

## **Erie County Board of Elections - 2010**

### **Deborah D. McDowell, Director**

The Board of Elections is responsible for the administration and execution of Primary, General and Special elections. These responsibilities include the administration of the absentee voter program, coordination of polling officials, auditing of all campaign financial reports, and verification of all candidates and ballot issues for compliance with Ohio Revised Code requirements. In addition, the office maintains all current voter and election records which are made available to the public.

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The Board of Elections held three elections in 2010. A Primary Election was held on May 4, 2010. The voters were to decide on Federal, State and County candidates for Party nomination to the General Election ballot. There were 6 different Party Primary ballots in 2010. There were 5966 voters who voted in the Democratic Party Primary, 4979 voters in the Republican Party Primary, 7 voters in the Constitution Party Primary, 7 voters in the Green Party Primary, 17 voters in the Libertarian Party Primary and 2 voters in the Socialist Party Primary. We elected both Democratic and Republican County Central Committee members. Voters voted on 2 state issues, 1 city issue, 2 library issues, 20 township issues including electric and gas aggregation issues in all 9 townships in Erie County and 4 school issues. There was 1 local option issue in Vermilion Township. We had a 22.81% turnout for the Primary Election.

There was a Special Election held on August 3, 2010 for the Margaretta Local School District.

The General Election was held on November 2, 2010. In 2010 we elected Federal, State and County officials. There was an Election Contest for the office of County Auditor filed by County Auditor Thomas J. Paul. There was a 7 vote difference in the Auditor's race. Rick Jeffrey received 14,070 votes and Tom Paul received 14,063 votes. The Election Contest was dismissed on February 10, 2011 making Mr. Jeffrey the winner. Several issues were also voted on at this election. There were 3 countywide issues, one for the General Health District, one for Senior Citizens and one for MetroParks. Voters voted on issues for Bellevue, Sandusky, and Vermilion Cities, Bellevue Public Library, Bay View, Kelleys Island, Berlin Heights and Castalia Villages, Margaretta Twp., EHOVE Joint Vocational School District, Berlin-Milan Local School District, Huron City School District, Firelands Local School District, Margaretta Local School District and Perkins Local School District. We had 53,980 registered voters for the November 2010 General Election with 29,466 voters voting. This was a 54.58 percent turnout. In 2006 the legislature voted to allow "no fault absentee voting", which means voters no longer need a reason to vote absentee. Since the change in absentee laws absentee voting has increased substantially. In November 2010 we had 7,020 voters vote an absentee ballot.

Guidelines regarding the Ohio elections process and an election calendar are available to assist in meeting necessary deadlines. The Board of Elections has information regarding the current election calendar, elected officials, and voting information as well as election results.

A Voter Information Guide is available. It contains information on voter eligibility and registration, and guidelines for Election Day and absentee voting.

Voters in Erie County vote in 62 precincts in 48 locations countywide.

The Board of Elections operates under the supervision of the Ohio Secretary of State and under the direction of a four member Board.