

SUBSTANTIATE THE APPLICATION OR CHALLENGE BY AFFIRMATIVE PROOF;
AND

[(c) Persons] (3) BY CERTIFIED MAIL SEND THE NOTICE BY CERTIFIED--MAIL OF THE HEARING AND REASON THEREFOR TO THE PERSON whose right to register has been challenged [and persons] OR whose [names are] NAME IS alleged to have been erroneously omitted or dropped from the registration [lists shall be given written notice, sent by mail,] LIST. THIS NOTICE SHALL BE addressed to the [voter at the last] PERSON'S MOST RECENT address [given on his] AS REFLECTED BY THE registration [form] RECORDS. Any [voter] PERSON so notified may appear in person or by counsel.

(d) (1) The board OR BOARD of registry shall [sit for the purpose of] CONDUCT THE 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 § 2-6 of this article] ON EACH APPLICATION AND CHALLENGE.

(2) THE WILLFUL FAILURE OF THE APPLICANT OR CHALLENGER TO APPEAR AT A HEARING UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE PUNISHABLE BY THE PENALTIES PROVIDED IN § 24-27 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(3) At the request of either party, OR ON ITS OWN MOTION, the board shall issue subpoenas to witnesses to appear AND TESTIFY at [such] THE hearings[, who].

(4) WITNESSES AT THE HEARINGS shall be sworn [and examined].

(E) (1) All cases shall be decided [immediately] PROMPTLY after hearing.

(2) No [voter as to whom an application or a challenge has been made] PERSON shall be removed from the registration lists unless the [application or challenge] PERSON'S INELIGIBILITY 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] PERSON is properly registered.

(3) WHENEVER A BOARD OR BOARD OF REGISTRY DETERMINES, AFTER A HEARING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THAT A PERSON SHOULD BE ADDED TO OR REMOVED FROM THE REGISTRATION LISTS, THE BOARD,