

16. **QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS.**—If any person offering to vote as a resident rate-payer, at an annual or other school meeting, shall be challenged as unqualified, the Chairman presiding at such meeting shall require the person so offering to make the following declaration :

“I do declare and affirm that I am a rate-payer, and that I reside in this school section, and that I am legally qualified to vote at this meeting.”

And every person making such declaration shall be permitted to vote on all questions proposed at such meeting; but if any person shall refuse to make such declaration, his vote shall be rejected; provided, always, that every person who shall wilfully make a false declaration of his right to vote, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine or imprisonment, at the discretion of the Court, or by a penalty of not less than five nor more than ten dollars, to be recovered by the Trustees of the section, for its use, as a private debt, under chapter one of the Revised Statutes.

17. On depositing with the Secretary of Trustees, previous to, or at any annual school meeting, the sum of one dollar, any person liable to pay such poll-tax, though not rated in respect of real or personal property, shall be qualified to vote in the election of Trustees at such meeting, and at any other meeting held for the election of Trustees within a year from such deposit, except the same be refunded as hereinafter provided, and shall be eligible to be elected as a Trustee; provided nevertheless, that a majority of the Trustees shall be persons rated in respect of real or personal property. Money deposited as above shall be refunded on demand in every case where no assessment is authorized by such meeting; otherwise it shall be retained as payment of the poll-tax of the depositor.

V.—ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

18. Each school section shall have a Board of three Trustees, and no section shall have more than one Board.

19. At the first annual meeting of any section, under this law, the majority of the qualified voters present shall elect from their own number three Trustees, and at the second and third annual meetings one of the Trustees elected at the first meeting shall go out of office by ballot, and at each annual meeting thereafter he who has served the longest shall retire from office, and each of the vacancies shall be filled by the election of a new Trustee; provided always, that he whose term of office has expired may be re-elected, with his own consent, his time of service to date from such re-election;