

Transcription

Instructions to the Commissioners appointed under the Proclamation of his Excellency, the Governor of this Commonwealth for the "reorganization of Counties not now organized" under the restored Government of Virginia.

Secretary of Commonwealth's Office
Richmond 1865

Gentlemen: Immediately after the receipt of this writ of election, to you directed, you will proceed to appoint Commissioners and Conductors of the election at the Court House, and the several precincts of your County; said Commissioners & Conductors will conform to the requirements of the seventh and eighth chapters of the Code of Virginia, so far as they are applicable to the election and return of Certificates of Election of County Officers. These provisions are the law of the State as they were before the rebellion.

The Commissioners at each precinct will return the Poll Book, containing the vote of all Officers voted for, to you.

You will return to the Executive at Richmond the names of the Justices in each County who are elected, certifying that each one returned was duly elected in his District, and retain in your possession the returns of all the other Officers elected in the County, until the County Court is organized, then return the names of the other Officers elected to the County Court, before whom they will qualify according to law.

You are authorized to administer the oath of Office to each other, as herein prescribed, and to administer the oath of Office to each Justice, or to one Justice, and he can administer the oath of Office to the other Justices.

Return the Poll Books to the Clerk of the County Court when he has qualified & your office ceases.

The Commissioners at each precinct will administer the prescribed oaths to each other, and to the Conductor of the election, and the writers, and make Certificate thereof on the Poll Books. It is proper to advise you that by an Act of the last General Assembly the right to vote and hold Office is restored to all Officers attached to militia regiments, disbanded before the 1st day of July 1862, who have not, since the 1st day of January 1864 voluntarily given aid and comfort to the enemies of this State and to the United States.

You will cause notice of the time of election to be posted at the place of holding the election at each precinct at least ten days previous to the election.

Respectfully
(Signed) Chas. H. Lewis
Secy of Commonwealth

Citation: Instructions to the Commissioners appointed under the Proclamation of his Excellency, the Governor of this Commonwealth for the "reorganization of Counties not now organized" under the restored Government of Virginia, Gravely Family Papers, 1753–1988, Accession 34126, Personal Papers Collection, Library of Virginia.