



March 26, 2025

Chapter VII - Elections

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

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.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee
County Technical Assistance Service
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
615.532.3555 phone
615.532.3699 fax
www.ctas.tennessee.edu

Table of Contents

Chapter VII - Elections 3
Districts - Reapportionment 3
Ninth Civil Districts 3
Private Acts of 1917 Chapter 717 3
Private Acts of 1903 Chapter 298 3
Private Acts of 1917 Chapter 638 4
Private Acts of 1927 Chapter 44 4
Private Acts of 1921 Chapter 50 4
Private Acts of 1967-68 Chapter 324 5
Elections - Historical Notes 5

Chapter VII - Elections

Districts - Reapportionment

Ninth Civil Districts

Private Acts of 1917 Chapter 717

SECTION 1. That Chapter 298 of the Acts of 1903 be, and is hereby amended by creating and establishing out of what is now the Ninth Civil District of said Cocke County, the Tenth Civil District of said Cocke County, which shall embrace and include all the territory embraced in and which composed the Thirteenth Civil District prior to and at the date of the passage of said Chapter 298 of the Acts of 1903.

SECTION 2. That the part of the Ninth Civil District remaining after the detachment of the territory included in and composing the Tenth Civil District herein created be and remain the Ninth Civil District of said County of Cocke, and that the magistrate and other officers in said remaining territory herein designated as the Ninth District be and remain officers of said Ninth District; and that the magistrate and other officers residing in and holding office in the territory herein created the Tenth Civil District of said county be and the same are officers in and for said Tenth District.

SECTION 3. That the voting precincts of Sutton and Naillon heretofore known as the voting precincts of said Ninth District be and the same hereby constitute the voting precincts respectively of the Ninth and Tenth Districts herein established.

SECTION 4. That an additional magistrate for each of the Ninth and Tenth Civil Districts shall be elected by the people of said districts, and for this purpose the Election Commissioners of said county shall call an election to be held on the first Saturday in July following the passage of this Act, said election to be held under the present requirements and restrictions; and said Election Commissioners shall give notice at least thirty days prior to the date of said election in a newspaper published in Cocke County, or by printed circulars posted at the voting precincts in each of said districts where said Election Commissioners shall meet on Tuesday following said election for the purpose of canvassing the returns of said election, and upon so doing, shall declare the person polling the largest number of votes in the Ninth District and the person polling the largest number of votes in the Tenth District duly and legally constituted a magistrate of said district in which elected, until the next regular election.

SECTION 5. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 2, 1917.

Private Acts of 1903 Chapter 298

SECTION 1. That the Second, Fifth, Ninth, Seventh, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth and Seventeenth Civil Districts of Cocke County as now laid out and constituted, be and the same are hereby abolished, and that the territory therein be attached to the Third, Fourth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Eleventh and Sixteenth Civil Districts as follows:

1. That all the territory lying and being within the lines of the Second District herein abolished, be and the same is hereby attached to the Third Civil District of said county and that said district be known and designated as District No. 2 of said county.
2. That all the territory lying and being within the lines of the Fifth and Seventeenth Civil Districts herein abolished, be and the same is hereby attached to the Fourth Civil District of Cocke County, and that said district be known and designated as District No. 3 of said county.
3. That all the territory lying and being within the lines of the Ninth Civil District herein abolished, be and the same is hereby attached to the Tenth Civil District of said county, and that said district be known and designated as District No. 5 of said county.
4. That all the territory lying and being within the lines of the Fourteenth District herein abolished,

be and the same is hereby attached to the Eleventh Civil District and that said district shall be known and designated as District No. 7 of said county.

5. That all the territory lying and being within the lines of the Fifteenth Civil District herein abolished, be and the same is hereby attached to the Eighth Civil District of said county, and that said district shall be known and designated as District No. 8 of said county.

6. That all the territory lying and being within the lines of the Thirteenth Civil District herein abolished, be and the same is hereby attached to the Twelfth Civil District, and that said district shall be known and designated as District No. 9 of said county.

7. That all the territory lying and being within the lines of the Seventh District herein abolished, be and the same is hereby attached to the Sixteenth Civil District, and said civil district shall be known and designated as District No. 4 of said county.

SECTION 2. That the number of civil districts for said county as herein established shall not be increased or diminished except by Act of the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. That the offices of all the Justices of the Peace and Constables in the several districts herein abolished be and the same are hereby abolished.

SECTION 4. That the Justices of the Peace heretofore having jurisdiction over the territory formerly embraced within the districts abolished, and whose offices are abolished, shall turn over all books and papers belonging to their offices to the Justices who acquire jurisdiction of said territory under this Act, and the Justices to whom such books and papers are turned over may issue execution on judgments rendered by said Justices prior to the abolishing of their said offices, try all causes returned before them and pending when this Act takes effect and perform all Acts with reference to said abolished offices which the Justices holding the said offices could have legally performed if said offices had not been abolished.

SECTION 5. That the voting places or precincts in said county remain as they now are; provided, that the County Court upon the petition of two-thirds of the legal voters of any district may change the places for voting in said district and appoint a new voting place or places.

SECTION 6. That this Act shall not affect the school districts of said county as now laid out and established by law.

SECTION 7. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed, and that this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 25, 1903.

Private Acts of 1917 Chapter 638

SECTION 1. That the district line between the Fourth and Sixth Civil Districts of Cocke County, Tennessee, is hereby changed so as to include all of the farm of J. A. Susong within the 6th Civil District, as the boundaries of same shall be located after the passage of this Act, said farm being situated on the Cosby Pike adjoining the lands of D.M. Hampton and others.

SECTION 2. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 5, 1917.

Private Acts of 1927 Chapter 44

SECTION 1. That the line between the Fifth and Ninth Civil Districts of Cocke County, be and is hereby so changed as to transfer the lands or farm of Wade Giles from the Fifth to the Ninth Civil District.

SECTION 2. That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: January 31, 1927.

Private Acts of 1921 Chapter 50

SECTION 1. That the territory in Cocke County, Tennessee, embraced within the boundary hereinafter described shall be and hereafter constitute the Eleventh (11th) Civil District of Cocke County, Tennessee, and shall have all the privileges and powers as any other Civil District in said County, said territory being bounded and described as follows: to-wit:

Beginning on the old Harrison line on the West bank of Big Pigeon River just south of Buffton, Tennessee,

and running along and with said Harrison line in a southwesterly direction to the top of a ridge dividing the territory known as Miller's Branch and Cane Hollow, thence with the Crest of said ridge to the old Gilliland line, thence with said Gilliland line crossing the public road to the gap in the ridge at the head of Trail Hollow, thence along and with the meanders of the Crest of Chestnut mountain to a gap in said mountain at the old State Road, thence with the meanders of the mountain which divided the waters of Crosby Creek and the tributaries of Pigeon River to the top of White Rock Mountain on the boundary line between the States of North Carolina and Tennessee, thence in a Northeasterly direction along and with said state line to said Pigeon River at Waterville, thence in a Northwesterly direction with the meanders of said river to the Rocky Branch, where the same empties into said river a short distance southeast of the T. & N. & C. Railroad bridge, thence up said Rocky Branch to its source, thence a straight line to the top of the ridge, thence with the crest of the ridge to the top of Little Rich Mountain to the H. L. Clark property line, thence with said Clark line to a gap in the ridge where the public road from Nailor to Grassy Fork crosses the ridge, thence with the meanders of the crest of Grassy Fork Mountain in a Northeasterly direction to the public road, thence in an easterly course on the divide between Big Creek and Mountain Creek to the top of Taper's Ridge thence with the divide between Big Creek and Nile Creek and along the crest of Buck Ridge to a place known as the Hangover Knob on the Eighth District line, thence in a southwest course with the Eighth District line to Pigeon River, and thence up said river in a southerly direction to the beginning corner, so as to include all of the territory within the above described boundary in the Eleventh (11th) Civil District, hereby created.

SECTION 2. That the election commissioners of Cocke County shall, on the St. Monday in March, 1921, open and hold an election in said District for the purpose of electing two (2) Justices of the Peace and one (1) constable for said District, who shall hold their offices until the next regular election for said offices: Provided that upon failure or refusal of the election commissioners to open and hold such election as above provided on said date, then the qualified voters of said District herein created shall have the right to open and hold said election as above provided on said date and said election so held by the qualified voters of said District shall have all the force and be as binding as if held by the Election Commissioners of said County. Provided further, that if for any reason the qualified voters or the Election Commissioners for said County fail to open and hold said election on said date herein mentioned, then the Election Commissioners for said County may on giving notice as required by law in such cases, open and hold an election for the purpose of electing said officers, at any subsequent date, and in case they fail to do so, the County Court of Cocke County shall order said Election Commissioners to hold an election for said purpose, at a date fixed by said Court, and if the Election Commissioners fail or refuse to hold said election at the time fixed by said Court, then the qualified voters of said District may hold said election on said date.

SECTION 3. That the voting places for said District shall be at Hartford, and at Brown Station. Provided that the County Court of said County may at any time by proper order designate the voting place or places within said District.

SECTION 4. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed and that this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: January 25, 1921.

Private Acts of 1967-68 Chapter 324

SECTION 1. The Reid Hill precinct of the eighth civil district of Cocke County is hereby removed from the eighth civil district and transferred to the first civil district of the county. Voters presently voting in the Reid Hill precinct shall continue to vote at the same precinct which shall henceforth be a part of the first district.

SECTION 2. This Act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Quarterly County Court of Cocke County before December 1, 1968. Its approval or non-approval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Quarterly County Court and certified by him to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 3. For purposes of ratifying this Act as provided in Section 2 it shall take effect upon becoming a law but for all other purposes on being ratified as provided in Section 2.

Passed: March 4, 1968.

Elections - Historical Notes

The following is a listing of acts for Cocke County which affected the elective process, but which have been

superseded or repealed. They are listed here for historical and reference purposes. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1797, Chapter 9, provided that the Cocke County electors were entitled to vote for a Congressman in the election to be held on the second Thursday in October, 1797.
2. Acts of 1803, Chapter 24, provided for the election of electors for the president and vice president of the United States. The counties of Hawkins, Claiborne, Grainger, Jefferson and Cocke composed the second electoral district and elected one elector.
3. Acts of 1812, Chapter 5, provided for the election of electors for the president and vice president of the United States. The counties of Cocke, Jefferson, Sevier, Grainger and Claiborne composed the second electoral district and elected one elector.
4. Acts of 1812, Chapter 27, provided for the election of representatives of the state to the United States Congress. The counties of Cocke, Jefferson, Grainger, Claiborne, Knox, Sevier and Blount composed the second representative district and elected one representative.
5. Acts of 1812, Chapter 57, apportioned the representation of the state for the state legislature. The counties of Jefferson and Cocke composed one election district and elected one senator.
6. Public Acts of 1819, Chapter 69, divided the state into representative and senatorial districts. The counties of Cocke, Sevier, Blount, and Monroe composed one election district and elected one senator. In addition, the counties of Cocke, Sullivan, Hawkins, Greene, Jefferson, Sevier, Grainger, Knox and Anderson elected one representative each.
7. Public Acts of 1822 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 1, placed Cocke County in the second United States congressional district.
8. Public Acts of 1823, Chapter 47, provided for the election of electors for the president and vice president of the United States. The second electoral district was composed of the counties of Cocke, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, Claiborne and Campbell.
9. Public Acts of 1824, Chapter 1, provided for the election of electors for the president and vice president of the United States. The second electoral district was composed of the counties of Cocke, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, Claiborne and Campbell.
10. Public Acts of 1826, Chapter 3, apportioned the representation of the general assembly of Tennessee. The counties of Cocke and Sevier elected one representative jointly and that the returning officers of the district met at the house of Jacob Bird.
11. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 17, provided for the election of electors for the president and vice president of the United States. The second electoral district was composed of the counties of Cocke, Sevier, Jefferson, Grainger, Claiborne and Campbell.
12. Public Acts of 1832, Chapter 4, divided the state into districts for the election of representatives to the United States Congress. The counties of Carter, Greene, Washington, Cocke and Jefferson composed the first congressional district.
13. Public Acts of 1832, Chapter 9, prescribed the mode of choosing electors to vote for president and vice president of the United States. In addition, the counties were divided into electoral district in which Cocke County was placed in the third electoral district, along with Sevier, Blount and Monroe counties.
14. Public Acts of 1833, Chapter 71, divided the state into representative and senatorial districts. The counties of Cocke, Jefferson, Grainger and Claiborne composed one election district and elected one senator. In addition, Cocke and Jefferson counties elected one representative jointly.
15. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 39, prescribed the mode of choosing electors to vote for president and vice president of the United States. In addition, the counties were divided into electoral district in which Cocke County was placed in the third district along with Blount and Monroe counties.
16. Acts of 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 1, provided that the counties of Cocke, Sevier and Blount would jointly elect one senator to the state senate.
17. Acts of 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 7, placed Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, Washington, Hawkins, Greene and Cocke counties in the first U.S. congressional district.
18. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 196, divided the state into congressional districts. Cocke County was placed in the first congressional district along with Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, Washington, Hawkins, Greene, Jefferson, Hancock and Sevier counties.
19. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 197, divided the state into senatorial and representative districts. Cocke County elected one representative and was placed in a senatorial district along with

- Greene, Sevier and Blount counties.
20. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 146, divided the state into senatorial and representative districts. Cocke County jointly elected one representative along with Sevier County and was placed in the third senatorial district along with Jefferson, Sevier and Blount counties.
 21. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 27, divided the state into congressional districts. Cocke County was placed in the first congressional district along with Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, Washington, Greene, Hawkins, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger and Hamblen counties.
 22. Public Acts of 1881 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 6, divided the state into senatorial and representative districts. Cocke County elected one representative and was placed in the third senatorial district along with Sevier, Jefferson and Hamblen counties.
 23. Public Acts of 1882, Chapter 27, divided the state into congressional districts. The counties of Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, Washington, Unicoi, Hawkins, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Claiborne, Cocke and Grainger composed the first congressional district.
 24. Public Acts of 1891, Chapter 131, divided the state into congressional districts. The counties of Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, Washington, Unicoi, Hawkins, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Claiborne, Cocke and Grainger composed the first congressional district.
 25. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 109, divided the state into congressional districts. The counties of Cocke, Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi, Washington, Greene, Hawkins, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger and Sevier composed the first congressional district.
 26. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 122, apportioned several counties of the state into senatorial and representative districts. Cocke County was placed in the fourth senatorial district and elected one representative.
 27. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 124, made the 1890 "purity of elections" law applicable to Cocke County. This was amended to provide that if a voter could not mark his own ballot, the holder of the election could mark it in the presence of at least two of the election judges, by Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 427.
 28. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 471, created the twelfth civil district of Cocke County, but this district was abolished and the act repealed by Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 192.
 29. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 275, created an additional voting precinct to be known as the "Bogard Precinct" in the fifth civil district of Cocke County.
 30. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 276, created the "Nough Precinct" in the first civil district. This act was amended by Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 287, to divide this precinct and create another voting precinct at the Midway School.
 31. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 99, provided that the members of the election commission were to receive \$50 annually for their services and the secretary of the commission was to receive an additional \$25 annually. This act also set the pay of election officers in Cocke County at \$2.00 per day.
 32. Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 282, provided that the Briar Thicket Voting Precinct in the third civil district was to be moved to the Holt's Community Center Schoolhouse.
 33. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 89, divided the seventh civil district into two voting precincts, one at Manning's Chapel School and one at the Mountain View School.
 34. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 405, created three additional voting precincts in the seventh civil district -- one at Northport School, one at Irish Cut School and one at the Westend School.
 35. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 443, set the salary of election officers in Cocke County at \$3.00 per day.
 36. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 706, was an extensive act creating a system of permanent voter registration in Cocke County. This act was amended by Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 748, to require the register to hold precinct registration for three days prior to any election in Cocke County.
 37. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 255, raised the per diem of election officers to \$4.00, but limited this salary to one day.
 38. Private Acts of 1961, Chapter 271, created a new voting precinct, the Bryant Precinct.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/chapter-vii-elections-13>