

For Immediate Release

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For more information, contact the Board of Elections at 753-4580

## **COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS PARTNERS FOR HISTORIC FIRST SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

MAYVILLE—The Chautauqua County Board of Elections had another historic first Tuesday night. Cassadaga Valley Central School became the very first of 18 county school systems to turn its' election over to the county and use the paper ballot optical scan voting method.

The remainder of the county is currently permitted by the state to vote on the soon-to-be retired Automatic Voting Machine Corporation's mechanical lever voting machine or hand count paper ballots. School districts and villages in the state are mandated to transition to optical scan voting before 2013. Currently all school districts except Cassadaga have held on to the old voting systems. Voters in the villages of Cassadaga, Sinclairville and Bemus Point cast ballots on hand counted paper ballots this past March.

"We worked out a plan of action that allowed district Cassadaga Valley clerk Sue Grace to continue to be the chief election officer for the school election," said Election Commissioner Brian Abram. "Sue is a true professional and assisted us greatly in this historic transition to our new partnership in voting."

"Other election boards downstate seem to be resisting the opportunity to provide cost effective election service to the schools and villages," said Election Commissioner Norman P. Green. "The Chautauqua County Board of Elections remains dedicated to the idea that elections are our business and it's our job to provide a cost effective voting service to all of our citizens."

Abram concluded, "We are extremely pleased with the election and want to thank Cassadaga Valley for using the Board of Elections. We look forward to conducting additional school elections in the future. Cassadaga school officials and the county were eager to switch school voters to the new way of voting and the transition went very well." The Board of Elections will be charging Cassadaga Valley Central School District about \$300 for the expense of the election.

A total of 289 voters participated in the Cassadaga school elections and 251 voted to re-elect S. Carl Perry, who was unopposed. Twenty five of the 289 votes were cast by absentee voters. Write in candidates receiving one vote each were Ted Ames, Mary Girdlestone, Paul Mahalko, Dennis W Wilson and David Richir. The general fund budget also was approved by a vote of 196 in favor and 91 opposed, with two voters not voting at all on the budget.