

in case of absolute necessity, any judge in attendance shall be compelled to absent himself, he shall appoint some fit person of the same political party as himself to act in his stead until his return, having first administered to such substitute the same oath as he himself has taken. (c) Blank forms for the appointment of the substitute judges and the oath aforesaid shall be supplied by the board, and the oath when administered shall be preserved and returned by the judges to the board. (d) The appointment and swearing in of all such substitutes and the reason therefor, and the time when such substitute began and ceased to serve shall be noted by the judges on loose-leaf pages inserted in the binders containing the precinct cards; such substitute shall cease to act whenever the judge in whose stead he was appointed shall be present.

2-9. Responsibility of board for elections.

(a) Each board shall have charge of and make provision for all elections to be held in its county or city, or any part thereof at any time; provided, however, that in any incorporated city or town in the State (other than the City of Baltimore) in which the municipal or charter elections are regulated by the public local laws of the State or the charter of the municipality, the conduct of municipal or charter elections shall continue to be so regulated as heretofore or may hereafter be provided by public local laws or the charter of the municipality and the same shall continue in force therein.

(b) The board shall have power to make all necessary rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this article, with reference to the registration of voters and the conduct of elections. Unless otherwise expressly provided in this article, all questions arising with reference to such rules and regulations as to the registration of voters and the conduct of elections shall be decided by a majority of the board.

(c) The board shall have power to summon judges and any witnesses involved and to require their appearance before them; and to administer oaths and take testimony from such judges and witnesses.

(d) The office of each board shall be open on any election day, and the members of the board shall be available when needed on such day.

2-10. Notice of elections.

Each board shall give public notice of the time and place of all elections in each precinct. Such notice shall be given in newspapers of general circulation; in the discretion of the board, notice may also be given by handbills set up in such public places in each precinct as the board may determine.

(a) In the counties, each board shall give ten days' notice of the time and place of all elections by advertisements, if same can be procured at the current rate for commercial advertising, in at least two newspapers of general circulation published in the county except that in those counties where there is only one newspaper published which is a weekly of general circulation, then in such weekly newspaper.