

qualified voter and a resident of Allegany County for at least 3 years.

(c) Members of the Allegany County Board shall be elected:

(1) At a general election as required by subsection (d) of this section OR AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; and

(2) From Allegany County at large.

(d) (1) Each member serves for a term of 4 years beginning on January 2 after his election and until a successor is elected and qualifies. If January 2 is a legal holiday, the term begins on the first day after January 2 that is not a legal holiday.

(2) The terms of members are staggered as required by the terms of the members serving on the County Board on July 1, 1978.

(3) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE Governor shall appoint a new member to fill any vacancy on the Board for the remainder of that term and until a successor is elected and qualifies.

(4) IF A VACANCY OCCURS BEFORE THE END OF THE SECOND YEAR OF A TERM, THE VACANCY MAY NOT BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION BUT INSTEAD SHALL BE FILLED BY A SPECIAL ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

(E) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, THE ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS SHALL CONDUCT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY THAT OCCURS BEFORE THE END OF THE SECOND YEAR OF A TERM.

(2) CANDIDATES FOR THE VACATED OFFICE MAY BE NOMINATED AT A PRIMARY ELECTION OR BY PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE ~~BOARD~~ ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS.

(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SPECIAL ELECTION SHALL BE HELD NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURS.

(4) IF A VACANCY OCCURS NOT MORE THAN 9 MONTHS BEFORE A REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION, THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY MAY TAKE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE AS THE REGULAR GENERAL ELECTION.

(5) IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CANDIDATE RECEIVING THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VOTES IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION SHALL TAKE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE ELECTION, AND SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE FOR