

# Onondaga County Board of Elections

## 2024 Annual Report



*Dustin M. Czarny  
Kevin P. Ryan*

*Commissioners of Elections*

## **2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **ORGANIZATION**

The Onondaga County Board of Elections is the County Department responsible for conducting all Federal, State, County, City and Town elections, along with elections in 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 currently.

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. Both Commissioners' terms ended on December 31, 2024. Commissioner Dustin M. Czarny (D) was reappointed for another full term and Commissioner Kevin P. Ryan (R) replaced Commissioner Sardo (R) on January 1, 2025. The Board had 18 full time positions in 2024 but increased to 22 in 2025.

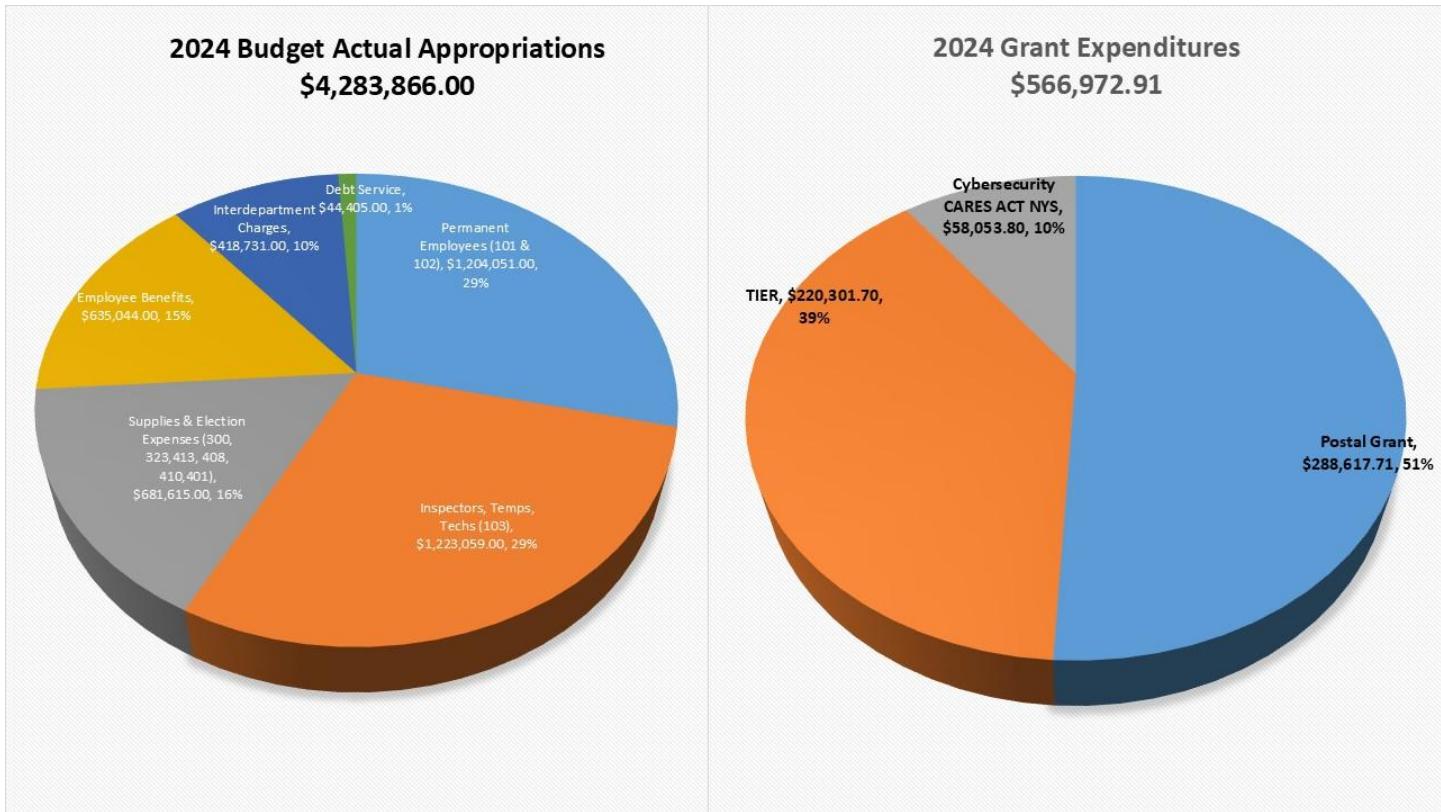
The April 2, 2024, Presidential Primary consisted of a countywide Democratic and Republican primary.

The June 25, 2024, Federal/State/Local Primary Election consisted of a countywide Democratic, a Republican primary in NY Senate District 48, as well as some Republican & Conservative Committee Primaries.

The General Election held on November 5, 2024, consisted of the following races: Electors for President & Vice President, United States Senator, Representative in Congress (NY25), NYS State Senate 48<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> District, NYS Assembly 126, 127, 128, & 129<sup>th</sup> district, Family Court Judge, Syracuse City Court Judge (2), Town of Camillus Justice, Town of Camillus Councilor 5<sup>th</sup> Ward (TFV), Town of Cicero Justice, Town of Clay Councilor (TFV), Town of Fabius Justice, Town of Lysander Councilor (TFV), Town of Manlius Clerk (TFV) \* Councilor (TFV), Town of Marcellus Councilor (TFV), Town of Onondaga Justice, Town of Otisco Clerk (TFV) and Councilor (TFV), Town of Pompey Justice. Town of Spafford Justice, Town of Van Buren Supervisor (TFV) and Councilor (TFV), Village of East Syracuse Justice (TFV), Village of Fayetteville Trustee (TFV).

There was also a Statewide Proposition One (An Amendment to Protect Against Unequal Treatment) and Town of Geddes Proposition on Changing term Limit of Supervisor from 2 Years to 4 Years

The Board of Elections is funded mainly by the County of Onondaga. The 2024 budget as modified (BAM) includes the following:



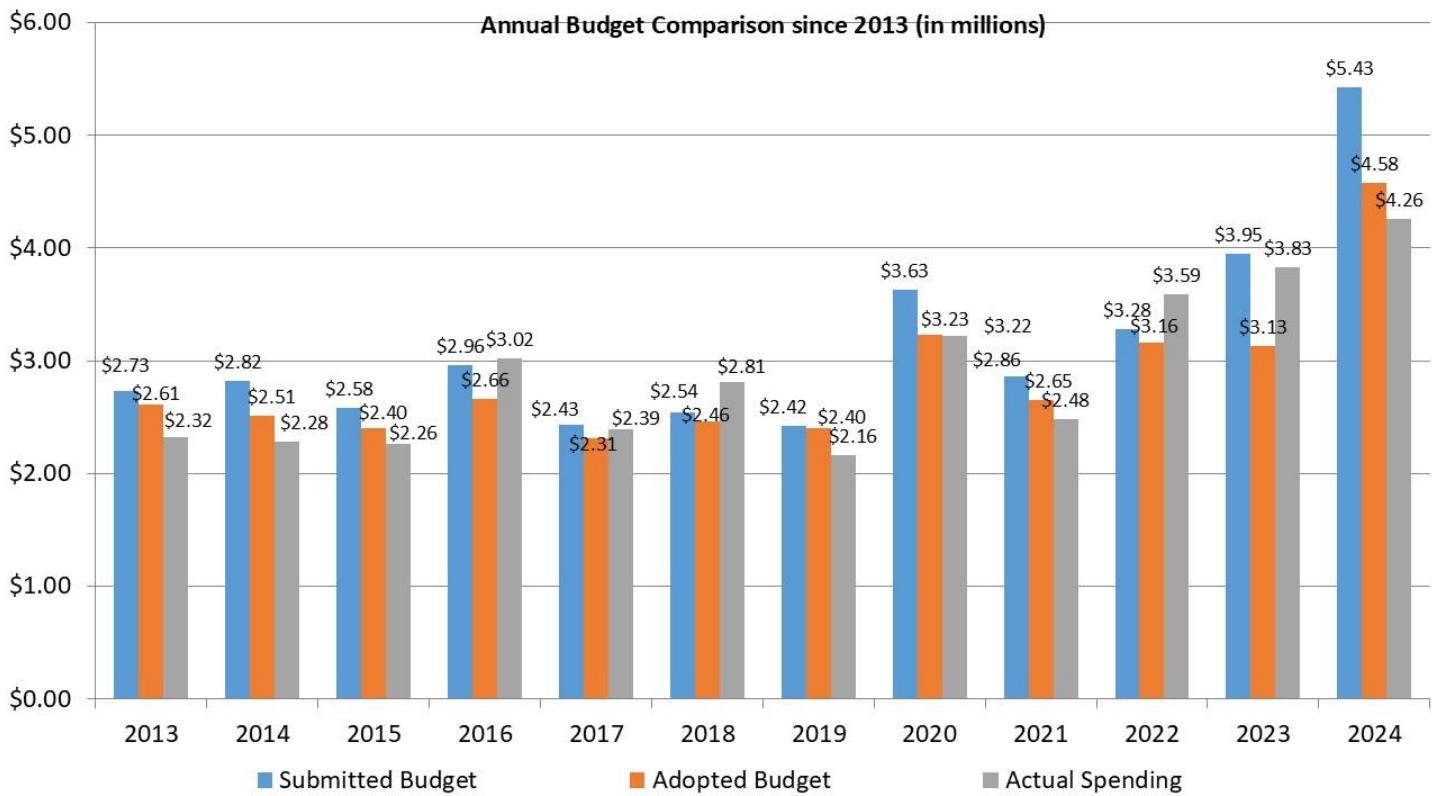
### Total 2024 Budget

Total County Adjusted Budget \$4,584,486

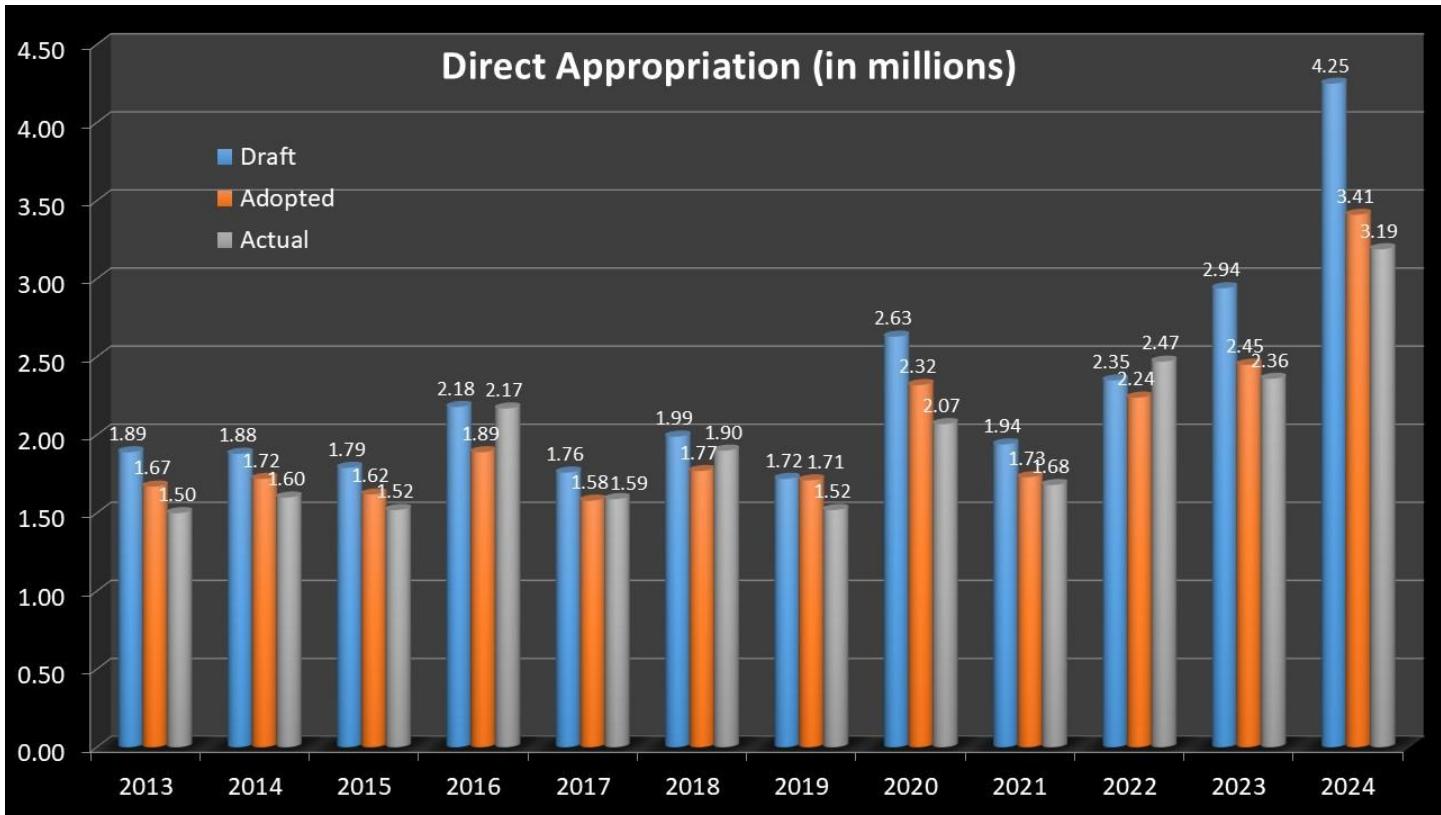
Salaries (full time) \$1,086,516

Salaries\*(temporary) \$971,958.00

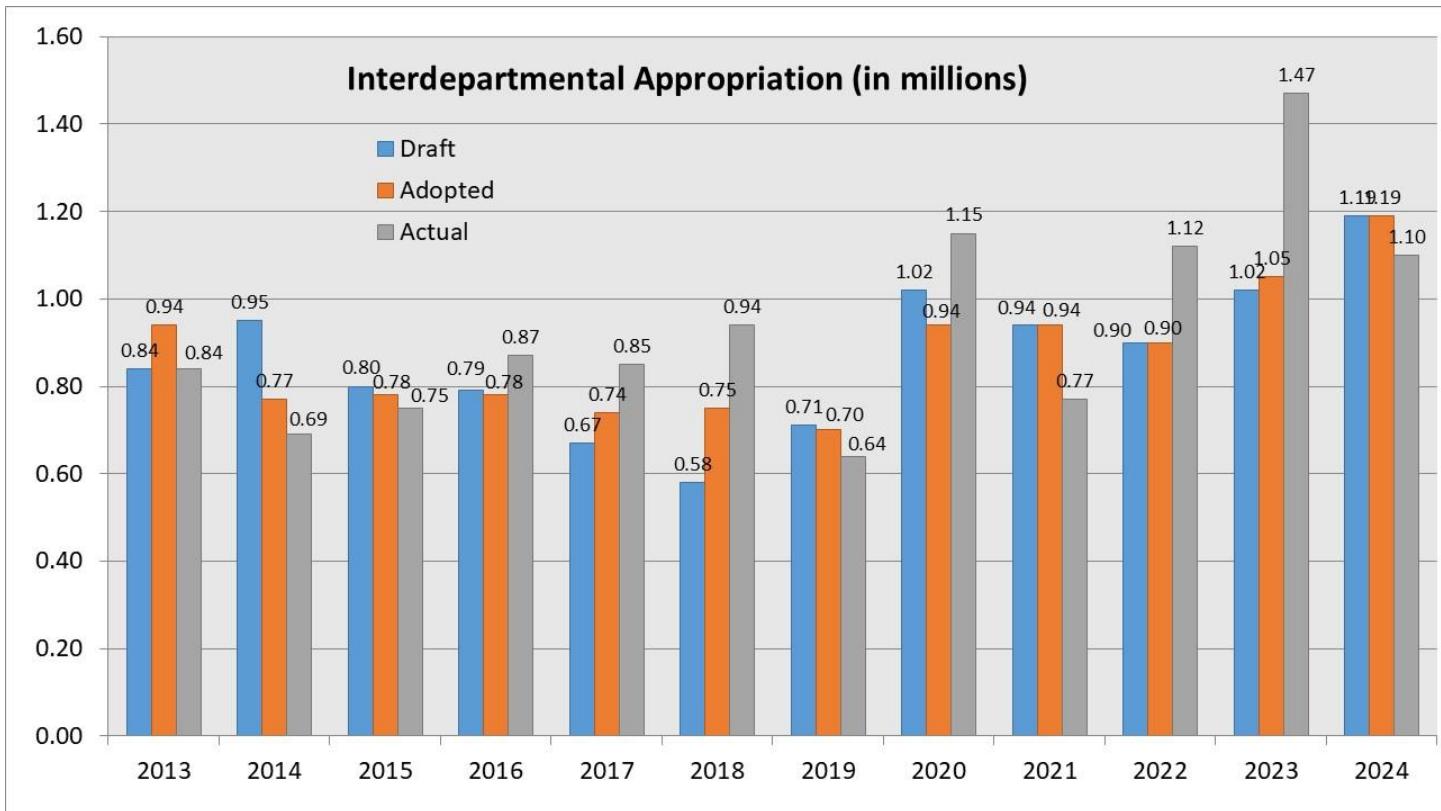
(\*includes temporary staff, election inspectors, voting machine technicians, training consultants and memory card runners)



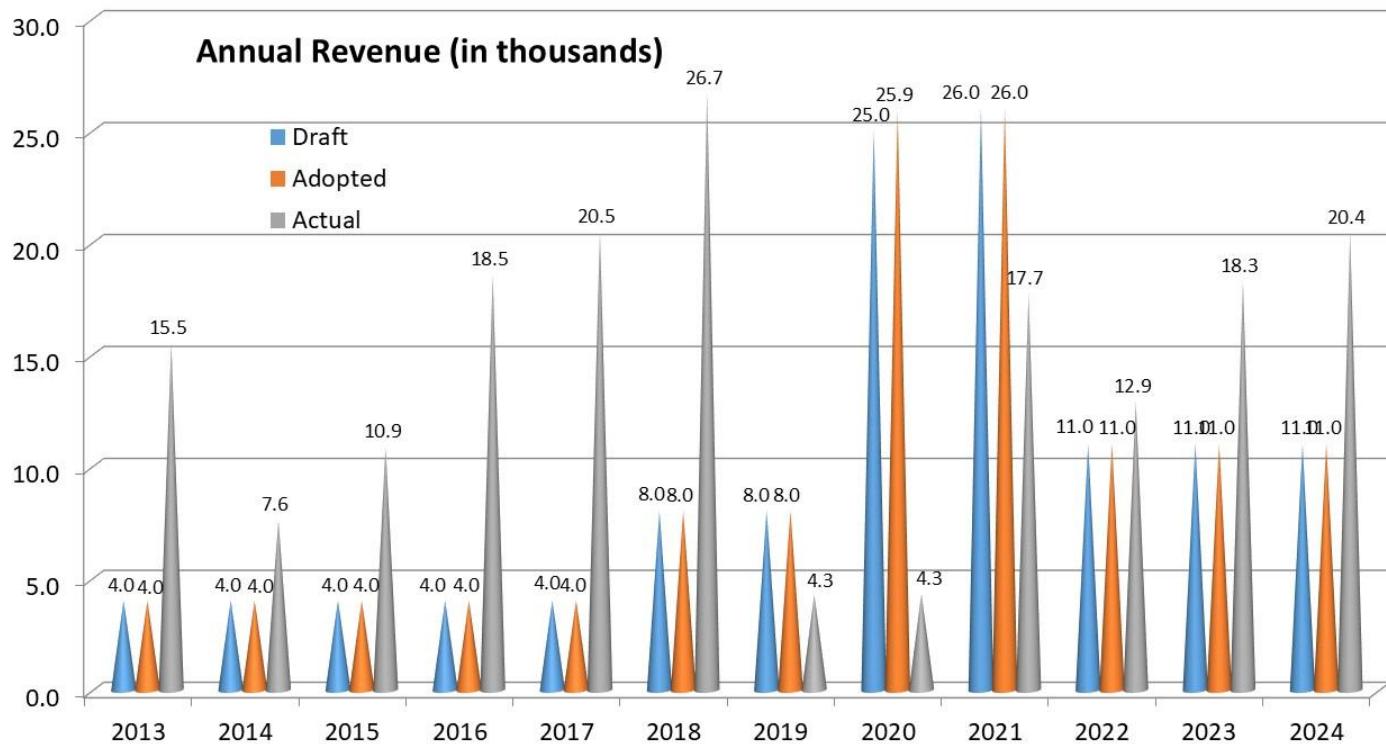
The OCBOE was budgeted \$4,584,486.00 for fiscal year 2024. We spent \$4,263,440.00, which is \$321,046.00 under budget. The last 11 budget cycles we have only gone over our draft budget three times (2016, 2018, 2022) and our adopted budget twice (2017 & 2023). In addition, we spent \$566,972.91 in Grant money. \$220,301.70 was spent on TIER funding in support on demand project. \$58,053.80 was spent on our Cybersecurity CARES grant to finish installment for a generator. \$288,617.71 was spent on our Postage Grant that was used for prepaid postage for the return of absentee ballots as well as extra staff for processing of ballots in 2024.



Our direct appropriations for 2024 came in under our adopted budget and draft budget sent to the administration by the BOE commissioners. Our 2024 Adopted budget was \$3,405,074 for direct appropriations and the Board of Elections spent \$3,185,686, This was \$219,388.00 under our budgeted amount.



Interdepartmental appropriations were under budget for 2024. It is important to note that this portion of our budget is not set up or 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 \$635,044 on employee benefits, \$41,420 under budgeted amount. The BOE was charged \$418,731 in Interdepartmental charges, \$50,812 under budget.



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. The OCBOE brought in the most revenue since 2018. Well over 90% of our revenue comes from other governments using our equipment for elections such as villages and school districts. The OCBOE brought in \$20,426 in revenue in 2024, \$9,426.00 over our anticipated budget amount.

## 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 **225 Clear Cast scanners** and **175 Clear Mark ADA** machines in Onondaga County.

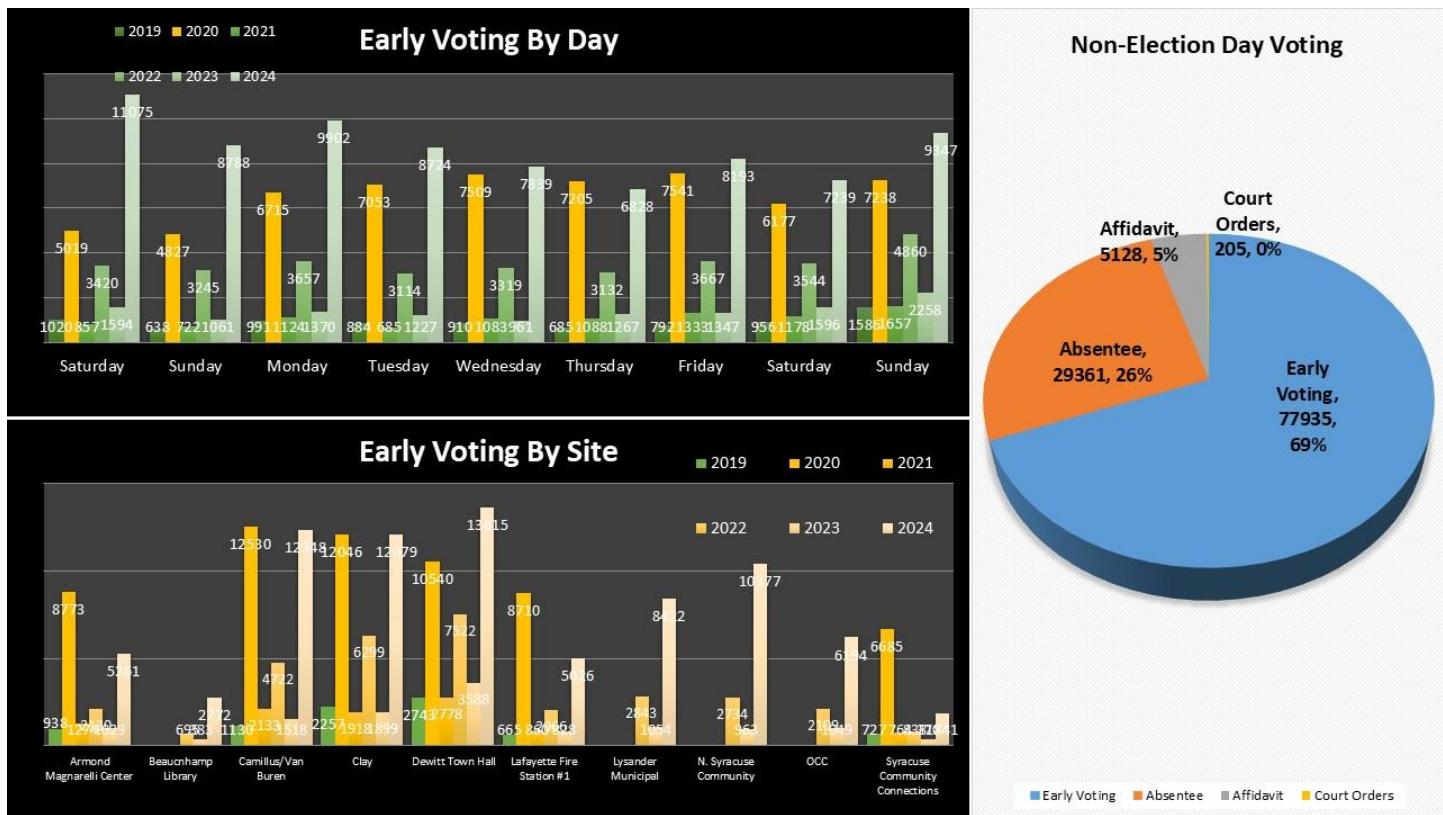
There were no county election charge backs to municipalities for 2024. HAVA will have some one-time reimbursements that will require future annual operating expenditures. HAVA requires the county to maintain a pre-HAVA level of expenditure. We are required to follow Federal and NYS contract processes for the purchases most related to the new voting systems.

## ELECTION DISTRICTS

In 2024, there were **450** Election Districts in Onondaga County. Six (**6**) of these were non-working districts. There is an average registration of voters in each district. In 2024, the smallest districts contained **1** voter (City 9-7 & 9-8) and the largest had an enrollment of 1789 voters (Camillus 2).

## ELECTION DAY POLLING PLACES

The April Presidential Primary, June Congressional Primary and the November general Elections were all county wide elections. The April Presidential Primary had 8 Early Voting Sites and 126 Election Day Sites. The June Congressional Primary had 6 Early Voting Sites and 146 Election Day Sites. The November General Election had 10 early voting Sites and 146 Election Day Sites.



## EARLY VOTING

Onondaga County had **eight (8)** early voting locations for the Presidential Primary Election, **six (6)** for the June Congressional Primary, and **ten (10)** early voting locations for the General Elections. Registered voters could vote at any one of these locations. During the April Presidential Primary, we had 1,202 Early Voters, June Primary Election **3,878** early voters, and during the General Election **77,935** early voters.

### April 2, 2024, Presidential Primary Early Voting Locations:

- **ARMOND MAGNARELLI COMMUNITY CENTER AT MCCHESENEY PARK**  
2300 Grant Boulevard, Syracuse NY 13208
- **BEAUCHAMP BRANCH LIBRARY**  
2111 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205
- **CAMILLUS FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
5801 Newport Rd. Camillus, NY 13031
- **CLAY TOWN HALL COURTRoom (Rear Entrance)**

- 4401 Route 31, Clay NY 13041
- **DEWITT TOWN HALL COURTROOM**  
5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse NY 13057
- **LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION #1 (Rear Entrance)**  
2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette NY 13084
- **LYSANDER MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
- **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE – Mulroy Hall**  
4926 Onondaga Road, Syracuse, NY 13215

**June Primary Early Voting Dates & Times:**

Saturday, March 23, 2024: 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday, March 24, 2024: 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Monday, March 25, 2024: 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Tuesday, March 26, 2024: 11:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Wednesday, March 27, 2024: 11:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Thursday, March 28, 2024: 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Friday, March 29, 2024: 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Saturday, March 30, 2024: 9:00AM – 6:00PM

**June 25, 2024, Congressional Primary Early Voting Locations:**

- **ARMOND MAGNARELLI COMMUNITY CENTER AT MCCESNEY PARK**  
2300 Grant Boulevard, Syracuse NY 13208
- **BEAUCHAMP BRANCH LIBRARY**  
2111 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205
- **CAMIILLUS FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
5801 Newport Rd. Camillus, NY 13031
- **CLAY TOWN HALL COURTROOM (Rear Entrance)**  
4401 Route 31, Clay NY 13041
- **DEWITT TOWN HALL COURTROOM**  
5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse NY 13057
- **LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION #1 (Rear Entrance)**  
2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette NY 13084

**June Primary Early Voting Dates & Times:**

Saturday, June 15, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Sunday, June 16, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Monday, June 17, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Tuesday, June 18, 2024: 12:00PM – 8:00PM  
 Wednesday, June 19, 2024: 12:00PM – 8:00PM  
 Thursday, June 20, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Friday, June 21, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Saturday, June 22, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Sunday, June 23, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM

**November 5, 2024, General Early Voting Locations:**

- **ARMOND MAGNARELLI COMMUNITY CENTER AT MCCESNEY PARK**  
2300 Grant Boulevard, Syracuse NY 13208
- **BEAUCHAMP BRANCH LIBRARY**  
2111 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205
- **CAMIILLUS FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
5801 Newport Rd. Camillus, NY 13031
- **CLAY TOWN HALL COURTROOM (Rear Entrance)**

4401 Route 31, Clay NY 13041

- **DEWITT TOWN HALL COURTROOM**  
5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse NY 13057
- **LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION #1 (Rear Entrance)**  
2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette NY 13084
- **LYSANDER MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
- **NORTH SYRACUSE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
700 South Bay Road, Syracuse, NY 13212
- **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE – Mulroy Hall**  
4926 Onondaga Road, Syracuse, NY 13215
- **SYRACUSE COMMUNITY CONNECTION (SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER)**  
401-425 South Avenue, Syracuse NY 13204

**2024 General Early Voting Dates & Times:**

Saturday, October 26, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Sunday, October 27, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00PM  
 Monday, October 28, 2024: 10:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Tuesday, October 29, 2024: 12:00PM – 8:00PM  
 Wednesday, October 30, 2024: 12:00PM – 8:00PM  
 Thursday, October 31, 2024: 10:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Friday, November 1, 2024: 10:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Saturday, November 2, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00 PM  
 Sunday, November 3, 2024: 9:00AM – 5:00 PM

## ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS

We currently have KnowInk electronic poll books and ballot on-demand printers. Electronic poll books were deployed at all in-person sites. On-Demand printers were utilized at all Early Voting sites, all Election Day sites, and in the office for absentee ballot printing.

## 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 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 Canvass Statement. 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 2024, there were 22 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.

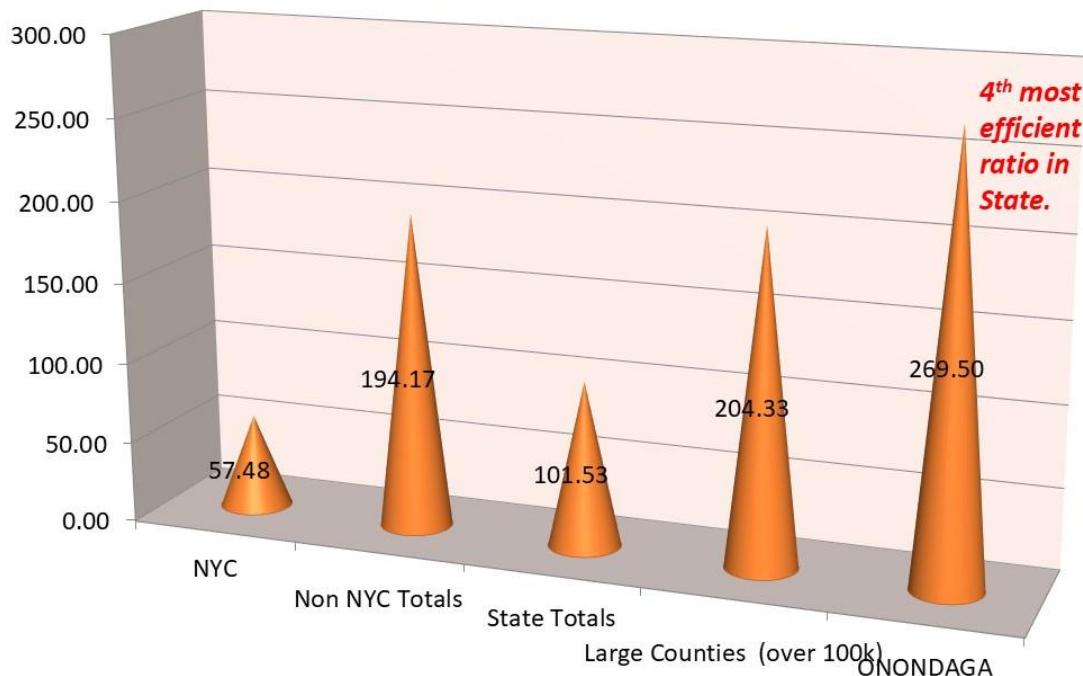
In 2024 we use our Clear Cast Scanners and Clear Mark BMDS for voting Machines.

<b>ELECTION</b>	<b>CLEAR CAST VOTING MACHINE</b>	<b>CLEAR MARK DEVICES</b>
Presidential April	134	126
Congressional June	151	145
General November	213	145

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

<b>NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO CAST A BALLOT USING THE BALLOT MARKING DEVICE (BMD)</b>
General November 5

**2024 Registered voters per Election Day Inspector**



## **ELECTION INSPECTORS**

The election inspector program is structured as follows:

- A.) Poll Site Manager – PSM
- B.) Regular Inspector – RI

A. Poll Site Managers 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. They are responsible for the proper setup and operation of the Clear Ballot voting system as well as the Knowink Poll Print ballot on demand machines.

B. 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.

Inspectors were paid on an hourly basis for 2024. Regular inspectors received \$15.00 an hour, and Poll Site Managers receive \$18.70 an hour. For Early Voting we used our Custodians as Poll Site Managers, and they are paid \$25.00/hour.

All Poll Site Managers received an additional training session with hands-on experience 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 150 Hands-On training classes for inspectors. This included 90 certification classes and 60 Poll Site Manager Classes. All inspectors had to attend the 3.5-hour hands on cert classes while Poll Site Manager attended the 3-hour PSM class. Inspectors received \$15.00 per hour for training.

A total of 1,185 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 KnowInk poll pads. Each PSM was also shown how to open and close the Clear Cast and Clar Mark voting machines and set up of the KnowInk Poll Prints. 1187 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 1 inspector 269.50 voters, 4<sup>th</sup> most efficient in the state. 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 2024. 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 2024, candidates for public office filed **37** 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 **17** challenges to designating petitions filed. The Board received specifications on **7** of the challenges. There were **0** Opportunity to Ballot petitions filed. Candidates desiring to run on an independent line are required to file independent nominating petitions. There were **2** independent nominating petitions filed. Additionally, **14** Certificates of Nomination were filed for specified county and town offices. There were 0 challenges received. Party authorizations are filed for candidates who are not members of a Party for which they are seeking the party endorsement/line.

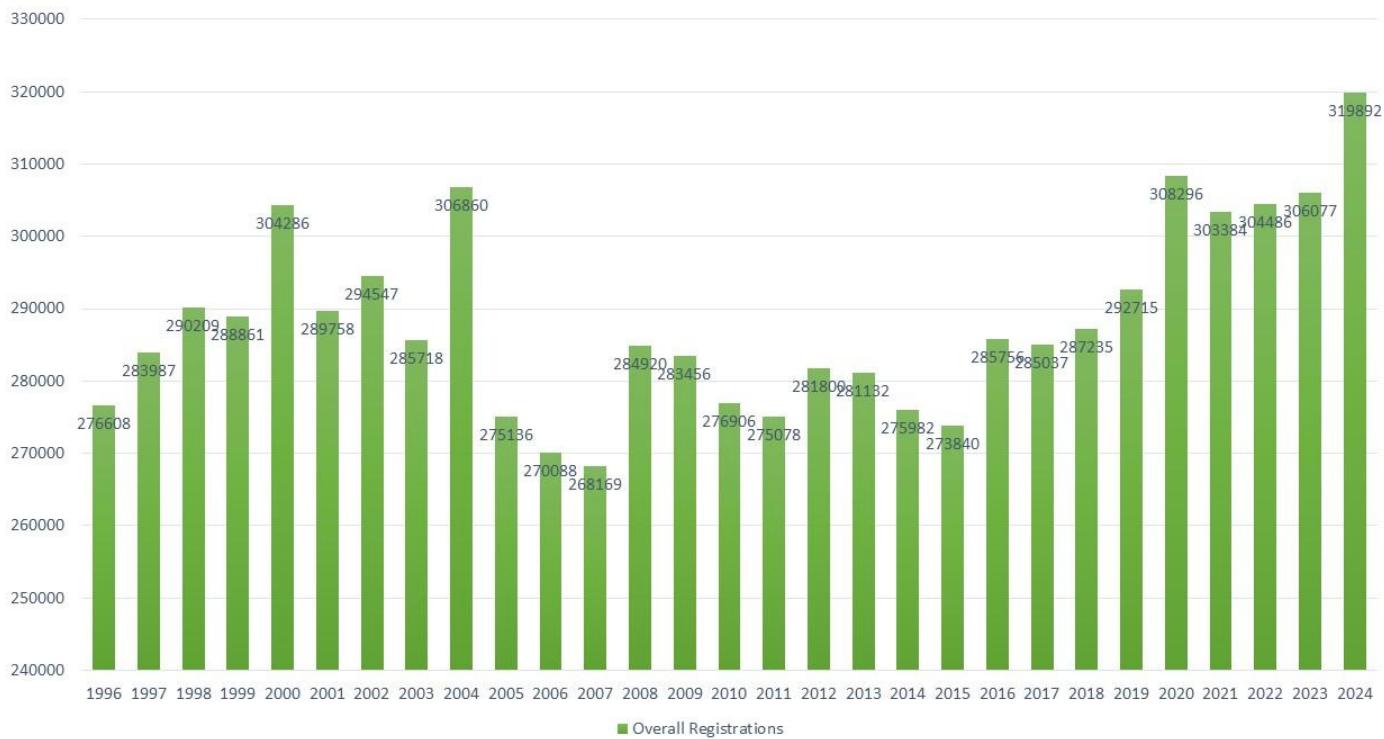
## IMAGECAST AND CLEAR BALLOT PRINTING

In 2024, 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 emergency ballots are bound and have a numbered stub. During Election Hours, the print shop staff are on call to print supplemental ballots. This is crucial when poll sites run low on ballots.

For Early Voting and 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.

We transitioned to an on-demand ballot system for every polling site in Onondaga county. This was a significant reduction from previous years because we now deploy Poll print units at every poll site and every election the OCBOE runs. Ballots are printed very accurately and quickly. The Print Shop employees are a great asset to our department and our country.

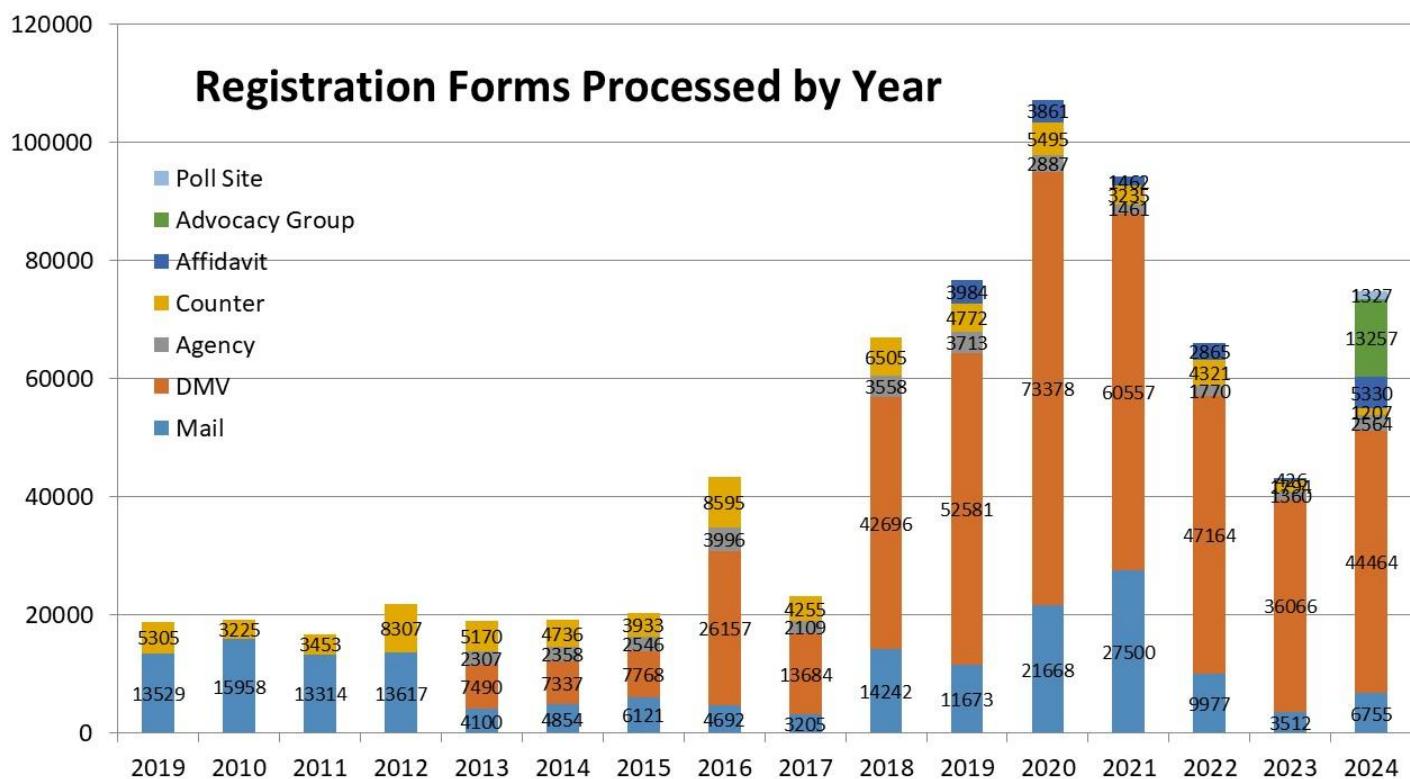
## Onondaga County Overall Active Voter Registrations



## 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 for up to 25 days prior to an election during the year

**341,577** residents of Onondaga County were registered to vote for the 2024 General Election. This number includes 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. This process will be completed again in January 2025. 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 **74,904** registration application forms during the year. This number includes **6,755** mail registration applications, **44,464** DMV, **2,564** Agency, **1207** voters registered in person, 5,3330 voters were processed through affidavit forms, **13,257** through advocacy forms, and **1,327** registered at a poll site. Not all these registrations were new voters. Many of them moved from one part of Onondaga County to another.

## 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.

In 2024, **19,140** registration forms were distributed to the high schools, town and village offices, various libraries and post office branches. An additional **12,128** voter registration forms were distributed to various other groups along with **612** forms mailed out to individuals upon request.

The following is a partial listing of the many diverse groups that organize 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

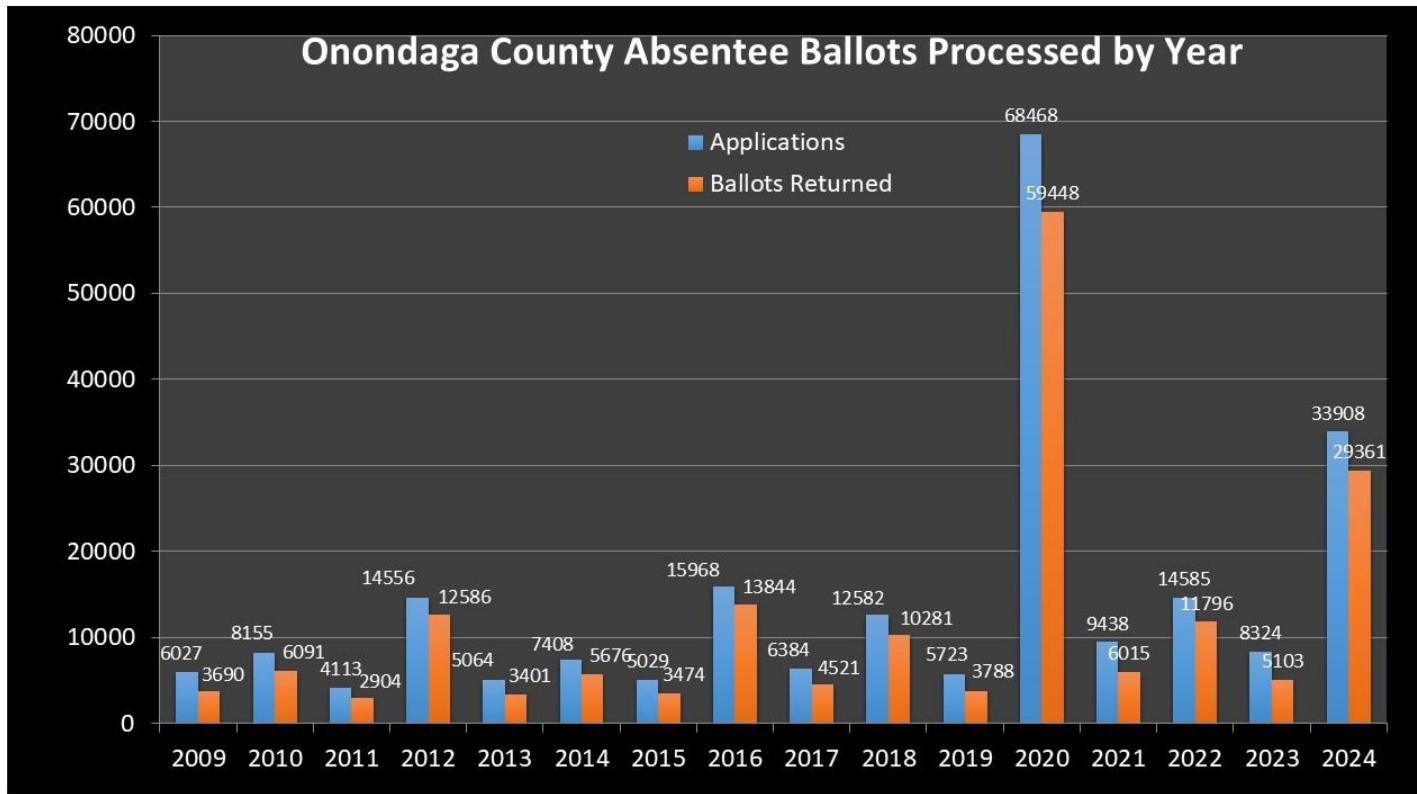
The League of Women Voters, ARISE, Health and Community Fair, Spanish Action League, Syracuse United Neighbors, Uplift Syracuse, RISE, CNY Solidarity Coalition, NAACP, Syracuse PTO Connection, and the National Action Network.

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 public of polling hours, polling places, and phone numbers to call for questions. Public access television stations and

several 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 2024, **305,430** mail check cards were mailed out on **May 15, 2024**. Of those cards, **15,057** 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 office 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 in 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 2024 the numbers of absentees processed are as follows

In the April 2, 2024, Presidential Primary there were **5,214** Applications, **2,518** ballots were returned valid, **342** Ballots returned undeliverable, **45** ballots were ruled invalid.

In the June 25, 2024 Congressional Primary there were **4,864** Applications, **2,304** ballots were returned valid, **139** Ballots returned undeliverable, **36** ballots were ruled invalid.

In the November 5, 2024 General Election there were **33,908** Applications, **29,361** ballots were returned valid, **285** Ballots returned undeliverable, 942 ballots were ruled invalid.

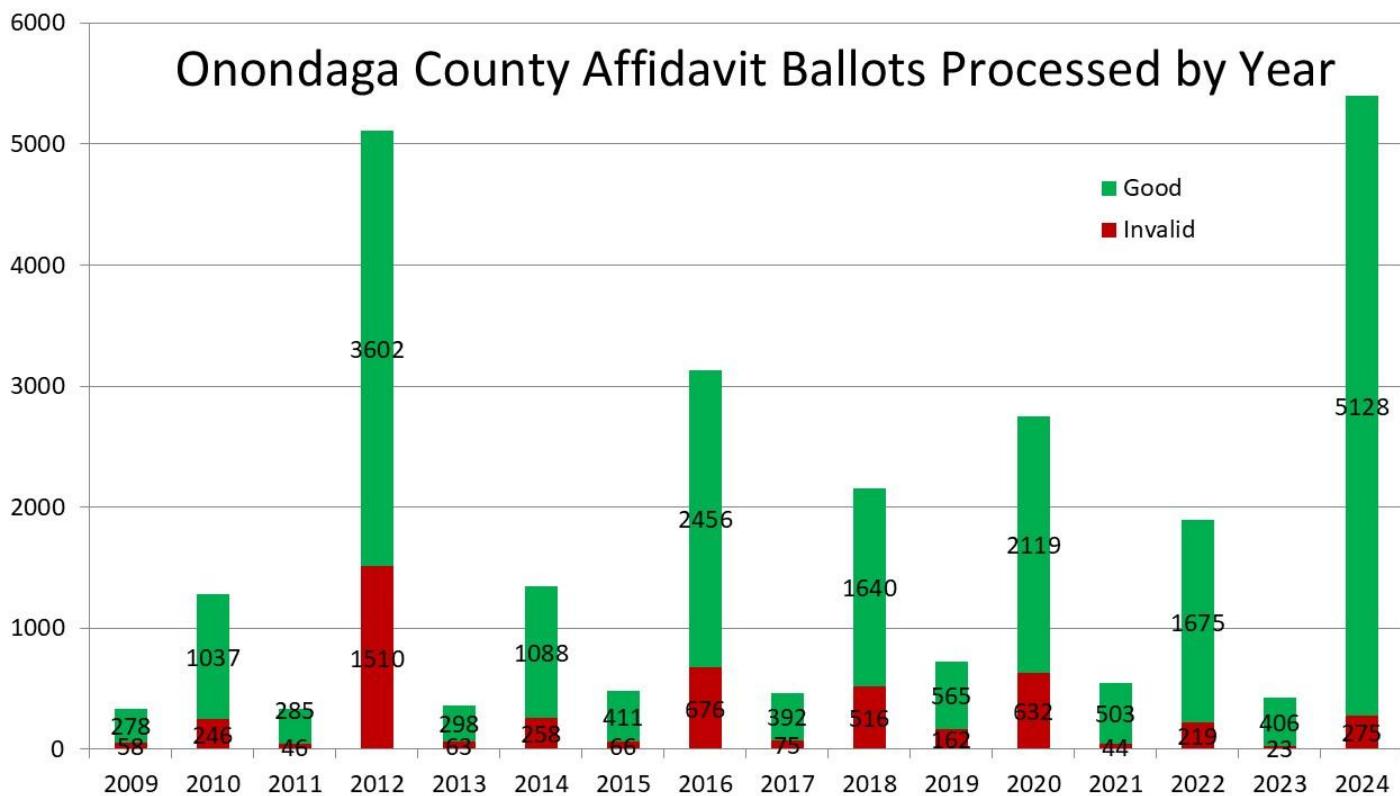
**886** absentee ballot styles for the April Presidential Primary, **700** absentee ballot styles were used in the June Primary Election. **450** absentee ballot styles were in the General Election. We transitioned to unique ballot styles per election district because of our investment in on-demand ballot printing in our office for all mail-in voting. Unfortunately, our old registration vendor was unable to provide breakdowns for our absentee ballots as we had in previous years. This will be the case for the 2025 Elections as well

## 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 can download and print their ballot. All ballots must be returned by postal mail (not be accepted through email or fax). Military, Special Federal and UOCAVA voter's applications are valid for two Federal elections.

## PAPER BALLOT COUNTING

In 2024, for the April & June primaries and the General Election we used Clear Ballot scanners as our Central Count System. Audits of Absentee ballots were done by hand. This greatly enhanced our output and expedites our recanvass procedures. These machines count absentee and affidavit 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

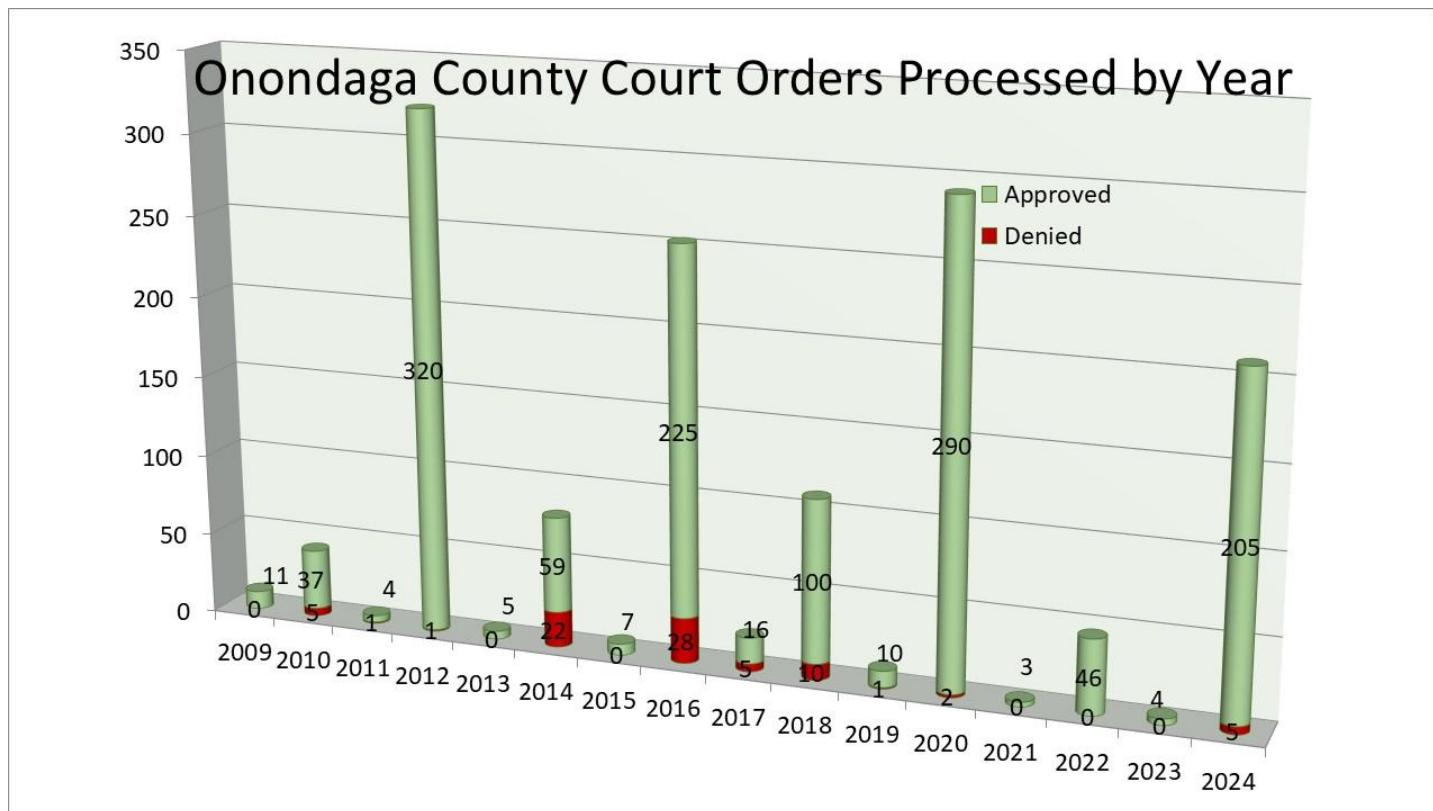
Registered voters who moved within New York State, who did not update their information with the Board of Elections before the registration deadline are able to vote at their new polling place on Election Day or at any early voting

site by affidavit ballot. Statewide voter registration transfers became effective March 25, 2019, allowing voters to be able to vote via affidavit instead of court orders.

In 2024, we processed:

	<u>Processed</u>	<u>Valid</u>
April Primary (4/2/24)	72	56
June Primary (6/25/24)	130	101
General Election (11/5/24)	5466	5145

Affidavits are researched and ruled on to both Commissioners. Affidavits are determined to be invalid due to voters not being registered in New York state, voters are 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 2024, we processed:

	<u>Processed</u>	<u>Denied</u>
April Presidential Primary	0	0
June Congressional Primary	3	1
General Election	210	5

After obtaining a court order, a voter is allowed to vote on the machine at their correct poll site or any early voting 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 the town polling sites. Election runners are paid a flat rate of \$65 each. 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 election materials and prevents a last-minute scramble if the Board receives a Court Order to secure election materials.

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

## **CANVASS OF RESULTS**

All Imagecast voting machines are recanvassed 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 absentees, 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. In 2023 Election Law 9-209 (2)(a)(d), was Amended and changed the way boards of elections count absentee ballots. This resulted in absentee ballots received by the Board of Elections prior to Election Day. They are reviewed by a Bi-Partisan team within 4 days of receipt of the ballot. Once ballots are presumed valid, they are prepared for counting, EL 9-209(6)(b). Beginning on the day before the first day of early voting, all ballots are placed into the Central Count System scanner. Ballots received on or after Election Day are reviewed within one day of receipt. Results are then downloaded and merged with the voting machine totals.

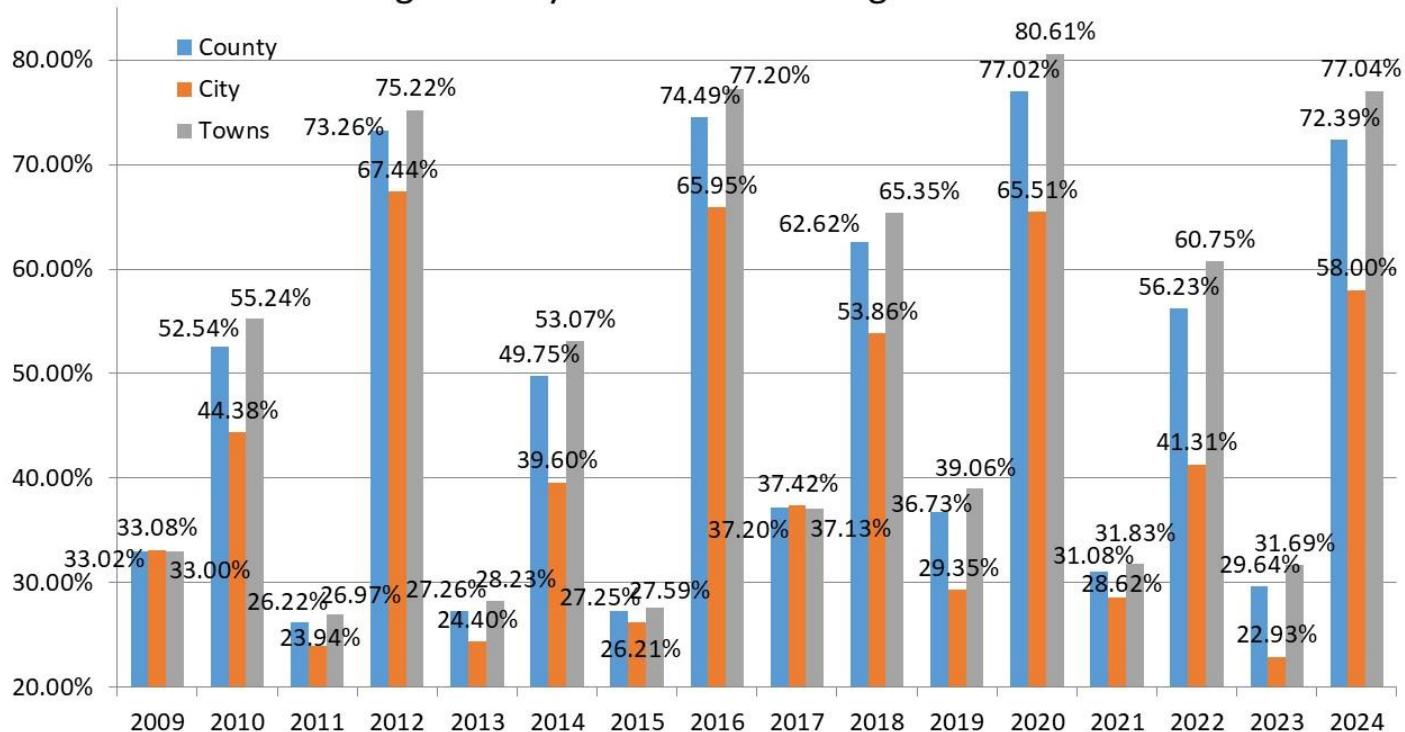
The paper ballot and machine results are merged and entered directly onto the computer terminal. Board personnel then verify all entries. The official canvass is certified by the Commissioners and forwarded to the State Board of Elections. Bound copies of this document are printed in February and distributed 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 drawing is made at 8AM the morning after 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 took place on November 11, 2024, at Noon. We also handed ballots for our absentee audit. We are pleased with the process and results of this system.

## Onondaga County Turnout Percentage for General Election



## VOTER PARTICIPATION-

	ELIGIBLE VOTERS	NUMBER VOTED	TURNOUT %
<b><u>April Presidential Primary (4/2/25)</u></b>			
Democrat	115,739	6,695	5.78%
Republican	82,060	4,720	5.75%
<b><u>June Primary (6/25/24)</u></b>			
Democratic	115,666	19,304	16.69%
Republican	35,581	3,056	8.59%
<b><u>General Election (11/5/24)</u></b>			
<b>Total</b>	319,960	231,627	72.39%
Democrat	120,248	89,816	74.69%
Republican	85,040	67,869	79.81%
Conservative	5,229	4,134	79.06%
Working Families	1,562	861	55.12%
Non-Enrolled/Other	107,881	68,947	63.91%

## 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.

The state held various virtual training courses 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.

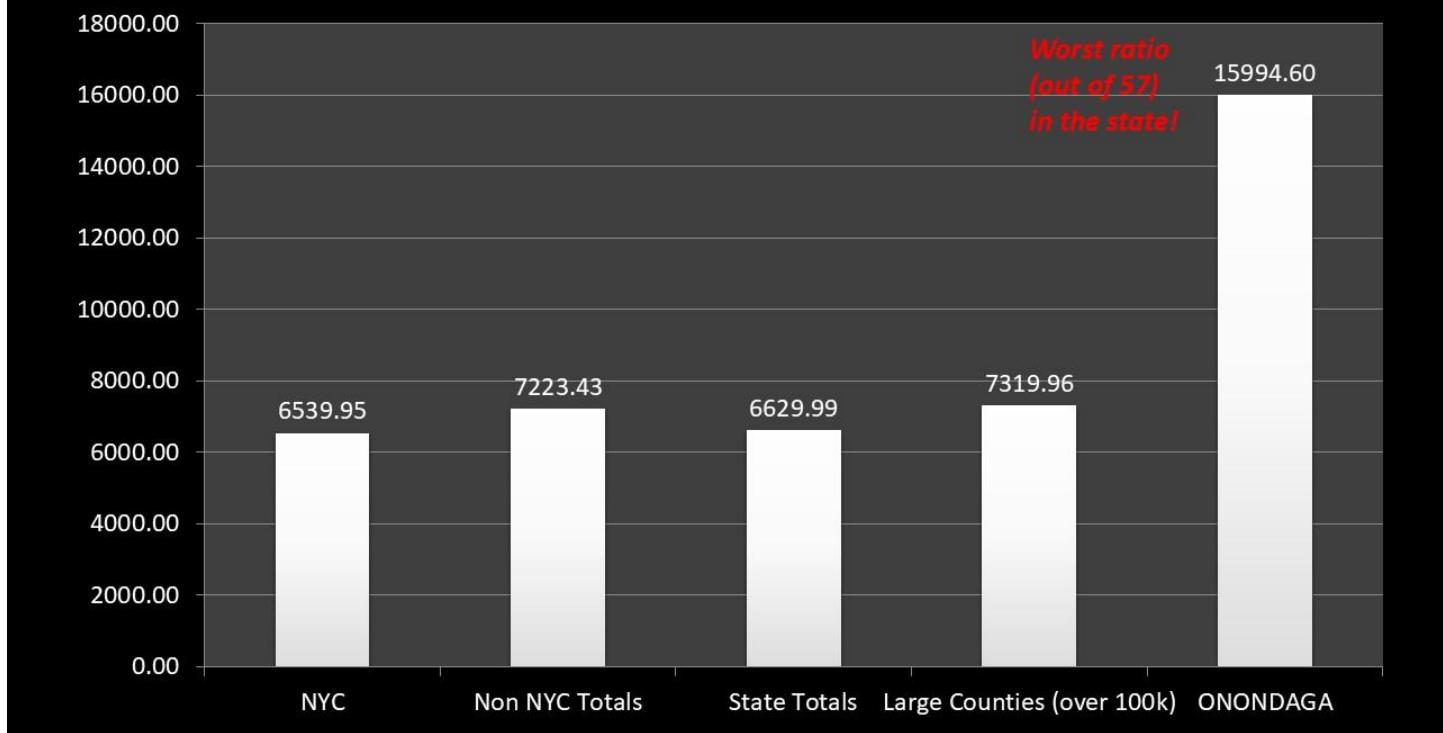
We continue to place an emphasis on educating the public as to those services available through the internet, and the ease in obtaining necessary forms and instructions. Callers continue to be informed of their options when requesting forms.

The Commissioners appeared at various media events throughout the year to promote participation in 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 2024, we continued to use our Facebook and Twitter accounts to notify voters of registration and filing deadlines.

## **LONG RANGE GOALS**

## 2024 Voters per Full Time Employee



The main long-term goal for our board is to address staffing shortage. Resources for our Board continue to be a pressing issue. The ratio of full-time workers to registered voters in 2024 (1 for every 16k voters) was the worse ratio in the entire state of New York. We dwarf the average for upstate counties (1 for every 7.2k voters) and Counties outside of NYC over 100k (1 for every 7.3k 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. Four new permanent staff positions were added for 2025. While we still lack the resources of other county boards, this should alleviate some of the performance issues we saw in 2024. We are looking at training and enhancing existing staff for the 2025 and 2026 cycles but may need to add more staff by the next Presidential cycle in 2028.

## 2024 Dollars Budgeted per Registered Voter



The funding inequity in Onondaga County when compared to the rest of the state is noticeable. We were budgeted to spend just \$13.80 per registered voter in 2024. This is the seventh most austere budget 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. The additional staffing added for 2025 can resolve some of this imbalance, however if added registration and absentee activity continues it is likely in 2026, we may need to add temporary staff for the general.