

CHAPTER 445.

[Published April 15, 1864.]

AN ACT to guard against the abuse of the elective franchise, and to preserve the purity of elections, by a registration of electors.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. The persons authorized by law to act as inspectors of elections in any town, ward or incorporated village in this state, shall constitute a "board of registry" for their respective towns, wards or villages, and their duties shall be as follows: The said board shall proceed to make a list, as hereinafter prescribed, of all persons qualified and entitled to vote at the ensuing general election, in the election district of which they are inspectors. The said inspectors, at their first meeting, on Tuesday, three weeks preceding their general election, shall have power, if necessary, to sit two days for the purpose of making said list: *provided*, that [at the annual election next prior to said meeting, the number of voters in the district of which they are inspectors, exceeded four hundred.

Inspectors of election to constitute board of registers.

To make list of qualified electors two weeks before general election.

May sit two days in certain districts.

SECTION 2. Said registers shall each contain a list of the persons so qualified and entitled to vote in said election district, 'alphabetically arranged according to their respective surnames, so as to show in one column the name at full length, and in another column, in cities and incorporated villages, the residence, by the number of the dwelling, if there be a number, and the name of the street or other location of the dwelling place of each person. It shall be the duty of said inspectors to enter in said lists the names of all persons residing in their election district, whose names appear on the poll list kept in said district at the last preceding general election, and in cities or incorporated villages, the number of the dwelling and name of street or other location, if the same shall be known to or can be ascertained by such inspectors; and for this purpose said inspectors are authorized to take from the office in which they are filed, the poll lists made and filed by the inspectors of such district at the general election held next prior to the making of such register. In making said list, the board shall enter thereon, in addition to

Register to contain alphabetical list of voters, and their residences, if in cities or villages.

Names of persons on poll list of last election, to appear in register.

the names on the poll list, the names of all other persons who are well known to them to be electors in said district; and the names of all persons on said poll list who have died or removed from the district, shall be omitted from said register. The said inspectors shall complete, as far as practicable, the said register on the day of their meeting aforesaid, and shall make four copies thereof, and certify the register and each of the copies to be a true list of the voters in their district, so far as the same are known them. Within two days thereafter, the said original list, together with the lists taken from the office as aforesaid, shall be filed by said inspectors in the office of the town clerk of the town in which such election district may be, or if such election district is a village, then they shall be filed in the office of the village clerk, or if such election district is in a city, then it shall be filed in the office of the city clerk of said city; and one copy of said list shall be kept by each of said inspectors, and carefully preserved by him for their use on the day or days hereinafter mentioned for the revision and correction of the same. One copy of said list shall, immediately after its completion, be posted in some conspicuous place in the room in which such meeting shall be held, and be accessible to any elector who may desire to examine the same or make copies thereof. The inspectors may, in their discretion, cause printed copies of said list to be posted up in such places as they may direct, and may cause the same to be published in some newspaper in the county in which such district is situated, at an expense not exceeding one cent for each name on said list.

SECTION 3. In case a new election district shall be formed by the organization of a new town, or by the division of any town or ward, or the incorporation of a city or village, the inspectors of election in the new district thus formed, may make their registry of electors on the day prescribed by this act, in such manner as a majority of the inspectors may direct; and for that purpose may make a list, or cause to be made a certified copy of the poll list or lists of the district or districts in which such new district is situated; or they may dispense with such list or lists, and proceed to make a register of electors from the best means at their command. Said list shall only embrace the names of such persons as are known to them to be electors in their district, and

Four copies of register to be made.

Original list to be filed with clerk, one copy kept by each inspector, and one copy posted in room where meeting may be held.

Copies may be printed and posted.

How registry to be made in formation of new election districts.

shall be posted up and copies thereof made as prescribed in the preceding section, and shall be corrected in the same manner that other lists are corrected.

SECTION 4. The said board shall meet on Tuesday of the week preceding the general election, in their respective election districts, at the place designated for holding the polls of election, for the purpose of revising, correcting and completing said lists; and for this purpose in cities they shall meet at eight o'clock in the morning, and remain in session until nine o'clock P. M. of that day and the day following; and in other districts they shall meet at nine o'clock in the morning, and remain in session until seven o'clock P. M. of that day.

Time and place of meeting of board.

SECTION 5. The proceedings of said board shall be open, and all persons residing and entitled to vote in said district, shall be entitled to be heard by such inspectors in relation to corrections or additions to said register. One the lists so kept by inspectors as aforesaid, shall be used by them on the day or days of making corrections or additions, for the purpose of completing the registry for such district.

Proceedings to be open.

SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of said inspectors at their meeting for revising and correcting said lists, to erase therefrom the name of any person inserted therein who shall be proven by the oath of two legal voters of said district, to the satisfaction of said inspectors, to be a non-resident of said district, or otherwise not entitled to vote in said district at the election then next to be held. Any elector residing in said district, and entitled to vote therein, may appear before said board of inspectors and require his name to be recorded on said alphabetical list. Any person so requiring his name to be entered on said list, shall make the same statement as to the street and number thereof, and where he resides, required by the provisions of this act of persons offering their votes at the election, and shall be subject to the same penalties for refusing to give such information, or for falsely giving the same, and shall also be subject to challenge either by the inspectors or either of them, or by any other elector whose name appears on said alphabetical list, and the same oaths may be administered by the inspectors as now provided against persons offering to vote at an election; and in case no challenge is made of any person requiring his

Names of non-residents to be erased.

Elector may require his name to be recorded.

May be challenged.

name to be entered on said alphabetical list, or in case of challenge, if such person shall make an oath which would entitle him to vote in case of challenge at an election, then the name of any such person shall be added to the alphabetical poll list of the last preceding year.

Four copies of list to be made.

SECTION 7. After said list shall have been fully completed, the said inspectors shall, within three days thereafter, cause four copies of the same to be made, each of which shall be certified by them to be a correct list of the voters of their district, one of which shall be filed in the office of the town clerk of towns, in the office of village clerk of villages, and the office of city clerk of cities, and one of which copies shall be delivered to each of the said inspectors. It shall be the duty of said inspectors, so receiving such list, carefully to preserve the said list for their use on election day, and to designate two of their number, at the opening of the polls, to check the name of every voter voting in such district, whose name is on the register. No vote shall be received at any annual election in this state, unless the name of the person offering to vote be on the said registry, made on the Tuesday or Wednesday preceding the election, unless the person offering to vote shall furnish to the board of inspectors his affidavit in writing, giving his reasons for not appearing on the day for correcting the alphabetical list, and prove by the oath of a householder of the district in which he offers his vote, that he knows such person to be an inhabitant of the district, and if in any incorporated village or city, giving the residence of such person within said district. The oath may be administered by any one of the inspectors of election, at the poll where the vote shall be offered, or by any other person authorized to administer oaths, but no person shall be authorized to receive compensation for administering the oath. Said oath shall be preserved and filed in the office of the town, village or city clerk. Any person whose name is on the register, may be challenged, and the same oaths shall be put as now are or hereafter may be prescribed by law.

List to be preserved.

If name of voter not on register, he must furnish reasons for not appearing when list was corrected, &c.

Challenge.

Duties of clerks.

SECTION 8. The clerks of each poll, in addition to the duties now prescribed by law, shall enter on the poll list kept by them, in columns prepared for that purpose, opposite the name of each person voting, the

same statement or minute as hereinbefore required of inspectors in making the registry; but such entry is not to be made by them, if the registry contains correctly the name and residence of such voter, and in all cases the said clerk shall enter in a column opposite the name of each person not registered, the words, "not registered." Every elector at the time of offering his vote, shall truly state the street in which he resides, and if the house, lodging or tenement in which he resides is numbered, the number thereof, and the clerks of the polls shall truly enter in the appropriate column of the poll list, opposite the name of the elector, the street in which the elector resides, and the number, in case the house, lodging or tenement is numbered, and if the same is not numbered, then the clerks shall enter "not numbered," in the column of the poll list for entering the number. In case of refusal to make the statement as aforesaid, the vote of such elector shall not be received. Any person who shall willfully make any false statement in relation thereto, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine of fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of ten days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Residence of voter to appear on poll list.

Penalty for making false statement as to residence.

SECTION 9. After the canvass of the votes, one of said poll lists and said registers so kept and checked as aforesaid, shall be attached together, and shall, on the following day, be filed in the town, village or city clerk's office (as the case may be) in which said district may be, to be used by the inspectors in making the list of voters at the next general election. The other of said poll lists and registers, so kept and checked, shall be returned to the office of the clerk of the board of supervisors of the county in which such district may be, at the same time the returns of the election are made.

One copy of poll list and register to be filed with clerk, and other with clerk board supervisors.

SECTION 10. The said board may, if necessary, on the day or days of the making and of correction of such lists, appoint a clerk to assist them in the discharge of the duties required by this act, and the same oath shall be taken by such clerk as is required by law of clerks of the polls or of elections.

Board may appoint clerk.

SECTION 11. The registers shall, at all times, be open to public inspection, at the office of the authorities in which they shall be deposited, without charge.

Registers to be open to public inspection.

Compensation.

SECTION 12. The members of the board of registration and their clerks, shall each receive the same compensation as is now allowed by law for inspectors of election, for each day actually employed in the making and completion of the registry, to be paid to them at the time and in the manner in which they are paid their other fees.

Powers to preserve order.

SECTION 13. The said board shall have and exercise the same power in preserving order at their meetings, under this act, as are given to inspectors of election for preserving order on election days, and vacancies in said board shall be filled in the same manner that vacancies are now filled at elections.

Penalty for false swearing, &c.

SECTION 14. Any person who shall cause his name to be registered in more than one election district, or who shall cause his name to be registered, knowing that he is not a qualified voter in the district where said registry is made, or who shall falsely personate any registered voter, and any person causing, aiding or abetting any person, in any manner, in either of said acts, shall be punished for each and every offense, by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than one year. All false swearing before said board of registration, shall be deemed willful and corrupt perjury, and on conviction, punished as such. If any member or officer of said board shall willfully violate any of the provisions of this act, or be guilty of any fraud in the execution of the duties of his office, he shall be punished for each and every offense by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than one year.

Secretary of state to cause this act to be printed and circulated.

Section 15. The secretary of state shall cause this law to be printed in pamphlet form, with suitable forms and instructions for carrying it into effect, together with the general election law of the state, and a sufficient number of copies thereof sent to each clerk of the board of supervisors in every county in this state, to supply each of the officers named in this act with a copy; and it shall be the duty of each of said clerks immediately to transmit a copy of the same to each of the inspectors of election in his county.

Secretary to prepare blanks, &c.

SECTION 16. The necessary blanks for making the registers required by this law, shall be prepared by the secretary of state, and transmitted to the persons entitled to receive them, in the same manner that blank returns of elections are now transmitted.

SECTION 17. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as in any manner affecting the provisions of chapter 11 of the general laws of the extra session of 1863, [1862,] entitled "an act to enable the militia and volunteers of this state, when in the military service of the United States, or of this state, to exercise the right of suffrage," or the acts amendatory thereof.

Not applicable to less all-wing soldiers to vote.

SECTION 18. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 4, 1864.

CHAPTER 446.

[Published May 3, 1864.]

AN ACT to authorize the formation of corporations for the encouraging and aiding of Wisconsin inventors and patentees.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. Any three or more persons who may desire to form a company for the purpose of encouraging and aiding Wisconsin inventors and patentees, may make, sign and acknowledge before any officer authorized to take the acknowledgment of deeds, and file in the office of the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which the business of the company is to be carried on, and also in the office of the secretary of state, a certificate in writing, in which shall be stated the corporate name of said company, the object for which it is formed, the number of its directors, and the names of the persons chosen as directors for the first year, and the amount of a single share of its capital stock, and the name of the town and county in which the election and business meetings of the said company are to and shall be held.

How company may be formed.

SECTION 2. The capital stock of any such company shall not be less than one thousand dollars, nor more than one hundred thousand dollars actually paid, and such company shall have perpetual succession.

Capital stock.

SECTION 3. The directors of any such company shall, at their first meeting after the filing of said certificate

Election of treasurer.