

the boundary lines between different Parishes, or between different Counties are doubtful, the Parish in which the Elector is reputed to reside, or has been accustomed to pay Parish rates, and performing statute labour on the Highways, shall be taken and deemed to be the Parish in which such Elector resides, for all the purposes of this Act, any thing contained in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

VII. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Sheriffs of the respective Counties, and they are hereby respectively authorized and required, immediately before the commencement of any Election, to appoint by Warrant under Seal, a sufficient number of Deputies, to preside at the several places appointed for taking the Poll in their respective Counties, and also a sufficient number of Clerks to take the Poll at the Shire Town, and at the several places appointed for taking the Poll in such County, and shall by precept under his Hand and Seal require each of such Deputies to take the Poll of such Election for the District, Town, Parish, or Ward, as the case may be, for which he has been so appointed according to law, and to return the same to him under his Hand and Seal, by the day to which such Sheriff or presiding Officer shall have adjourned the further proceeding in the said Election; and the Poll Clerks employed at these several places shall, at the close of the Poll, enclose and seal their several Books, and shall publicly deliver them so enclosed and sealed to the presiding Officer at such Poll, who shall give a receipt for the same, and forthwith deliver or transmit the same so enclosed and sealed to the Sheriff of the County, who shall receive and keep all such Poll Books unopened, until the re-assembling of the Court at the County Court House in each County, on the day to which such Court and the proceedings in the said Election shall have been adjourned, and then he shall openly break the seals thereon, and cast up the number of votes as they appear on the said several Books, and shall there openly declare the state of the Poll, and shall forthwith make proclamation of the Members chosen, not later than three in the afternoon of the said day, and shall forthwith make return of such person or persons as have a majority of votes, unless a scrutiny be demanded by any Candidate at such Election, or by five or more Freeholders of the County, in which case it shall and may be lawful for such Sheriff, and he is hereby required to grant the same, and to proceed thereupon within three days after the day of such proclamation, causing the same to be kept open during the continuance of such scrutiny, six hours at the least in each day, between the hours of eight A. M. and four P. M., unless prevented by unavoidable accident, but so as that in all cases of an Election of any new Assembly, or to fill any vacancy in the present or any future Assembly, every Sheriff having the return of a Writ shall close such scrutiny, and make his return upon such Writ, on or before the day on which such Writ is returnable.

VIII. And be it enacted, That whenever a scrutiny shall be granted, as aforesaid, and there shall be more parties than one objecting to votes on such scrutiny, the Sheriff shall decide alternately, or by turns, on the votes given for the different Candidates who shall be parties to such scrutiny, or against whom the same shall be carried on, beginning with the votes objected to by the party first demanding the scrutiny.

IX. And be it enacted, That upon every election of any Member or Members to serve in this or any future Assembly, it shall and may be lawful for the Sheriff or Under Sheriff presiding at such scrutiny, if he see cause, and he is in such case authorized during the continuance of any scrutiny which shall be granted, as aforesaid, to administer an oath to any person whatsoever consenting to take the same, touching the right of any person having voted at such Election, or touching any other matter or thing, material or necessary towards carrying on such scrutiny.

X. And be it enacted, That at the commencement of every Election of any Member or Members to serve in this or any future Assembly, the Sheriff of the County or City in which such Election shall be made, either in person or by his sufficient Under Sheriff, shall in the first instance open and hold his Court for such Election at the Court House in the Shire Town of the said County, or in such City, between the hours of ten A. M. and twelve of the clock, at noon, on the day appointed and notified for that purpose, agreeably to the Provisions of this Act, and shall continue the same open till the hour of two P. M. on that day, when and where the names of all the Candidates that shall then offer, or be handed in by two or more substantial Freeholders of such County or City, to such Sheriff or Under Sheriff presiding at such Election, shall under the direction of such Sheriff or presiding Officer, be entered and recorded by the Poll Clerk, to be appointed at such Election, in the Poll Book to be provided for that purpose, and

Sheriff to appoint a Poll Clerk for the Shire Town and Poll Clerks and Deputies for the several polling places.

To issue his Precept to the Deputies.

Poll Clerks at the close of each Poll to seal up their Books and deliver them to the presiding officer to be transmitted to the Sheriff.

To be opened at the Court at the County Court House, when the votes shall be cast up and Members declared unless a Scrutiny be demanded.

How scrutiny of votes to be proceeded with.

Sheriff presiding at a scrutiny authorized to administer oath.

At the commencement of every Election Sheriff to hold a Court in the Shire Town, when the Candidates shall be nominated and Members declared if no Poll be demanded.