

49.13 Commissioner to appoint members, chairperson.

1. The membership of each precinct election board shall be appointed by the commissioner, not less than fifteen days before each election held in the precinct, from the election board panel drawn up as provided in section 49.15. Precinct election officials shall be registered voters of the county, or other political subdivision within which precincts have been merged across county lines pursuant to section 49.11, subsection 1, in which they are appointed. Preference shall be given to appointment of residents of a precinct to serve as precinct election officials for that precinct, but the commissioner may appoint other residents of the county where necessary.

2. Each election board member shall be a member of one of the two political parties whose candidates for president of the United States or for governor, as the case may be, received the largest and next largest number of votes in the precinct at the last general election, except that persons not members of either of these parties may be appointed to serve for any election in which no candidates appear on the ballot under the heading of either of these political parties.

3. In appointing the election board to serve for any election in which candidates' names do appear under the heading of these political parties, the commissioner shall give preference to the persons designated by the respective county chairpersons of these political parties for placement on the election board panel, as provided by section 49.15, in the order that they were so designated. However, the commissioner may for good cause decline to appoint a designee of a county chairperson if that chairperson is notified and allowed two working days to designate a replacement.

4. The commissioner shall designate one member of each precinct election board as chairperson of that board. If a counting board authorized by chapter 51 is appointed, the chairperson shall have authority over the mechanics of the work of both boards. At the discretion of the commissioner, two people who are members of different political parties may be appointed as cochairpersons. The cochairpersons shall have joint authority over the work of the precinct election board.

[C97, § 1093; SS15, § 1093; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § 733; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, § 49.15; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 49.13]

95 Acts, ch 67, §53; 97 Acts, ch 170, § 23