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## **BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFERS COST EFFECTIVE ELECTION ALTERNATIVES FOR SCHOOLS AND VILLAGES IN 2012**

MAYVILLE—Chautauqua County Board of Elections' Commissioners Norman P. Green and Brian C. Abram announced that they have mailed out cost estimates to all county schools and villages to have the Board of Elections provide county owned optical scan voting machines and election day expertise for 2012.

"The State of New York has transitioned to optical scan voting technology, but opted to allow the schools and villages the option to remain with the lever technology through 2012," said Green and Abram in a joint release. "We stand ready to offer the county's services to ensure that voters have the same paper based technology for all votes cast in any county election.

"Chautauqua County is just one of five counties in New York State to print election ballots in house and our county legislators and county executive has directed us to not charge villages and schools for office personnel and machine technology that has already been paid for through county taxes," said the election commissioners. "Thus, in most cases we are now able to do optical scan elections cheaper than the old mechanical lever technology."

Of the fifteen county villages, only Sinclairville, Bemus Point and Cassadaga have not turned over elections to the county are still conducting village elections using the village clerk as the chief election officer. In 2009, the Village of Celoron became the first county village to move its election to the November cycle, thus eliminating all election costs for Celoron village taxpayers. Fredonia and Cassadaga do not currently have any offices up for election in 2012. The estimated charge for the county to assume 2012 election operations for the villages of Bemus Point, \$471.95; Sinclairville, \$489.35; and Cassadaga, \$493.85.

The estimated charge that the county expects to bill for village 2012 elections it already has been requested to conduct are Brocton, \$569.45; Cherry Creek, \$488.35; Falconer, \$690.05; Fredonia, \$1,968.75; Forestville, \$517.35; Lakewood, \$1,010.15; Mayville, \$817.05; Panama, \$582.85; Sherman, \$599.35; Silver Creek, \$995.65; Westfield, \$1,007.65 .

Currently the county only conducts school elections for Cassadaga Valley. The estimated costs for the county to manage elections under the supervision of the district clerk for 2012 school elections are Bemus Point, \$870.70; Brocton, \$631.70; Cassadaga Valley, \$1,013.00; Chautauqua Lake, \$868.70; Clymer, \$550.10; Dunkirk, \$3,197.30; Falconer, \$1,029.70; Forestville, \$646.10; Fredonia, \$1,502.70; Frewsburg, \$805.00; Jamestown, \$4,329.20; Panama, \$624.60; Pine Valley, \$444.40; Ripley, \$453.90; Sherman, \$499.00; Silver Creek, \$973.20; Southwestern, \$1,412.70 and Westfield, \$816.70.

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"While most costs remain the same when comparing the lever based technology vs. optical scan technology, the fifteen cent per ballot printing cost is the driving force for costs to the county," explained the commissioners. "In our opinion, the paper ballot costs are overcome when the schools and villages no longer have to pay for election machine custodians, printing of ballot strips for the lever machines and new charges that the county will be forced to levy for the first time in 2012 for the huge paper printing requests by the Jamestown and Dunkirk school systems. Both the villages and the schools will also be able to negotiate down ballot printing projections when we jointly examine past voter turn out."