



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

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# Elections - Historical Notes

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We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

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Sincerely,

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# Elections - Historical Notes

## **Districts and Reapportionment**

The acts listed below have affected the civil districts in Marshall County, but are no longer operative regarding elections.

1. Private Acts of 1907, Chapter 224 directed that the line between the third and fourth civil districts in Marshall County be changed such that J. L. Beatty would be in the third instead of the fourth civil district.
2. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 431, changed the line between the 3rd and 4th Civil Districts so as to include the farms of J. M. Robbins, P. A. McKnight, and J. N. Brown in the Third Civil District.
3. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 620, changed the lines between the 3rd and 4th Civil District by moving the lands of P. S. Gipson, William Hood, and T. N. Scott from the 4th into the 3rd Civil District.
4. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 622, also changed the borders between the 3rd and 4th Civil Districts by including all the lands of W. T. Allen, 24 acres belonging to C. R. Mullens next to Allen's, W. R. Hills, and J. H. Hills, Jr. in the 3rd Civil District.
5. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 567, provided that the lines be changed between the old 14th and 15th Civil Districts so that the lands of E. O. Edwards be included in the 15th Civil District.
6. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 568, changed the lines between the old 14th and 17th Civil Districts by moving the lands of M. A. Caneer into the 14th District.
7. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 508, also altered the lines between the 14th and 17th Civil Districts by transferring 112 acres belonging to Marcus A. Cancer into the 14th Civil District. This was seemingly the same property mentioned in Item 5, above.
8. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 226, changed the line between the 2nd and 3rd Civil Districts by moving 117 acres of S. N. Liggett into the 3rd Civil District, and further, changed the lines between the 3rd and 4th Civil Districts by detaching the farm of Thad Beasley and 59 acres of W. B. Adams from the 4th and placing both into the 3rd Civil District.
9. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 486, changed the boundaries between the new 3rd and 4th Civil Districts by moving 305 acres of L. B. Fowler, 167 acres of O. K. Turner, 57 acres of W. B. Clift, 29 acres of J. F. Emerson, 17 acres of Mrs. Della Lawrence and 48 acres, which was part of the farm of E. N. Collins into the Third, and changed the lines between the 12th and 15th Civil Districts by moving the 100 acres of W. T. Thompson into the 15th Civil District.
10. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 143, moved the 38 acres belonging to Mrs. M. N. Jordan from the 4th Civil District to the 3rd Civil District of the County.
11. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 243, altered the lines between the 4th and 6th Civil District by moving 12 acres of W. T. Turner, 18 acres of W. C. Caneer, 16 acres of Joe Rutledge, and 50 acres of H. T. Cochran from the 6th District to the 4th Civil District.
12. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 552, moved the farm belonging to E. D. Richardson, containing 99 acres, more or less, from the 13th Civil District to the 17th Civil District.
13. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 186, changed the new 3rd and the new 7th Civil District so as to include the farms of J. D. Hill, N. C. Hill, and Mrs. N. P. Gipson in the new 7th District.
14. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 249, was an exact duplicate of Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 186, above.
15. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 649, changed the 2nd and 3rd Civil Districts by detaching the farm of F. B. Houston from the Second and placing it in the Third Civil District.
16. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 758, also duplicated Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 649, above.

## **Elections**

The following is a listing of acts for Marshall County which affected the elective process, but which have been superseded or repealed. They are listed here for historical and reference purposes.

1. Acts of 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 1, apportioned Tennessee for the General Assembly. Marshall County would elect one Representative and share another with Bedford with the polls to be counted at Reynoldsburg. Marshall and Bedford would share the 12th State Senatorial District and the polls would be taken at Farmington in Marshall County.
2. Acts of 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 7, divided the State into eleven U.S. Congressional Districts

- placing Franklin, Lincoln, Bedford, and Marshall Counties in the 5th.
3. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 196, divided Tennessee into ten U.S. Congressional Districts. The 6th was made up of Franklin, Bedford, Marshall, Lincoln and Maury Counties.
  4. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 197, apportioned the State for the General Assembly giving Marshall County one Representative alone and letting the county share another with Lincoln and Giles Counties and the ballots would be counted at the home of W. F. Smith. Bedford and Marshall would form one Senatorial District with the polls to be taken at Farmington.
  5. Acts of 1865, Chapter 34, delineated the State into 8 U.S. Congressional Districts probably due to the decimation of the Civil War. The Fourth District was made up of Rutherford, Cannon, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Bedford, and Giles Counties.
  6. Acts of 1871, Chapter 146, was the state's apportionment according to the census of 1870. There were 25 Senatorial Districts of which Marshall, Franklin, and Lincoln Counties formed the 13th. Marshall would elect one Representative alone.
  7. Acts of 1872, Chapter 7, created 9 U.S. Congressional District. The Fourth consisted of Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, Bedford, Coffee, Cannon, and Rutherford Counties.
  8. Acts of 1873, Chapter 27, also provided for ten U.S. Congressional Districts. The 5th was made up of Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore, Bedford, Coffee and Rutherford Counties.
  9. Acts of 1881 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 6, reapportioned the State for the General Assembly. Marshall County would elect one Representative and share one with Rutherford and Bedford Counties. Of the 33 Senatorial Districts Marshall County and Williamson County composed the 16th District.
  10. Acts of 1882 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 27, divided Tennessee into ten U.S. Congressional Districts. The Fifth was made up of Cannon, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Moore, Marshall, Bedford, and Rutherford Counties.
  11. Acts of 1890 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 24, was a statewide election law applicable to counties over 70,000 in population and cities over 9,000 according to the 1880 census.
  12. Acts of 1891 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 10, apportioned the State according to the 1890 Federal Census. Marshall County would elect only one Representative to the General Assembly and share the 21st Senatorial District with Lincoln County.
  13. Acts of 1901, Chapter 109, out of the ten U.S. Congressional Districts formed by this Act. The 5th was composed of DeKalb, Cannon, Rutherford, Marshall, Bedford, Coffee, Moore, and Lincoln Counties.
  14. Acts of 1901, Chapter 122, placed Lincoln and Marshall Counties in the 19th State Senatorial District and provided that Marshall County would elect one Representative.
  15. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 13, amended the General Election laws of the State enacted in 1897 and primarily concerned with the registration of voters so as to exclude Marshall County from the requirement that voters be registered and that registration be a prerequisite to voting.
  16. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 40, seems to be an exact duplicate of Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 13, which is mentioned above.
  17. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 307, set the per diem of all election officials in Marshall County at \$5 per day. This Act was properly ratified and became law until it was superseded by the 1972 Act, Adjourned Session, which set a minimum of \$15 per day for election officials.

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