (Chapter 188 of Laws of 2021 created this vacancy), (17) County Legislators, City of Syracuse Mayor, City Court Judge, President of Common Council, (2) Councilors-at-large, (2) Commissioners of Education, (5) District Councilors, Male & Female members of State Committee (Republican only) as well as many Town and Village offices.

The 2021 General Election ballot also included five state-wide propositions, Town of Camillus proposition, Town of Geddes proposition, two Town of Manlius propositions, Village of Camillus proposition, and Village of Tully proposition.

The Board of Elections is funded solely by the County of Onondaga. The 2021 budget as modified (BAM) include the following:

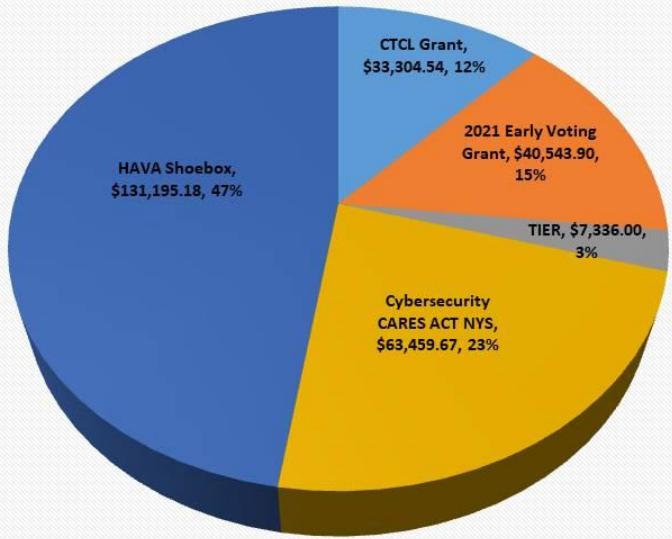
2021 Budget Actual Appropriations

\$2,479,400.04



2021 Grant Expenditures

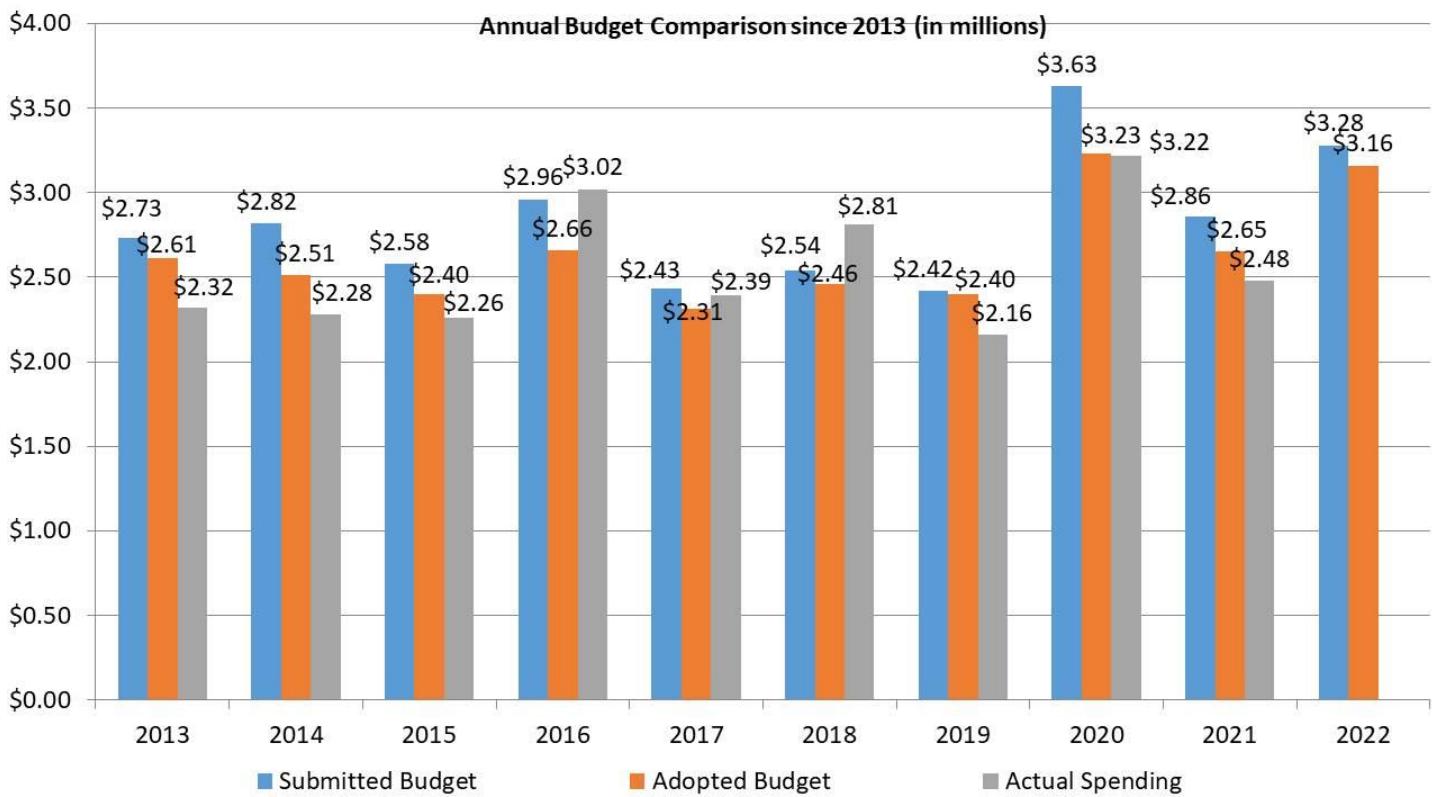
\$275,839.29



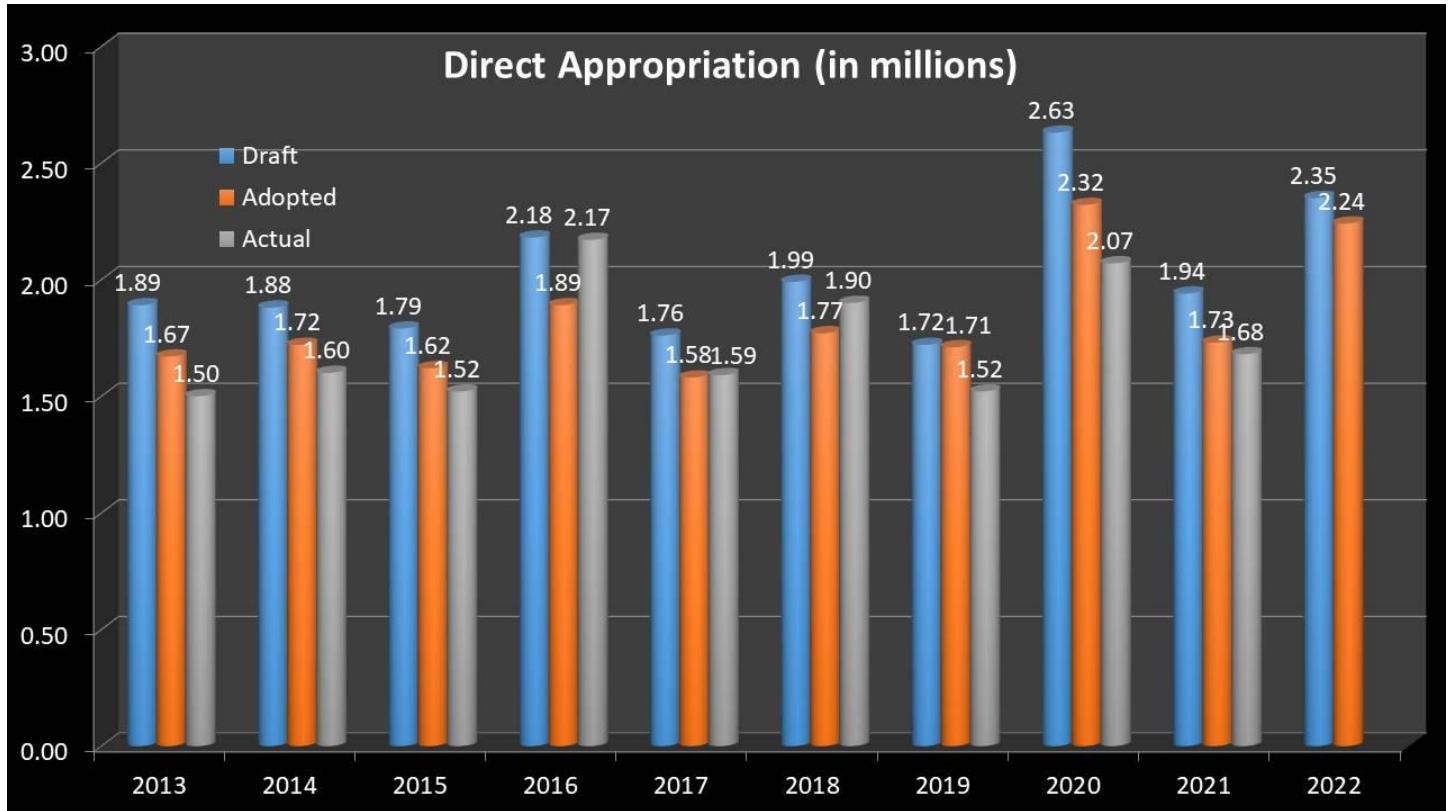
Total 2021 Budget

Total County Budget	\$2,861,562.00
Salaries (full time)	\$902,762.10
Salaries*(temporary)	\$359,229.28

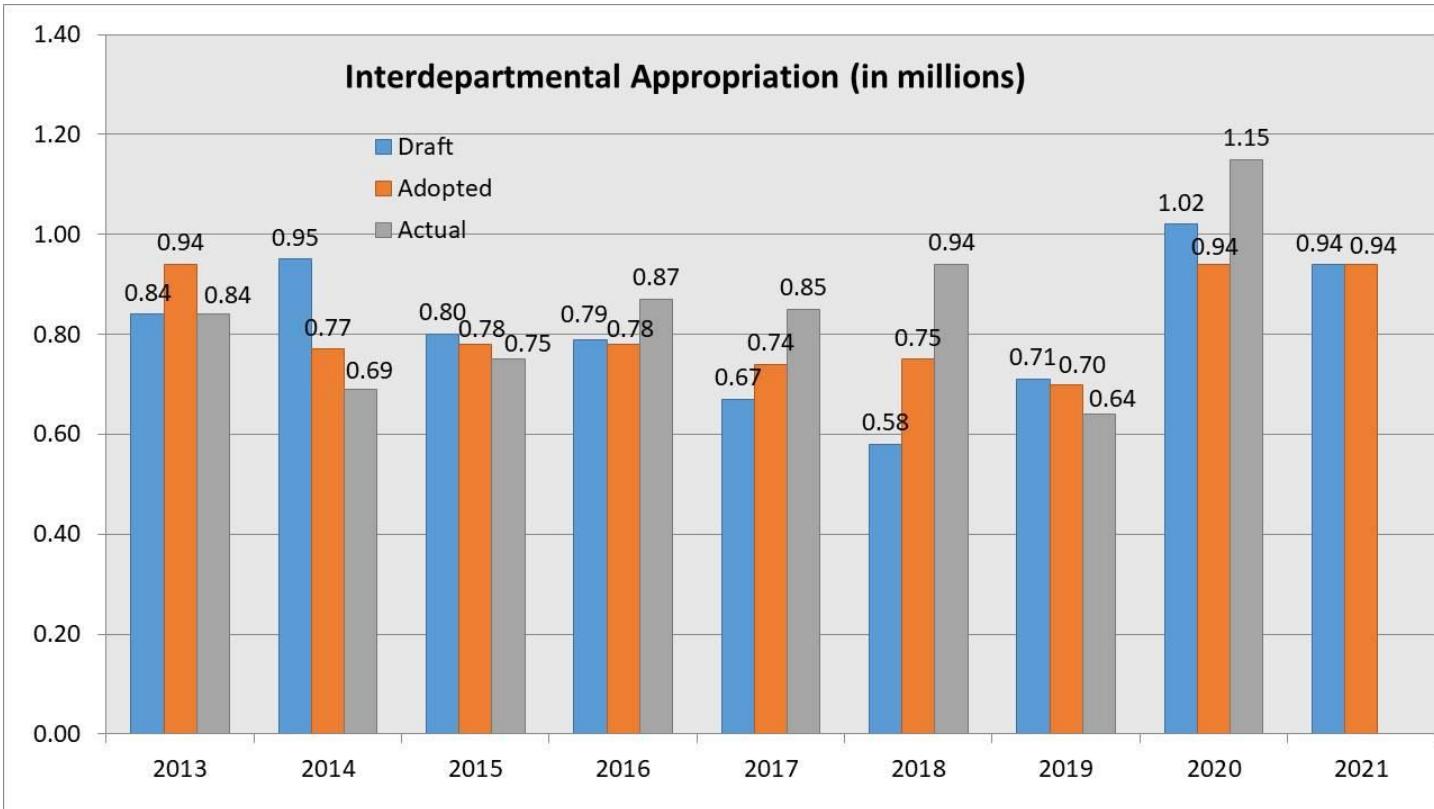
(*includes temporary staff, election inspectors, voting machine technicians, training consultants and Memory Card Runners)



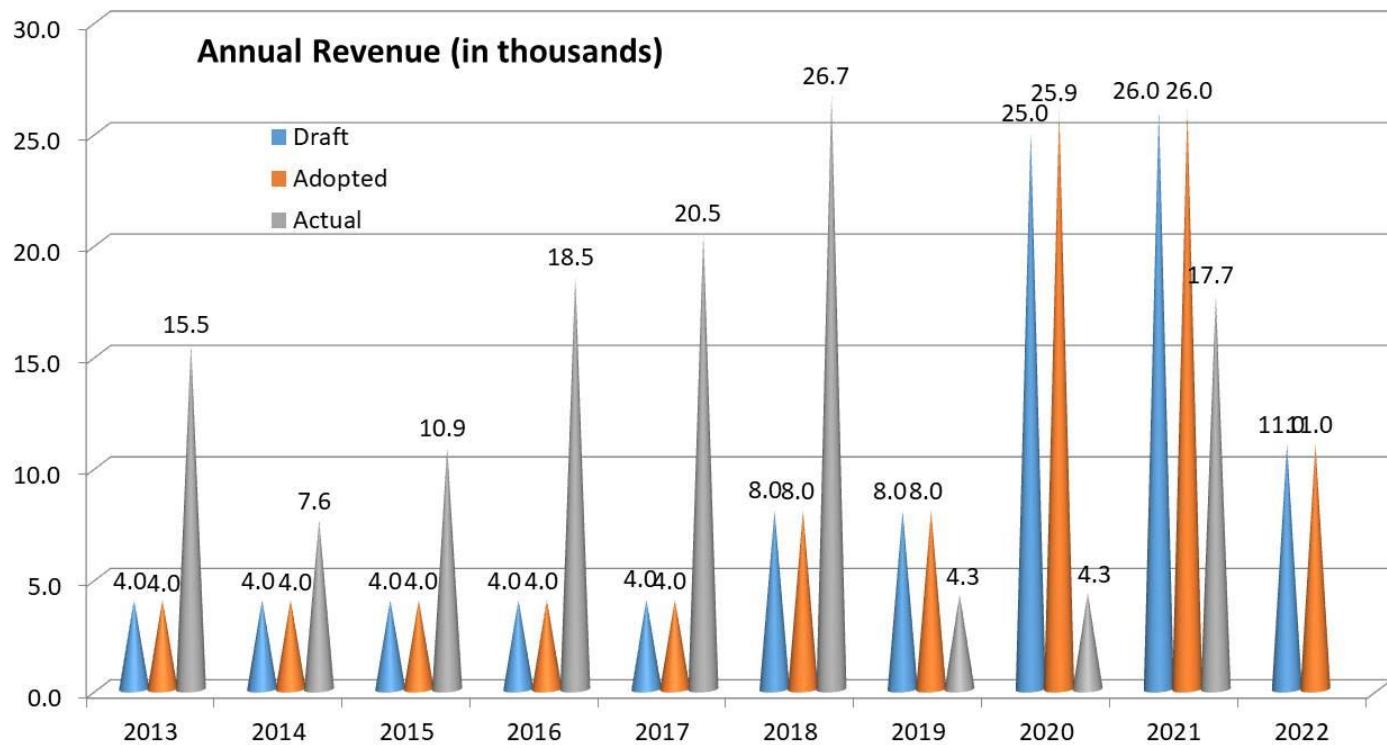
Onondaga County BOE was able to come in under budget despite continuing to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. The OCBOE was budgeted \$2,861,562 for fiscal year 2021. We spent \$2,646,762 coming in \$167,361.96 under budget. In the last 9 budget cycles we have only gone over our draft budget twice (2016 & 2018) and our adopted budget once (2017). During these years we had unanticipated record setting turnout as for those election cycles. In addition we spent \$275,839.29 in Grant money. \$131,195.18 was spent in HAVA Shoebox which represented technological upgrades and training of personnel on election equipment. \$63,459.67 was spent on our Cybersecurity CARES grant representing a video security system at the Board of Elections office. \$7,336.00 dollars was spent on our TIER capital funding for various election equipment, \$33,304.54 was spent on the CTCL Grant which allowed us to have temporary workers remain after the 2020 General election to clean up our voter rolls and deal with registration surges before the June primary, and \$40,543.90 was spent on the EVE 2021 Grant from NYS to offset costs for Early voting. The EVE and CTCL Grant are now fully spent.



Our direct appropriations for 2021 came in slightly under budget. The two main areas where we were able to see savings was Overtime (102) and Inspector pay (103). Our increased reliance on technology has made our office more efficient. This has resulted in less overtime than expected to deal with the registration increases our department has seen. It has also allowed us to deploy less inspectors than normal.



Interdepartmental appropriations were also under budget for 2021. It is important to note that this portion of our budget is not set nor controlled by the Board of Elections. The Office of management and budget submits the estimate on our behalf for the Executive budget and estimates are obtained from the various departments and submitted for the budget. This line has two main categories of charges, Employee Benefits and Interdepartmental charges. The Board of Elections spent nearly \$498,381.10 in employee benefits, over \$23k under budgeted amount. The BOE was charged \$271,451.53 in Interdepartmental charges, nearly \$100 under budget. This performance was most likely due to lack of significant legal work needed in administering this election as opposed to previous elections.



Finally a very small portion of our budget is revenue. We charge various amounts for maps, lists, and labels printed from the Board of Elections for candidates and parties. This amount has reduced in recent years as outside parties are choosing to receive their information electronically and print themselves at no cost. Well over 75% of our revenue comes from other governments using our equipment for elections such as villages and school districts. The village of Elbridge moved their elections to November reducing some revenue. We are undergoing a cost analysis of providing services to villages for their spring and summer elections and will be updating the costs for the 2023 election cycle.

ELECTION COST

Onondaga County is responsible for paying all election costs. These costs include; transporting and maintaining the Imagecast machines, transporting other poll site equipment and signage, paying machine technicians, election inspectors and memory card runners, printing machine and absentee/affidavit ballots, and mailing absentee ballots and other voter notices.

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 **275** Imagecast voting machines and **25** Imagecast scanner only voting machines in Onondaga County.

There were no county election charge backs to municipalities for 2021. 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. We are required to follow Federal and NYS contract processes for the purchases most related to the new voting systems.

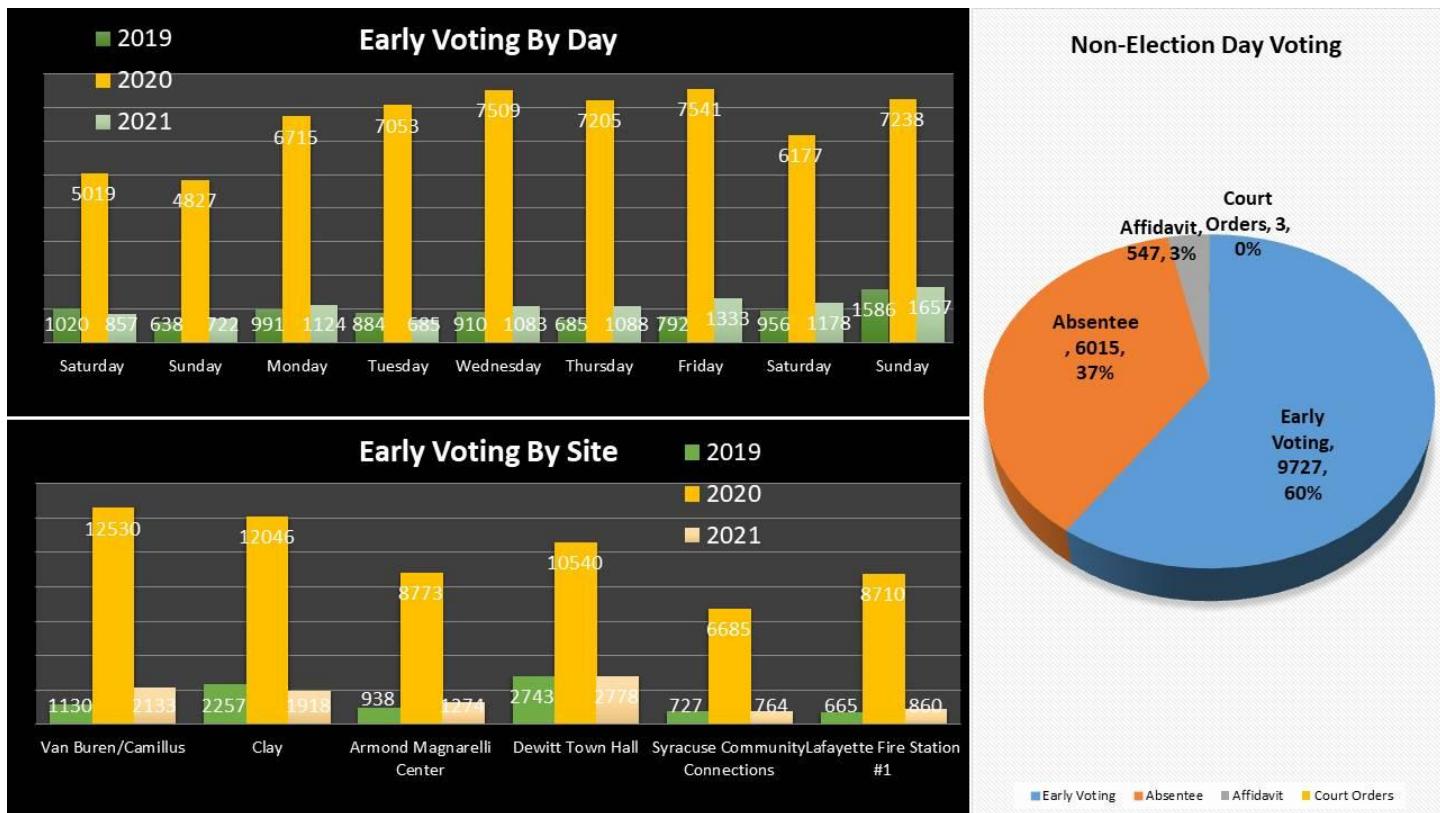
ELECTION DISTRICTS

In 2021, there were **434** Election Districts in Onondaga County. Four (**4**) of these were non-working districts. There is an average registration of **751** voters in each district. In 2021, the smallest districts contained **2 to 5** voters (City 6-7, and 11-9) and the largest had an enrollment of **1,744** voters (Camillus 2). We have been unable to move district lines since 2017 due to NYS Election Law. In 2022 we will look to redraw districts to come into compliance with election law and accommodate redistricting.

ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES

There were **58** polling sites for the Primary Election, and there were **148** polling sites for the General Election. We reevaluate polling places each year based on voter enrollment and lease renewals. 2022 will bring more changes to our poll sites as redistricting will occur.

EARLY VOTING



Onondaga County had **four (4)** early voting locations for the Primary Election, and **six (6)** early voting locations for the General Elections. Registered voters could vote at any one of these locations. During the Primary Election 849 voters voted early. During the General Election voters 9727 voted early. This was a decrease of 49,557 from the 2020 General Election but an increase of 1,262 from 2019 General Election.

2021 Primary Early Voting Locations:

Camillus Fire Station	5801 Newport Rd, Camillus NY 13031
LaFayette Fire Station #1	2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette NY 13084
Armond Magnarelli Community Center	2300 Grant Blvd, Syracuse NY 13208
Syracuse Community Connections	401-425 South Ave, Syracuse NY 13204

2021 Primary Early Voting Dates & Times:

- Saturday, June, 12, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM
- Sunday, June 13, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM
- Monday, June 14, 2021: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
- Tuesday, June 15, 2021: 12:00PM – 8:00PM
- Wednesday, June 16, 2021: 12:00PM – 8:00PM
- Thursday, June 17, 2021: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
- Friday, June 18, 2021: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
- Saturday, June 19, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM
- Sunday, June 20, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

2021 General Early Voting Locations:

Camillus Town Hall	4600 West Genesee St, Syracuse NY 13219
Clay Town Hall	4401 Route 31, Clay NY 13041
DeWitt Town Hall	5400 Butternut Drive, E. Syracuse NY 13057
LaFayette Fire Station #1	2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette NY 13084
Armond Magnarelli Community Center	2300 Grant Blvd, Syracuse NY 13208
Syracuse Community Connections	401-425 South Ave, Syracuse NY 13204

2021 General Early Voting Dates & Times:

Saturday, October, 23, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM
Sunday, October 24, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM
Monday, October 25, 2021: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Tuesday, October 26, 2021: 12:00PM – 8:00PM
Wednesday, October 27, 2021: 12:00PM – 8:00PM
Thursday, October 28, 2021: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Friday, October 29, 2021: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday, October 30, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM
Sunday, October 31, 2021: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS

We currently have KnowInk electronic poll books. We did a full implement of electronic poll books for the 2021 Primary & General Election.

VOTING MACHINES TECHNICIANS/CUSTODIANS

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

We are required to perform a process called Pre Logic and Accuracy Testing (Pre-LAT). This process requires the creation of a test deck. Test ballots are created by Dominion to ensure the voting machines can read and tabulate each and every possibility. During Pre-LAT we test the functionality of all other voting interfaces used for the Ballot Marking portion of the machine. Five seals are attached to each machine and their numbers are recorded on the Statement of Canvass sheet. The seals are to alert our inspectors of any tampering if the seal is broken. The machines are packaged for delivery to the polling places. Pre-LAT is completed by a bipartisan team and takes nearly 1½ hours per machine.

In 2021, there were 26 additional voting machine technicians in Onondaga County. Voting Machine technicians are appointed by the Board of Elections each year. The voting machine technician rate of pay was \$25.00 an hour.

The voting machine technicians are required to attend the three training courses for inspectors (Certification, VSS, and Early Voting/Poll Site Manager) as well as attend a meeting before the Primary & General Election to discuss any concerns and/or changes regarding the election and the districts they will be covering. Our two full time machine technicians continue to provide field support for all voting system technicians.

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.

The number of machines used for each election in 2021 was as follows:

ELECTION	IMAGECAST VOTING SYSTEMS	SCANNER ONLY
Primary June 22 nd	182	16
General November 2 nd	184	12

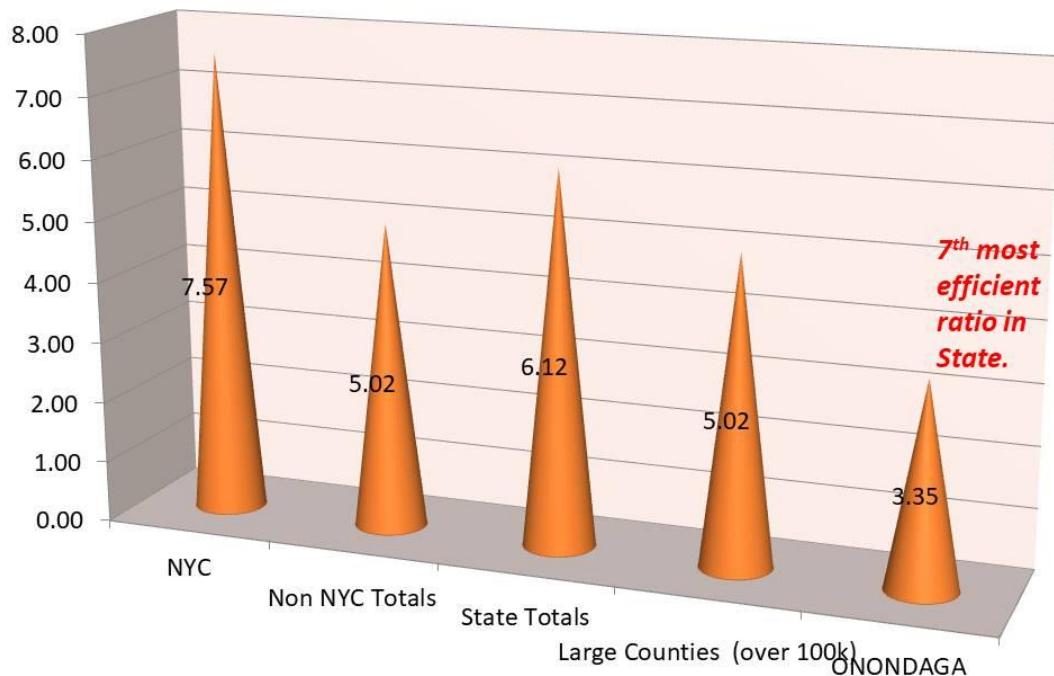
Additional spare Imagecast voting systems were prepared in case of breakdowns before each election.

NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO CAST A BALLOT USING THE BALLOT MARKING DEVICE (BMD)

Primary June 22 nd	0
General November 2 nd	3

ELECTION INSPECTORS

2021 Inspectors Assigned per 1000 Voters



The election inspector program is structured as follows:

- A.) Poll Site Manager – PSM
- B.) Voting System Specialist – VSS
- C.) Regular Inspector – RI

A. Poll Site Managers and Elected Chair persons are responsible for assigning work to all the inspectors at the site, making sure the voting system specialists have the machines up and running, making sure the electronic poll books are set up correctly and ready to process voters, and returning the ballots, memory cards and supplies to the designated site after the close of the polls. They can also fill in for a regular inspector or voting system specialist when needed.

B. Voting System Specialists are responsible for opening and running the voting machine during the hours of voting. They can also fill in for a regular inspector when needed.

C. Regular Inspectors are responsible for processing the voters and ballot distribution.

New York State Law requires county boards to conduct annual mandatory “hands on” training sessions for all poll workers with an exam. Poll workers are paid for their election duties by the county at a rate approved by the county legislature.

For 2021 we altered the way inspectors are paid. Inspectors were paid on an hourly basis for 2021. Regular inspectors received \$12.65 an hour, Voting System Specialists received \$15.29 an hour, and Poll Site Managers receive \$16.76 an hour. For Early Voting we used our Custodians as Poll Site Managers and they are paid \$25/hour.

All Poll Site Managers and Voting System Specialists received an additional training session with hands on experiences with the machines. This training provides them with the ability to be able to fix most problems that may occur during the day. A test with a BOE staff member follows the class. They must also be willing to work anywhere in Onondaga County.

Our staff scheduled **179** Hands-On training classes for inspectors. This included **100** certification classes, **41** Voting System Specialist classes, **28** Poll Site Manager Classes, and **10** Poll Print Boot Camps. All inspectors had to attend the 3 hour hands on cert classes while Voting System Specialists attended the additional VSS class and designated Poll Site Manager attended the PSM class. Inspectors received #12.65 per hour for training.

A total of **1,015** election inspectors attended the hands on training. The training included the actual handling of all the paperwork used at a polling place during an election. The training also included in-depth training on the new KnowInk poll pads. Each VSS and PSM were also shown how to open and close the Imagecast voting machine. Election Inspectors are paid \$25 per training session each year. **309** inspectors worked the June primary and **755** inspectors worked the general election. Onondaga County through the adoption of Electronic poll books and redesigning out polling places has one of the most efficient use of Inspectors in New York State deploying only 3.35 inspectors per 1,000 voters. We were able to do so with little to no increase in wait time on Election Day or Early Voting.

BALLOT ACCESS

Certain towns & villages hold caucuses to select their candidates, but most candidates are required to file petitions to seek public office. We received **21** Caucus Certificates in 2021. 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 2021, candidates for public office filed **160** party designating 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. There were **8** challenges to designating petitions filed. The Board received specifications on **1** of the challenges. There were **0** Opportunity to Ballot petitions filed as that option was eliminated for 2021 by Governor Executive Order. Candidates desiring to run on an independent line are required to file independent nominating petitions. There were **58** independent nominating petitions filed. Additionally, **21** Certificates of Nomination were filed for specified town offices. There were no challenges received. Party authorizations are filed for candidates who are not members of a Party for which they are seeking the party endorsement/line.

IMAGECAST BALLOT PRINTING

In 2021, our office, the County Print Shop and the IT Department worked hand in hand to save local dollars and allow the Board to print stubbed ballots and absentee/affidavit ballots in house. Election Day ballots are bound and have a numbered stub. During Election Hours, the print shop staff is on call to print supplemental ballots. This is crucial when poll sites run low on ballots.

For Early Voting and large Election Day poll sites, we used our On Demand Ballot Printing system. This system was crucial for all Early Voting locations as any voter could go to any location. This saved thousands of hours in labor, as well as thousands of dollars on unused ballots.

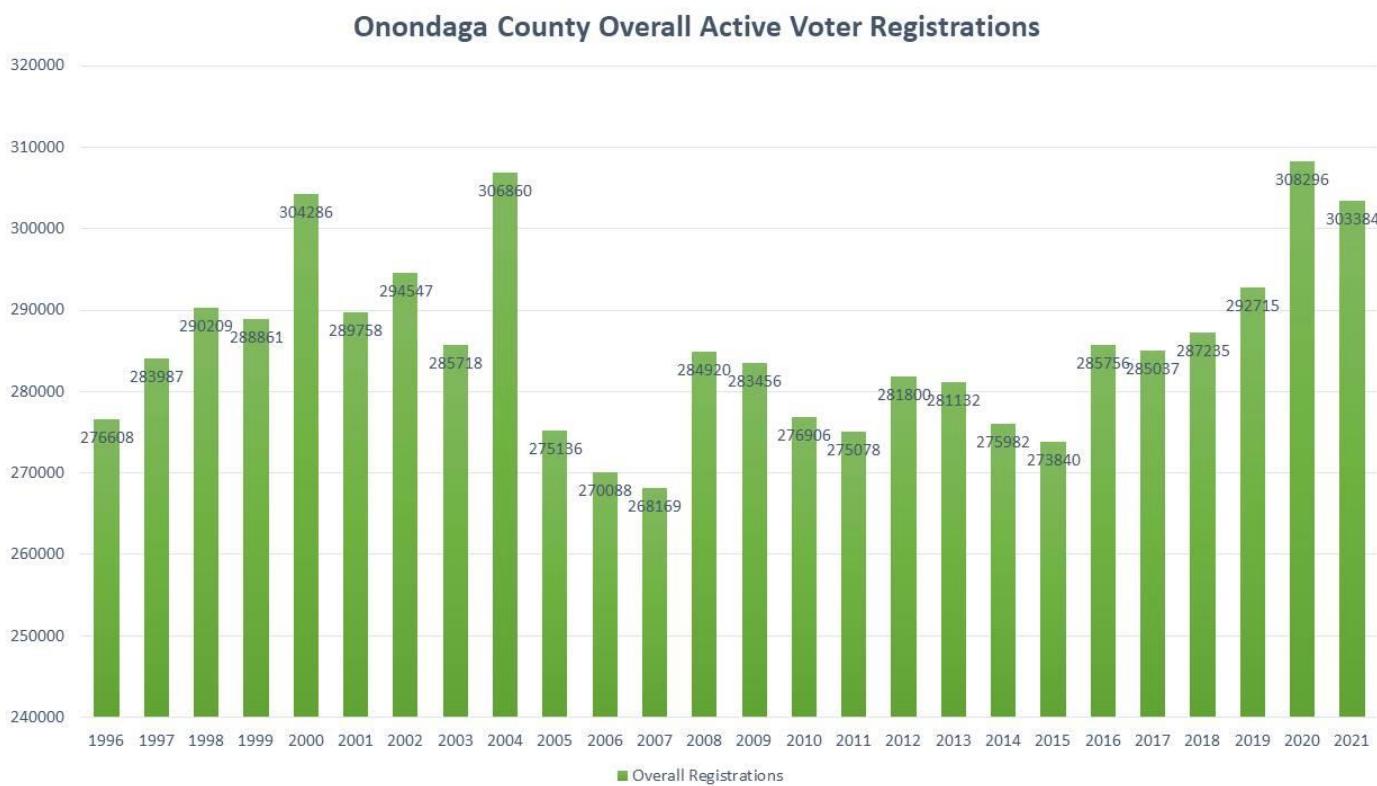
Ballots Printed in 2021:

	<u># of styles</u>	<u>Total # of Ballots</u>	<u>Total # of Supplemental Ballots</u>
Primary Election	444	18,035	0
General Election	453	105,420	5,400

The Print Shop also was able to print non-stubbed ballots for many Elections we do not currently run. In March, the Village of Manlius requested 500 printed ballots, and the Village of Skaneateles requested 1,500 printed ballots. In April, Baldwinsville Library requested 250 printed ballots. In May, 13 school districts requested printed ballots, totaling 28,450 ballots. In June, the villages of North Syracuse and Liverpool requested a total of 650 printed ballots. In November, the town of Camillus held a special election requesting 2,000 ballots. In December, four school districts requested printed ballots, totaling 15,200 ballots.

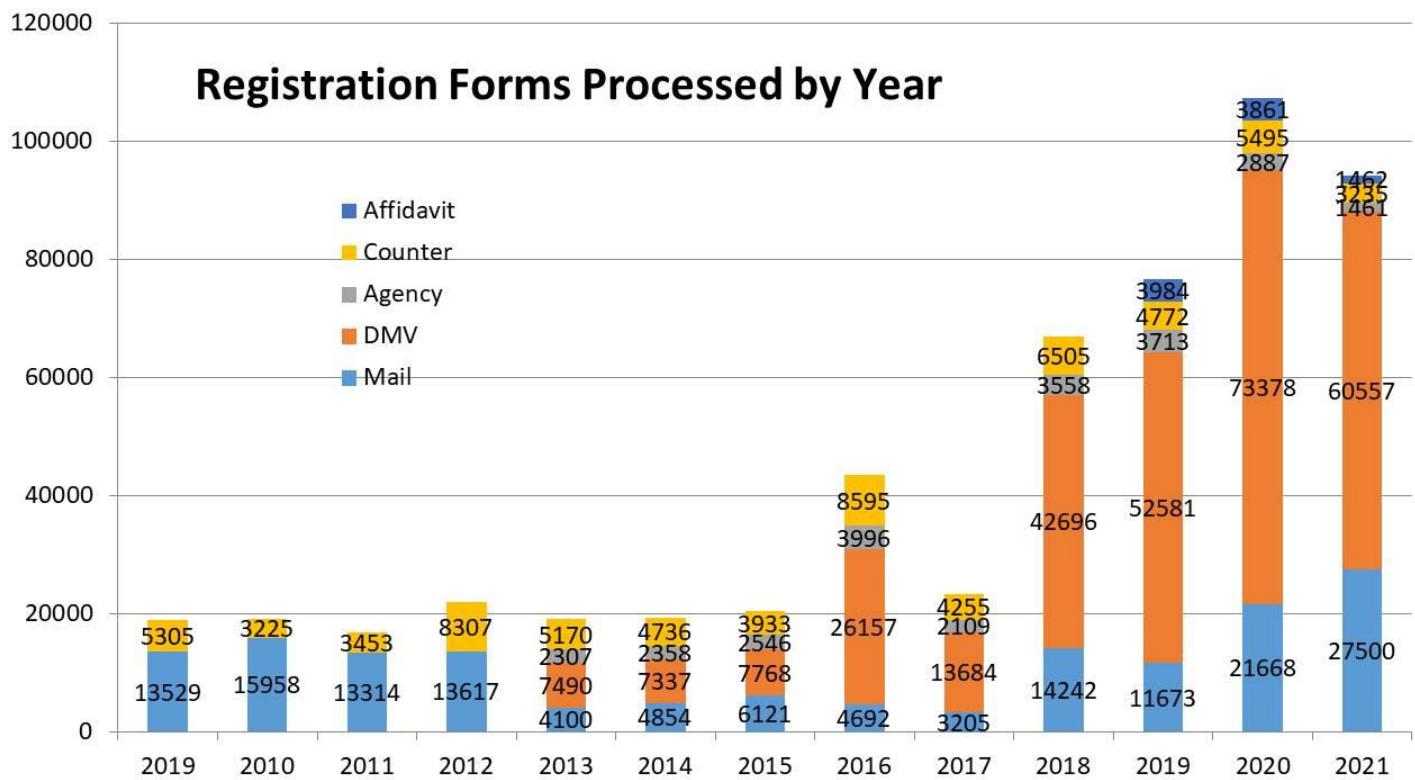
Ballots are printed very accurately and quickly. The Print Shop employees are a great asset to our department and our county.

VOTER REGISTRATION



The qualifications for voting in New York State are as follows: 18 years of age by Election Day, a 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. **1,462** voter registration forms were delivered to the Office of the Board of Elections in person.

326,024 residents of Onondaga County were registered to vote for the 2021 General Election. This number includes **22,640** 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. The board purged **11,282** voters on the NVRA purge on **January 29, 2021**. This process will be completed again in January 2023. Voters can be reactivated by voting or notifying the Board that they still reside at the address indicated in the Board's files.



The Board processed **92,753** registration application forms during the year. This number includes **27,500** mail registration applications, **60,557** DMV, **1,461** Agency, **927** voter registered in person and **848** 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. **557** registration forms for other counties were received at our board and were forwarded to the correct county.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Commissioners reviewed the election process with some groups during the year. They included; Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Democracy in Action at Syracuse University, International Journalist at Syracuse University, Center State CEO, and News Channel 9's Bridge Street. The COVID-19 crisis made visiting high schools impossible. We hope to resume high school outreach in early 2023.

In 2021, **14,600** registration forms were distributed to the high schools, town and village offices, various libraries and post office branches. An additional **6,290** voter registration forms were distributed to various other groups along with **1,123** 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, Onondaga Community College, NYPIRG, and several high schools.

Professional Associations & Labor Unions

SEIU 1199 and UA Local 267

Human Services, Community, & Neighborhood Organizations

The League of Women Voters, ARISE, Health and Community Fair, Spanish Action League, Syracuse United Neighbors, Uplift Syracuse, RISE, CNY Solidarity Coalition, NAACP, Syracuse PTO Connection, and the National Action Network.

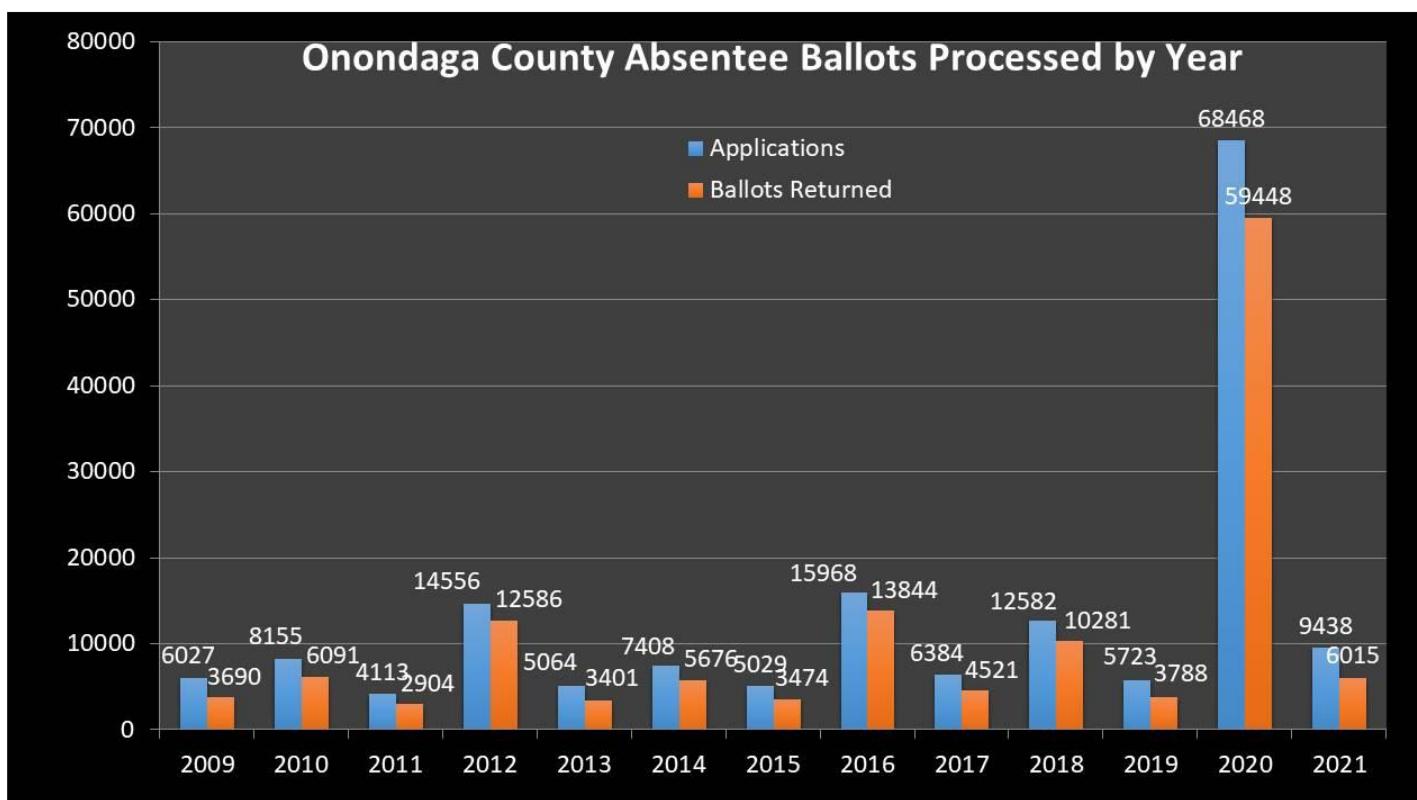
As registration deadlines approached, press releases were faxed and emailed to all area media in August, September and October. General information faxes were also sent to local media as Election Days grew nearer informing the general public of polling hours, polling places, and phone numbers to call 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.

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, early voting information and information about registration and absentee voting. In 2021, **306,365** mail check cards were mailed out on **April 18, 2021**. Of those cards, **16,360** were returned to the Board and processed 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.

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:

MILITARY -Members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

REGULAR -Voters who are out of the county or ill on Election Day or Primary Day.

PERMANENTLY DISABLED -These voters are on a permanent list and receive a ballot for each election.

SPECIAL BALLOT - For those who are unable to vote in person due to Religious Scruples, Duties for the Board of Elections or a Victim of Domestic Violence

UOC - Uniformed and Overseas Citizens who live outside the county but intend to return to the United States

In 2021 the numbers of absentees processed are as follows:

	Primary June 22, 2021					General November 2,2021
	Democratic	Republican	Conservative	Working Families	Primary Totals	General Totals
Military Mailed	27	22	1	0	50	225
Military Returned	3	1	0	0	4	26
Regular Mailed	178	155	17	1	352	3,309
Regular Returned	128	108	12	0	248	2,781
Permanent Mailed	1,001	378	4	5	121	5,158
Permanent Returned	418	125	1	0	57	2,947
Federal Mailed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Federal Returned	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UOC Mailed	37	4	0	0	41	153
UOC Returned	5	1	0	0	6	15
Inspector Mailed	67	54	0	0	121	593
Inspector Returned	40	17	0	0	57	250
Total Mailed	1,310	613	22	6	1,956	9,438
Total Returned	594	252	13	0	860	6,019

The total number of voters that voted in person at their polling place that had returned an absentee ballot to our office in 2021 was: **(1)** Primary and **(30)** General Election.

Eighteen (18) absentee ballot styles were used in the June Primary Election. Seventy-nine (79) different absentee ballot styles were in the General Election.

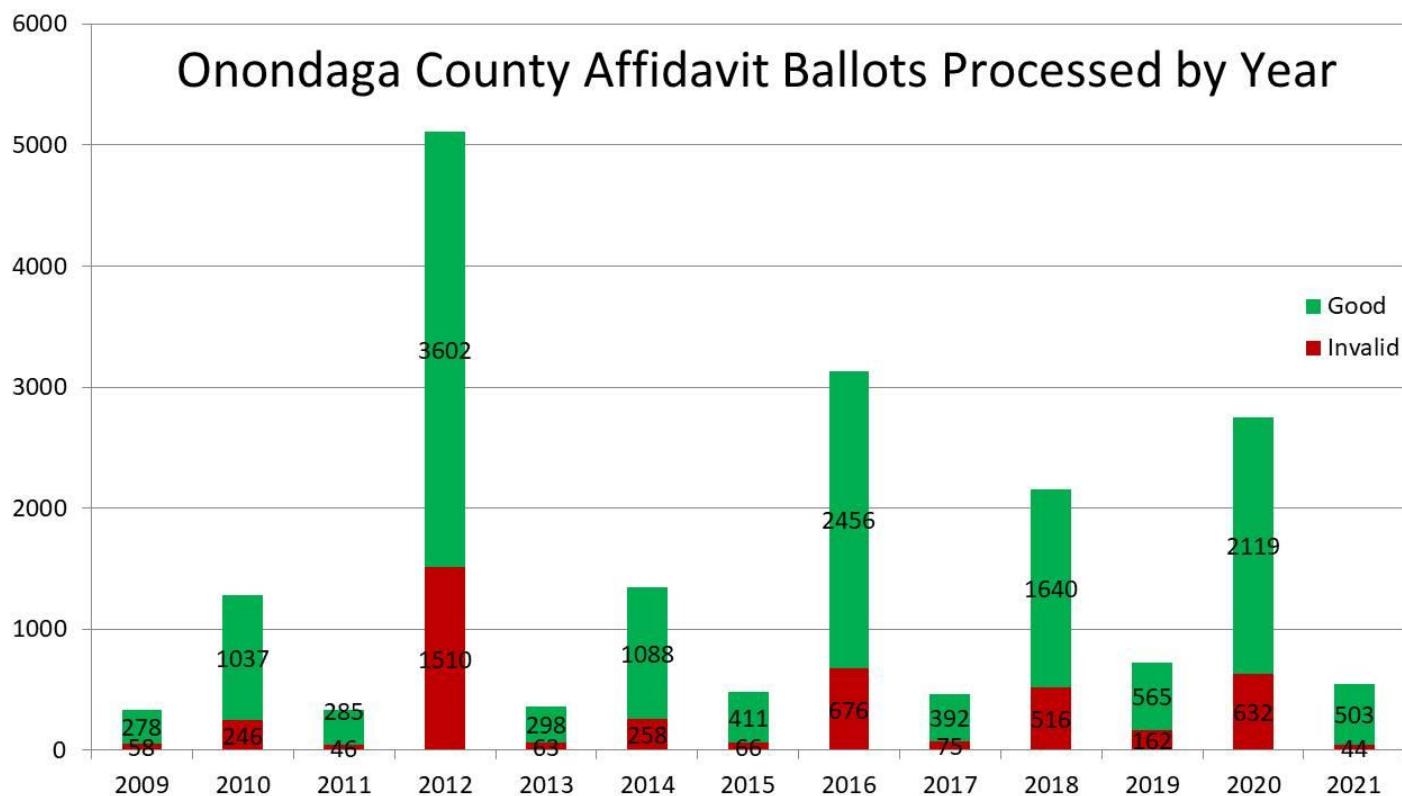
MOVE ACT OF 2009

The Military Overseas Voters Empowerment Act requires that counties make official ballot materials available electronically to military and overseas voters who request it. Military, Special Federal voters and UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) voters who provide their email are able to download and print their ballot. All ballots have to be returned by postal mail (cannot be accepted through email or fax). Military, Special Federal and UOCAVA voter's applications are valid for two Federal elections.

PAPER BALLOT COUNTING

In 2021 for the June primary & General Election we used Clear Ballot scanners as our Central Count System. Audits of Absentee ballot were done by hand. This greatly enhanced our output and expedites our recanvass procedures. These machines count absentees and affidavits paper ballots. Candidates receive their official vote tally earlier and it greatly increases this Board's ability to certify election results with the State Board of Elections prior to the deadline.

AFFIDAVIT VOTING



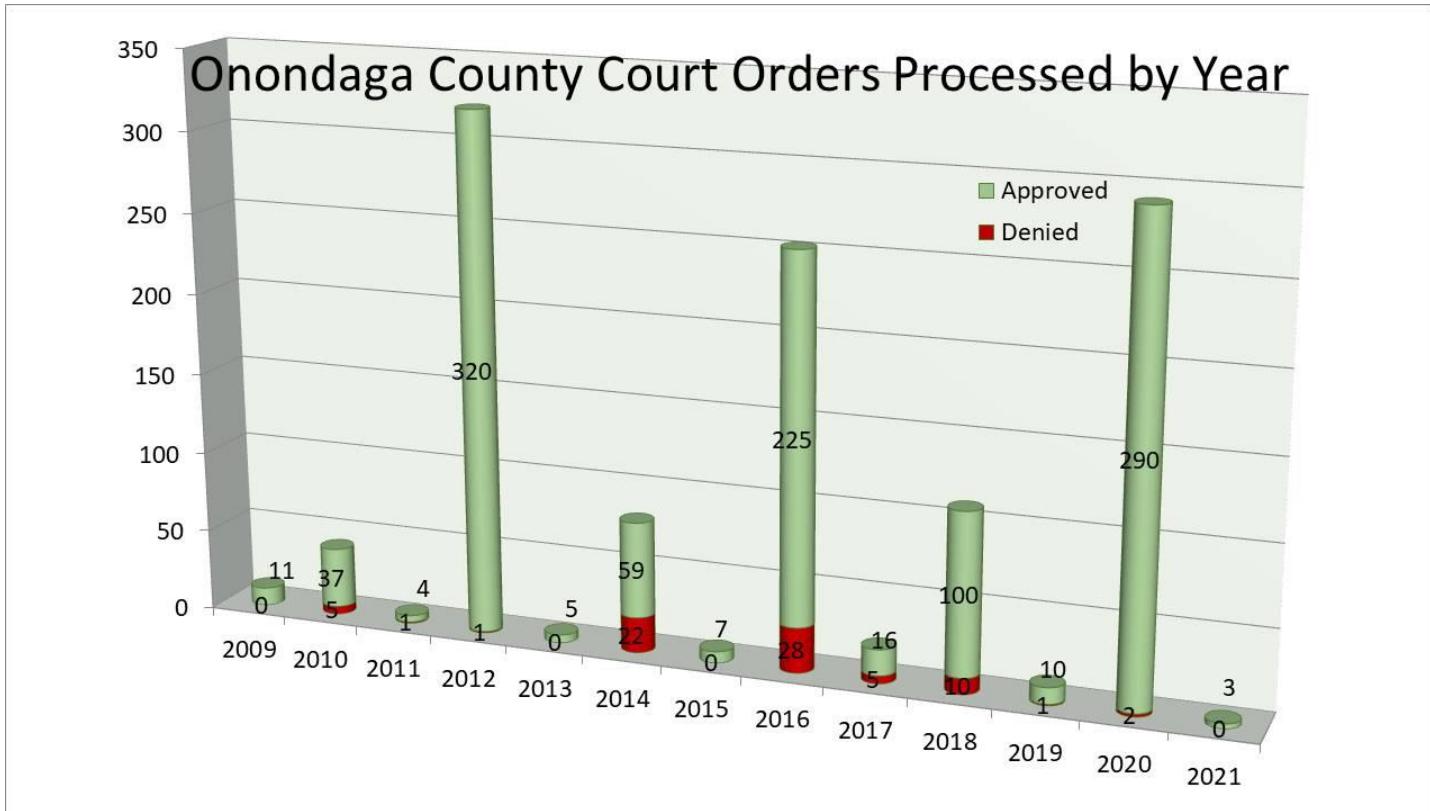
Registered voters who moved within New York State, who did not update their information with the Board of Elections before the registration deadline are able to vote at their new polling place on Election Day or at any early voting site by affidavit ballot. State wide voter registration transfers became effective March 25, 2019, allowing voters to be able to vote via affidavit instead of court orders.

In 2021, we processed:

	<u>Processed</u>	<u>Valid</u>
June Primary (6/22/21)	54	35
General Election (11/2/21)	547	503

Affidavits are researched and ruled on to both Commissioners. Affidavits are determined to be invalid due to voter not being registered in New York state, voter submitted an affidavit ballot at the wrong polling place, voter is not enrolled in political party having a primary, and failing to complete affidavit oath.

COURT ORDERS



Voters who failed to register by the deadline for the Primary or General elections can obtain a court order. In 2021, we processed:

	<u>Processed</u>	<u>Denied</u>
June Primary (6/22/21)	0	0
General Election (11/2/21)	3	3

After obtaining a court order, a voter is allowed to vote on the machine at their correct poll site or any early voting poll site.

ELECTION RESULTS

Each voting machine has a poll worker/administrative memory card with the election results saved on it. NYS Regulation 6210 states that all poll worker/administrative memory cards must be secured at the close of polls.

44 Memory Card Runners are used on election night to go and retrieve the poll worker memory cards at all of the town polling sites. Election runners are paid a flat rate of \$55 local and \$65 for distance routes. All runners were to be at their first polling site at 9PM. The City of Syracuse polling sites were directed to return their poll worker memory cards with their supplies on election night. All memory cards were returned on election night by 10:30 PM.

The memory cards were read on the Election Management System (EMS). Once read the system provides the public, candidates, and the media with quick and accurate unofficial results on our website. Results are available within minutes of the memory cards being delivered to our office.

The Board requires Inspectors to return their supplies on election night. City inspectors are required to deliver their supplies directly to the Board of Elections Office located at 1000 Erie Blvd W, Syracuse. The town inspectors, however, return the black suitcases containing all the ballots and election materials to their designated areas for pickup by a trucker or machine technician for return to the Board of Elections Office. 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.

All Early Voting memory cards are retuned at the end of each shift and placed behind bi-partisan lock and key. These results are not tallied until election night.

CANVASS OF RESULTS

All Imagecast voting machines are canvassed at the Board of Elections Office once all the machines have been picked up and returned. This process is completed within one day. The administrative memory cards are removed from the machines and read by the EMS. Results are then compared to the poll worker memory cards from election night.

The Commissioners oversee the counting of absentee, affidavit 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. All paper ballots were opened, inspected and scanned for tabulation of results. The results were then downloaded and merged with the voting machine totals.

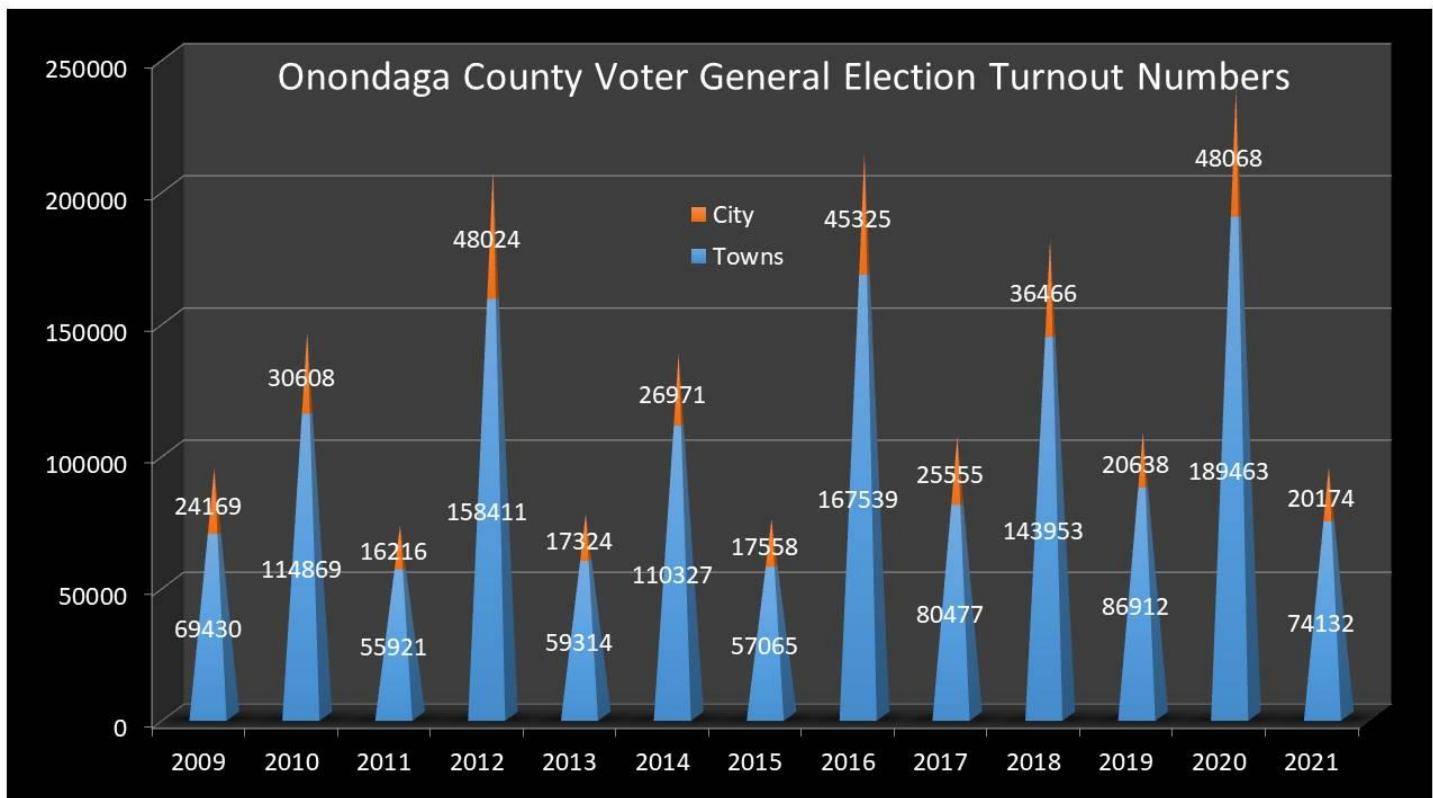
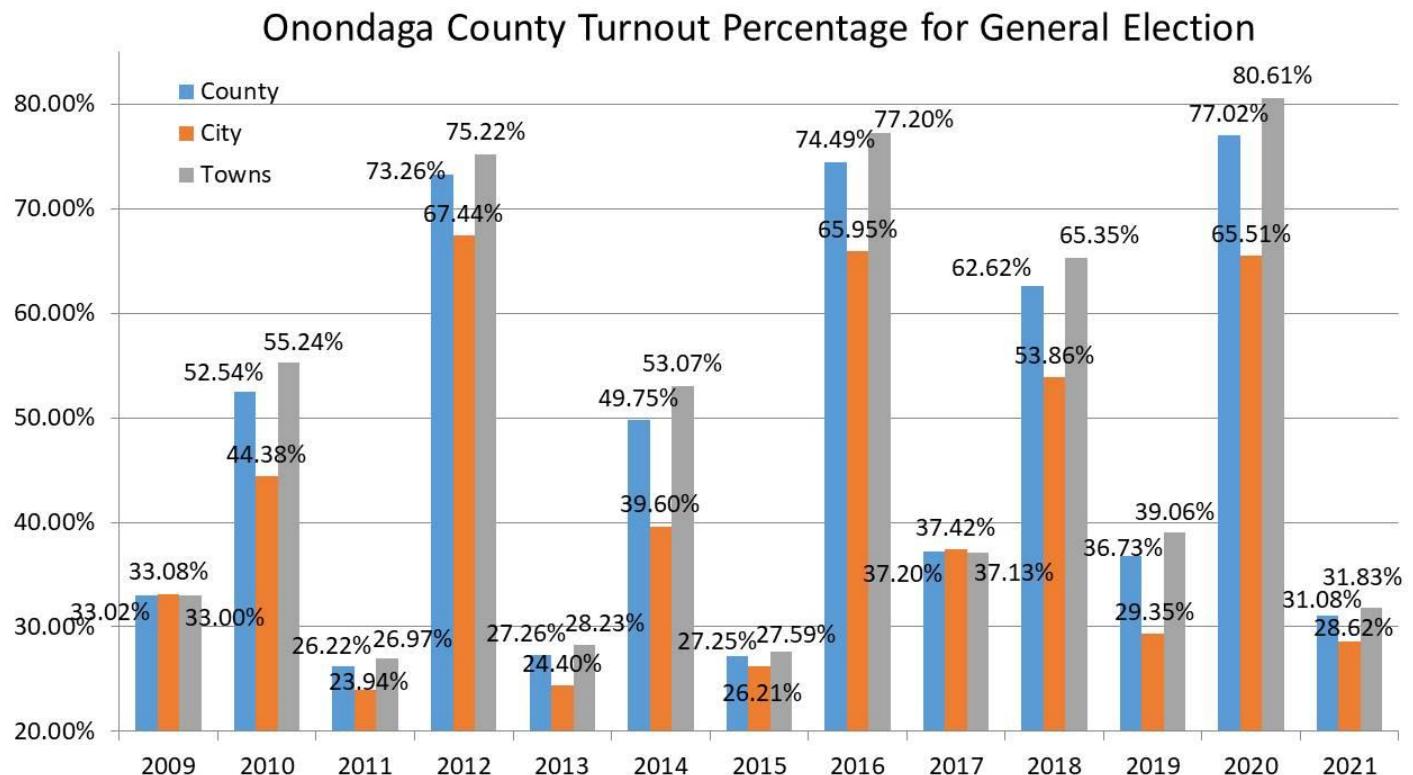
The paper ballot and machine results are merged and entered directly on the computer terminal. Board personnel then verify all entries. The official canvass is certified by the Commissioners and forwarded to the State Board of Elections. Bound copies of this document are printed in February and distributed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

3% AUDIT

The 3% audit was done for both Primaries and the General Election for the total number of voting machines used during the elections. Using software from RANDOM.org, a draw is made at 9PM on election night of the voting system to determine which machines will be audited. This system has decreased audit time drastically.

The 3% audit was also done on the Clear Ballot Clear Count. The drawing also took place at 9PM on election night. We also hand counted ballots for our absentee audit. We are pleased with the process and results of this system.

VOTER PARTICIPATION-



		ELIGIBLE VOTERS	NUMBER VOTED	TURNOUT %
<u>June Primary (6/22/21)</u>				
Democratic	15 th Legislator	8,971	1,420	
Democratic	16 th Legislator	9,667	1,295	
Democratic	City of Syracuse	41,519	6,356	15%
Democratic	1 st City Council	5,535	859	
Republican	City of Syracuse	9,584	858	8%
Republican	Town of Lysander	6,415	178	2%
Republican	Town of Pompey	2,067	315	15%
Republican	Town of Skaneateles	2,374	324	13%
Conservative	Town of Manlius	387	107	27%
Working Families	- 5 th Legislator	107	5	
Working Families	- Town of Salina	121	4	
<u>General Election (11/2/21)</u>				
Democratic		116,710	37,278	31%
Republican		82,843	33,048	39%
Conservative		5,026	2,037	40%
Working Families		1,201	194	16%
Green		825	149	18%
Libertarian		857	184	21%
Independence		13,217	3,038	22%
SAM		17	4	23%
Women's Equality		114	12	10%
Reform		31	4	12%
Non Affiliated (Blank)		82,777	18,358	22%
Total		303,618	94,306	31%

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

New York State Election Law requires all state and local candidates and committees to file electronically with the State Board of Elections. Candidates for Federal offices file with the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C. Local filers who do not intend to raise or spend over \$1,000 are still required to file with our office.

Due to COVID the Financial Disclosure training for treasurers and candidates usually presented at our office was not held. The state held various virtual trainings throughout the year..

WEB SITE/FACEBOOK

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

The Board and the County's Web Site Administrators continue to jointly revise the website to improve navigational ease for the end user.

Our website has seen increased usage following the addition of pages and content for:

- Public Notices
- Press Releases
- Election Inspector Training Materials
- Filing reports for Designating and Independent Nominating Petitions
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Clickable button directing voters to the Election Results

- Clickable button directing voters to education on voting machines sponsored by the State Board of Elections (VoteNY.Com)
- Clickable button for Military and Overseas Voters (MOVE ACT) providing them with on-line ballot access
- Posting of various caucus notices from the Towns and villages
- Links to follow our Board on Facebook and Twitter
- Statistics for Enrollment and Electoral data

The polling place locator feature is continually updated through the updated web table builder from the vendor. Updated maps for Wards and Towns were placed on the Map Page along with updated maps for the various Legislative Districts.

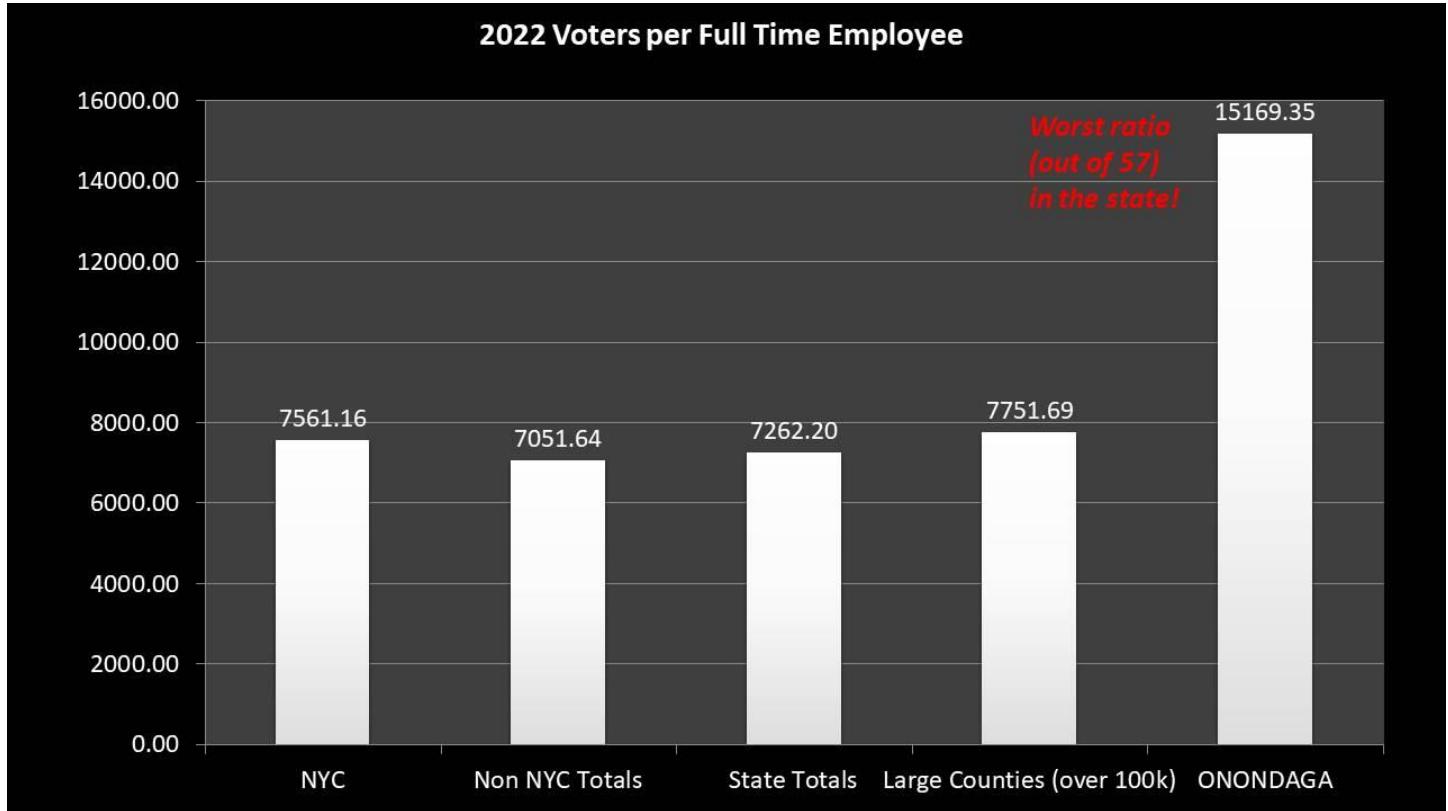
We continue to place an emphasis on educating the public as to those services available through the internet, and the ease in obtaining necessary forms and instructions. Callers continue to be informed of their options when requesting forms.

The Commissioners appeared on various media events throughout the year to promote participation at the polls before each of the elections in Onondaga County. They also worked with student media groups at Syracuse University on how to properly cover Election Day and best practices for reporting from pollsite locations.

In 2021 we continued to use our Facebook and Twitter accounts to notify voters of registration and filing deadlines.

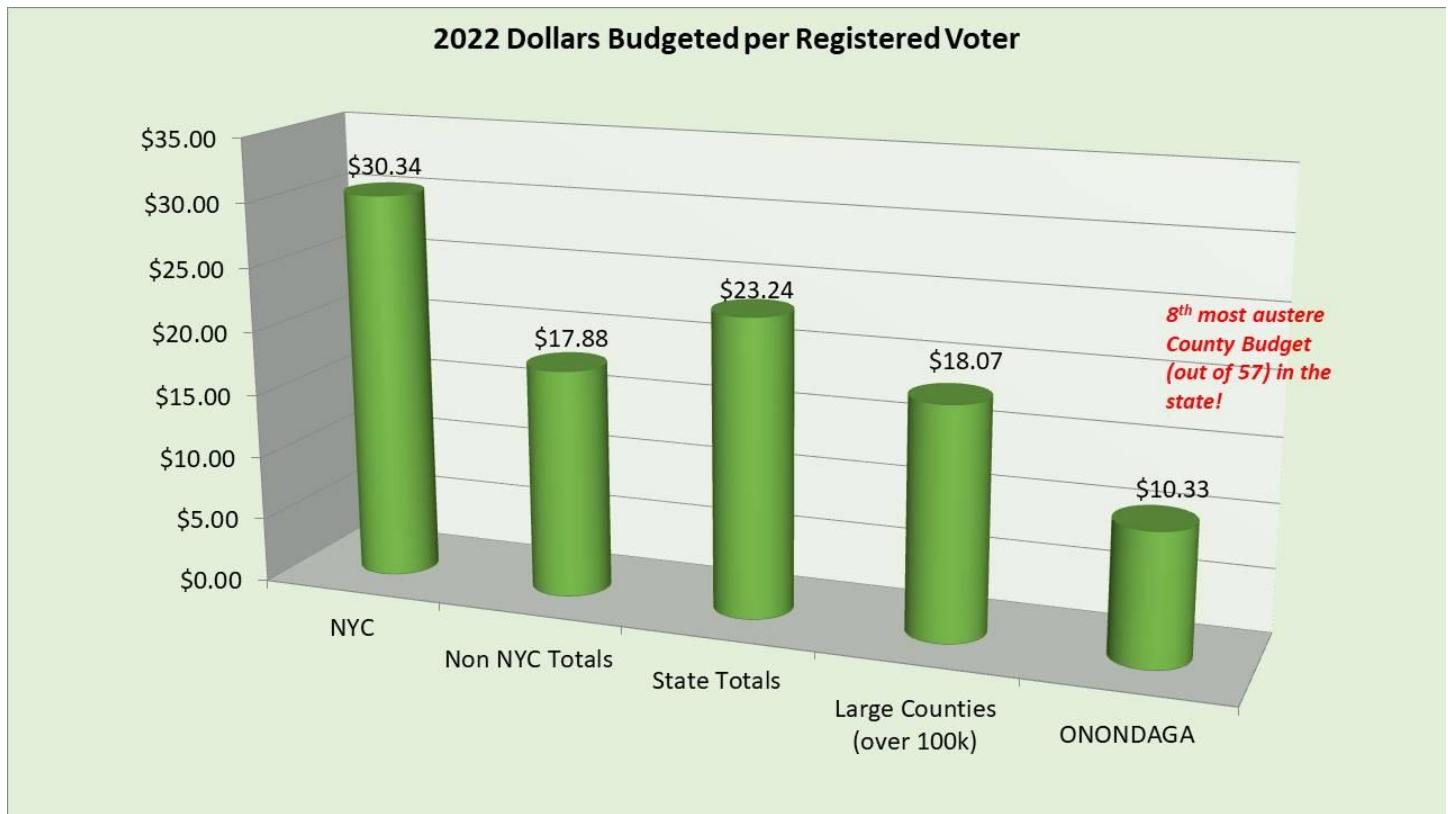
LONG RANGE GOALS

The main long term goal for our board is to address our antiquated voting machine fleet. First purchased in 2007, our Dominion Imagecast machines are showing their age. We are looking to complete a capital funding project for 2023 to replace the entire fleet of machines. Additionally our contract with our registration vendor, NTS, expires in 2022. With several new vendors being certified in New York State we will be looking to go to RFP for this contract at the end of 2022.



Resources for our Board continue to be a pressing issue. The ratio of full time workers to registered voters (1 for every 15.1k voters) is the worse ratio in the entire state of New York for 2022. We dwarf the average for upstate counties (1 for every 7.0k voters) and Counties outside of NYC over 100k (1 for every 7.7k voters). We will continue to look for funding streams to add temporary help near election periods, but it is unlikely that funding will come again. Two new permanent staff positions have been added for 2022, but we still lack the resources of other county boards. We will need

to continue to add permanent trained staff to deal with the ever growing registration and absentee ballot needs. This is the most efficient way to avoid major mistakes down the road. The current model of 12 hour days for weeks leading into an election is not sustainable.



The funding inequity in Onondaga County when compared to the rest of the state is noticeable. We are budgeted to spend just \$10.33 per registered voter in 2022. This is one of the most austere budgets in all of NY State. Despite funding limitations the staff at the OCBOE has operated in a way to give more services to voters and is often pointed to as the gold standard throughout upstate New York. However, the fiscal imbalance will catch up to the voters of Onondaga County at some point and needs to be addressed. Staffing can resolve some of this imbalance, however if added registration and absentee activity continues it is unlikely the OCBOE can operate under the constraints of the current funding level.