



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

April 02, 2025

Elections - Historical Notes

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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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 This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 179.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The following is a listing of acts for Coffee County which affected the elective process, but which have been superseded or repealed.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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