

No. 329, S.]

[Published July 21, 1949.

**CHAPTER 482.**

AN ACT to renumber 60.19 to be 60.19 (1); to amend 10.53 (6), 60.19 (1), as renumbered, and 60.61; and to create 60.19 (2) and (3) of the statutes, relating to selection of town assessors in populous counties.

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

SECTION 1. 10.53 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

10.53 (6) In towns which are divided into election districts the annual meeting shall be held, until the electors otherwise determine, in the districts designated as the first election district; provided, that in counties having a population of 200,000 \* \* \* or over, \* \* \* votes for town and judicial officers *and on referendum for appointment of town assessors under civil service* shall be cast at the polling booths in the election district where the voter resides in the manner provided for general elections.

SECTION 2. 60.19 of the statutes is renumbered to be 60.19 (1) and amended to read:

60.19 (1) Biennially, in the odd-numbered years, at the annual town meeting there shall be elected in each town the following officers, viz.: 3 supervisors, one of whom shall be designated on the ballots as chairman, a town clerk, a treasurer, an assessor (2 or 3, if the town board at their last meeting before such election shall have so ordered), so many constables, not exceeding 3, as shall have been ordered by the last preceding annual town meeting. In all counties which contain a population of not less than 500,000 such election shall be held biennially on the first Tuesday in April in the even-numbered years, and town officers shall hold office for two years. No person not an elector of the town shall hold any town office, and no person shall hold the offices of treasurer and assessor at the same time. *No assessor shall be elected in towns appointing such officers under civil service under subsections (2) and (3).*

SECTION 3. 60.19 (2) and (3) of the statutes are created to read:

60.19 (2) (a) The electors of any township having a population over 10,000 in a county containing a population over 500,000 may request a referendum to select town assessors under civil service by petition signed by at least 15 per cent of the whole number of electors voting therein for governor at the last preceding general election. When such petition is filed with the town clerk at least 20 days prior to a general or special town election, the question shall be submitted to the electors as a referendum at such election, proper notice shall be given, and the question shall abide the majority vote of the electors of such town.

(b) If a majority vote shall be for the selection of the assessors by civil service, the assessors shall thereafter be selected under civil service. If a civil service system shall be provided for such town under section 66.19 (2), the assessors shall be chosen in accordance therewith. If no such system shall be in effect, the town board shall by ordinance adopt a civil service system in accordance with section 66.19 (2) for the selection of assessors.

(c) The town board may determine the number of assessors or assistant assessors required and the salaries to be paid within the civil service salary schedule, and shall appoint such officers from the civil service lists. The initial appointees shall take office at the expiration of the terms of the last elected assessor or assessors.

(d) The town board shall on or before March 15 prior to the commencement of the term of such officers and of each year thereafter, certify to the town treasurer the name or names of such assessor and assistants and the salaries to be paid to said persons, and the town treasurer shall periodically issue a check on the town treasury for the payment of such salaries on a semimonthly basis.

(3) When any town has established a system for the selection of assessors and assistant assessors as provided in subsection (2), such system shall not be repealed for a period of six years after the initial appointees take office thereunder and thereafter it may be repealed only by a referendum initiated and conducted by like proceedings as provided in subsection (2) for the adoption thereof.

SECTION 4. 60.61 of the statutes is amended to read:

60.61 In all towns in counties having a population of 250,000 inhabitants or upwards, and in all towns having an assessed valuation of 4 million dollars or more, town assessors shall be paid such compensation for their services as may be allowed them by the annual town meeting. In all other towns such compensation if not fixed by the annual town meeting shall be not less than \$3 nor more than \$5 per day. *The provisions of this section shall not apply in towns selecting assessors and assistant assessors under civil service, as provided in section 60.19 (2).*

Approved July 18, 1949.

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