

THE PALIMPSEST

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Government and the Voter

“Americans have rightly felt that there is something gratifying and inspiring in the spectacle of the common people rising to the height of self-government.” Ours is a “government of the people, by the people, for the people”—a government which receives its powers from the voters and moves and operates under popular impulses. Because government is ever with us — directing, guiding, shielding, and stimulating our activities, it may be well to note its influence upon our daily lives.

Government is derived from the consent of the governed. In a democracy, elections are essential in making effective the demands of the majority or the plurality, as the case may be. Every citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who has been a resident of Iowa for six months, and a resident of a county for sixty days, is entitled to vote.

In Iowa, as elsewhere, elections have become so commonplace that citizens sometimes neglect

the privileges and duties that are theirs on election day. Although Iowans vote in relatively larger numbers than do the citizens of most of the other states, even here many electors do not exercise their voting privileges as they should. In the primary election of 1948, for instance, there were three major party candidates for the office of Governor, and the total vote cast for all candidates was only about 374,000. At the general election in that year, however, each of the two major party candidates received more than 434,000 votes, and the total number of ballots cast was more than 994,000. Thus there were more than twice as many votes cast at the general election as were cast in the primary.

There are elections of many types and for many purposes — national elections, state elections, municipal elections, and school elections. There are elections for the granting of franchises, for the development of community interests, for the issuing of bonds to pay for local improvements, and for many other purposes. But, for the moment, let us consider only those elections in which state officers are elected.

Many of the state officers — the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the administrative state officers such as the Treasurer, Auditor, Secretary of State, Secretary of Agriculture, Attorney General, and state and national Representatives, as

well as many county and local officers, are elected for terms of two years. Accordingly, our biennial elections are of state-wide interest and importance.

Primary nominating elections are held throughout Iowa on the first Monday in June in the even-numbered years, and the general elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the same year. Nominations are made by the voters at the primary elections, which, in reality, may be more important than the general elections. If a complete ticket of good and efficient candidates is selected by each party, then good and efficient men will be named at the general election regardless of which party may win. By the same token, if corrupt or inefficient men are selected at the primary election, the general election can be little more than a choice between two evils.

Names of candidates are placed on the primary ballots by means of petition. A candidate for a state office must obtain, and file with the Secretary of State, the signatures of at least one per cent of the voters of his party in at least ten counties of the state. These signatures must equal not less than one-half of one per cent of the total vote of his party in the state as shown by the last general election. In this situation each political party may have on the ballot, in any primary election, one or more candidates for a given office. In the

○ REPUBLICAN ○ DEMOCRATIC ○ SOCIALIST-LABOR ○ PROHIBITION

FOR PRESIDENT
THOMAS E. DEWEY
of New York

FOR VICE PRESIDENT
EARL WARREN
of California

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR
GEO. A. WILSON
of Des Moines, Polk County

FOR GOVERNOR
WM. S. BEARDSLEY
of New Virginia, Warren County

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
KENNETH A. EVANS
of Emerson, Mills County

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
M. D. SYNHORST
of Orange City, Sioux County

FOR AUDITOR OF STATE
CHET B. AKERS
of Ottumwa, Wapello County

FOR TREASURER OF STATE
J. M. GRIMES
of Orestis, Clarke County

FOR SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
HARRY D. LINN
of Des Moines, Polk County

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
ROBERT L. LARSON
of Iowa City, Johnson County

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(To Fill Vacancy)
ROBERT L. LARSON
of Iowa City, Johnson County

FOR COMMERCE COMMISSIONER
CARL W. REED
of Owen, Howard County

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT
(Three to Be Elected)
H. J. MANTZ
of Audubon, Audubon County

JOHN E. MULRONEY
of Fort Dodge, Webster County

W. A. SMITH
of Dubuque, Dubuque County

FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT
THOS. E. MARTIN
of Iowa City, Johnson County

FOR STATE SENATOR TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
D. C. NOLAN
of Iowa City, Johnson County

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT
O. M. LUDWIG
of Tiffin, Johnson County

FOR JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT, EIGHTH DISTRICT

FOR COUNTY OFFICERS

FOR COUNTY AUDITOR
JOHN KNOX

FOR COUNTY TREASURER
AMOS W. KELSO

FOR CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

FOR COUNTY SHERIFF
ALBERT J. (PAT) MURPHY

FOR COUNTY RECORDER
R. J. (DICK) JONES

FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY
ROBERT OSMUNDSON

FOR COUNTY CORONER
STEPHEN C. WARE

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1949)
EMORY ATTIG

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1950)
WILL L. SNIDER

FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
(Vote for Two)

FOR CONSTABLE
(Vote for Two)
BOY LEWIS

FOR PRESIDENT
HARRY S. TRUMAN
of Missouri

FOR VICE PRESIDENT
ALBEN W. BARKLEY
of Kentucky

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR
GUY M. GILLETTE
of Cherokee, Cherokee County

FOR GOVERNOR
CARROLL O. SWITZER
of Des Moines, Polk County

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
IVER CHRISTOFFERSEN
of Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
PHILIP L. SHUTT
of Independence, Buchanan County

FOR AUDITOR OF STATE
JOHN L. KELLER
of Eagle Grove, Wright County

FOR TREASURER OF STATE
W. A. IRWIN
of LeMars, Plymouth County

FOR SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
GALE McCLEAN
of Wilton Junction, Muscatine County

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
HAROLD J. FLECK
of Okobosc, Mahaska County

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(To Fill Vacancy)

FOR COMMERCE COMMISSIONER
SIDNEY RAMSAY
of Orestis, Fayette County

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT
(Three to Be Elected)
JOHN W. ANDERSON
of Mount City, Woodbury County

GROVER W. BROWN
of Shenandoah, Page County

FRANK P. MESSER
of Iowa City, Johnson County

FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT
JAMES D. FLANCE
of Tipton, Cedar County

FOR STATE SENATOR TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
LEROY S. MERCER
of Iowa City, Johnson County

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT
JOSEPH O. RAIM
of Holon, Johnson County

FOR JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT, EIGHTH DISTRICT
JAMES P. GAFFNEY
of Marengo, Iowa County

FOR COUNTY OFFICERS

FOR COUNTY AUDITOR
ED SULEK

FOR COUNTY TREASURER
LUMIR W. JANSKA

FOR CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT
R. NELSON MILLER

FOR COUNTY SHERIFF
JOSEPH J. COX

FOR COUNTY RECORDER

FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY
JACK C. WHITE

FOR COUNTY CORONER
GEO. D. CALLAHAN

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1949)
M. A. STAHL

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1950)
ROBERT MAHONEY SR.

FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
(Vote for Two)
JOHN M. KADLEC

W. F. MURPHY

FOR CONSTABLE
(Vote for Two)
PAT GILROY

FOR PRESIDENT
EDWARD A. TEICHERT
of Pennsylvania

FOR VICE PRESIDENT
STEPHEN EMERY
of New York

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR

FOR GOVERNOR

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR AUDITOR OF STATE

FOR TREASURER OF STATE

FOR SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(To Fill Vacancy)

FOR COMMERCE COMMISSIONER

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT
(Three to Be Elected)

FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT

FOR STATE SENATOR TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

FOR JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT, EIGHTH DISTRICT

FOR COUNTY OFFICERS

FOR COUNTY AUDITOR

FOR COUNTY TREASURER

FOR CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

FOR COUNTY RECORDER

FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY

FOR COUNTY CORONER

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1949)

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1950)

FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
(Vote for Two)

FOR CONSTABLE
(Vote for Two)

FOR PRESIDENT
CLAUDE A. WATSON
of California

FOR VICE PRESIDENT
DALE H. LEARN
of Pennsylvania

FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR
Z. EVERETT KELLUM
of Des Moines, Polk County

FOR GOVERNOR
MARVIN GALBREATH
of Riceville, Mitchell County

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
LLOYD KELLER
of Waterloo, Black Hawk County

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE
E. L. TARR
of Clinton, Clinton County

FOR AUDITOR OF STATE
L. E. GIFFORD
of Des Moines, Polk County

FOR TREASURER OF STATE
J. ALVIN MITCHELL
of Des Moines, Polk County

FOR SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL
(To Fill Vacancy)

FOR COMMERCE COMMISSIONER
FRANK L. RICKER
of Des Moines, Polk County

FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT
(Three to Be Elected)

FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT

FOR STATE SENATOR TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

FOR JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT, EIGHTH DISTRICT

FOR COUNTY OFFICERS

FOR COUNTY AUDITOR

FOR COUNTY TREASURER

FOR CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

FOR COUNTY SHERIFF

FOR COUNTY RECORDER

FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY

FOR COUNTY CORONER

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1949)

FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR
(Term Beginning January, 1950)

FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
(Vote for Two)

FOR CONSTABLE
(Vote for Two)

<input type="radio"/> SOCIALIST	<input type="radio"/> PROGRESSIVE	<input type="radio"/> SOCIALIST WORKERS	<input type="radio"/> INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT NORMAN THOMAS of New York	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE of New York	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT FARRELL DOBBS of New York	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR PRESIDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR VICE PRESIDENT TUCKER P. SMITH of Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR VICE PRESIDENT OLEN H. TAYLOR of Idaho	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR VICE PRESIDENT GRACE CARLSON of Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR VICE PRESIDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR HUGO BOCKEWITZ of Cassell Bluffs, Polk County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR SEYMOUR FITCHER of Iowa City, Johnson County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. LEONARD of West Bend, Palo Alto County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR GOVERNOR C. E. BIEDERMAN of Mitchell, Mitchell County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR GOVERNOR	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR GOVERNOR
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ERNST A. DONELSON of Sioux City, Woodbury County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CHARLES W. HOBBIIE of Elv, Linn County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
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<input type="checkbox"/> FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT (Three to Be Elected)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT (Three to Be Elected)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT (Three to Be Elected)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT (Three to Be Elected)
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<input type="checkbox"/> FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT GRAYDON R. FIGG of Burlington, Des Moines County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT CHARLES E. DENGLER of R.F.D. 4, Darroport, Scott County	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, FIRST DISTRICT
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<input type="checkbox"/> FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (Vote for Two)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (Vote for Two)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (Vote for Two)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR TOWNSHIP OFFICERS FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (Vote for Two)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR CONSTABLE (Vote for Two)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR CONSTABLE (Vote for Two)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR CONSTABLE (Vote for Two)	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR CONSTABLE (Vote for Two)
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1948 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

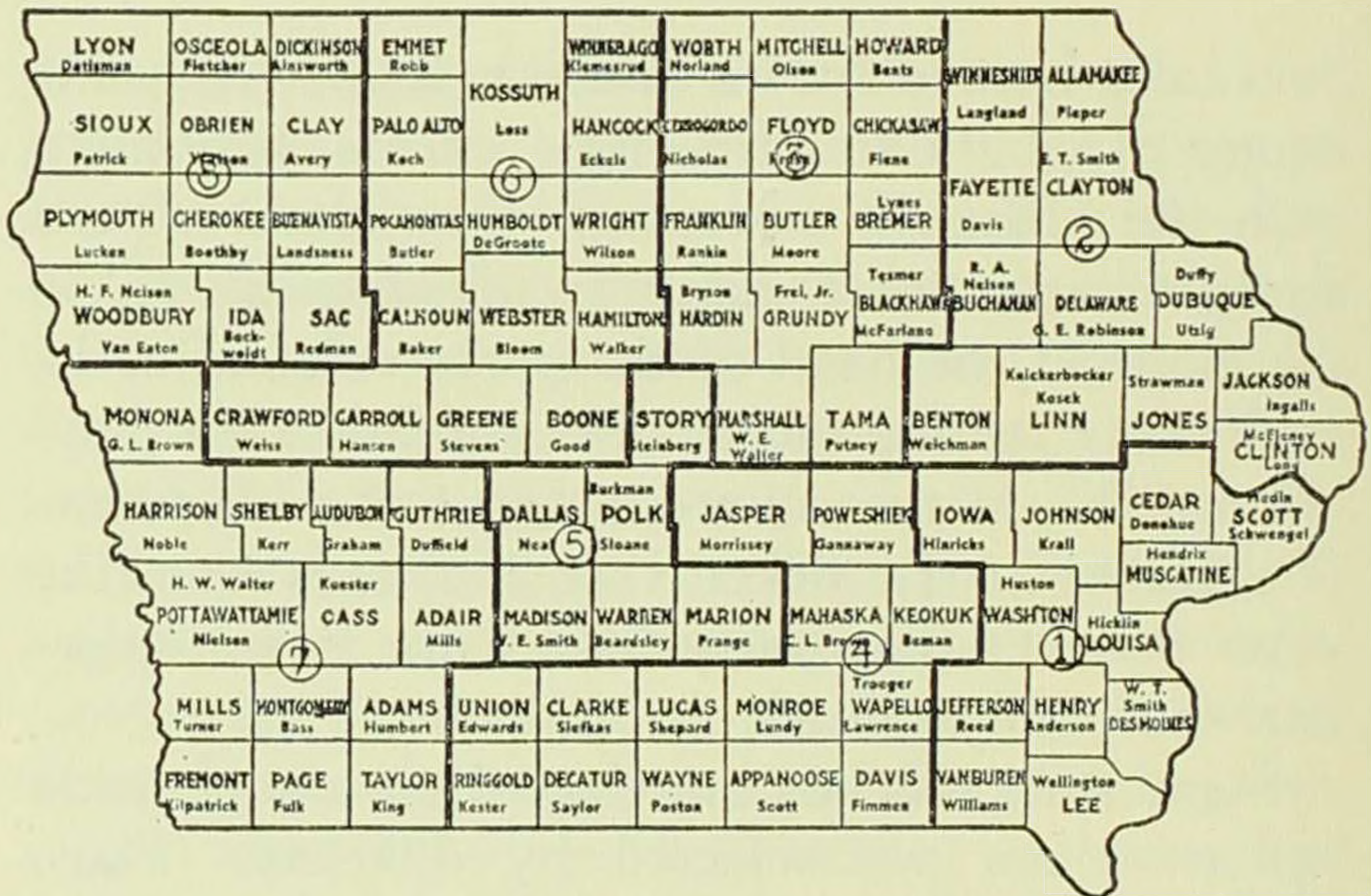
primary election of June, 1948, for instance, three men filed petitions as candidates for the office of Governor of Iowa. Robert D. Blue and William S. Beardsley filed in the Republican primary and Carroll O. Switzer in the Democratic. Mr. Switzer had no opposition in the primary election, therefore he was named as the Democratic party candidate for the office of Governor in the general election of 1948. Since there were two candidates for nomination on the Republican ballot, the purpose of the primary election at this point was to allow the Republican voters to choose one as the party candidate. This contest was won by Mr. Beardsley who thereby became the Republican candidate for the office of Governor at the ensuing general election.

Other candidates for the various offices, including state administrative officials, members of Congress, members of the Iowa General Assembly, and county officers, are nominated at the primary elections in the same manner. For the general election the names of all these nominees are placed on a single ballot, in vertical columns under the party name. In Iowa there are two major political parties—Republican and Democratic. Frequently there are also minor party candidates. Since 1948 was a presidential election year, the party column on the general election ballot was headed by the names of the candidates for President, Vice Presi-

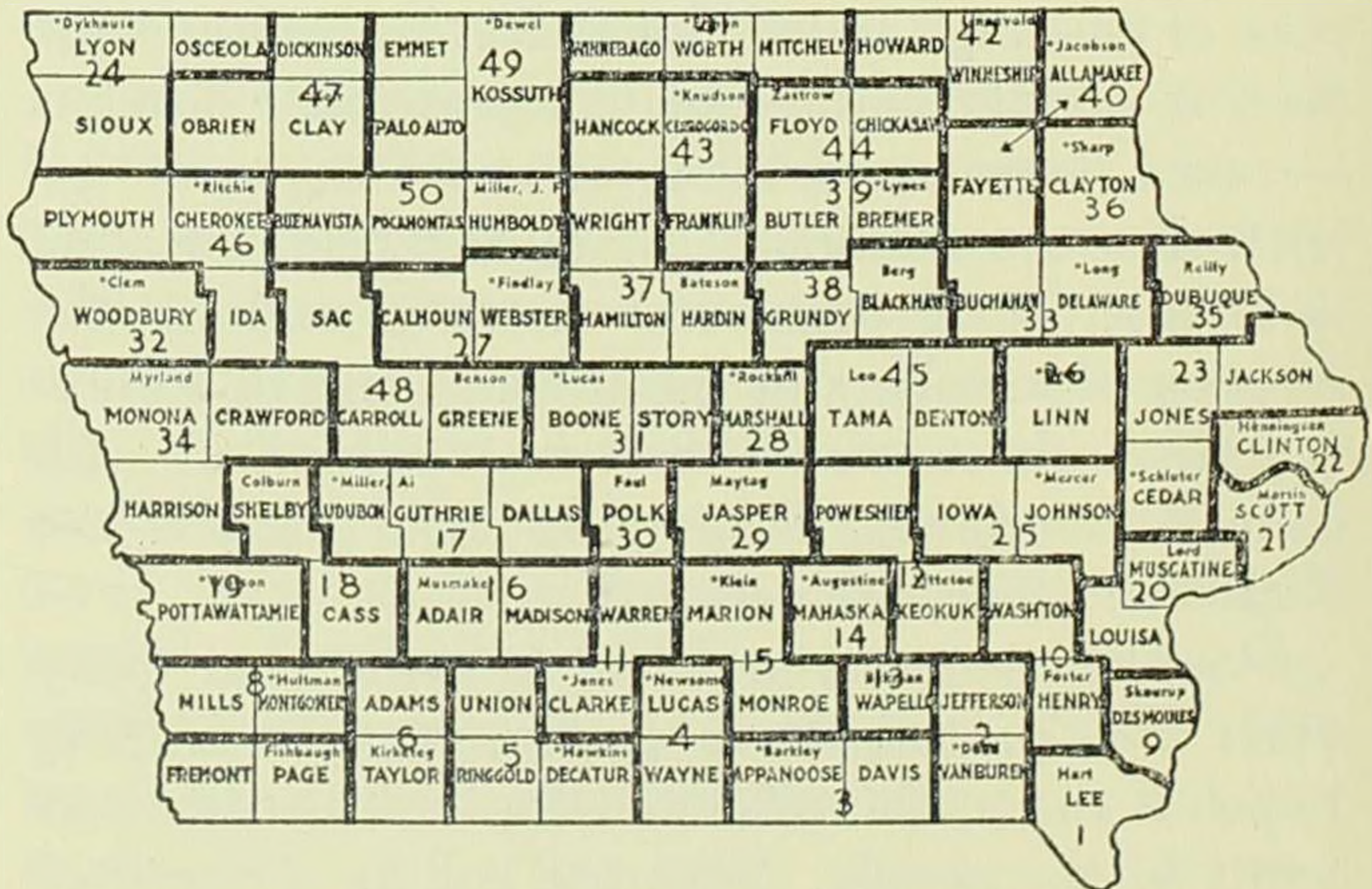
dent, and United States Senator, followed by the names of candidates for state officers, beginning with the office of Governor. One could vote a straight party ticket simply by placing an "X" in the circle at the head of the party column, or he could vote for the individual candidates by placing an "X" in the square in front of each name. A straight party ticket vote indicates that the voter believes that party issues are more important than personalities.

Some state officials are elected on a state-wide ballot; others are selected by districts. Thus, while the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, state administrative officers, and the United States Senators are elected by the state at large, for the purpose of electing United States Representatives the state is divided into eight Congressional districts — one Congressman being elected from each district. For the election of State Senators, the state is divided in 50 senatorial districts, and for the election of members of the Iowa House of Representatives there are 99 districts, conforming with county boundaries, although in some districts two Representatives are selected.

Popular elections are held in order that every voter may participate in government, by helping to select the public officials who shall become servants of the people. Separate ballots are printed for each county and for each city ward, so that



Map Showing the Eight Congressional Districts and the State Representatives from Each County



Map of State Senatorial Districts

voters will receive ballots with the proper names on them. A glance at the maps and sample ballot shown herewith will indicate that a voter in Iowa City would receive a ballot with the names of candidates for state officers, Representative of the First Congressional District, the Twenty-fifth State Senatorial District, and the Forty-first State Representative District. The ballot thus prepared makes voting a very simple matter, but it is an extremely important function of government in a democracy such as ours.