

ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Chapter 432, Acts of 1970

Effective Dec. 31, 1970

**Chap. 432. AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR THE TOWN OF WATERTOWN.**

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Sections eight through sixteen, inclusive, of chapter one hundred and eight of the General Acts of nineteen hundred and nineteen, as amended, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. There is hereby established in the town of Watertown a board of election commissioners, herein called the board, which shall have all the powers, rights, duties and liabilities of boards of registrars of voters and of the listing board of the town, and, with respect to elections, of the town clerk, either under general or special law, and which shall be the lawful successor of said registrars, said listing board, and with respect to elections, said clerk. Immediately upon the effective date of this act, said registrars of voters and said listing board, and, in so far as they relate to, or are required for use in, the conduct of elections, said clerk shall deliver to the board all books, papers, records and all other property in their possession.

The board shall consist of four persons, of whom two shall always represent each of the two leading political parties as defined in section one of chapter fifty. They shall receive such compensation as the town may determine. The members of the board of registrars of voters in office at the time of taking effect of this act shall be members of said board of election commissioners and shall serve until the expiration of their respective terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified; provided, that upon said effective date the selectmen shall appoint one member of said board of election commissioners for a term of four years and three months, and thereafter the successor of said member shall be appointed for a term of four years beginning April the first.

As the terms of the several election commissioners expire, and in the case of a vacancy which occurs in said board, the selectmen shall so

appoint their successors that each member appointed shall be a member of the political party of the member whose term has expired or in whose term a vacancy has been created. All such appointments, except as herein provided, shall be for terms of four years beginning April the first, and except that any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term. Upon the effective date of this act, and thereafter annually in the month of April, the board shall organize by the choice of a chairman and secretary. In case the members are unable to agree upon a chairman and secretary, such officers shall be designated by the selectmen. The secretary shall keep a full and accurate record of the proceedings of the board and shall perform such other duties as the board may require. All the powers, rights, privileges, liabilities and duties relating to caucuses, primaries, preliminary elections and elections by law vested in and imposed upon the selectmen, the town clerk, the board of registrars of voters and the listing board, except the power and duty of giving notice of elections and fixing the days and hours of holding the same, shall be vested in and performed by the board of election commissioners. The board may appoint such assistant commissioners and such assistants as it deems necessary, who shall at all times equally represent the two leading political parties as hereinbefore defined. Said assistant commissioners shall have such powers and perform such duties as are prescribed by chapter fifty-one of the General Laws for assistant registrars of voters and shall perform such other duties as the board may require.

Persons appointed to serve temporarily as assistant commissioners, or as temporary assistant commissioners, shall not be subject to chapter thirty-one of the General Laws.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on December the thirty-first, nineteen hundred and seventy. *Approved June 10, 1970.*

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