

Testimony offered by David R. Harding regarding Funding for County Boards of Elections:

My name is David R. Harding, and I live in the Village of Fayetteville in the County of Onondaga. Since 2018, I have been an Election Technician with the Onondaga County Board of Elections. This is a part-time position that includes the following responsibilities around elections: testing Dominion ImageCast voting machines before they are sent to polling places, training Election Inspectors, serving as Polling Site Managers for Early Voting sites, setting up polling sites before Election Day, supervising Polling Sites during Election Day, and assisting in post-Election processes. In the 3-1/2 years on the job, I have gotten to know the full-time staff at the Onondaga County Board of Elections very well. Regardless of partisan affiliation, they are very hard-working and dedicated to the voters of Onondaga County and to ensuring that elections are run as best they can be.

In the media and among the commentariat, much has been made of wanting to change the bipartisan county boards of elections' structure, mostly due to the chronic issues that have plagued the New York City Board of Elections. While change of the structure of county boards of elections is something that should be taken under consideration, I believe that a much more serious issue with BOEs has been ignored: chronic underfunding and staffing of county boards of elections by county legislatures. For example, in Onondaga County we have the lowest number of full-time staff per registered voter (1 per 19,273 voter), and near the lowest budget per registered voter in the state (\$9.28/voter). While the Onondaga County Legislature understand this is the case, it is content with the level of personnel and financial resources it provides to the Board of Elections. The Onondaga BOE uses its resources frugally and ensures that elections are well run, voters are not being well served by such the Legislature drastically limiting the full-time personnel and financial resources that be devoted to such areas as voter outreach, Election Inspector Training, investments in information technology, staff development and training, and Early Voting. Additionally, full-time BOE staff in counties that are not adequately funded are asked to make sacrifices and go above and beyond what is reasonable expected: for example, full-time staff at the Onondaga County BOE were on mandatory overtime starting after Labor Day 2020 that did not end until into January 2021, working six days a week, twelve hours a day.

It is not fair to voters in New York state there is a "lottery" for their voting experience that depends on how well their given county legislature choses to fund and staff its BOE. Thus, the state legislature should implement minimums for full-time staffing and funding for county BOEs based on county voter population. The State legislature should also consider providing financial assistance to County BOEs, possibly through eliminating the mandatary signature requirement to get on the primary or general election ballot and instead offering candidates an option to pay a fee to the County or State BOE. Without the state legislature ensuring that county BOEs have sufficient funding and staffing to carry out their missions, voters in New York State will never have the voting experience they should.

County	Commissioner (Part time counted as .5)	Deputy Commissioner (Part time counted as .5)	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees (counted as .5)	Total Employees	2021 Budget
HAMILTON	2	1	0	48	51	\$308,556.00
SCHUYLER	1	2	0	0	3	\$249,097.00
YATES	2	1	0	2	5	\$400,764.00
LEWIS	2	2	0	0	4	\$534,204.00
SCHOHARIE	1	2	2	0	5	\$392,424.00
SENECA	2	2	0	0	4	\$499,232.00
ORLEANS	2	2	0	4.5	9	\$350,203.00
WYOMING	1	2	2	1	6	\$254,103.05
ESSEX	1	1	2	0	4	\$783,461.00
ALLEGANY	1	2	2	3	8	\$264,597.00
MONTGOMERY	2	2	0	1	5	\$438,448.00
FRANKLIN	2	2	0	1	5	\$524,746.00
DELAWARE	1	2	4	1	8	\$477,113.00
CHENANGO	1	2	2	1	6	\$317,017.00
CORTLAND	1	2	2	1	6	\$524,220.00
TIOGA	2	2	4	3	11	\$583,162.00
GREENE	1	2	4	1	8	\$708,880.00
FULTON	1	2	2	1	6	\$482,919.00
OTSEGO	2	2	2	1	7	\$388,723.00
WASHINGTON	2	2	0	0	4	\$436,996.00
GENESEE	1	2	0	3	6	\$694,637.00
HERKIMER	1	2	0	0	3	\$627,614.00
LIVINGSTON	2	2	4	1	9	\$610,740.00
MADISON	2	2	6	n/a	10	\$601,936.00
WARREN	2	2	0	0	4	\$596,241.00
CATTARAUGUS	2	2	2	0	6	\$868,703.00
CAYUGA	1	2	2	1	6	\$485,640.00
CLINTON	2	2	2	0	6	\$717,377.00
SULLIVAN	2	2	2	0	6	\$951,237.00
COLUMBIA	2	2	4	1	9	\$936,486.00

CHEMUNG	1	2	3	2	8	\$818,224.00
TOMPKINS	2	2	2	1.5	8	\$855,710.00
JEFFERSON	2	2	4	0	8	\$913,985.00
WAYNE	1	2	2	1.5	7	\$898,800.00
ST. LAWRENCE	2	2	6	1	11	\$974,521.00
STEUBEN	2	2	2	0	6	\$479,153.00
PUTNAM	2	2	6	2	12	\$2,085,363.00
ONTARIO	2	2	0	2	6	\$700,000.00
OSWEGO	2	2	6	1	11	\$434,368.00
CHAUTAUQUA	2	2	4	1	9	\$1,036,647.00
SCHENECTADY	2	2	8	0	12	\$1,494,169.00
RENSSELAER	2	0	8	2	12	\$1,641,536.00
ULSTER	2	2	8	0	12	\$2,268,937.00
ONEIDA	2	2	4	2	10	\$2,413,416.00
BROOME	1	2	6	0	9	\$1,577,040.00
NIAGARA	2	2	10	0	14	\$1,947,437.00
SARATOGA	2	2	12	0	16	\$2,065,448.00
DUTCHESS	2	2	18	0	22	\$3,354,936.00
ALBANY	2	2	22	1	27	\$5,084,764.00
ROCKLAND	2	2	16	0	20	\$4,369,984.00
ORANGE	2	2	14	2	20	\$3,398,306.00
ONONDAGA	2	2	12	0	16	\$2,861,562.00
MONROE	2	2	40	0	44	\$10,450,342.00
WESTCHESTER	2	2	102	4	110	\$20,151,534.00
ERIE	2	2	57	7.5	69	\$10,500,000.00
NASSAU	2	2	154	17.5	176	\$21,825,216.00
SUFFOLK	2	2	119	0	123	\$15,234,638.00
Upstate Totals	98	109	695	124	1026	\$135,845,512.05
Large Counties outside	31	30	602	36	699	\$109,145,096.00
NYC*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	517	\$123,631,985.00
State Totals	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1543	\$259,477,497.05
ONONDAGA	2	2	12	0	16	\$2,861,562.00

Registered Voters	Full time Employees per Registered Voter	\$ per registered Voter			
4,325	84.80	\$71.34			
12,676	4225.33	\$19.65			
13,942	2788.40	\$28.75			
18,958	4739.50	\$28.18			
20,233	4046.60	\$19.40			
20,638	5159.50	\$24.19			
24,558	2889.18	\$14.26			
26,079	4346.50	\$9.74			
26,181	6545.25	\$29.92			
26,577	3322.13	\$9.96			
29,376	5875.20	\$14.93			
29,435	5887.00	\$17.83			
29,712	3714.00	\$16.06			
30,435	5072.50	\$10.42			
31,133	5188.83	\$16.84			
32,168	2924.36	\$18.13			
32,829	4103.63	\$21.59			
33,029	5504.83	\$14.62			
35,986	5140.86	\$10.80			
37,926	9481.50	\$11.52			
38,345	6390.83	\$18.12			
39,439	13146.33	\$15.91			
41,772	4641.33	\$14.62			
43,979	4397.90	\$13.69			
45,858	11464.50	\$13.00			
47,527	7921.17	\$18.28			
48,142	8023.67	\$10.09			
49,279	8213.17	\$14.56			
49,370	8228.33	\$19.27			
50,369	5596.56	\$18.59			

52,832	6604.00	\$15.49			
58,986	7864.80	\$14.51			
59,654	7456.75	\$15.32			
61,602	9477.23	\$14.59			
62,420	5674.55	\$15.61			
65,027	10837.83	\$7.37			
70,088	5840.67	\$29.75			
77,278	12879.67	\$9.06			
83,285	7571.36	\$5.22			
86,026	9558.44	\$12.05			
99,564	8297.00	\$15.01			
104,220	8685.00	\$15.75			
125,915	10492.92	\$18.02			
134,118	13411.80	\$17.99			
138,067	15340.78	\$11.42			
139,509	9964.93	\$13.96			
169,523	10595.19	\$12.18			
196,991	8954.14	\$17.03			
197,214	7304.22	\$25.78			
206,086	10304.30	\$21.20			
242,359	12117.95	\$14.02			
308,381	19273.81	\$9.28			
528,090	12002.05	\$19.79			
633,782	5761.65	\$31.80			
634,270	9259.42	\$16.55			
996,054	5675.52	\$21.91			
1,049,891	8535.70	\$14.51			
7551508	7363.73	\$17.99			
5804470	8303.96	\$18.80			
5,565,015	10764.05	\$22.22	*employee numbers are estimates		
13,116,523	8503.42	\$19.78			
308,381	19273.81	\$9.28			