

Ch. 393, laws  
of 1891 to  
apply.

SECTION 4. This act shall not in any wise repeal or amend any of the provisions of chapter 393, laws of 1891, but the said provisions of said chapter 393, laws of 1891, in so far as they are applicable to the expenditure of moneys hereby appropriated, and all reports relevant thereto, and all other duties imposed by said act, are hereby continued in force in respect to appropriations herein made, in so far as the same can be applied thereto.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.  
Approved April 18, 1893.

No. 144 S. ]

[Published April 27, 1893

## CHAPTER 249.

AN ACT to regulate caucuses and conventions.

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

Caucuses in  
counties of two  
hundred thousand  
and population.

SECTION 1. All caucuses or meetings of electors held for the purpose of choosing delegates to assemble in convention to nominate any person for any public office to be voted for in counties having, according to the last national census, a population of more than two hundred thousand persons, except for congress and state senator in any senatorial district lying in part in any such county only, shall be held under the provisions of this act, and in such counties, all meetings for choosing delegates for such purpose, commonly called caucuses, unless held under the provisions of this act, are hereby declared to be unlawful, and are hereby prohibited, and in such counties no person shall be voted for at any election held therein, except for congress or state senator as aforesaid, unless he shall be first nominated under the provisions of this act or by delegates duly chosen under its provisions, or under the provisions of law regulating the nomi-

Caucuses, what  
declared to be.

nation of independent candidates; and all votes cast at any election in any such county for any office, except for congress or state senator as aforesaid, unless so nominated, are hereby declared to be void. All meetings of electors in any town, village or ward, in any such county, held for the purpose of choosing delegates as aforesaid, are hereby defined as caucuses, and declared to be such, and no person shall vote or offer to vote at any such caucus, held in any such county, unless, at the time, he shall be a qualified elector of the town, village or ward in which such caucus is held; and any person who, not being an elector as aforesaid, shall vote or offer to vote at any such caucus, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished in the manner hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. Every political party organization, desiring to nominate candidates to be voted for at any election to be held in any such county, shall file with the county clerk of such county, on or before the first Monday of January of the year in which such election is to be held, the name of the chairman of the county committee of such political party, who shall be an elector of such county, and it shall be the duty of every such chairman, within thirty days thereafter, to appoint for each town, village and ward in such county a reputable elector, who shall be of the same political faith as such county chairman, and who shall reside in the town, village or ward for which he is appointed as chairman, and within said thirty days he shall file with the said county clerk the names of such chairmen, and every such chairman of the county committee shall at all times have power to remove any ward, village or town chairman so appointed by him, and to fill vacancies which may occur in his appointments, and shall within thirty days after filling any such vacancy, file with the county clerk the name of the person so appointed to fill such vacancy. All of the chairmen of the county committees, of the several political parties now holding office in every such county, shall continue to hold such office hereunder, until their successors shall respectively have been duly elected; and until such successors shall have been duly elected, the county committee shall

Political parties to file with county clerk name of county chairman.

County chairman to appoint chairman in towns, etc.

Removals.

**Vacancies**

have full power to fill any vacancy in such office, and they shall make their appointments of town, village and ward chairmen, on or before the first day of February, A. D. 1894, and file the names of their appointees with the county clerk as herein provided. Each county convention held under the provisions of this act, shall, before adjourning *sine die*, choose some person to act as chairman of the county committee of the political party it represents. The terms of office of all chairmen of such committees shall commence with their selection as aforesaid, and continue until their successors are elected and have qualified; and in case the chairman of any such county committee shall refuse or be unable to serve, or of a vacancy in such office, such county committee shall appoint his successor to hold office until a new chairman is chosen, as herein provided. The respective county committee shall determine the day and place when the county convention of the political party it represents shall be held, and also the day upon which the caucuses of such political party shall be held in each town, village or ward, and the number of delegates which shall represent each town, village and ward in such convention. And whenever there shall be held any city election in any city situated within any such county, the chairman of the county committee shall act as chairman of the city committee, which committee shall fix and determine the day and place of holding the city convention and the number of delegates which shall be chosen from each ward of said city to act in said convention, and shall determine the day upon which caucuses of the political party which it represents shall be held in each ward, and all caucuses of one political party shall be held upon the same day, and no more than one political party shall hold caucuses on the same day. The persons so appointed as chairmen of the town, village and ward committees, shall, with the chairman of the county committee, constitute the county committee of the respective political party, and the chairman of such county committee, and the chairmen so appointed as chairman of the ward committees, shall constitute the

County convention to choose county chairman.

County committee, powers of.

County committee, of whom composed.

city committee. Whenever such county committee or city committee shall determine the time of holding of such caucuses, the chairman of such committee shall cause to be published in some daily newspaper published in said county and printed in the English language, also in a daily newspaper printed in the German language, and also in a daily newspaper printed in the Polish language, a notice stating the time and place when such convention and such caucuses will be held; such notice shall be published for at least two successive days, the first publication to be not less than three, nor more than ten days prior to the time fixed for the holding of the caucuses. All conventions shall be held upon the day following the holding of the caucuses of the respective political party, and in case such day shall fall on Sunday, then upon the Monday following. Such conventions shall be held not more than four weeks, nor less than six days before the election at which candidates are nominated to be voted for. All caucuses held under the provisions of this act, within the limits of any city situated in any such county, shall be held and conducted at the regular precinct election booth located nearest to the center of the ward where held, unless the chairman of the county committee of the party holding any such caucus shall designate some other election precinct booth in said ward, in which event such caucus shall be held at the booth so designated, and shall open at the hour of eleven o'clock A. M., and close at the hour of half past seven o'clock P. M., on the day fixed for its holding. It is hereby made the duty of every such city, and of the board of public works thereof, to cause such booth to be constructed and erected at said place and at said time for such purpose, and to furnish necessary stationery, furniture, heat and light. When such caucus shall be held in any town or village in any such county, it shall be held and conducted at the town or village hall of and in such town or village, and shall open at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon and continue to and close at the hour of half past seven o'clock of the same afternoon of the day fixed for the holding of such caucuses.

Caucuses,  
notice of.

Conventions,  
when held.

Caucuses,  
when held.

**Inspectors,  
how appointed.**

SECTION 3. There shall be appointed annually on or before the first day of February of each year, by the chairman of the county committee, three electors of each town, village and ward, who shall act as inspectors at every caucus held therein of the political party for which he acts, and every elector so appointed shall, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, and within ten days from the time of his appointment, make oath or affirmation before the county clerk of such county, who is hereby authorized to administer the same, that he is an elector of the town, village or ward for which he is appointed; that he will faithfully, honestly and correctly conduct the election to be held at the caucus; protect it against all fraud and unfairness; carefully and truly canvass all votes cast thereat, and in every way comply with and carry out the provisions of this act. Such inspectors shall thereafter have full authority to administer all oaths necessary to carry on said caucus in the manner herein provided. Said county chairman may at any time prior to the opening of the caucus remove any inspector so appointed by him and appoint another in his place, who shall qualify in like manner. In case at the time fixed for opening such caucus any inspector shall fail to appear, the inspector or inspectors present shall appoint some elector, resident of the ward, village or town in which such caucus is held, in the place of such absent inspector, and shall administer to such person the oath provided for in this act. Such inspectors shall, upon the day duly fixed for holding the caucus, open and declare the same opened at the hour hereinbefore named, and shall, at the time herein set forth, publicly declare the same closed, and immediately after closing the same, they shall count every vote cast, in the presence of all persons desiring to attend, who may have been voted for at such caucus, or one authorized agent for each such person; and immediately when the result is determined, announce the same in a loud voice, burn all of the ballots or tickets cast, and send verified and certified proper returns forthwith to the chairman of the county committee, which ordered said caucus to be held. Said inspectors, in verifying said

**Oath.**

**Powers.**

**Vacancies, how filled.**

**Ballots to be burned.**

returns, may administer the oath to each other. Any inspector who shall make any false return of the action of the caucus, or of any vote cast thereat, shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished in the manner provided by law for making a false return of any election. No person shall vote or offer to vote more than once in one caucus for one and the same candidate, and the same set of delegates, and no person shall vote or offer to vote in any caucus where candidates and delegates are to be chosen, if he has already voted at the caucus of any other political party for candidates to be voted for, or for delegates to be chosen to act in a convention to nominate candidates to be voted for, at the next ensuing election. Any person violating the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished in the manner hereinafter provided. It is hereby made the duty of every such inspector, in case he shall believe that any person offering to vote at any such caucus, voted against the regular candidates of the party holding such caucus at the last preceding election at which he voted, to challenge the right of such person to vote at such caucus, and no person so challenged shall be permitted to vote at any such caucus, unless he shall first subscribe and file with such inspectors an oath or affirmation that he did not vote against such regular candidates at such last preceding election. All such affidavits shall be returned by such inspector to the county committee of the party holding such caucus. In case any person shall, in making said oath or affirmation, falsely swear, he shall be deemed to have committed wilful perjury, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished in the manner provided by law. The color of the paper of the various tickets shall be as follows: For the election of candidates for members of assembly, or delegates to conventions for the election of candidates for assembly, and candidates for supervisors, village and town officers, yellow; for the election of delegates to county and city conventions, green; for the election of candidates for aldermen and delegates to senatorial conventions, white; for the election of delegates to conventions for

False returns,  
penalty.

Voting;  
penalty for  
illegal.

Challenges,  
affidavit on.

Paper for  
tickets, what  
color to be  
used.

Caucus tickets  
not to be dis-  
tributed on  
streets, etc.

the election of candidates for justices of the peace and constables, red. No person shall distribute or offer to distribute any caucus tickets or ballots, to be voted at such caucus, on the public streets or in any public place in the town, ward or village, where such caucus is held, during the hours of the caucus; and any candidate may deposit his tickets in the caucus booth for the use of voters; and such tickets, except to be used for voting, shall not be removed from or distributed in the booth after they are placed there, until the caucus is closed; and any person who shall violate any of the provisions last above named, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished in the manner hereinafter provided.

Registry lists  
to be given  
chairman.

SECTION 4. The board of registry of each election precinct shall, at least two days prior to the days fixed for the holding of each caucus to be held in the ward, village or town in which such precinct is situated, deliver to the chairman of the respective ward committee three copies of the printed registry list of electors made at the first meeting of said board of registry of electors, entitled to vote in such precinct at the ensuing election, and the failure or refusal of any such board of registry to comply with the provisions of this section, shall operate to forfeit all compensation provided by law to be made to every member of such board of registry, and they shall thereafter be ineligible to act as inspectors of election. The chairman of the ward committee receiving such lists shall deliver them to the inspectors of the caucus, on or before the day fixed for the holding of the caucus, and prior to the hour fixed for opening the same, and in case of his failure, neglect or refusal to deliver them to the inspectors, as aforesaid (if they shall have been duly delivered to him by the board of registry), at the time herein fixed, he shall be deemed to have forfeited his office as the chairman of such ward committee, and the inspectors of the caucus may, in such manner as they may deem best, obtain the said lists and use them in the manner herein provided. The manner of conducting such caucuses, preparing tally sheets and making the poll lists of voters thereat, shall be the same as

Chairman to  
deliver lists to  
inspectors.

Caucuses, how  
conducted.

at regular elections; only voters whose names appear on such registration lists (where registration is by law required), shall be allowed to cast a vote at said caucuses.

SECTION 5. The county committee of each political party or association shall fix the basis of representation of the various wards, towns and villages, in all conventions held by such party in every such county, the tickets or ballots to be used at the caucuses for choosing delegates, or nominating candidates, shall contain the name of the political party, the number of the ward, or the name of the town or village, the name of the convention, or the name of the office, and shall not contain more names for delegates or candidates for office, than the ward, village or town is entitled to; and every ticket or ballot containing more names for delegates or candidates for office than the ward, village or town is entitled to, is hereby declared to be void, and the same shall not be counted by the inspectors.

Basis of representation in convention, county committee to fix.

SECTION 6. In every senatorial district lying wholly within any such county, candidates for the office of state senator shall be nominated by delegates who shall be chosen at the holding of the caucuses in each ward, village and town within such senatorial district, and such delegates shall, on the day ensuing such caucus, meet and choose the nominee for state senator. At the same time when such caucuses are held, and there shall be a nomination to be made for member of assembly, there shall be chosen at such caucus in each town, village or ward, constituting such assembly district, delegates, who shall, on the ensuing day, meet and choose the nominee for member of the assembly; in case the assembly district is composed of one ward only, then the member of assembly shall be nominated by the caucus direct. In case of the failure of any senatorial convention or assembly district convention, or caucus, to choose its nominee on the day herein fixed, such nominee shall be chosen and selected on the next secular day following, by the county committee of the respective party.

State senators how nominated.

Assemblymen, how nominated.

SECTION 7. Candidates for all city offices shall be nominated by delegates chosen by the caucuses provided for in this act, and there shall

City officers, how nominated.



**Proxies  
prohibited.**

be chosen or nominated by the caucus, at the same time that delegates are chosen for the city convention, all ward and other officers to be voted for at the time of holding the city election, and which are not nominated by the city convention. It is hereby made unlawful for any delegate, chosen at such caucus to any convention, to authorize or empower any other person to represent him in any such convention, and representation by proxy is hereby prohibited.

**Bribery, etc., a  
misdemeanor.**

SECTION 8. Every person who, by bribery or corrupt or unlawful means, prevents or attempts to prevent any voter from attending or voting at any caucus mentioned in this act, or who shall give or offer to give any valuable thing or bribe to any inspector or delegate whose office is created by this act, as a consideration for some act to be done, or omitted to be done, in relation to such caucus or convention, or who shall interfere with, or in any manner disturb any caucus held under the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished in the manner hereinafter provided.

**Penalty.**

SECTION 9. If any person shall be convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this act, for which no punishment is herein provided, or who shall be convicted of a misdemeanor under the provisions of this act, he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than two nor more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

**Act not to  
apply in cer-  
tain ca. ses.**

SECTION 10. The provisions of this act shall not apply to the election or nomination of state officers, or to any special election or judicial election (except for justice of the peace), held in any county specified in section 1, of this act.

SECTION 11. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby modified, superseded or repealed, to the extent that this act be carried into full force and effect.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 18, 1893.