

case of absolute necessity, any judge or clerk in attendance shall be compelled to absent himself, he shall appoint some fit person of the same political party with himself to act in his stead until his return, having first administered to such substitute the same oath as he himself has taken. Blank forms for the appointment of substitute judges and clerks and of the oath aforesaid shall be supplied by the supervisors, and the oath, when administered, shall be preserved and returned by the judges to the supervisors. The appointment and swearing in of all such substitutes, and the reason therefor, and the time when such substitutes began and ceased to serve, shall be noted by the judges in the poll-book of the precinct; such substitute shall cease to act whenever the judge or clerk in whose stead he was appointed shall be present.

1896, ch. 202.

**57.** Each political party or other body of voters having a candidate or candidates duly nominated, shall have the right to designate and keep a challenger and watcher at each place of registration and election, who shall be assigned to such positions near the judges of elections, inside the registration or polling room as to enable them to see each person as he offers to register or vote, and they shall be protected in the discharge of their duty by the judges of election and the police. A certificate, signed by the candidates or by the presiding officer of the chief managing committee of their party in the city or county, shall be sufficient evidence of the right of such challenger and watcher to be present in the registration or polling room. In case any challenger or watcher does not produce such certificate, the judges of election shall recognize a challenger or watcher vouched for by the persons present belonging to such political party, or by the judge representing such party. Such challenger and watcher shall have the right to remain in the polling room, outside the rail hereinafter mentioned, from the time the polls are opened until they are closed, and after that time he shall be permitted to remain within the rail until the returns are completed. The refusal to permit any such challenger so to remain shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both fine and imprisonment; but it shall be unlawful for