

## ***ANNUAL REPORT, STRATFORD CT. REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE, 2021***

***Welcome to the first Annual Report by the Stratford CT Registrars of Voters office,  
Calendar Year 2021***

### **DEPARTMENT FOCUS AND MISSION**

The Stratford Registrar of Voters office is responsible for the registration of eligible voters and the conducting of primary and general elections and referendums. Voters elect a Democratic and Republican registrar every four years on a town-wide basis to manage the office.

Our mission is to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all election results by providing professional and efficient services in an impartial manner and to encourage all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote. Working with the Secretary of State's office in Hartford, we maintain an accurate, updated voter registry to provide citizens with access to the vote and to uphold confidence in the voting experience. This includes

- registering new residents as well as those who have come of age;
- removing electors who are deceased or have moved out of town;
- purging electors who have been inactive;
- and updating the names, addresses and party affiliation of Stratford registered voters.

In an effort to prevent election interference, we seek to conduct all functions in the office in a strictly non-partisan manner. We hire 100+ poll workers, from across all political affiliations, for every election to help us fulfill our mission. *Contact us if you would like to be considered for such a paid position: Registrar@townofstratford.com*

### **ENSURING ACCURACY 1: PARING THE VOTER ROLLS**

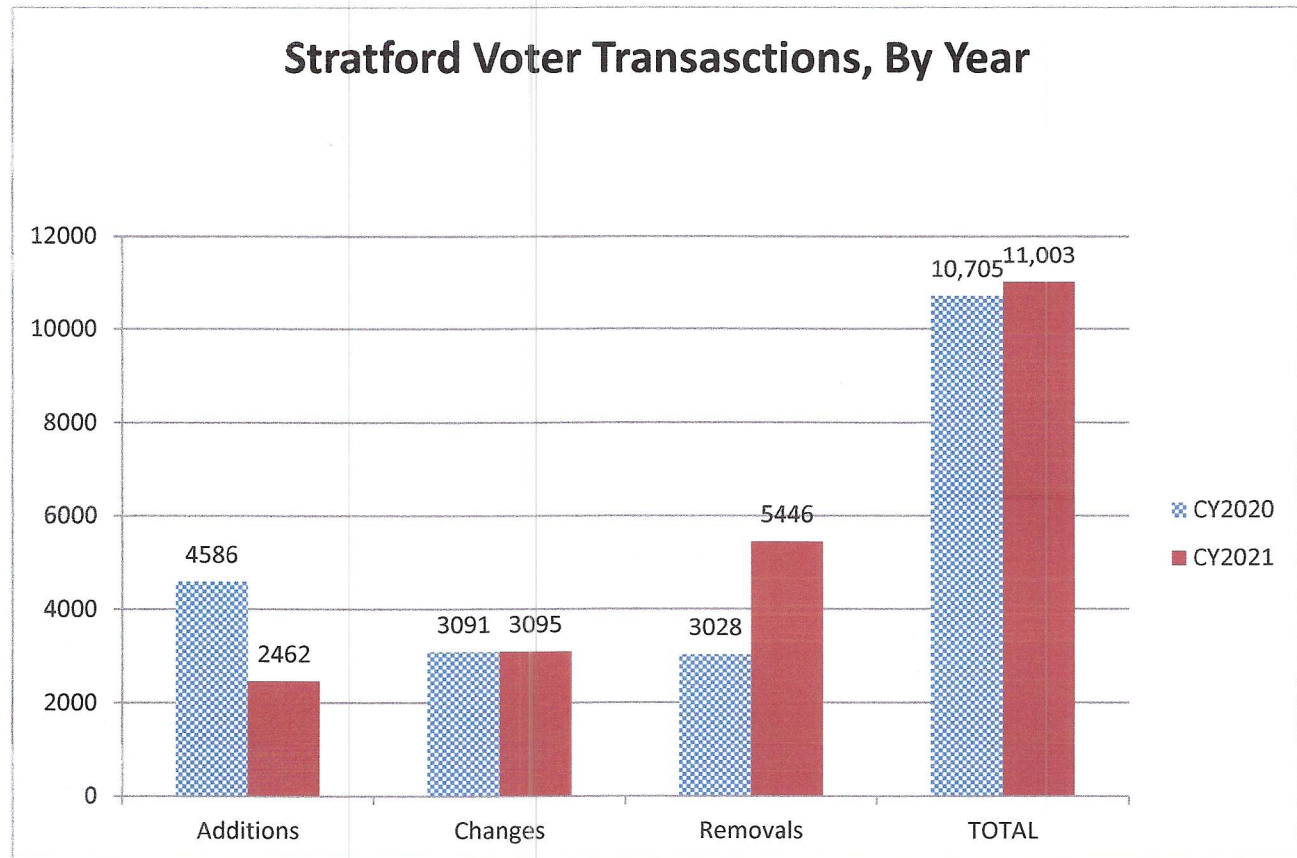
In 2021, the ROV office continued to tightly monitor the registration of eligible voters in Stratford. While 3,028 voters had their registration removed during the CY 2020 presidential election, the number of removals increased to 5,446 in the 2021 municipal election year. Registrations can be removed due to such reasons as a voter moving out of town, dying, or not participating in several consecutive elections.

2021 also was a busy year for changes to registrations (3,095 changes processed in CY21, compared to 3,091 in the usually busier 2020 presidential election year).

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#### ENSURING ACCURACY 2: EYEBALLING THE VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS

While Stratford and all Connecticut municipalities rely on the state CVRS computerized voter registration system, we are mandated to also maintain and update the traditional paper Voter Registration cards from 35,000 residents.

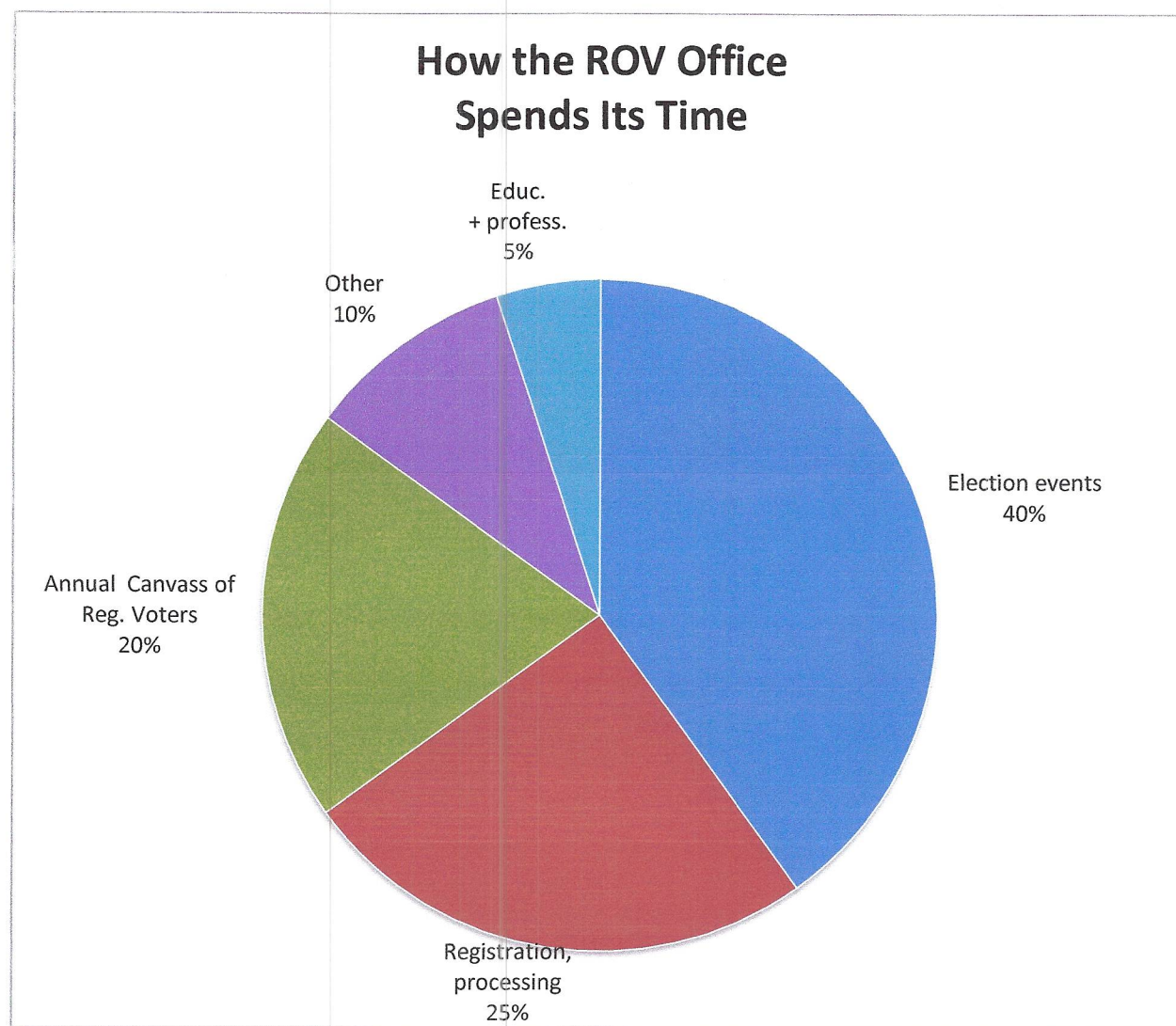
During slow periods in the office, we conducted an exhaustive inventory, looking at each individual card (every name, from A,B,C to X,Y,Z) to ensure the cards accurately reflected active voters.

As a result:

- ✓ Some 2,720 cards were removed because the resident was not an active voter.



- ✓ At least 479 voters improperly had two cards on file, even though they were listed only once in the state online CVRS system (which is the primary source to determine eligibility on Election Day). One common problem: a single woman was listed under her maiden name, did not tell the ROV office when she got married, and then registered again under her married name. The cards were combined, with careful attention paid to also combining the multiple voting records into a single record.
- ✓ In addition, another 4,950 cards were not in correct alphabetical order. One reason: voters often incorrectly listed their first name, then last name, contrary to instructions. The cards were corrected and put back in order.



## LEARNING FROM OTHERS

The ROV office remained abreast of best practices in the field through participation in ROVAC (the Registrar Of Voters Association of Connecticut trade organization) and through the Secretary of State's office. Registrar Louis DeCilio served as Chairman of the Audit Committee for ROVAC, while Registrar James Simon helped head a statewide effort to update the ROVAC Handbook due to the many changes in Connecticut election law.

In January 2022, the Stratford Registrars volunteered to have Stratford's 2021 ballots used in a trial, conducted by the UConn Center for Voting Technology Research, to examine additional safeguards to protect the integrity of the vote tabulation process.

At a time when the voting process was being criticized elsewhere, the Stratford ROV office increased its use of Facebook to communicate directly with voters, explaining the year-long election process and answering their questions about the integrity and accuracy of elections in Stratford.

## 2021-22 ROV BUDGET:

### TOWN OF STRATFORD PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2022

ORG	OBJ	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2018 ACTUAL	FY 2019 ACTUAL	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY2021 BUDGET	FY2022 MAYOR PROPOSED	PERCENT CHANGE
<b>REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</b>								
01106	6003	Payroll - Regular	209,692	200,267	217,354	176,807	178,681	
01106	6102	Printing & Stationery	456	428	206	700	700	
01106	6302	Equipment Service	6,984	6,981	5,600	5,600	5,600	
01106	6343	Education/Travel Expense	3,045	3,159	1,281	3,100	3,100	
01106	6463	Deputy Registrars	800	1,024	800	1,000	1,000	
01106	6464	Canvassers	1,397	820	488	1,000	1,000	
01106	6485	Election	83,171	49,101	49,183	64,000	51,715	
01106	6526	Primaries/Specials	14,809	35,385	2,455	32,200	34,700	
01106	6559	Election Material Equipment	2,933	2,164	1,331	2,250	2,250	
<b>HEADCOUNT</b>			<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>-2.76%</b>

#### MAJOR DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Registrars of Voters are responsible for the administration of all local, state and national elections, registration of eligible voters and conducting primaries and referendums. Our mission is to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all results by providing professional and efficient services in an impartial manner and to encourage all eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote.
2. 2020 Presented itself with some unique challenges due to COVID-19. We are happy to report, the goal of protecting the integrity of our elections while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety of voters and poll workers, was met. Our office received a \$10,000 grant for implementing and ensuring safety standards were attained.
3. Cyber Resiliency and Security of our Elections was another top priority. Our office completed an assessment from the Connecticut Military Department which resulted in an additional \$5,000 grant being awarded.
4. In an effort to help offset the additional costs due to COVID-19, our office applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$31,824 from the Center for Tech & Civic Life.
5. The Election and Primaries/Specials accounts fluctuate depending on the type of election conducted (i.e. Presidential, Gubernatorial or Local). The primaries/election account, for this budget cycle, is based on the projected assumption of a town wide dual party primary for offices in September 2024. This account does not take into consideration any unexpected special elections, primaries or referendum that may occur.

## SUPPLEMENTAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- Stratford ROV Town Hall [web pages](https://www.stratfordct.gov/content/39832/39846/39935/default.aspx) :  
<https://www.stratfordct.gov/content/39832/39846/39935/default.aspx>
- Register to Vote; change your name, address and/or Party affiliation:  
<https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR>
- Look up and see if you are already registered:  
<https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1yUL06V2ci3TmhQDbOL-b0tv4nOnowc38XOINIE6L33A3aJ5ifObNeX3k>

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

### **2022**

Stratford Registrars take part in an appointed town Redistricting Commission, designed to redraw lines for the 10 Town Council Districts so each is within 10 percent of one another (based on the 2020 U.S. Census). Recommended changes go to the Town Council for final approval; new lines take effect in 2023 municipal election.

### **August 9, 2022**

Potential primary elections for any challengers to party candidates for governor and other constitutional offices, Congress, state legislature, town Judge of Probate.

### **November 8, 2022**

General election for offices listed above.

COME VISIT US AT STRATFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 117,  
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8:30a – 430p:

Registrar James Simon (D); [jsimon@townofstratford.com](mailto:jsimon@townofstratford.com)  
Registrar Louis DeCilio (R); [ldecilio@townofstratford.com](mailto:ldecilio@townofstratford.com)  
Judy Scala, administrative assistant; [jscala@townofstratford.com](mailto:jscala@townofstratford.com)

(Thanks to the Westport, Bristol ROV offices for the useful format they use in their annual reports.)