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CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

Purposes as Stated in the Plan of Organization

(1) To scrutinize the systems of accounting of the eight local governments of Chicago.

(2) To examine the methods of purchasing materials and supplies and letting and executing construction contracts in these bodies.

(3) To examine the payrolls of these local governing bodies with a view of determining the efficiency of such expenditures.

(4) To make constructive suggestions for improvements in the directions indicated under 1 and 3, and to co-operate with public officials in the installation of these improved methods.

(5) To furnish the public with exact information regarding public revenues and expenditures and thereby promote efficiency and economy in the public service.

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GROWING COST *of* ELECTIONS
IN
CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY



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REPORT PREPARED BY THE
CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

DECEMBER 30, 1912

PRIOR PUBLICATIONS.

- 1 Method of Preparing and Administering the Budget of Cook County, Illinois. January, 1911.
- 2 Proposed Purchase of Voting Machines by the Board of Public Commissioners of the City of Chicago. May, 1911. (Out of Print.)
- 3 Street Pavement Laid in the City of Chicago: An Inquiry Into Paving Materials, Methods and Results. June, 1911. (Out of Print.)
- 4 Electrolysis of Water Pipes in the City of Chicago. July, 1911. (Out of Print.)
- 5 Administration of the Office of Recorder of Cook County, Illinois. September, 1911.
- 6 A Plea for Publicity in the Office of County Treasurer. October, 1911.
- 7 Repairing Asphalt Pavement: Work Done for the City of Chicago Under Contract of 1911. October, 1911. (Out of Print.)
- 8 The Municipal Court Acts: Two Related Propositions Upon Which the Voters of Chicago Will Be Asked to Pass Judgment at the Election of November 7—Vote No. October 31, 1911. (Out of Print.)
- 9 The Water Works System of the City of Chicago. By Daniel M. Maury. December, 1911.
- 10 Bureau of Streets; Civil Service Commission; and Special Accounting System of the City of Chicago. December, 1911.
- 11 Administration of the Office of Coroner of Cook County, Illinois. December, 1911.
- 12 Administration of the Office of Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois. December, 1911.
- 13 Administration of the Office of Clerk of the Circuit Court and of the Office of Clerk of the Superior Court of Cook County, Illinois. December, 1911.
- 14 The Judges and the County Fee Offices. December 19, 1911.
- 15 General Summary and Conclusions of Report on the Park Departments of Chicago. December, 1911.
- 16 The Park Governments of Chicago: An Inquiry into Their Organization and Methods of Administration. December, 1911.
- 17 Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit and Superior Courts: A Fundamental Inquiry Into Their Organization and Methods of Administration. November, 1912.
- 18 Administration of the Office of the Clerk of the County Court of Cook County, Illinois. November, 1912.
- 19 Office of Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois: A Supplemental Inquiry Into Its Organization and Methods of Administration. November, 1912.

GROWING COST *of* ELECTIONS

IN

CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY

REPORT PREPARED BY THE
CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

315 PLYMOUTH COURT

CHICAGO BUREAU
OF
PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

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INTRODUCTION.

The accompanying report on the GROWING COST OF ELECTIONS IN CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY is presented to the public by the Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency for the purpose of furnishing exact information on the subject and in the hope that it may lead to the enactment of much needed remedial legislation by the General Assembly of Illinois.

The Bureau has made no investigation of the administration of the office of the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago and this report does not deal with the management of the affairs of that office. The savings pointed out in the report are those that can be effected only by legislative action.

HARRIS S. KEELER,

Director.

CHICAGO, December 30, 1912.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

I.

Election costs for Chicago and Cook County, which have been growing at such a rapid rate that the annual expense has more than trebled in sixteen years, almost reached the \$1,000,000 mark in 1912. In 1896 expenditures for election purposes for the territory within the jurisdiction of the Board of Election Commissioners, which comprises the City of Chicago and the Town of Cicero, amounted to \$288,281.36. For 1912 the corresponding figures are \$911,807.29. The election expenses paid by Cook County for 1912 for the portion of the county which lies outside of Chicago and Cicero aggregated \$31,080.25. This gives a total of direct expenditures for the territory comprising the entire county of \$942,887.54.

II.

These enormous expenditures for election purposes are due chiefly to the large number of primaries and elections. The principal way to reduce election expenses is to lessen the number of primaries and elections. This requires legislative action.

City and judicial primaries should be abolished. The money spent upon such primaries is worse than wasted. Nominations for city and judicial offices should be made by petition only and party columns and party designations should be eliminated from the election ballot. Abolishing primaries for city and judicial elections would mean doing away with one city primary in Chicago every year and two judicial primaries in a six-year period, or eight primaries in six years.

III.

The total direct money saving to Chicago and Cook County, in a six-year period, by the abolition of city and judicial primaries, is shown in the following table:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Six city primaries, \$49,728 each..... | \$298,368 |
| Two judicial primaries, \$55,728 each..... | 111,456 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total saving in six-year period..... | \$409,824 |
| Average annual saving..... | \$68,304 |

This average annual saving of \$68,304, which could be effected by the elimination of city and judicial primaries, does not by any means tell the whole story, even as to money costs involved. The other items cannot be set forth with such definiteness, but they should not be overlooked. Among them are the administrative expense connected with the holding of a primary, involving the employment of extra help in the office of the Election Commissioners; the value of police service; the loss due to recognizing the day as a holiday; and various incidentals.

IV.

The cost of a judicial election in Cook County is in round numbers \$56,000. The cost of a city election in the city of Chicago is \$140,100. These sums represent the money that could be saved by the elimination of a judicial or city election. The Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency does not undertake to say what elections should be eliminated, but it is evident that the number should be reduced.

V.

The legislature ought to remove from existing statutes the provision making all primary days and election days legal holidays.

GROWING COST OF ELECTIONS IN CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY.

Election costs for Chicago and Cook County, which have been growing at such a rapid rate that the annual expense has more than trebled in sixteen years, almost reached the \$1,000,000 mark in 1912.

In 1896 expenditures for election purposes for the territory within the jurisdiction of the Board of Election Commissioners, which comprises the City of Chicago and the Town of Cicero, amounted to \$288,281.36. For 1912 the corresponding figures are \$911,807.29. The election expenses paid by Cook County for 1912 for the portion of the county which lies outside of Chicago and Cicero aggregated \$31,080.25. This gives a total of direct expenditures for the territory comprising the entire county of \$942,887.54.

The figures given above take no account of the cost of local elections in municipalities and towns in Cook County outside of Chicago and Cicero, which are borne by the localities themselves, and are not included in any calculations in this report.

The tables on pages 18 and 19 give the election cost figures for the City of Chicago, the County of Cook, and the Town of Cicero for the years 1895 to 1912; also the average cost per precinct.

The figures given in the tables, large as they are, do not represent the total cost to the community of our complex election system. For one thing, they allow nothing for the items of rental, light and heat of the extensive quarters in the City Hall used by

the Board of Election Commissioners. Nor do they take account of the value of police service in connection with elections, or of the loss due to recognizing primary days and election days as holidays.

On every primary day and every election day there is one policeman on duty at each precinct polling place. The salaries of these policemen for the time thus spent—amounting to over \$6,000 for each day of service—do not appear in the tables, which show the yearly cost of the election system to be nearing the \$1,000,000 mark.

Every primary day and every election day is recognized as a legal holiday, which means that the city hall, the county building, and public offices generally are closed. The taxpayers are paying the salaries of employes who are either idle or engaged in rendering political service. Inasmuch as primary and election days are considered legal holidays, the banks, the board of trade, and the stock exchange are closed on those days, causing inconvenience and loss in the business world.

The expenditures for 1912 include an item of \$188,500 for 200 voting machines at \$942.50 each. Three hundred more machines have already been delivered, but are not paid for. Five hundred more have been contracted for, and presumably will be delivered in the near future. The purchase price of the 300 machines delivered and not paid for is \$282,750; of the 500 machines yet to be delivered under the contract, \$471,250; or a total of \$754,000, to be added to the election expenses of years immediately following 1912. Then, too, the items of storage and transportation of voting machines will make substantial additions to the cost of conducting elections hereafter.

Primary and election campaigns in this country are enormously expensive to the participants, in money, time and energy, but no account is taken of these elements in this report. It is evident, however, that lessening the number of primaries and

elections would greatly reduce the cost of political campaigns to participants, in addition to lowering the burden falling directly upon the taxpayers.

CAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS EXPENDITURES.

The enormous expenditures for election purposes are due chiefly to the large number of primaries and elections. Nearly every year there are two elections in Chicago, with a primary for each. Occasionally there is a year in which only one election occurs. Out of every six-year period, there are five years in which two elections occur and one year with but a single election. Occasionally there is a year in which three elections must be held, owing to the provision of the Illinois constitution requiring the election of Supreme Court judges on the first Monday of June of every ninth year. In 1906, for example, there was a city election in April, a judicial election in June, and a state and county election in November. In 1915 the election of Supreme Court and Circuit Court judges will come together. With no election in November, there will be but two elections for 1915. In 1924, however, there will again be three elections in one year—a city election in April, a judicial election in June (for the choosing of a single judge), and the regular biennial election in November.

1913 is a year in which there will be but one election, that on the first Tuesday in April, for the selection of a city treasurer, a city clerk, and an alderman for each ward. One judge of the Superior Court elected by the voters of the entire county will be chosen at the same time. This election will be preceded by a primary in February.

In 1914 there will be two elections with two primaries—the aldermanic election in Chicago in April, and the regular biennial election in November for the choosing of representatives in congress, state and county officials, sanitary district trustees, and judges of the Municipal Court of Chicago.

In 1915 there will be the city election in April and a judicial election in June, with primaries in February and April.

1916 will be a presidential year again, with elections in the spring and fall.

The necessity of choosing ten Superior Court judges in November, 1917, makes two elections for that year.

There are two elections in Chicago regularly every two years, occurring in the even numbered years. There is a city election every year in April, and judicial elections occur with such frequency, in June or November of odd numbered years, as to make two elections in five out of every six years. When there are two elections there are two primaries.

After 1913, there will be two elections each year until 1919, when the number will be one again.

HOW TO REDUCE ELECTION EXPENSES.

The principal way to reduce election expenses is to lessen the number of primaries and elections. This requires legislative action.

The Bureau of Public Efficiency does not undertake to say what elections should be eliminated. That is a matter of judgment upon which opinions will differ. But it is evident that there are too many elections in this community. The Bureau merely presents in this report precise information concerning the cost of elections, and the amount that could be saved by the elimination of any one of them, and leaves to other agencies the task of putting the information to practical use. The presentation of detailed figures is for city and judicial elections, as it is in those fields that the possibility of reduction lies. There is little likelihood of the elimination, in the near future at least, of any of the biennial November elections, or of the primaries therefor.

When city and judicial primaries are considered, the case for complete abolition is clear. The money spent upon such primaries is worse than wasted.

It is pretty generally agreed that partisanship in the selection of judicial and municipal officials is an evil. Apart from the question of their cost, therefore, it would be better if party primaries for the nomination of candidates for judicial and municipal offices were abolished. Nominations for these offices should be made by petition only, and party columns and party designations should be eliminated from the election ballot.

Abolishing primaries for municipal and judicial elections would mean doing away with one city primary in Chicago every year and two judicial primaries in a six-year period, or eight primaries in six years.

The law requires a city primary in February every year. In 1915 there will be a judicial election in June, with a primary therefor in April, according to the law as it now stands. There will be another judicial election, for the selection of Superior Court judges, in 1917, for which the law now requires the holding of party primaries in April of that year.

To arrive at an estimate of the amount of the saving in money that might be effected by eliminating some of the primaries and elections, an analysis has been made of the unit elements of cost of a primary and an election. In these calculations, the precinct has been taken as the basis.

The cost of maintaining the election machinery, for the territory under the jurisdiction of the Board of Election Commissioners—Chicago and Cicero—is apportioned among the governing authorities affected—the County of Cook, the City of Chicago, and the Town of Cicero. The County pays the salaries of the three election commissioners, and their chief clerk and assistant chief clerk. The City of Chicago and the Town of Cicero pay the other expenses of administering the office of the Board of Election Commissioners. Chicago meets the expenses of the actual holding of elections which are directly chargeable to it. Cicero does likewise.

The County, besides paying its share of the cost of holding elections within the territory subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Election Commissioners, pays the expense of general elections and primaries for the portion of Cook County outside the jurisdiction of the Election Commissioners.

For municipal elections in Chicago, the City pays for the printing and delivery of ballots and cards of instructions. For elections other than municipal, these expenses are borne by the County. For city elections, the salaries of judges and clerks are paid by the City; for other elections, the County pays these bills. The City pays the rent for polling places within the city limits in all cases. Expenses of the character paid by the City of Chicago are paid by the Town of Cicero for the precincts within that town. For the purposes of this study it is not important to analyze carefully the apportionment of the expenses among the different governing authorities, as it is the cost to the community as a whole and the possibility of reducing it that are the particular objects of inquiry.

Part of the general administrative expense, such as the salaries of the commissioners, is the same, whether the elections be fewer or more. Some items of administrative expense will fluctuate according to the general volume of activity. There are items of expense, however, that bear a direct relation to the number of primaries and elections. These are the salaries of judges and clerks, rental of polling places, legal advertising, the cost of printing ballots, and the expense of transporting voting booths and ballot boxes.

ITEMS OF THE COST OF ELECTIONS.

The heaviest single item in the cost of holding a primary or an election is the pay of the judges and clerks. There are three judges and two clerks to a precinct, each receiving \$5 a day for his services, making the cost per precinct per day of service on this account \$25. As there are 1,329 precincts in the City

of Chicago, the pay of judges and clerks for one day of service amounts to \$33,225. Not only are the judges and clerks on duty on election day, but on registration day and revision night also. There is one registration day prior to each annual city election. Following the registration, a canvass of the precinct is made by the two clerks, each of whom receives pay for a day's work. Then there is revision night, after registration and prior to election, for which each judge and clerk receives \$5.

The rental paid for polling places is as follows: Primary day, \$7; election day, \$7; registration day, \$5; revision night, \$3. Total, \$22.

In a few precincts, in the 1st and 18th wards, where polling places are difficult to secure, the rental paid is somewhat higher. The total excess above the regular schedule on this account is given as about \$200.

The cost of printing ballots for a city or judicial election is about \$4,000. The cost of printing ballots for a city or judicial primary is about the same as for a city election. The cartage of booths and ballot boxes for an ordinary election or primary involves an expense of about \$2,000. The item of legal advertising for an election or a primary is about \$1,000.

Account ought to be taken also of the value of police service; of the extra expense of general administration; and of the loss arising from the fact that primary days and election days are recognized as legal holidays.

The police draw their pay regularly, no matter in what line of service they are engaged. There is no extra payment on this account, therefore. But when members of the police force are engaged in election duty, they are, of course, taken from regular police duty. On the assumption that they are constantly needed for police service, and that their withdrawal from that service leaves the city exposed to danger, it is proper to figure in the wages of police officers assigned to election duty as an election

cost. About 1,450 policemen are ordinarily assigned to election duty on every election day and primary day. The wages of these policemen for one day exceed \$6,000.

Such items of cost as the portion of general administrative expense properly assignable to a particular primary or election and the loss to the public service and to the community on account of the closing down of business due to the holiday can be only roughly estimated. But they are factors of importance.

COST OF A CITY PRIMARY.

The cost of a city primary may be set forth in tabular form as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Pay of judges and clerks (1,329 precincts at \$25 each) | \$33,225 |
| Rental of polling places (1,329 precincts at \$7 each, with \$200 added for 1st and 18th wards) | 9,503 |
| Printing ballots | 4,000 |
| Cartage | 2,000 |
| Legal advertising | 1,000 |
| Total direct expenditure..... | <u>\$49,728</u> |

The cost of a judicial primary would be substantially the same for the territory within Chicago as a city primary—\$49,728. For the portion of Cook County outside of Chicago the cost of a judicial primary is about \$6,000, making the cost of a judicial primary about \$55,728.

The total direct money saving to Chicago and Cook County, in a six-year period, by the abolition of city and judicial primaries, is shown in the following table:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Six city primaries, \$49,728 each..... | \$298,368 |
| Two judicial primaries, \$55,728 each..... | 111,456 |
| Total saving in six year period..... | <u>\$409,824</u> |
| Average annual saving | \$68,304 |

This average annual saving of \$68,304, which could be effected by the elimination of city and judicial primaries, does not by any means tell the whole story, even as to money costs involved. The other items cannot be set forth with such definiteness, but they should not be overlooked. Among them are the administrative expense connected with the holding of a primary, involving the employment of extra help in the office of the Election Commissioners; the value of police service; the loss due to recognizing the day as a holiday; and various incidentals.

The expenditure for city and judicial primaries, instead of being in anywise beneficial, serves only pernicious ends. The money is worse than wasted. If there were no question of money saving involved, it would still be the part of wisdom to eliminate partisan primaries for municipal and judicial elections.

WHAT AN ELECTION COSTS.

The cost of a judicial election is about the same as that of a judicial primary. The saving by the elimination of a judicial election, therefore, would be in round numbers \$56,000. Allowances for administrative expense, police service, and loss due to recognizing an election day as a holiday would make the total considerably larger.

A city election is much more expensive than a judicial election or a city or judicial primary, largely for the reason that the law requires a registration day prior to a city election. The direct cost figures of a city election are presented in the following table:

Pay of Judges and Clerks:

Per Precinct—

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Election day | \$25 |
| Registration day | 25 |
| Canvass (two clerks)..... | 10 |
| Revision night | 25 |

\$85

1,329 precincts at \$85 each.....\$112,965

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Carried forward | \$112,965 |
| Rental of Polling Places: | |
| Per Precinct— | |
| Election day | \$ 7 |
| Registration day | 5 |
| Revision night | 3 |
| | ————— |
| | \$15 |
| 1,329 precincts at \$15 each..... | \$ 19,935 |
| Extra rental 1st and 18th wards..... | 200 |
| Printing ballots | 4,000 |
| Cartage | 2,000 |
| Legal advertising | 1,000 |
| | ————— |
| Total direct expenditure..... | \$140,100 |

Allowances for administrative expense, value of police service, loss due to recognizing election day as a holiday, and various incidentals would make the saving by the elimination of a city election considerably more than the sum given—\$140,100.

A biennial November election is more expensive than a city election, because it involves two registration days instead of one, and larger bills for printing.

PRIMARY DAYS AND ELECTION DAYS AS HOLIDAYS.

Attention has been directed to the waste resulting from the fact that primary days and election days are recognized as legal holidays. This provision of law is a heritage from the time when all public employes were supposed to be engaged in political work for the bosses on primary days and on election days. Under enlightened standards public employes ought to be satisfied with the two hours allowed by law to every citizen for voting purposes. Not only does the present arrangement cause a waste of time to public employes, but it is a disturbance to business. It is absurd that banks and the board of trade should be obliged to close on account of local elections or primaries, when there is no corresponding holiday in other cities. Election days and primary days are not recognized as holidays in the business world, except to the extent that the law is interpreted to require the observance.

The legislature ought to remove from existing statutes the provision making all primary and election days legal holidays.

APPENDIX.

CALENDAR

OF ELECTION EVENTS IN CHICAGO FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS.

- 1911—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
Judicial primaries in April.
Judicial election in November.
- 1912—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
General primaries in April.
Two registration days, and canvass and revision days in October.
General election in November.
- 1913—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
- 1914—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
General primaries in April.
Two registration days, and canvass and revision days in October.
General election in November.
- 1915—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
Judicial primaries in April.
Judicial election in June.
- 1916—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
General primaries in April.
Two registration days, and canvass and revision days in October.
General election in November.
- 1917—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
Judicial primaries in April.
Judicial election in November.
- 1918—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.
General primaries in April.
Two registration days, and canvass and revision days in October.
General election in November.
- 1919—City primaries in February.
Registration, canvass and revision days in March.
City election in April.

COST OF ELECTIONS

For Territory under Jurisdiction of the Board of Election Commissioners (City of Chicago and Town of Cicero).

| YEAR | Administrative Expense | Election Expense | Primary Expense | TOTAL |
|------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1895 | \$ 76,799.24 | \$174,241.62 | | \$251,040.86 |
| 1896 | 100,458.77 | 187,822.59 | | 288,281.36 |
| 1897 | 103,426.48 | 164,261.77 | | 267,688.25 |
| 1898 | 129,432.50 | 300,576.52 | \$42,700.71 | 472,709.73 |
| 1899 | 114,470.30 | 139,320.12 | 18,977.89 | 272,768.31 |
| 1900 | 151,442.72 | 300,924.77 | 44,617.29 | 496,984.78 |
| 1901 | 98,048.74 | 156,385.68 | 23,926.51 | 278,360.93 |
| 1902 | 111,687.64 | 327,726.95 | 56,492.99 | 495,907.58 |
| 1903 | 105,348.47 | 193,536.36 | 26,216.06 | 325,100.89 |
| 1904 | 129,600.77 | 337,309.65 | 48,931.69 | 515,842.11 |
| 1905 | 127,418.92 | 295,914.90 | 57,963.46 | 481,297.28 |
| 1906 | 148,522.65 | 378,063.54 | 92,858.37 | 619,444.56 |
| 1907 | 134,715.89 | 288,502.33 | 30,684.38 | 453,902.60 |
| 1908 | 180,506.10 | 348,083.40 | 76,643.27 | 605,232.77 |
| 1909 | 165,286.69 | 219,409.59 | 91,221.79 | 475,918.07 |
| 1910 | 181,967.91 | 358,988.82 | 77,493.73 | 618,450.46 |
| 1911 | 207,455.84 | 368,503.20 | 98,096.26 | 674,055.30 |
| 1912 | *223,845.02 | { †188,500.00 *386,247.09 | *113,215.18 | *911,807.29 |

Approximate Total Cost for the Whole of Cook County for the Year 1912.

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Chicago and Cicero | \$223,845.02 | \$574,747.09 | \$113,215.18 | \$911,807.29 |
| Portion of County outside of Chicago and Cicero | \$ 5,126.15 | \$ 16,416.60 | \$ 9,537.50 | \$ 31,080.25 |
| Total | \$228,971.17 | \$591,163.69 | \$122,752.68 | \$942,887.54 |

*Approximate. For the years 1895 to 1911, both inclusive, the figures are taken from the books of the Board of Election Commissioners and show actual expenditures. For the year 1912 the figures represent actual expenditures up to December 1, as shown by the books, with estimates of expenditures for the month of December.

†Voting Machines.

TABLE SHOWING TOTAL COST AS APPORTIONED AMONG THE CITY OF CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, AND THE TOWN OF CICERO,
FOR TERRITORY UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS (CHICAGO AND CICERO)
—ALSO AVERAGE COST PER PRECINCT.

| YEAR | PROPORTION OF ELECTION COSTS CHARGED TO | | | Total Cost within Jurisdiction of Bd. of Elec. Commissioners | COSTS PER PRECINCT IN TERRITORY WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS. | | | | | | | |
|------|---|--------------|------------|--|---|----------|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | City | County | Cicero | | Charged to City | | Charged to County for Precincts in Chicago & Cicero | | Charged to Cicero | Total per City Precinct | Total per Cicero Precinct | |
| | | | | | No. Prec. | A | No. Prec. | B | | | | No. Prec. |
| 1895 | \$199,888.41 | \$ 48,328.16 | \$2,824.29 | \$251,040.86 | 920 | \$217.27 | 933 | \$ 51.80 | 13 | \$217.25 | \$269.07 | \$269.05 |
| 1896 | 218,906.64 | 66,308.25 | 3,066.47 | 288,281.36 | 921 | 237.68 | 934 | 70.99 | 13 | 235.88 | 308.67 | 306.87 |
| 1897 | 231,108.93 | 32,853.08 | 3,726.24 | 267,688.25 | 1109 | 208.39 | 1127 | 29.15 | 18 | 207.01 | 237.54 | 236.16 |
| 1898 | 371,876.11 | 149,718.08 | 5,115.54 | 472,709.73 | 1109 | 286.63 | 1127 | 132.85 | 18 | 284.20 | 419.48 | 417.05 |
| 1899 | 259,102.12 | 11,131.79 | 2,534.40 | 272,768.31 | 1109 | 233.63 | 1127 | 9.88 | 18 | 140.80 | 243.51 | 150.68 |
| 1900 | 338,744.52 | 154,915.97 | 3,324.29 | 496,984.78 | 1116 | 303.53 | 1127 | 137.46 | 11 | 302.21 | 440.99 | 439.67 |
| 1901 | 264,080.73 | 11,499.84 | 2,830.36 | 278,360.93 | 1248 | 211.56 | 1261 | 9.12 | 13 | 217.72 | 220.68 | 226.84 |
| 1902 | 325,697.92 | 169,341.75 | 867.91 | 495,907.58 | 1253 | 259.93 | 1256 | 134.82 | 3 | 289.30 | 394.75 | 424.12 |
| 1903 | 279,466.83 | 44,889.70 | 744.36 | 325,100.89 | 1253 | 223.04 | 1256 | 35.74 | 3 | 248.12 | 258.78 | 283.86 |
| 1904 | 342,872.38 | 172,061.38 | 908.35 | 515,842.11 | 1253 | 273.64 | 1256 | 136.99 | 3 | 302.78 | 410.63 | 439.77 |
| 1905 | 338,123.78 | 141,760.01 | 1,413.49 | 481,297.28 | 1254 | 269.63 | 1259 | 112.59 | 5 | 282.70 | 382.22 | 395.28 |
| 1906 | 373,747.92 | 244,121.68 | 1,574.96 | 619,444.56 | 1254 | 298.04 | 1259 | 193.90 | 5 | 314.99 | 491.94 | 508.89 |
| 1907 | 439,943.57 | 12,754.82 | 1,204.21 | 453,902.60 | 1256 | 350.27 | 1261 | 10.11 | 5 | 240.84 | 360.38 | 250.95 |
| 1908 | 400,328.65 | 203,091.40 | 1,312.72 | 605,232.77 | 1260 | 317.72 | 1265 | 160.54 | 5 | 362.54 | 478.26 | 523.08 |
| 1909 | 387,241.45 | 86,568.88 | 2,107.74 | 475,918.07 | 1322 | 292.92 | 1329 | 65.14 | 7 | 301.11 | 358.05 | 366.24 |
| 1910 | 405,708.62 | 211,731.84 | 1,010.00 | 618,450.46 | 1322 | 306.89 | 1329 | 159.32 | 7 | 144.29 | 466.21 | 303.61 |
| 1911 | 428,061.18 | 244,965.12 | 1,029.00 | 674,055.30 | 1329 | 322.17 | 1337 | 183.22 | 8 | 128.63 | 505.39 | 311.85 |
| 1912 | *684,759.18 | *225,936.11 | *1,112.00 | *911,807.29 | 1329 | *515.24 | 1337 | *168.99 | 8 | *139.00 | *684.23 | *307.99 |

For the portion of Cook County outside of Chicago and Cicero, the election expenses for county elections for 1912, payable solely by the County, were \$31,080.25. This sum added to the total for Chicago and Cicero—\$911,807.29—gives a total for the entire County of \$942,887.54. As there are 161 election precincts in the County outside of Chicago and Cicero, the cost per precinct in that territory for 1912 was \$193.05.

*Approximate. For the years 1895 to 1911, both inclusive, the figures are taken from the books of the Board of Election Commissioners and show actual expenditures. For the year 1912, the figures represent actual expenditures up to December 1, as shown by the books, with estimates of expenditures for the month of December.



