

Office of the Broome County Executive

"The People's Office"

Debra A. Preston, County Executive

October 10, 2013

Ms. Carolyn Price
Town Supervisor
124 Main Street
Windsor, New York 13865

RECEIVED
10-14-13

Re: Election Costs & Chargebacks

Dear Supervisor Price:

Several weeks back I believe you called this office concerning the County's chargeback of election costs to towns and the City. Unfortunately, this has been the first chance I have had to get back to you on this matter.

The concept of chargebacks for election costs is an inherently fair one in that the County can centrally and efficiently manage functions such as election costs, achieving savings because of that centralization. One recurring frustration has been that many processes that we inherited were ill-defined or not performed in a logical and consistent manner. The charge back of election costs to municipalities is an example of this.

First, there was no clear definition of the basis on which chargebacks would be distributed across municipalities. The obvious method was to distribute costs based on the number of election districts within the municipalities, so this was implemented by the Preston Administration in 2012.

Secondly, the costs that should be charged back had to be those which would have been incurred by the municipalities if they had conducted the elections independently. Amounts charged back have fluctuated over the last several years. The primary determinant of election costs is of course the number of elections held, but there are other factors, including new Federal and NYS mandates as well as price inflation which have impacted election costs.

In 2011 there was a one year respite on some of these mandated costs because the County was able to charge a significant portion to the State. In 2013, an amount was included to recoup costs of a fourth election that occurred in 2012, which had not been planned for. In addition, a slight increase in 2014 was due to a capital replacement component for the voting machines. The amount of this replacement cost was only \$12,500 over the recoupment cost item included for 2013. Therefore, for a minimal increase we have begun providing for a cost which would be devastating in size and impact if handled otherwise.

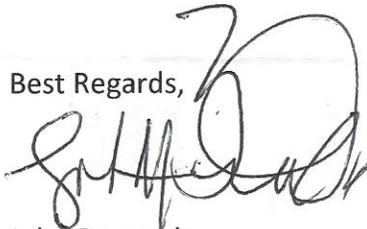
Summarily, we have implemented a process which we believe is fair and logical and will be consistently adhered to in the future. This plan also addresses the very real capital needs inherent in the process. Amounts charged back are the costs of efforts to maximize benefit to the municipalities providing them with an efficient election process managed in a prudent manner.

I have attached a copy of the charge back schedule for the last three years for your review and reference.

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 778-2109.

Thank You.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bernardo", written over a faint horizontal line.

John Bernardo
Deputy County Executive

enc.

Election Budget-07000001

Municipality	# of ED's	% of ED's	Recommended		
			2014	2013	2012
City of Binghamton	32	22.70%	\$ 116,055	\$ 89,645	\$ 123,599
Town of Barker	2	1.42%	\$ 7,253	\$ 5,603	\$ 5,055
Town of Binghamton	3	2.13%	\$ 10,880	\$ 8,404	\$ 16,760
Town of Chenango	8	5.67%	\$ 29,014	\$ 22,411	\$ 23,676
Town of Colesville	3	2.13%	\$ 10,880	\$ 8,404	\$ 5,355
Town of Conklin	4	2.84%	\$ 14,507	\$ 11,206	\$ 16,760
Town of Dickinson	4	2.84%	\$ 14,507	\$ 11,206	\$ 16,760
Town of Fenton	6	4.26%	\$ 21,760	\$ 16,809	\$ 8,405
Town of Kirkwood	4	2.84%	\$ 14,507	\$ 11,206	\$ 9,230
Town of Lisie	2	1.42%	\$ 7,253	\$ 5,603	\$ 12,582
Town of Maine	4	2.84%	\$ 14,507	\$ 11,206	\$ 13,407
Town of Nanticoke	1	0.71%	\$ 3,627	\$ 2,801	\$ 1,493
Town of Sanford	3	2.13%	\$ 10,880	\$ 8,404	\$ 10,356
Town of Triangle	2	1.42%	\$ 7,253	\$ 5,603	\$ 6,653
Town of Union	39	27.66%	\$ 141,442	\$ 109,255	\$ 168,253
Town of Vestal	19	13.48%	\$ 68,908	\$ 53,227	\$ 69,886
Town of Windsor	5	3.55%	\$ 18,134	\$ 14,007	\$ 16,760
Total	141	100%	\$ 511,369	\$ 395,000	\$ 524,990
Budget			\$ 511,369	\$ 395,669	\$ 536,000