



March 29, 2025

---

# Chapter VII - Elections

---

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://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](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu)

Table of Contents

<b>Chapter VII - Elections .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Elections - Historical Notes .....</b>	<b>3</b>

# Chapter VII - Elections

## Elections - Historical Notes

### **Districts - Reapportionment**

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

1. Private Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 37, established the seventeenth and eighteenth civil districts in Sullivan County.
2. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 221, as amended by Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 317, Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 527, and Private Acts of 1941, Chapter 165, divided the eleventh civil district of Sullivan County into three (3) voting precincts, to be known as the South, East and West precincts. This act was superseded by general law.

### **Elections**

The following is a listing of acts for Sullivan County which affected the elective process, but which have been superseded or repealed.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 are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1796, Chapter 4, provided for the election of electors to elect a president and vice president of the United States. John Scott, Richard Gammons and James Gains of Sullivan County were appointed as electors to elect an elector for the Washington District.
2. Acts of 1799, Chapter 16, apportioned the number of senators and representatives to represent the citizens of the state in the general assembly. One senator and two representatives were apportioned from Sullivan County.
3. Acts of 1799, Chapter 46, appointed electors to elect a president and vice president of the United States. John Rhea, John Spurgen and Robert Allison of Sullivan County were appointed electors to elect an elector for the Washington District.
4. Acts of 1801, Chapter 82, authorized the inhabitants of the lower end of Sullivan County to meet and hold elections for governor, representatives to congress and members to the general assembly at the house of Walter James. This act was amended by Acts of 1805, Chapter 15, so as to changed the place of holding elections from the house of Walter James to the house of Frederick Brumstrutter.
5. Acts of 1803, Chapter 24, divided the state into five electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The counties of Sullivan, Greene, Carter and Washington composed the first electoral district and elected one elector.
6. Acts of 1805, Chapter 64, apportioned the representation of the state in the Tennessee State Legislature. The counties of Sullivan and Hawkins composed one district and elected one senator. In addition, Sullivan County elected two representatives.
7. Acts of 1807, Chapter 74, divided the state into five electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The counties of Sullivan, Greene, Carter, Washington and Hawkins composed the first electoral district and elected one elector.
8. Acts of 1812, Chapter 5, divided the state into eight electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The counties of Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Greene and Hawkins composed the first electoral district and elected one elector.
9. Acts of 1812, Chapter 27, divided the state into congressional districts for the election of representatives to the United States Congress. The first district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Hawkins, Carter and Greene.
10. Acts of 1812, Chapter 57, apportioned the representation of the state in the Tennessee State Legislature. The counties of Sullivan and Hawkins composed one election district and elected one senator. In addition, Sullivan County elected one representative alone.
11. Acts of 1817, Chapter 59, provided that all elections which were authorized to be held at the house of Frederick Brunstutter be held at the house of William Busket in Sullivan County.
12. Public Acts of 1819, Chapter 69, apportioned the representation of the state in the Tennessee State Legislature. The counties of Sullivan and Hawkins composed one election district and elected one senator. In addition Sullivan County elected one representative to the state legislature.

13. Public Acts of 1822, Chapter 1, divided the state into eight congressional districts for the election of representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Greene and Hawkins.
14. Public Acts of 1823, Chapter 47, divided the state into eleven electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The first electoral district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Hawkins and Greene which elected one elector.
15. Public Acts of 1824, Chapter 1, divided the state into eleven electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The first electoral district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Hawkins and Greene which elected one elector.
16. Public Acts of 1826, Chapter 3, apportioned the representation in the state legislature. The counties of Sullivan, Carter and Hawkins composed one election district and elected one senator. In addition, Sullivan and Carter counties jointly elected one representative.
17. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 17, divided the state into eleven electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The first electoral district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Hawkins and Greene which elected one elector.
18. Public Acts of 1832, Chapter 4, divided the state into thirteen congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The second congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Hawkins, Grainger, Claiborne and Campbell.
19. Public Acts of 1832, Chapter 9, divided the state into fifteen electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The counties of Sullivan, Hawkins, Grainger and Claiborne composed the second district.
20. Public Acts of 1833, Chapter 71, divided the state into representative and senatorial districts. The counties of Sullivan and Hawkins composed one election district, and elected one senator. In addition, the counties Sullivan and Hawkins composed one election district and elected one representative.
21. Public Acts of 1833, Chapter 76, provided for the calling of a state convention for the purpose of revising and amending the state constitution. Sullivan County composed one district and elected one delegate to the state convention.
22. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 39, divided the state into fifteen electoral districts for the purpose of electing electors of a president and vice president of the United States. The counties of Sullivan, Hawkins, Grainger and Claiborne composed the second electoral district.
23. Acts of 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 1, apportioned the representation in the general assembly. The counties of Sullivan, Washington, Johnson and Carter composed the first senatorial district and elected one senator. Sullivan County elected one representative to the general assembly. This act was repealed by Public Acts of 1978, Chapter 597.
24. Acts of 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 7, divided the state into eleven congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Johnson, Carter, Hawkins, Greene and Cocke.
25. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 196, divided the state into ten congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Johnson, Carter, Hawkins, Greene, Cocke, Jefferson, Hancock and Sevier.
26. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 197, apportioned the representation in the general assembly of the state. Sullivan County elected one representative and composed a senatorial district with Johnson, Carter and Washington counties.
27. Public Acts of 1865, Chapter 34, divided the state into eight congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Hawkins, Greene, Cocke, Jefferson, Hancock, Grainger and Sevier.
28. Public Acts of 1871, Chapter 146, apportioned the senatorial and representative districts in the state. Sullivan County elected one representative. The second senatorial district was composed of Sullivan, Hawkins, Hamblen, Hancock and Claiborne counties.

29. Acts of 1872 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 7, divided the state into nine congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Hawkins, Greene, Hancock, Claiborne, Union, Grainger, Hamblen and Cocke.
30. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 27, divided the state into ten congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Johnson, Carter, Hawkins, Greene, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamblen and Cocke.
31. Public Acts of 1881 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 6, apportioned the state into senatorial and representative districts. Sullivan County elected one representative and jointly elected a representative with Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, Greene and Washington counties. Sullivan, Washington, Carter, Johnson and Unicoi counties composed the first senatorial district.
32. Public Acts of 1882 (2nd Sess.), Chapter 27, divided the state into ten congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi, Hawkins, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Claiborne, Cocke and Grainger.
33. Public Acts of 1891, Chapter 131, divided the state into ten congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives to the United States Congress. The first congressional district was composed of the counties of Sullivan, Washington, Johnson, Carter, Hawkins, Greene, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger, Unicoi, Hamblen and Cocke.
34. Acts of 1891 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 10, apportioned the counties of the state into senatorial and representative districts. Sullivan County elected one representative and jointly elected a representative with Johnson, Washington, Unicoi, Greene, Hawkins and Hancock counties in the first representative district. The counties of Sullivan, Hawkins and Hamblen composed the second senatorial district.
35. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 109, divided the state into ten congressional districts for the purpose of electing electors to the United States Congress. The counties of Sullivan, Washington, Johnson, Carter, Unicoi, Greene, Hawkins, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger, Cocke and Sevier composed the first congressional district.
36. Public Acts of 1901, Chapter 122, apportioned the counties of the state into senatorial and representative districts. The counties of Sullivan and Hawkins composed the second senatorial district. Sullivan County elected one representative and jointly elected one representative with Hawkins County in the second representative district.
37. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 236, regulated the registering of voters in all elections in the cities of Sullivan County.
38. Private Acts of 1935 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 13, established a compulsory legalized primary election for the Democratic Party in Sullivan County so as to make political nominations in the Democratic Party for all county offices; and to provide the maximum amount each candidate in such Democratic primary may expend and provided for the filing of statements as to expenditures by each candidate and created agencies for the operation of this act. This act was repealed by Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 525.
39. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 59, fixed the compensation of election officials in Sullivan County at \$2.00 per day. This act was amended by Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 7, so as to increase the salary of the election officials to \$5.00 per day.
40. Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 72, fixed the compensation of each registrar registering the voters in Sullivan County at \$3.00 per day. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 10, increased the compensation of the registrar to \$5.00 per day.
41. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 55, fixed the hours of voting in Sullivan County for all statewide primary elections from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
42. Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 450, regulated and provided for the registration of voters in Sullivan County.
43. Private Acts of 1959, Chapter 227, would have amended Private Acts of 1943, Chapter 59, so as to increase the salary of the election officials to \$10 per day, however, this act was rejected or disapproved by Sullivan County and therefore never became law.
44. Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 130, prohibited certain activities within prescribed distances of polling places on election days or other days when an issue was to be decided by vote in Sullivan County.

**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/chapter-vii-elections-40>