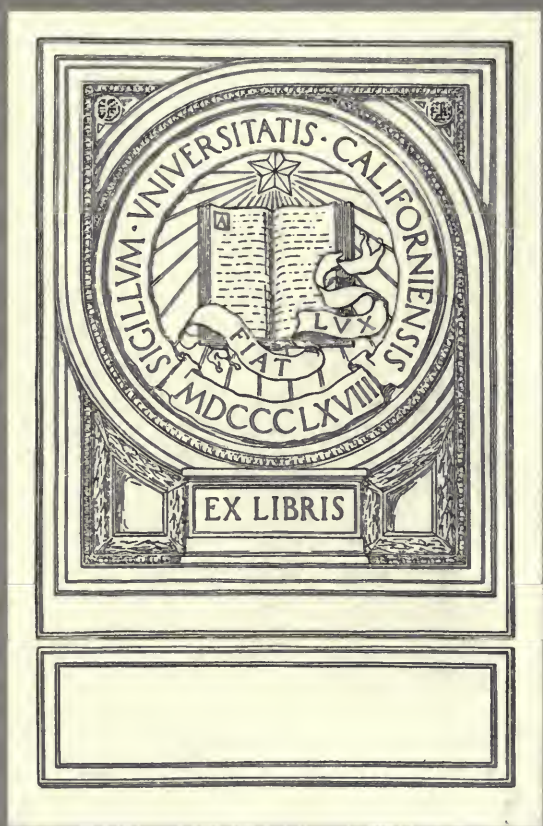


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THE HIGH COST *of* ELECTIONS

IN

CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

REPORT PREPARED BY THE
CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

315 PLYMOUTH COURT

CHICAGO BUREAU
OF
PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

ORGANIZED 1910

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INTRODUCTION

The accompanying report on "The High Cost of Elections in Chicago and Cook County" is issued by the Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency with the three-fold purpose of furnishing information to the public; of urging upon the Illinois Legislature the need of changing present laws so as to reduce election costs; and of suggesting to the Constitutional Convention the modification of provisions of the Constitution affecting elections.

Much of the work of collecting information for this report and of preparing it for publication was performed by Mr. George C. Sikes, former secretary of the Bureau, who has been specially engaged to assist in dealing with problems of reorganization of local government in Chicago.

CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY,

HARRIS S. KEELEB,

Director.

January, 1921.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That in place of the present legal requirement of a complete new registration of voters by precincts every two years there be a new registration by precincts in presidential years only and that the registration lists be allowed to stand for four years; that there be only one intermediate registration by precincts, to be held prior to the November election of an even year other than the presidential year; that all other intermediate registrations by precincts be abolished; that provision be made for a system of central registration whereby voters can register at the City Hall at any time except during a designated number of days prior to an election or a primary.

2. That provisions of the Constitution relating to the election of judges be so modified as to authorize the Legislature to bring about a reduction in the number of elections by consolidating judicial elections with city elections.

3. That the term of supreme court judges be changed from nine years to some even number of years, so as to make it possible to consolidate elections for such judges with other elections not partisan in nature, and to avoid the occasional election now necessary solely for choosing one supreme court judge.

4. That the law relating to small park districts be so modified that the holding of separate elections for choosing small park district commissioners will be avoided.

5. That the Legislature change the tax rate provisions of the park consolidation act of 1915, thus paving the

way for its re-submission to a referendum vote. The adoption of this act by the city and by the park districts would eliminate elections for small park district commissioners.

6. That the primary for the nomination of mayor, city clerk and city treasurer be eliminated by applying to these offices the provisions of the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen.

7. That the Constitution and laws of the State be changed so as to effect a reduction in the number of elective officials.

8. That the ballot law be amended to eliminate the party column and party circle, substituting instead the real Australian or Massachusetts form of ballot, on which the names of candidates are arranged under the designation of the office to be filled.

9. That presidential electors be voted for and counted as a group, as is already done in some other states, thus reducing the size of the ballot and the work of counting.

10. That the size of election precincts be increased, and the number reduced—thus effecting large savings—as rapidly as the progress of the movement for shortening the ballot and otherwise simplifying election procedure will permit.

11. That the Constitutional Convention abandon the plan tentatively approved by it to write into the Constitution the one-election-a-year policy, inasmuch as that policy is legislative in nature and does not properly belong in the basic law. The proposal in question is especially objectionable because it repeals outright the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen in Chicago and restores the bad practice of making election days legal holidays, thus setting aside two beneficial legislative measures secured from the 1919 session of the General Assembly after years of effort on the part of citizen bodies.

THE HIGH COST OF ELECTIONS

IN

CHICAGO AND COOK COUNTY

Election costs in Chicago and Cook County have gone up enormously in recent years. The high cost of government is an important element in the high cost of living. Needless election expense constitutes a substantial part of the high cost of government.

While the tendency in election costs thus far has been rapidly upward, counter influences at last are at work. Substantial economies will be effected by the fifty-ward law and the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen in Chicago, recently adopted by referendum vote. Whether these economies merely will retard the rapid rate of increase, or will reverse the upward movement and lead to lower costs is dependent on future developments. On the basis of continued operation of the laws as they now stand, election costs in this community should begin to show an actual decline in 1922. The danger is that past experiences will be repeated and that changes will be made which unnecessarily will start the trend upward again.

Election expenses can be reduced still further without impairment of the governmental machinery. In the main the remedies lie with the Legislature and the Constitutional Convention. Existing arbitrary statutory and constitutional requirements are responsible for most of the needless expense involved in conducting elections.

In a report issued by the Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency late in 1912, entitled "Growing Cost of Elec-

tions in Chicago and Cook County," it was pointed out that election costs in this community had more than trebled in sixteen years. They had grown from less than \$300,000 in 1896 to almost \$1,000,000 in 1912. In 1916 the election expenses for Chicago and Cook County exceeded \$2,000,000, which means that they had more than doubled in the four-year period from 1912 to 1916. The increase of 1920 over 1916 was not so marked, but the figures for 1920 are in excess of those for 1916 by over \$200,000. In 1920, the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen in Chicago, which was then in operation for the first time, effected a saving of approximately \$200,000. There was a separate judicial election in June, 1916, costing about \$150,000, and no corresponding election in 1920. Except for these circumstances the cost in 1920 would have been about \$550,000 higher than in 1916.

There are several causes for the rapid advance in election costs. Growth of population, of course, is one. Extension of the suffrage to women is another. More voters mean more precincts (involving substantial additional cost) and larger expenses for printing, supplies, and other purposes. Increase in the number of registrations as an incident to the introduction of the direct primary system has caused much of the advance in costs. Under the old convention system a primary for the selection of delegates was not preceded by a precinct registration. The direct primary law did not specifically require such registration, and evidently the Legislature did not contemplate it. But the courts ruled that a direct primary was an election. Under that ruling, the general provision of law requiring a registration by precincts prior to every regular election, except judicial elections, became applicable to primary elections.

WAYS OF REDUCING ELECTION COSTS

The principal ways to lower election costs are:

1. Reduce the number of registrations.
2. Reduce the number of elections.
3. Reduce the number of primaries.
4. Shorten the ballot.
5. Increase the size of election precincts, thus reducing expenditures for salaries of judges and clerks, rental of polling places, and cartage of booths and supplies.

TOO MANY REGISTRATIONS

A registration in Chicago is more expensive than the election which it precedes. For an intermediate registration the three judges are on duty two days; the two clerks, three days. Each receives \$5 a day. Thus the cost per precinct for salaries of judges and clerks is \$60. The rental of a polling place for registration day and revision night is \$8, making a total of \$68 for each precinct for salaries of judges and clerks and rental of polling places. With 2210 precincts in the city, the aggregate cost on this account is \$150,280. There are some other expenses, of course, for supplies and overhead. The foregoing figures are for an intermediate registration. There is at present an entirely new registration of voters in October of each even numbered year. The judges and clerks are then on duty an additional day, making a further expense of \$25 for salaries of judges and clerks and of \$5 for rental of polling place, thus raising the cost of registration per precinct from \$68 to \$98.

For an election the salary of judges and clerks is \$7 a day each and the rental of polling places is \$7, making a total of \$42 per precinct. Printing and other expenses for an election are higher than for a registration, but not enough more to equal the added cost for services for judges and clerks for a registration.

Under the Constitution of Illinois, a person otherwise qualified is entitled to vote if he has lived in a precinct 30 days. Therefore, some form of opportunity to register must be afforded to voters within 30 days before each election, or a qualified elector must be allowed to vote by affidavit. At present voting by affidavit is allowed at judicial elections and at some special elections. But use of this practice on a large scale would not tend to promote the purity of elections. The alternative to registration by precincts prior to each election is some form of central registration. This plan, like all methods for dealing with election problems, has critics, but the Bureau believes it should be adopted as a substitute for some—but not all—registrations by precincts.

Central Registration Recommended

The recommendations of the Bureau are:

1. That there be a complete new registration by precincts prior to the November election in each presidential year, and that in place of the present legal requirement of an entirely new registration every two years, the registration lists be allowed to stand for four years.
2. That an intermediate registration by precincts be held prior to the November election in each even numbered year other than a presidential year, and that all other intermediate registrations by precincts be abolished.
3. That provision be made by law whereby persons qualified to vote may register at any time at the office of the Board of Election Commissioners in the City Hall, except during a designated number of days just prior to an election or a primary.

The plan suggested in these recommendations, if adopted, would operate to eliminate, during a four-year period, registrations as follows:

In a presidential year, one registration before the presidential preferential primaries in April; also one registration before the September primaries.

In an odd numbered year in which a mayor is not elected, one registration prior to the aldermanic election.

In an even numbered year that is not a presidential year, one registration before the September primaries; also one of the two registration days in October.

In an odd numbered year in which a mayor is elected in Chicago, two registrations; one before the primary and one before the election.

The Resultant Money Saving

This program would mean the elimination of six complete registrations (registration, canvass and revision) and one additional registration day in each four-year period. The amount of the money saving thus effected during four years would be in excess of \$1,000,000. The additional cost of the central registration system should be less than a fifth of that amount, which means that the net saving for the period would be in excess of \$800,000, or an average annual saving of over \$200,000.

TOO MANY ELECTIONS

With rare exceptions, there have been at least two elections a year in Chicago, and frequently three. Not since 1913 has there been a year in which only one election occurred. Hereafter the number of elections will be materially reduced by the fifty-ward law. Because of that law, city elections will be held every two years only, in odd numbered years. Elections for national, state and county offices are held biennially, in even numbered years. Therefore, were it not for judicial elections which occur at separate times, and for yearly spring elections for commissioners in small park districts in some parts of the

city, Chicago from now on would be on a one-election-a-year basis.

The Constitution requires the election of supreme court judges and circuit court judges on the first Monday in June. The Legislature has fixed the dates for choosing most of the superior court judges in Cook County at times when no other officials are elected. All the circuit court judges are elected at one time. Terms of superior court judges do not expire together. One superior court judge was elected in April, 1919, at the same time as a city election, for a six-year term. One superior court judge will be elected in June, 1921, when the 20 circuit judges are chosen. Six superior court judges will be elected in June, 1922, and 12 at a separate judicial election in November, 1923.

Dates for Judicial Elections Should Not Be Fixed by the Constitution

The term of supreme court judges is nine years, which is an awkward one for election purposes. The Bureau believes the term should be eight or ten or twelve years, instead of nine, and recommends to the Constitutional Convention the change of the term to some even number of years.

In June, 1924, a judicial election will be held in Cook County for choosing one supreme court judge, no other official being elected at that time. The cost for this separate election for one judge will be about \$150,000.

The terms of superior court judges should be so adjusted by the Constitution that they would expire together, thus making possible the election of all superior court judges at one time. The judicial plan recommended by the Constitutional Convention committee on judicial department does not correct the present arrangement, but leaves the terms of superior court judges expiring at different times.

The Bureau believes that the specific dates for judicial elections, instead of being fixed absolutely in the Constitution, should be left for designation by the Legislature.

The principle of the selection of judges at separate times, embodied in the Illinois constitution of 1870, may or may not be wise, according to circumstances. Undoubtedly it is better to have judicial elections separate from other elections, notwithstanding the added expense involved, if judges are to be nominated and elected on partisan tickets. It may even be undesirable to elect judges on a non-partisan ballot at the time of a national or state election in which party feeling runs strong. It might be wise, however, to combine judicial and city elections, both conducted on non-partisan lines. The Legislature ought to have the power to change the dates of judicial elections so that they may occur at the same time as city elections, if that course seems desirable. In this connection, it may be said that municipal court judges ought to be chosen at city elections, on a non-partisan ballot, rather than on a partisan ballot at the elections for national and state officers in November.

Choosing Small Park District Commissioners

The fifty-ward law and the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen in Chicago will not operate to produce the full savings possible in election expenses unless changes are made in the dates of electing small park district commissioners. Under authority of a legislative enactment of 1895 thirteen small park districts have been created which lie wholly within the limits of Chicago and there are two more such districts partly within the city. Each of these districts is governed by an elective board of five commissioners, serving for five-year terms. One commissioner is elected each year on the first Tuesday in April. So long as Chicago had a city election in April every year, this plan did not involve added expense. Here-

after, however, under the fifty-ward law, a city election is to be eliminated every other year. Moreover, under the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen, the main election for aldermen occurs in February. Only supplemental elections are held on the first Tuesday in April. Supplemental elections were needed in April, 1920, in only nine wards. As the laws now stand, therefore, in even numbered years no city elections will be held in Chicago. Yet in each small park district an election will be necessary for the selection of one commissioner. In odd numbered years in which only aldermen are elected in Chicago an election in April for park commissioner will be required in small park districts comprising parts of wards in which there may be no supplemental elections for alderman. Moreover, the city of Chicago must pay the expenses of these needless elections for park district commissioners. The amount of the expense on this account probably will exceed \$25,000 in each even year and perhaps two-thirds of that sum in each odd year in which only aldermen are elected. The territory in Chicago included in these small park districts has about 200 election precincts out of 2,210 for the entire city.

The money spent in holding elections for small park district commissioners at times when there are no other elections is wasted. The remedy for the situation is fairly simple, so far as park districts entirely within the city are concerned. It could be provided that small park district commissioners, instead of serving for five years, with annual elections for one commissioner, should serve for six-year terms, with biennial elections in odd numbered years. Two of the commissioners could be elected at one time, two at another time, and one at another. To meet the situation created by the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen, under which only supplemental elections for aldermen are held in April, it could be provided that where a park district lies entirely

within the limits of a city, as is true of 13 of the 15 small park districts in Chicago, the date of the elections for small park district commissioners should be the same as the date for the main election of aldermen in such city, which in Chicago is now the last Tuesday in February.

The Park Consolidation Act

Elections for commissioners in small park districts entirely within the city of Chicago would be eliminated if the park consolidation act passed by the Legislature in 1915 should be adopted on a referendum vote by the people of Chicago and by the voters of these districts. This act was submitted to a popular vote in November, 1916, and failed to carry. It may be resubmitted by Council ordinance, or by petition of voters. But before there is another vote upon it the act should be amended as to the tax rate which it provides. Since 1915 substantial increases in the taxing powers of the city have been made and the rate then fixed for the consolidated government would not meet the requirements of the present situation. Complete consolidation with the city government of all park governments within the city must come sooner or later. One of the numerous advantages of such complete consolidation will be the elimination of elections for small park district commissioners.

TOO MANY PRIMARIES

Reducing the number of elections tends automatically to reduce the number of primaries. But the number of primaries ought to be smaller than the number of elections. There should not be partisan primaries before all elections. The Illinois direct primary law is too sweeping in scope. As originally passed, it made provision for the nomination at partisan primaries of candidates for municipal and judicial offices as well as for those properly

partisan in nature. By court ruling, however, the direct primary law was made inapplicable to nominations for circuit, superior and supreme court judges. Such nominations are now made by party committees. This arrangement is highly unsatisfactory and indefensible, and cannot be expected to continue. Judicial nominations should be made by petition and the election of judges should be conducted on non-partisan lines. The public should be alert to see that when a change is made from the present absurd plan of having candidates for judicial offices nominated by party committees, provision shall not be made for some form of partisan direct primary or convention nominations that will add heavily to election costs.

Non-Partisan Law Should Apply to Mayor

The principal unnecessary partisan primary in Chicago is that for the nomination of candidates for mayor, city clerk and city treasurer. It is unfortunate that the law for non-partisan elections passed by the Legislature in 1919 was confined to aldermen. That law not only introduces the desirable principle of non-partisanship in the election of members of the Chicago City Council, but it also effects important money savings in elections at which only aldermen are chosen. The effort to secure its application to the office of mayor should be pressed vigorously until success shall be attained.

TOO MANY ELECTIVE OFFICIALS—THE SHORT BALLOT NEEDED

It is notorious that the ballot in use in Chicago at biennial November elections is preposterously long. State and county officials comprise most of the list. At city elections the ballot is short. It is unfortunate that the majority of the members of the Constitutional Conven-

tion are against shortening the ballot in Illinois. They voted in committee of the whole against any reduction of the number of elective state and county officials. However, notwithstanding this attitude of direct hostility to the short ballot idea, they did give tentative approval to a provision under which the Legislature at some future time might lessen the number of elective county officials. When it meets again next September the Convention should be importuned to re-open the question as to state officers and to pave the way for lessening the number of elective state officials.

While state and county officials for the most part are elective by the Constitution, there are some that are statutory and can be controlled by the Legislature. A beginning might be made in the near future by dealing with such positions as county surveyor, clerk of the probate court and clerk of the appellate court, which the Legislature has the power to transfer from the elective to the appointive list.

While the long ballot contributes to the needlessly high cost of elections, the chief charge against it is that it interferes with intelligent popular control of government. This is particularly true where, as in Illinois, the long ballot is a party column ballot, with the party circle at the top by means of which ignorant voting for a straight party ticket containing a great many names is made easy. It is bad enough that there should be so many officials to elect, making a difficult and confusing task for the voter who tries to perform his duty intelligently. But when the ballot is equipped with the party column and the party circle, with their invitation to easy ignorant straight party voting, the painstaking effort of the conscientious citizen is offset by the ignorant voting of the straight party ticket.

Illinois Should Have the Real Australian Ballot

The so-called Australian ballot in use in Illinois is a perversion of the real Australian ballot, of which it is said to be a copy. Under the real Australian ballot system there is neither party column nor party circle. The names of candidates are arranged in some specific order under the designation of the office to be filled. The voter must place a mark before or after the name of each candidate of his choice. The elector who knows nothing about any of the candidates for a given office naturally will vote for no one for that office, thus leaving the decision to those who have some basis for the ballot cast on that particular office. When ballot reform was in the air, and the demand was general for the adoption of the Australian ballot, American politicians in many states managed to induce the legislatures to accept the perverted form of the Australian ballot such as is in use in Illinois. About a third of the states of the Union—among them, Massachusetts, New York and Minnesota—have the Australian ballot in substantially its original unperverted form. Illinois, with its very long ballot, especially needs the real Australian or Massachusetts form of ballot. A campaign should be inaugurated to bring about this much needed change as soon as possible.

Presidential Electors Should be Voted for and Counted as a Group

In connection with the subject of form of ballot, the work of counting the ballots on election night would be materially reduced by regarding the presidential electors of each party as a block or compact group, instead of dealing with them as individual candidates. No one should care to split his ticket for presidential electors and there is no good reason why the opportunity should be afforded to do so. In some states, the names of the presidential electors do not appear on the ballot at all.

A vote for candidates for president and vice president is counted as a vote for the list of presidential electors who will formally cast the electoral vote of the state for those candidates. The Illinois law should be changed so that presidential electors of a party shall be voted for and counted as one group.

TOO MANY ELECTION PRECINCTS

If the average size of election precincts could be increased the number could be reduced, thus materially lowering election expenses. The present law fixes the size of the standard precinct at 400 voters, with a mandate for rearrangement when the number reaches 600. There are now 884,120 registered voters in Chicago and 2,210 election precincts, or an average of just about 400 voters to a precinct. While some precincts are below the average others are exceptionally large and partial rearrangement of precinct lines is under way by which the number of precincts will be somewhat increased.

The long ballot, involving arduous work in counting, is largely responsible for preventing a reduction in the number of precincts. If the ballot were short at all elections, the precincts might be made to consist of 600 or 700 voters each, except in very sparsely settled areas, where it would be necessary to take territorial considerations into account. But the ballot is not short. At the biennial fall primaries and elections it is very long.

If the average number of voters to a precinct could be increased, and the number of precincts reduced, the resultant money saving would be large. In the year 1920, the expense per precinct in Chicago for salaries of judges and clerks of election, rental of polling places, and services of policemen on duty in polling places was over \$500. Costs per precinct were exceptionally high in 1920. For the year 1921, however, the cost will be nearly \$300 a precinct; for 1922, over \$300; and for 1924, the next presidential year, it will be about \$425.

THE ONE-ELECTION-A-YEAR PROPOSAL

So great is the public feeling against the expense and nuisance of the large number of elections that the Constitutional Convention has undertaken to deal with the evil in the basic law of the State. A proposal has been approved by the committee of the whole intended to limit elections to one a year. Under the terms of the proposal all regular final elections to fill offices are to be held in November of each year, and at no other time.

While sympathizing with the desire to reduce the number of elections, the Bureau is bound to say that it would regard the insertion in the constitution of the State of provisions of this nature as highly objectionable. The main trouble with the present Illinois constitution is that it contains too many arbitrary and inelastic restrictions and too much detailed legislation. When the Constitutional Convention assembled in Springfield in January, 1920, the talk among the members was that they intended to make a constitution, not a code of laws. Yet this Convention, in planning to write into the Constitution this one-election-a-year proposal, is repeating past mistakes of putting arbitrary restrictions into the basic law. Worse than that, this proposal, if put into effect, would repeal progressive laws recently put on the statute books after years of effort on the part of civic organizations. The one-election-a-year proposal, if actually put into the Constitution, would repeal forthwith the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen in Chicago, approved by the people on a referendum, and would make impossible the enactment thereafter by the Legislature of a similar law embodying the principle of first and supplemental elections. This proposal by its terms would make election days legal holidays notwithstanding the Legislature at its last session wisely amended the law so as to reduce the number of such holidays. The whole community does

not observe election days as holidays. The principal effect of making them legal holidays is to interfere with business by necessitating the closing of the banks and other institutions and to free public employes for political work on those days. The present law requiring employers to allow their employes a reasonable time within which to vote should be retained, but election days should not be legal holidays. Few except the spoils politicians want them to be.

Instead of trying to insert in the Constitution an inelastic provision for one election a year, which incidentally repeals beneficial laws now on the statute books, the Constitutional Convention ought to remove restrictions which prevent the Legislature from reducing election costs. Under pressure of public opinion, the Legislature already has begun to respond to the demand for economy in this field. It doubtless will do more in this direction if its hands are not tied by the Constitution. As pointed out earlier in this report, as a result of recent legislation Chicago will be on a one-election-a-year basis, beginning with 1922, except for separate judicial elections and for small park district elections in about one-eleventh of the election precincts of the city. The Bureau believes the Legislature will do away with the separate small park district elections when the matter is called to its attention. Probably, also, it could be prevailed upon to eliminate the separate judicial elections if authorized by the Constitution to do so. The attempt to deal with such matters as these by inflexible provisions in the Constitution always leads to embarrassments that cannot be foreseen at the outset. The power should rest in the Legislature to make adjustments as experience may show them to be necessary.

CALENDAR OF ELECTION EVENTS IN CHICAGO FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS*

- 1916 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
 City Primaries in February.
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March.
 City Election in April. (First Tuesday.)
 Presidential Primaries in April. (Second Tuesday.)
 Judicial Election in June.
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in August.
 General Primaries in September.
 Two Registration Days, Canvass, and Revision in October.
 General Election in November.
- 1917 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
 City Primaries in February.
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March.
 City Election in April.
 Judicial Election in November.
- 1918 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
 City Primaries in February.
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March.
 City Election in April.
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in August.
 General Primaries in September.
 Two Registration Days, Canvass, and Revision in October.
 General Election in November.
- 1919 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
 City Primaries in February.
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March.
 City Election in April.
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in August.
 Primaries in September. (For nomination of delegates to Constitutional Convention.)
 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in October.
 Election in November. (For choosing delegates to Constitutional Convention.)

*This calendar is made up on the assumption of the continued operation of the election laws as they now stand. Of course, those laws should be modified so as to eliminate some of the registrations, elections and primaries scheduled. Detailed study of the calendar will show substantial reductions already made in the number of registrations, elections and primaries on account of the so-called fifty-ward law and the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen. The first trial of the law for the non-partisan election of aldermen was made in 1920. The first city election to be eliminated on account of the fifty-ward law will be that of 1922. Elections for choosing small park district commissioners, required by existing law to be held on the first Tuesday in April each year, are not mentioned specifically in the calendar except when they occur as separate elections.

- 1920 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
City Election in February for Aldermen.
Supplemental Elections for aldermen in April. (First Tuesday.)
Elections in some parts of city on same day for choosing small park district commissioners.
Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March before presidential primaries.
Presidential Primaries in April. (Second Tuesday.)
Registration, Canvass, and Revision in August.
General Primaries in September.
Two Registration Days, Canvass, and Revision in October.
General Election in November.
- 1921 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
Aldermanic Elections in February; also city primaries for nomination of candidates for city clerk and treasurer.
Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March.
City Election in April for choosing city clerk and city treasurer; supplemental elections for aldermen on same day.
Judicial Election in June. (For choosing 20 circuit court judges and one superior court judge.)
- 1922 Separate Elections (preceded by a registration) in some parts of city for choosing small park district commissioners.
Judicial Election in June. (For choosing six superior court judges.)
Registration, Canvass, and Revision in August.
General Primaries in September.
Two Registration Days, Canvass, and Revision in October.
General Election in November.
- 1923 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
City Primaries in February. (For nomination of candidates for mayor, city clerk and treasurer). Aldermanic elections on same day.
Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March.
City Election in April. (For choosing mayor, city clerk and city treasurer). Supplemental elections for aldermen on same day.
Judicial Election in November. (For choosing 12 superior court judges.)
- 1924 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in March.
Separate elections in some parts of city for choosing small park district commissioners in April. (First Tuesday.)
Presidential Primaries in April. (Second Tuesday.)
Judicial Election in June. (For choosing one supreme court judge.)
Registration, Canvass, and Revision in August.
General Primaries in September.
Two Registration Days, Canvass, and Revision in October.
General Election in November.
- 1925 Registration, Canvass, and Revision in February.
Aldermanic Elections in February.
Supplemental Elections for aldermen in April. Elections (preceded by a registration) in some parts of city on same day for choosing small park district commissioners.
- 1926 Separate Elections (preceded by a registration) in some parts of city for choosing small park district commissioners.
Registration, Canvass, and Revision in August.
General Primaries in September.
Two Registration Days, Canvass, and Revision in October.
General Election in November.

COST OF ELECTIONS

For Territory under Jurisdiction of the Board of Election Commissioners (City of Chicago and Town of Cicero)

| Year | Proportion of Election Costs Charged To | | | Total Cost within Jurisdiction of Bd. of Elec. Commissioners |
|------|---|--------------|-------------|--|
| | City | County | Cicero | |
| 1895 | \$ 199,888.41 | \$ 48,328.16 | \$ 2,824.29 | \$ 251,040.86 |
| 1896 | 218,906.64 | 66,308.25 | 3,066.47 | 288,281.36 |
| 1897 | 231,108.93 | 32,853.08 | 3,726.24 | 267,688.25 |
| 1898 | 317,876.11 | 149,718.08 | 5,115.54 | 472,709.73 |
| 1899 | 259,102.12 | 11,131.79 | 2,534.40 | 272,768.31 |
| 1900 | 338,744.52 | 154,915.97 | 3,324.29 | 496,984.78 |
| 1901 | 264,030.73 | 11,499.84 | 2,830.36 | 278,360.93 |
| 1902 | 325,697.92 | 169,341.75 | 867.91 | 495,907.58 |
| 1903 | 279,466.83 | 44,889.70 | 744.36 | 325,100.89 |
| 1904 | 342,872.38 | 172,061.38 | 908.35 | 515,842.11 |
| 1905 | 338,123.78 | 141,760.01 | 1,413.49 | 481,297.28 |
| 1906 | 373,747.92 | 244,121.68 | 1,574.96 | 619,444.56 |
| 1907 | 439,943.57 | 12,754.82 | 1,204.21 | 453,902.60 |
| 1908 | 400,328.65 | 203,091.40 | 1,812.72 | 605,232.77 |
| 1909 | 387,241.45 | 86,568.88 | 2,107.74 | 475,918.07 |
| 1910 | 405,708.62 | 211,731.84 | 1,010.00 | 618,450.46 |
| 1911 | 428,061.18 | 244,965.12 | 1,029.00 | 674,055.30 |
| 1912 | 678,391.98 | 224,515.91 | 1,232.00 | 904,139.89 |
| 1913 | 382,964.74 | 19,999.80 | 1,056.00 | 404,020.54 |
| 1914 | 743,834.79 | 365,103.24 | 2,038.00 | 1,110,976.03 |
| 1915 | 715,363.82 | 85,411.13 | 5,051.00 | 805,825.95 |
| 1916 | 1,193,718.66 | 791,499.11 | 7,197.00 | 1,992,414.77 |
| 1917 | 989,365.22 | 105,703.42 | 7,416.00 | 1,102,484.64 |
| 1918 | 890,124.44 | 573,575.97 | 8,643.00 | 1,472,343.41 |
| 1919 | 1,339,985.47 | 477,979.06 | 10,347.00 | 1,828,311.53 |
| 1920 | 1,123,681.00 | 973,763.11 | 10,726.00 | 2,108,170.11 |

The above figures are taken from the books of the Board of Election Commissioners. They do not cover the cost of city, village, township and other local elections in the portion of Cook County outside of Chicago and Cicero, nor the expenses paid by Cook County for general state and county elections in the portion of the county outside of Chicago and Cicero.

For the year 1912 the expense to Cook County for state and county elections in the county outside of Chicago and Cicero was approximately \$30,000; for 1916, \$60,000; and for 1920, \$125,000. Adding these figures to the figures for the corresponding years in the last column of the table, it will be seen that the total costs to Cook County, Chicago and Cicero in presidential years were: 1912, not quite \$1,000,000; 1916, slightly over \$2,000,000; for 1920, over \$2,200,000.

PRIOR PUBLICATIONS

(Continued from inside front cover)

24. The Bond Issues to Be Voted Upon April 7, 1914. March 30, 1914.
25. A Second Plea for Publicity in the Office of County Treasurer. July 9, 1914.
26. The Nineteen Local Governments in Chicago. (Second Edition.) March, 1915.
27. Unification of Local Governments in Chicago. January, 1917.
28. The City Manager Plan for Chicago. October, 1917.
29. The County Bond Issues to Be Voted Upon November 6, 1917. October 30, 1917.
30. Primary Days and Election Days as Holidays. An Instance of Governmental Absurdity and Waste. November 5, 1917. (Out of Print.)
31. Chicago's Financial Dilemma. Reply to a Letter from City Officials Asking Civic Organizations to Co-operate in Urging a Special Session of the Legislature to Provide Financial Relief for the City. December, 1917.
32. The Water Works System of the City of Chicago. December, 1917.
33. Universal Metering of Chicago's Water Supply. The Need for It—What It Would Accomplish. July, 1918.
34. Excess Condemnation. Why the City of Chicago Should Have the Power, in Making Public Improvements, to Take Property in Excess of Actual Requirements. September, 1918. (Out of Print.)
35. Chicago's Special Need for a Constitutional Convention. October 21, 1918.
36. Proposed Tax Increases for the City of Chicago, the Board of Education, and Cook County. June, 1919. (Out of Print.)
37. Shall the City of Chicago Employ Permanently 1,000 Additional Policemen? September 5, 1919.
38. Consolidation of Local Governments in Chicago. Draft of a Proposed Article of the Constitution of the State of Illinois Providing for the Consolidation of Local Governments Having Jurisdiction Wholly or Partly Within the City of Chicago, Together with Explanatory Statement. January, 1920.
39. The City Bond Issues to Be Voted Upon April 13, 1920. April 6, 1920.

