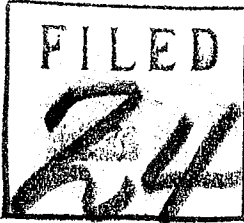


ELECTIONS: Registration lists required to be posted in cities
REGISTRATION: of over 600,000 need not indicate the race or
color of a registered voter.

March 11, 1955



Hon. Michael J. Doherty
Chairman
St. Louis Board of
Election Commissioners
208 South 12th Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Doherty:

Reference is made to your request for an official opinion
of this office wherein the following inquiry is made:

Can the Board of Election Commissioners
of the City of St. Louis legally omit the
letter "C" following the names of certain
voters carried on the registration lists,
which lists are required to be posted in
the various voting precincts of the city?

It is our understanding that the letter "C", as used,
designates the race or color of the particular voter carried
on such registration lists.

Chapter 118, RSMo 1949, provides a plan of registration
of qualified voters in cities having 600,000 inhabitants or
more. Section 118.020 provides that there shall be a regis-
tration of voters. Section 118.240 provides for the time and
place of registration. Section 118.250 designates the form
of registration records referred to as "affidavits of regis-
tration," and further requires the inclusion of certain infor-
mation concerning each applicant on the affidavit of registra-
tion. Among the information required is the "color" of the
applicant.

Section 118.390 provides that the board shall cause to
be printed copies of the list of registered voters and their

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addresses for each precinct, and further requires the posting of one copy in four appropriate places in each precinct. Said section more fully provides, in part, as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the board immediately after the close of registration for each election to have printed direct from type such number of copies of the list of registered voters and their addresses for each precinct of the city as the board may deem necessary. Such lists shall be arranged in the same order as the precinct registers, and immediately upon completion of such lists the board shall cause one copy thereof to be posted at each of four appropriate places in each precinct. The said lists of voters shall be made available for public distribution under the rules and regulations of the board as soon as possible after the close of registration. The board may, in its discretion, prior to any election, have prepared a supplementary list of registered voters for each precinct, containing the names and addresses of voters who have transferred into the precinct since the making of the last lists of voters, and use this, together with the latest corrected list of registered voters, to satisfy the requirements of this section. * * *"

It is to be noted that the only requirement specifically relating to such lists is that the lists contain the names and addresses of the registered voters in the particular precinct. We are unable to find any other applicable statutory provision requiring that such lists contain a race or color designation. In light of these observations, we are of the opinion that the Board of Election Commissioners is not required to include on such lists a designation of race or color, and that such may be omitted on registration lists that will be published in the future.

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CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of St. Louis may omit from copies of registration lists which are required to be posted in each voting precinct any indicator designating the race or color of a particular registered voter.

The foregoing opinion, which I hereby approve, was prepared by my assistant, Donal D. Guffey.

Yours very truly,

John M. Dalton
Attorney General

DDG/vtl