

3-16. Challenges of voters and correction of lists; how made; forms.

(a) Any voter may file with the board or with the board of registry objections to the registration of any person whom such voter has reason to believe is not eligible to vote, or a request for the addition of any person whose name has been erroneously omitted or dropped from the registration list of any precinct. Application for the correction of any such precinct registration list or a challenge of the right to vote of a person named on such list may be made by any qualified voter at the office of the Board on or before the Tuesday sixteen weeks preceding any primary election.

(b) Such applications or challenges shall be made in the form provided by subsection (e) of this section and the forms shall be provided by the board for that purpose. The voter shall state thereon, under oath and of his own personal knowledge, the reason for the application or challenge. Thereafter the voter so applying or challenging shall be required to appear in person at the time of the hearing on the application or challenge as provided for in subsection (d) of this section and for wilful failure to so appear shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Section 24-27 of this Article.

(c) Persons whose right to register has been challenged and persons whose names are alleged to have been erroneously omitted or dropped from the registration lists shall be given written notice, sent by mail, addressed to the voter at the last address given on his registration form. Any voter so notified may appear in person or by counsel.

(d) The board of registry shall sit for the purpose of hearing applications for changes in such registration lists, or challenges of the right to vote on such lists. They shall meet on the Tuesday fourteen weeks before an election at such hours as the board may designate. If all such applications or challenges be not determined on that day, they shall sit during the same hours on succeeding days until all cases are heard and decided. If it is not possible to hear all such cases within two days, the board may appoint one or more boards of registry, each consisting of two members of opposite political parties, to aid in hearing such applications or challenges at a rate of compensation fixed as provided in Section 2-6 of this Article. At the request of either party, the board shall issue subpoenas to witnesses to appear at such hearings, who shall be sworn and examined. All cases shall be decided immediately after hearing. No voter as to whom an application or a challenge has been made shall be removed from the registration lists unless the application or challenge is substantiated by affirmative proof. In the absence of such proof, the presumption shall be that the voter as to whom the application or challenge was made is properly registered. If the board is satisfied that the person so challenged, omitted or dropped from the registration lists has actually moved to another precinct and is presently residing within that other precinct, the board may transfer that person to the registration list of the precinct in which he presently resides.

(e) Objections to the registration of any person shall be made in substantially the following form: