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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,

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Chapter VII - Elections

Districts - Reapportionment

Private Acts of 1965 Chapter 193

SECTION 1. That the sixteen Civil Districts of Coffee County established by Chapter 180 of the Private Acts of 1925 of Tennessee and now existing are hereby abolished and nine Civil Districts, as hereinafter described, are substituted and established in lieu thereof.

SECTION 2. That the boundaries of said nine new Civil Districts shall be as follows:

1. The First Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Sixth Civil District.
2. The Second Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the First and Fifteenth Civil Districts.
3. The Third Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Second and Third Civil Districts.
4. The Fourth Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Fourth and Sixteenth Civil Districts.
5. The Fifth Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Fifth and Fourteenth Civil Districts.
6. The Sixth Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Ninth and Tenth Civil Districts.
7. The Seventh Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Seventh and Eighth Civil Districts.
8. The Eighth Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Eleventh and Twelfth Civil Districts.
9. The Ninth Civil District shall be composed of and include the territory now constituting the Thirteenth Civil District.

SECTION 3. That the voting precincts in said County shall remain as at present until changed as provided by law.

SECTION 4. That there shall be elected two Justices of the Peace and one Constable in each of the above described and defined Civil Districts by the qualified voters, and in addition thereto, the Town of Manchester located in District No. 1 shall elect two additional Justices of the Peace as allowed such town by virtue of its being a municipality and the county town for such county, and the City of Tullahoma shall elect four additional Justices of the Peace which shall include the two now allowed such city by general law or otherwise provided therefor. The additional Justices of the Peace provided herein for the Town of Manchester and the City of Tullahoma shall have all the powers, duties and receive the compensation allowed other Justices of the Peace from such Town and City and shall be regular members of the Quarterly County Court for such county.

SECTION 5. That said Justices of the Peace, Constables, and other officers shall be elected in the manner and for the terms as now provided by law, said election to be held on the first Thursday of August 1966 and each six years thereafter. Such officers so elected for the Civil Districts established by this Act to take office on September 1, following election of such officers. The officers elected for the Civil Districts created and established by Chapter 180 of the Private Acts of 1925 or otherwise provided, shall continue in office until said time.

SECTION 6. That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall be approved by a majority of the voters voting in an election to be held for such purpose. Within six months after the approval of this Act by the Governor, it shall be the duty of the County Board of Election Commissioners of the county to which this Act applies to call an election for the county to be held not less than 45 nor more than 60 days from the date of such call for the purpose of accepting or rejecting the provisions of this Act. The ballots used in such election shall have printed thereon the title of this Act and the voters shall vote for or against its adoption. The votes cast at such election shall be canvassed by the County Board of Election Commissioners upon the first Monday occurring 5 or more days next after the date of such election and the results shall be proclaimed by such board and certified to the Secretary of State. The qualification of voters shall be that provided by law for participation in general elections and all laws applicable to general

elections shall apply to an election held hereunder.

SECTION 7. That all Acts or portions of Acts in conflict herewith, be and the same are repealed.

Passed: March 19, 1965.

Referendum Provisions

Private Acts of 1931 Chapter 140

SECTION 1. That in counties having a population of not less than 16,789 nor more than 16,809 according to the Federal Census of 1930 or any subsequent Federal Census, the County Commissioners of election are authorized and directed, when requested in writing by two hundred legal voters of the county, at any general election to be held in said county, to submit to the voters of the county on the official ballot, for their approval or disapproval, any question of proposed legislation affecting the citizens and residents of said county, and shall certify the result of said referendum vote to the County Court Clerk to be filed by him in his office. Provided, that all names on the petition shall be in ink signed by the individuals whose names appear thereon, or by their duly appointed representatives and that any person signing the name of another without his knowledge or consent, shall be guilty of forgery.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 13

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

Passed: January 29, 1931.

Elections - Historical Notes

Districts - Reapportionment

The acts listed below have affected the civil districts in Coffee County, but are no longer operative regarding elections. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 340, created six Civil Districts in Coffee County in lieu of the sixteen then existing. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 179.
2. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 180, created sixteen Civil Districts in Coffee County with the same boundaries that existed prior to the passage of Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 340.
3. Private Acts of 1959, Chapter 151, created five Civil Districts in Coffee County in lieu of the sixteen then existing. This Act was not approved at the local level and never became effective.

Elections

The following is a listing of acts for Coffee 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. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 2, Section 7, provided that the Sheriff of Bedford County would hold the first election in Coffee County for Justices of the Peace.
2. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 68, Section 3, authorized the election of an additional justice of the peace for the town containing the county seat.
3. Private Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 138, Section 13, amended Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 68, so that all incorporated towns within Coffee County could elect an additional justice of the peace.
4. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 61, authorized the 13th Civil District of Coffee County to elect an additional justice of the peace.
5. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 260, provided that no registration be required of Coffee County voters. Registration would not be a prerequisite to the right to vote.
6. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 602, amended Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 68, by exempting Coffee County from its provisions. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 181..
7. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 110, set the salary of election officials in Coffee County at \$4 per day.

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