

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 19  
ELECTION OFFICIALS

Sec.

531. Wardens and ward clerks.

532. Election clerks.

533. Persons ineligible to serve.

**§ 531. Wardens and ward clerks**

In a city, the election, term of office, compensation and partial duties of wardens and ward clerks are determined by the city charter. Additional duties are prescribed by this Title. In a town, the chairman of the municipal officers shall appoint a warden and one or more deputy wardens to serve in the absence or disability of the warden. The warden and deputy wardens must be municipal officers. The chairman may designate himself as warden or deputy warden. In a town which has more than one voting place, the clerk may appoint a special deputy to help perform his duties on election day.

1961, c. 360, § 1; c. 408, § 2.

**§ 532. Election clerks**

Election clerks are governed by the following provisions:

**1. Appointment.** In May of general election year, the municipal officers of each municipality shall appoint as election clerks for each voting place an equal number of persons nominated by the municipal committees of the 2 major parties. At the request of the municipal committee of any minor party represented on the official ballot used at the last general election, the municipal officers shall appoint one election clerk for each voting place nominated by that committee. The municipal officers shall designate an equal number of election clerks from each major party to issue ballots to incoming voters and receive ballots of outgoing voters.

**2. Number appointed.** The municipal officers shall appoint 4 election clerks for each voting place in each municipality who must be residents of the electoral divisions in which they are to serve:

**A. Exception.** They shall appoint 2 election clerks for each voting place in a municipality of 300 or less population, in the

island wards of the City of Portland, the island district of the Town of Cumberland, and the districts of the Town of Cranberry Isles.

**B. Additional clerks.** They may appoint additional election clerks, if necessary, who are nominated as provided in subsection 1.

**C. Alternate clerks.** They shall appoint alternate election clerks who are nominated as provided in subsection 1 and who may be called into service by the warden, as needed, to fill a vacancy on election day.

1961, c. 408, § 3; 1963, c. 78, § 9.

**3. Sworn to office.** Before assuming the duties of office, an election clerk shall be sworn by the warden or clerk, and the fact of his having been sworn shall be recorded by the clerk.

**4. Term of office.** An election clerk holds office for 2 years from the date of his appointment, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

**A. Exception.** An election clerk who is appointed to represent a minor party holds office only 2 years from the date of his appointment.

**5. Duties.** Election clerks shall attend the voting places for which they were appointed, at each election. They shall assist the warden in counting the ballots and in performing other duties prescribed by him.

**A. Compensation.** The election clerks shall be paid a reasonable compensation as determined by the municipal officers.

**6. Application of city charter.** A city charter which provides for the election of 2 persons to assist the warden in receiving, sorting and counting ballots is not affected by this section. The persons elected under authority of the charter are deemed to be election clerks and each must represent a different major party.

1961, c. 360, § 1; c. 408, § 3; 1963, c. 78, § 9.

**§ 533. Persons ineligible to serve**

The following persons may not serve as election officials:

- 1. Certain employees.** An employee of a party or candidate;
  - 2. Direct pecuniary interest.** A person having a direct pecuniary interest in the result of a referendum question;
  - 3. Candidate or spouse.** A candidate or his spouse.
- A. Exception.** This does not apply to a candidate for warden or ward clerk or his spouse.

1961, c. 360, § 1.