

**Election Law—State and National
Registers, Inspectors, Judges and
Their Respective Duties.**

[Condensed from Acts of the Legislature of 1872-3-4-5, ordinances of Convention, and Supreme Court decisions.]

An election shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, to wit, the 7th day of November, 1876, for the following officers to-wit:

For Electors, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Attorney General. Members of the House of Representatives, members of the General Assembly for their respective counties and districts, a county Treasurer, Register of Deeds, County Surveyor, five county Commissioners, Coroners and Sheriff, and for the ratification or rejection of the proposed amendments to the Constitution of North Carolina, with six separate boxes for the reception of votes to-wit:

Presidential Box—For the election of ten Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States. Opposite the name of each elector must be given the number of the Congressional District in which he resides. To vote for any two of them as "Electors for the State at Large," would not be lawful.]

Congressional Box—For the election of representatives of the Congressional districts of North Carolina in the sixth Congress.

State Ticket Box—For the election of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Attorney General.

Legislative Box—For the election of Senators from the Senatorial districts and members of the House of Representatives to the next session of the Legislature.

County Box—For the election of a county Treasurer, Register of Deeds, County Surveyor, five county Commissioners, Coroners and Sheriff.

Constitutional Amendments Box—For the ratification or rejection of the several amendments to the Constitution, submitted to the people by the late Constitutional Convention of the State of North Carolina. [The ticket for this box to have the word *Ratification* or the word *Rejection*; those opposed to the said amendments will vote a ticket having on it the word *Rejection*.]

NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS.

Registers shall be furnished with a registration book; and it shall be their duty to revise the existing registration books of their precinct or township in such manner that said book shall show an accurate list of electors previously registered in such precinct or township, and still residing therein, without requiring such electors to register anew, and such registers shall between the hours of sunrise and sunset on each day (Sundays excepted) from the first Tuesday in October, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, up to and including the day preceding the first Tuesday in November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, keep open said books for the registration of any elector residing in such precinct or township and entitled to registration, whose name may never before been registered in such precinct or township, or do not appear in the revised list.

WHERE TO REGISTER AND VOTE.

No elector shall be entitled to register or vote in any other precinct or township than the one in which he is an actual and *bona fide* resident on the day of election, and no certificate of registration shall be given.

WHAT AND HOW TO CHALLENGE VOTERS.

It shall be the duty of the registrar and judges of the election to attend at the polling place of their township or precinct with the registration books on the Saturday preceding the election, at the hour of nine o'clock A.M., till the hour of five o'clock P.M., when and where the said books shall be open to the inspection of the electors of the precinct or township, and any of said electors shall be allowed to object to the name of any person appearing on said books. In case of any such objection the registrar shall enter upon his books, opposite to the name of the person so objected to, the word "challenged," and shall appoint a time and place for the hearing the election day, when he, together with said judges of election, shall hear and decide said objection, giving due notice to the voter so objected to.

—[A]t such hearing the power of rejection, for good cause, can be exercised; the registered voter challenged on election day can swear in his vote—T.S.N.C.B.—

Provided, that nothing in this section contained shall be construed to prohibit the right of any elector to challenge or object to the name of any person registered, or offering to register, at any time other than that above specified. If any person challenged or objected to shall be found not duly qualified, as provided in this chapter, or as provided in the Constitution, the registrar shall erase his name from the books.

[This proviso, But, Rev. chap. 52, sec. 10, is unintelligible, and only is repeated of course by the decision in the case of Van Bokelyn vs. Canada, 73 N.C.B., which allows the voter to swear in his vote on citizenship, age, residence in State and in equality, which oath if taken, cannot be gainsaid; and the judges of election have no right to examine any other person as to its truth or falsity. Indemnity for perjury is all that can follow.]

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES AND INSPECTORS—THEIR DUTIES.

The County Commissioners, on or before the first Monday of October, 1876, shall appoint four judges of inspectors of election, two of whom shall be of different political party, where possible, from the registrar, at each place of holding election in the respective counties. The said judges of election shall attend at the places for which they are severally appointed, on the day of election, and there together with the registrar for said precinct or township, who shall act as their deputies to compel the attendance

of the delinquent returning officer with the vote of his precinct. When the commissioners have thus completed the comparison of the polls they shall proclaim the result at the court house door, of the voting in their county for all the persons voted for and the number of votes cast for each, and shall immediately thereafter file with the register of deeds and with the sheriff of their county, or in case there be no sheriff, with the coroner, a certified statement of the same. The commissioners shall also file with the register of deeds the returns made by the judges of election of each precinct.

PENALTY WHEN REGISTRAR AND INSPECTORS REFUSE TO SERVE.

Any registrar or judge of election appointed under the provisions of this chapter, or any county commissioners, register of deeds, or sheriff failing or neglecting to make the returns and perform the duties required of him by this chapter, for the non performance of which no penalty has been hereinbefore imposed, shall be fined not less than five hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than six nor less than two months, at the discretion of the court.

PENALTIES AGAINST FRAUDULENT VOTING AND REGISTERING.

Any person who shall with intent to commit a fraud, register or vote at more than one place, or more than one time, or who shall induce another to do so, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be imprisoned not less than twelve months, or fined not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, at the discretion of the court; and any registrar of the voters, or any other person or copy with intent to commit a fraud shall be liable to the same penalty.

PENALTY.

Any person who shall falsely and corruptly take the oath prescribed for voters shall be deemed to be guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars, and be imprisoned at hard labor in the penitentiary not less than two nor more than five years.

FEDERAL SUPERVISORS—THEIR DUTIES.

We are indebted to Col. A. W. Shaffer, Chief Supervisor, for the following digest of so much of the Revised Statutes of the United States, "Title 12, the Elective franchise," as relates to the powers and duties of supervisors of elections in North Carolina.

1. Supervisors of election are appointed by the Circuit Court on the application of ten citizens of a precinct or county, through the Chief Supervisor, and hold office during the pleasure of the Court.

2. Two Supervisors are appointed for each precinct, of opposite political sentiments, who must be voters therein, and able to read and write the English language.

3. They must take and subscribe the statutory oath of office and file the same with the Chief Supervisor before entering upon duty.

4. They are required to attend at the place of registration and of voting with three other member of Congress or other United States officer to be selected.

5. They are to take, occupy and hold such positions as in their judgment will best enable them to see the ballot boxes, and the persons offering to register and vote, and to scrutinize the manner in which the registration and voting is being conducted.

6. They are to mark for challenge, and challenge any person known or suspected to be wrongfully offering to register or vote, and to note upon the books the name of any person who may be included, or allowed, or refused to register and vote.

7. They must personally inspect and scrutinize the registry and poll books, and may affix their signatures to each page thereof, in such manner as to enable them to detect and expose any wrongful addition or removal of names or checks therein.

8. They are to personally count and scrutinize each ballot in the canvass, after the close of the polls on election day, in whatever place the box found, and however many boxes, each ballot may be endorsed, altered, and yet leave the place of registration or voting with such registration or voting together with the canvass and counting of the votes and all the reports, returns, certificates and statements of counts thereof, relating to such registration or election are wholly unimpaired.

9. They must immediately forward to the Chief Supervisor of the District, full and detailed statement made out, of every unlawful registration or vote offered or accepted, and of every lawful registration or vote offered and refused; every unlawful attempt to hinder, delay, prevent or obstruct any person entitled to register or vote, from registering or voting, or to allow any person not entitled to register or vote, every attempt by bribery, solicitation, influence, hindrance, intimidation, violence or threats thereof, on the part of any person or persons, whatever to prevent the supervisor or other officers from fully and freely performing all the duties of themselves to such registration and election; and generally, every violation of the law relating to such election, together with the names of the offenders and the witnesses thereto.

10. Supervisors having no power to make arrests, when summoned thereto by the Deputy Marshal, and have no authority, whatever except at the usual place of registration, and voting, and in the presence of the officers holding the polls, to meet again on the following Tuesday at twelve o'clock M., when the polls of the various precincts of the county shall be compared, and in the meantime they shall direct the sheriff or one of his deputies to compel the attendance

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of Guilford.

For Lieutenant Governor:
WILLIAM A. SMITH,
of Johnston.

For Secretary of State:
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of Perquimans.

For Auditor:
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For Treasurer:
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DANIEL L. RUSSELL, of the Third Congressional District.

JOHN B. RESPASS, of the First Congressional District.

WILLIAM J. CLARKE, of the Second Congressional District.

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