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Chapter VII - Elections

Dear Reader:

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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.

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 1931 Chapter 678

SECTION 1. That from and after the passage of this Act, there shall be and exist three (3) civil districts in Polk County, as follows:

The boundaries of the First Civil District shall be as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of Section 5 in Fractional Township 2 North of Range 3 East; thence with the Monroe County line to the top of Starrs Mountain and McMinn County line; thence with McMinn County line to Hiwassee River and Bradley County line; thence with the Bradley County line to the Georgia State line; thence east with the Georgia State line to the north and south middle line of Fractional Section 22 in Fractional Township 1 South of Range 3 East; thence northward with the middle section line to the middle point of the north line of Section 3 in Township 2 of Range 3 East; thence west with township line to the southeast corner of Section 32 in Town 1 of Range 3 East; thence northward with section line to the Monroe County line at the beginning.

The boundaries of the Second Civil District shall be as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner on Monroe County line, being at the middle point on east line of Section 12 in Township 1 of Range 4 East; thence westwardly with the Monroe County line to the line of the First District at the northwest corner of Section 4 in Fractional Township 2 North of Range 3 East; thence southwardly with the line of the First District as previously described to the Georgia State line; thence east with the Georgia State line to the line of Sections 3 and 4 in Fractional Township 1 South of Range 4 East; thence northwardly to the northeast corner of Section 9 in Fractional Township 2 South of Range 4 East; thence east with section line 2 miles to the southeast corner of Section 2 in said township; thence northwardly with the section line 2 miles to the northeast corner of Section 35 in Township 2 of Range 4 East; thence eastwardly with section line one mile to the range line between Ranges 4 and 5; thence northwardly with range line 5 miles to the northeast corner of said township; thence westwardly with the township line 3 miles to the northwest corner of Section 3 in said township; thence northwardly with section line 3 miles to the northeast corner of Section 21 in Township 1 of Range 4 East; thence eastwardly 3 miles to southeast corner of Section 13 in said township; thence northwardly 1½ miles to the beginning.

The boundaries of the Third Civil District shall be as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of Polk County at the junction of the Monroe and Polk County line with the North Carolina State line; thence westwardly with the Monroe County line to the northwest corner of Section 6 in Fraction Township 2 South of Range 5 East; thence southwardly with section line and the line of the Second District as previously described to the Georgia State line; thence east with the Georgia State line to the North Carolina State line; thence north with the North Carolina State line to the beginning.

SECTION 2. That the present magistrates and constables for the existing First, Second and Third Civil Districts of Polk County shall continue in office for the respective civil districts as created by this Act; provided, however, that all magistrates elected from incorporated towns shall continue to hold office as at present.

SECTION 3. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: July 1, 1931.

Elections - Historical Notes

The following is a listing of acts for Polk 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 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 1, provided that Polk, McMinn and Monroe Counties were to elect one state representative and the polls were to be compared at Athens.
2. Acts of 1842 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 7, placed Polk County in the Third Congressional District, along with Knox, Roane, Bledsoe, Rhea, Meigs, McMinn, Bradley, Hamilton and Marion.

3. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 142, made the 1897 general election law applicable to Polk County.
4. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 802, created a Commission of Elections for Polk County, composed of three members who were to receive an annual compensation of \$100.
5. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 360, repealed any requirement that Polk County voters register before voting in any election.
6. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 475, provided that if any voter was unable to mark his ballot, the election officer could do so in the presence of not less than two election judges, provided that all the judges could not be of the same political party. This was repealed by Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 425.
7. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 531, provided a system of permanent registration for the voters of Polk County.
8. Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 479, attempted to amend the Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 678, by adding to the end of Section One that the County Court of Polk County may change the boundary of any civil district and make new districts or redistrict the county entirely when necessary. The Commissioners were to redistrict the county as nearly as possible in accordance with the principal of one man, one vote. The Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 479, did not, however, receive local approval and therefore had no effect upon the Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 678.

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