

Department Name	Board of Elections
Account(s)	1450

Department Function
<p>The Board of Elections is responsible for the proper administration and management of primary and general elections. Its operations are supervised by two Commissioners, each representing one of the two major political parties in New York State. The Commissioners are nominated by majority vote of the County Committees of their respective political parties and confirmed by the County Legislature. The duties and functions of the board include processing and maintaining voter registrations, database management of 211,615 current active registrants, being the sole custodian of enrollment lists and maps of election districts, and processing petitions filed for candidates to public office and referendums. In preparation for the election, the Board also oversees the maintenance, preparation, storage and transportation of voting machines, electronic poll books and on-demand printers. It also prints and processes all ballot materials on-site, achieving significant taxpayer savings. The Board conducts annual seminars and examinations relating to election procedures and technology for approximately 950 election inspectors in Albany County, as required by law. The primary mission of the Board is to promote citizen confidence in the democratic process and enhance voter participation in elections by ensuring all eligible Albany County residents have an opportunity to register and vote.</p>

Current Year Highlights
<p>In 2025, the primary focus of the Board of Elections has been the continued commitment to upgrade and modernize our election infrastructure to optimize voter experience. Through the availability of grants, the Board has replaced its iPads, used to check-in voters at poll sites, and also invested in a new ballot scanner and tabulator to increase the speed and accuracy of tabulating results. Additional investments will further be made to prepare for the new election law reform known as the Even Year Elections Law. The Board continues to engage with the community to educate the public on our voting system and to facilitate voter registration drives. Our staff have been visiting schools, senior facilities and community groups year-round to assist with registration, applying for absentees, and providing information. To optimize the voting experience, we continue to implement more intensive inspector training classes by limiting class sizes and providing more hands-on training. These trainings have resulted in more efficient elections that guarantee every vote counts. With constant evolving election laws, the Board will work cooperatively and constructively with the public, and the staff will continue to maintain high standards and rise to the occasion to provide exceptional service and fair elections.</p>

Next Year Projects
<p>In looking forward to the future, the Board is seeking to upgrade its election equipment to make elections more accessible to voters, especially those with disabilities. The current ballot marking device used to assist voters with filling in their ballots was initially purchased in 2008 and must be replaced. The vendor our county works with, Elections Systems and Software, is in the process of seeking certification for its new ballot marking device. With successful testing, we hope to invest in a new fleet of machines to provide voters with disabilities proper access to voting and ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations. Additionally, the Board is actively searching for a larger office space to accommodate the growing needs of our office. Our existing office no longer provides sufficient room to operate and store equipment. The relocation of the Board to a larger facility will ensure an optimal voting experience.</p>

Link to Website	www.albanycountyny.gov/vote
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