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Elections - Historical Notes

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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The following is a listing of acts for Polk County which affected the elective process, but which have been superseded or repealed.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 Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 360, repealed any requirement that Polk County voters register before voting in any election.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 This was repealed by Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 425.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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