

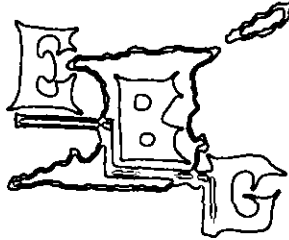
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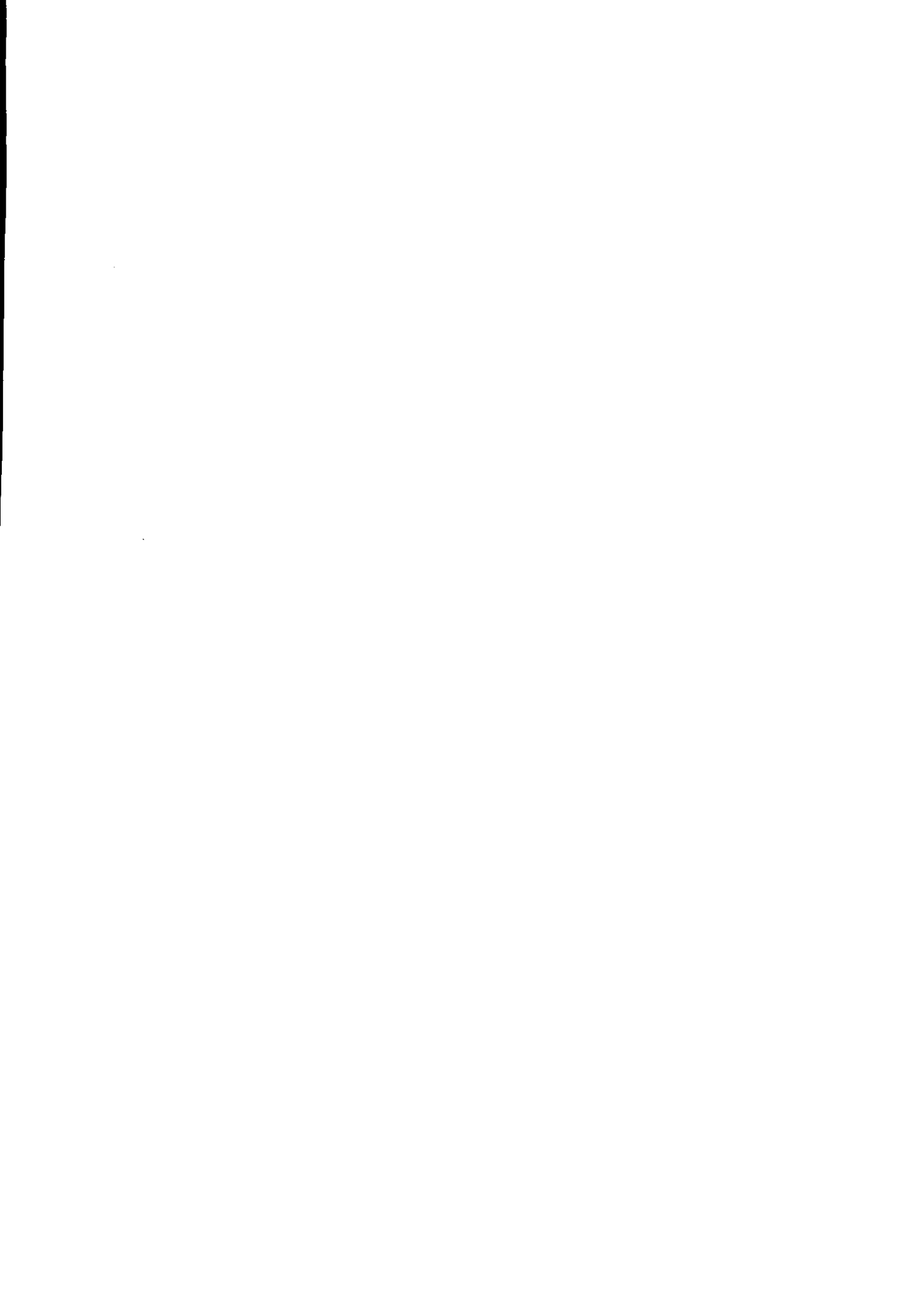
ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION



THE EXERCISE OF THE FRANCHISE IN
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
(1946 – PRESENT)

PREPARED FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION
BY THE
TRAINING UNIT
OF THE
ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER, 1993



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Preface

This manual is an attempt by the Elections and Boundaries Commission to disseminate information relating to the Franchise, i.e. one's rights and one's responsibilities in a manner that may be considered beneficial to the reader.

To achieve this objective, the manual is designed -

to reacquaint the reader with the concepts and evolution of the Franchise displaying also a Time Line;

to afford him/her some insights into the role and functions of the body constituted to prepare the infrastructure for the exercise of the Franchise, the Elections and Boundaries Commission;

to walk the reader through the many and varied aspects of the operations of the Commission as they relate to its major functions;

to heighten his/her awareness of the steps to be taken in the exercise of the Franchise; and

to update the reader on the milestones in the evolution of the electoral system in Trinidad and Tobago and the steps initiated to attain same.

It is hoped that this manual will make some contribution to the social studies curriculum of the Primary and Secondary Schools specifically and to the student of elections in general.

TRAINING UNIT
EBC
Port of Spain, 1993

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BACKGROUND

THE FRANCHISE - CONCEPT AND EVOLUTION

The term franchise is equally popular in usage in a commercial as well as an electoral sense and since this exposition is intended to be read/studied by persons of school age as a tool to enhance their knowledge of the electoral process of Trinidad and Tobago, the term, in this respect, connotes "the right to vote".

The word "franchise" has its origin in the French and German words "franc" and "frank" words which, respectively, mean "free". Franchise as used by the French means "privileged liberty". To the wider world through the evolutionary process it has the meaning "the right to vote."

However, even before this evolutionary process began, evidence suggests that the ancient Greeks used the franchise method in the selection of their rulers through a system of direct democracy, the franchise being available to free men only. This meant that serfs, slaves and prisoners were not eligible to vote.

In the English speaking world conditions were also attached to the franchise. Great Britain, from whom Trinidad and Tobago got its system, started the expansion of its franchise in 1832. All registrations during the 19th century concerned men; women had to wait until 1918 when those over age 30 were given the right to vote based on residence, the occupation of land or business premises or the qualification of their husbands to vote at local government elections. By 1928 women 21 years old were given the franchise.

Whereas these changes vastly increased the number of persons eligible to vote, the principle of "one man-one vote" only came into effect in 1948. The process gained further momentum in April, 1969 when Britain reduced the age qualification from 21 to 18 years.

In Trinidad and Tobago however, attainment of the franchise was marked by struggle. The process commenced with a petition for a representative Assembly and grew to the wider demand for universal adult suffrage. The call for "universal adult suffrage" together with internal self government was largely the basis for the social unrest which occurred in Trinidad in 1937, in particular, the Butler Riots. In 1945, the British Parliament granted universal adult suffrage to Trinidad and Tobago, limiting the age to persons 21 years and over. The 1976 Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago extended the franchise to persons 18 years and over.

The first elections in Trinidad and Tobago under universal adult suffrage were held in 1946, and the country has continued its quest to enhance and refine the process and the machinery to enable qualified electors to freely and effectively exercise their franchise. The body responsible for conducting the electoral process is the Elections and Boundaries Commission whose power and authority are derived from the Constitution.

The events in the evolution of the franchise are indicated in the time line shown hereunder:-

Time Line Indicating The
Events In The Evolution Of The Franchise
In Trinidad And Tobago

Pre 1846		Trinidad and Tobago a colony administered by Governor and nominated assemblies.
1846		Petition signed by 1700 persons and sent to the Colonial Office for a representative assembly.
Pre 1856		Reform Association formed to fight for elected representatives.
1888		The issue of the franchise raised by Rev. Andrews - Royal Commission sent to Fifth Company, Moruga.
1921		Wood Commission recommends 7 elected and 19 nominated members in an assembly of 26.
1924		Men age 21 and women age 30 given the franchise.
* 1925		First General Election conducted under the recommendation of the Wood Commission.

* Two (2) of the seats, Victoria and St. Andrew-Nariva -Mayaro were elected a few weeks earlier.

- 1937| Riots and calls for Internal Self Government
| and universal suffrage.
- 1939| Moyne Commission Report against granting of
| universal adult suffrage.
- 1945| Introduction of adult suffrage by Legislative
| Council Amendment Order In Council 1945 -
| property and language qualification removed.
- 1946| Adult Suffrage implemented by Legislative
| Council Order 10 of 1946. (Persons age 21 and
| over enfranchised.)
- 1946| First General Elections under adult suffrage -
| half of Council elected.
- 1976| Franchise extended to 18 year olds.

The rest of the text is organized as follows:-

The role and functions of the body constituted to develop an infrastructure for the exercise of the franchise are outlined at Part I; the operations of the Commission in relation to its functions are detailed in Part II; and the requirements to be met by persons wishing to exercise their franchise are set out in Part III. These sections are followed by the Conclusion and Graphic Illustrations of registration and election procedures.

PART I - THE ROLE OF THE ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

(A) Constitutionality and Composition

The Elections Commission and the Boundaries Commission as provided in the 1962 constitution of Trinidad and Tobago were merged into one body, the Elections and Boundaries Commission, which was duly constituted in 1976 (sections 71 and 72 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago - Act No. 4 of 1976). The legislations which give effect to the constitutional provisions governing its operations are enshrined in the Representation of the People Act Chap. 2:01 of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago, the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government) Act Chap:25:50 (Act No. 18 of 1967), the Municipal Corporations Act, 1990 (Act No. 21 of 1990), the Tobago House of Assembly Act, 1980 (Act No. 37 of 1980) and their various amendments.

At present the constitution provides for an Elections and Boundaries Commission comprised of a Chairman and not less than two (2) or more than four (4) other members who are appointed by the President after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. Appointments terminate at the expiration of five (5) years. The Constitution also gives the Commission power to invite members of the society to make recommendations regarding its operations.

In order that the Commission may execute its responsibilities, staff is provided by the Public Service Commission. However, the Commission is authorized to recruit seasonal staff in the execution of its functions. Such staff is employed in the conduct of field surveys and other special projects relating to registration and the preparation for and conduct of elections.

In pursuance of its objectives, the Commission is structured to reflect a Central Electoral Office and fifteen (15) district offices. The Central Electoral Office deals with administrative matters with regard to policy, personnel and finance. It also deals with the preparation and printing of lists of electors, the preparation of maps, the production of identification cards and the distribution of electoral and other supplies to the district offices. The Central

Electoral Office houses the office of the Chairman and Members of the Commission as well as that of its chief executive officer, the Chief Election Officer and other administrative staff. The district office is situated at a central location in the district it services and is staffed according to the size of the electorate of the area. The structure of the organization is graphically illustrated at figure 1. (Page 6)

B. Functions of the Commission

The Commission is required to put in place the infrastructure which would allow for the exercise of the franchise through the conduct of free and fair elections to the House of Representatives, the Councils of the Municipal Corporations and to the Tobago House of Assembly.

To achieve this goal the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, focuses on three (3) major functions i.e.:-

- (1) The delimitation of electoral boundaries in respect of Parliamentary, Municipal Corporations and Tobago House of Assembly elections.
- (2) The registration of persons in the national community so qualified; and
- (3) The conduct of elections.

The operations of the Commission as they relate to these three (3) functions are detailed in PART II.

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

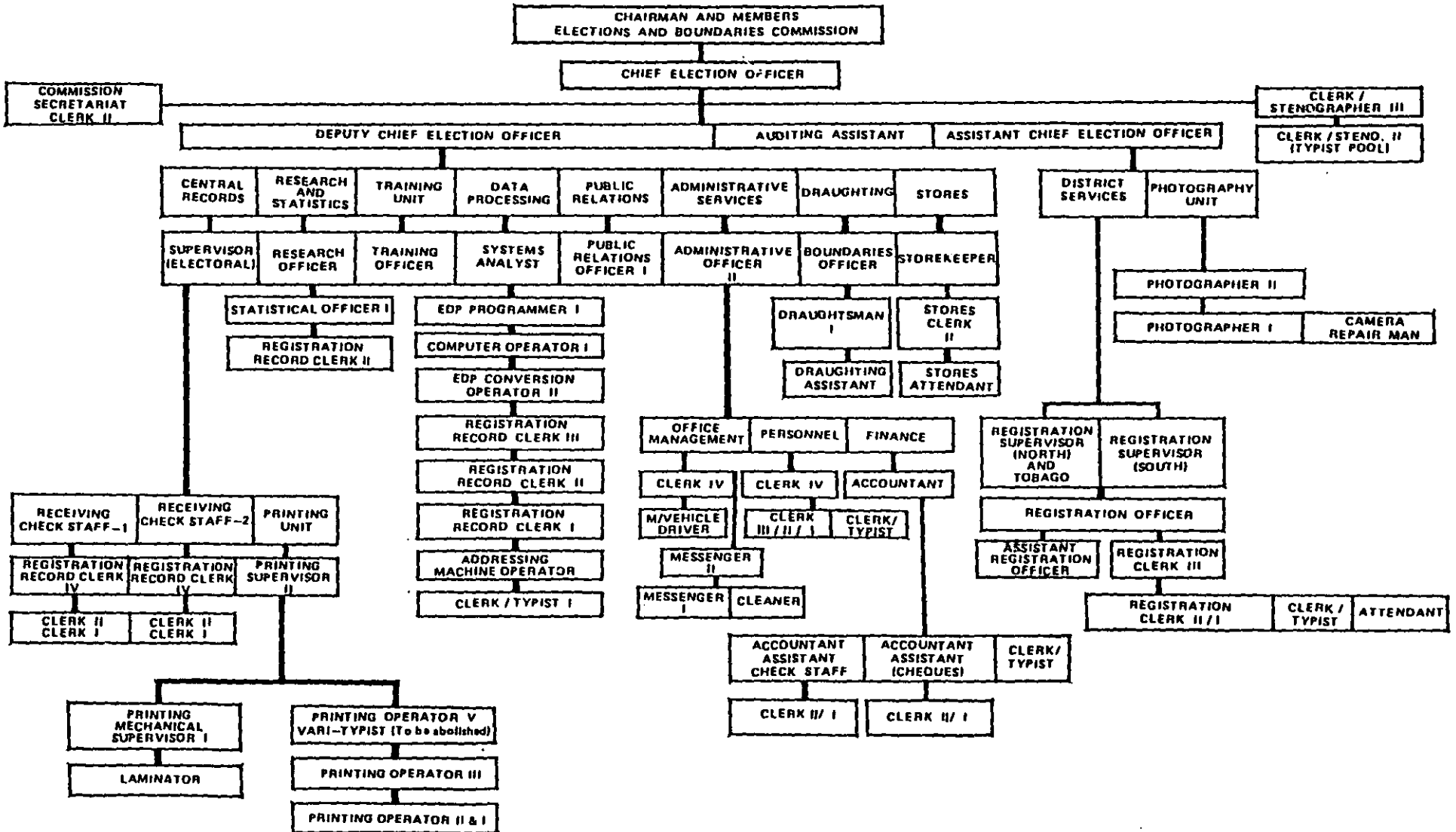


FIGURE 1

PART II. THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN
RELATION TO ITS THREE MAJOR FUNCTIONS

A. Delimitation of Electoral Districts

These exercises which are influenced by population growth and shifts, are conducted in accordance with section 72 of and the Second Schedule to the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the case of Parliamentary Elections. In the case of the Municipal Corporations Elections and the Tobago House of Assembly Elections, the legal instruments by which the Commission is guided are the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government) Act Ch. 25:50 (Act No. 18 of 1967), the Municipal Corporations Act 1990 (Act No. 21 of 1990) and the Tobago House of Assembly Act 1980 (Act No. 37 of 1980) and their amendments. The Commission is obliged to submit to Parliament, in a report, its recommendations with respect to the number of electoral districts and the descriptions of the boundaries of each district defined. The report is submitted as follows:-

Parliamentary Elections - Not less that two years
and not more than
five years

Municipal Elections)
&) - Not less that two years
Tobago House of) and not more than
Assembly Elections) three years
after the last report was submitted.

The recommendations, as approved by Parliament with or without modification, form the basis of an Order made by the President which defines and describes the boundaries of the electoral districts for the specific elections.

A.1. Parliamentary Electoral Districts

For the purposes of Parliamentary elections, the country is divided into 36 electoral districts or constituencies. The Constitution provides for 34 electoral districts in Trinidad based on the average derived from dividing the electorate in Trinidad by 34. However, given the topography and population distribution, provision is made for a variation of 10 per cent above or 10 per cent below the total electorate of any of the 34 electoral districts. This rule does not apply to Tobago, as provision is made in the Constitution for Tobago to be divided into two (2) electoral districts notwithstanding the size of the electorate.

A.2. Municipal Council Electoral Districts (Trinidad)

For the purposes of municipal corporations elections, Trinidad is divided into 14 Municipalities; i.e.:-

- 2 Cities
- 3 Boroughs; and
- 9 Regional Municipalities

The number of electoral districts into which the cities and boroughs are to be divided are specifically stated, while the number of electoral districts into which the regional municipalities are to be divided are determined by applying the rules as given.

(i) Cities and Boroughs

The number of electoral districts in the cities and in the boroughs as shown in the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government) Act No. 18 of 1967, amended by the Municipal Corporations Act No. 21 of 1990 is as follows:-

City of Port-of-Spain	- 12	Electoral Districts
City of San Fernando	- 9	" "
Borough of Arima	- 7	" "
Borough of Point Fortin	- 6	" "
Borough of Chaguanas	- 8	" "

(ii) Regional Municipalities

Act No. 18 of 1967, as amended, provides for each regional municipality to be allocated a basic number of 4 electoral districts plus the number obtained by dividing the electorate of the particular regional municipality by 15,000. An additional electoral district is allocated for any residue resulting from the division. However, any regional municipality with an electorate under 15,000 is allocated 5 electoral districts.

The existing number of electoral districts per regional municipality is as follows:-

Diego Martin	- 9	Electoral Districts
San Juan/Laventille	-16	" "
Tunapuna/Piarco	-16	" "
Sangre Grande	- 7	" "
Princes Town	- 8	" "
Penal/Debe	- 8	" "
Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo	-15	" "
Siparia	- 8	" "
Mayaro/Rio Claro	-10	" "

A.3. Tobago House of Assembly Electoral Districts

For Local Government purposes, Tobago is administered by the Tobago House of Assembly, a body constituted by the Tobago House of Assembly Act No. 37 of 1980, which provides for an Assembly of twelve (12) elected members.

With respect to the division of Tobago into electoral districts, provision is made in the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government) Act No. 18 of 1967, amended by Act No. 11 of 1980, which states that Tobago should be divided into twelve (12) electoral districts for the purposes of elections to the Tobago House of Assembly.

B. The Registration Process

Registration in Trinidad and Tobago is voluntary, (there are no sanctions for non-compliance) yet it is the first step in the process which gives effect to the exercise of the franchise. Registration is carried out in accordance with the Registration Rules as set out in the Representation of the People Act Chap. 2:01.

B.1. System of Registration

The system of registration is described as permanent and personal. It is permanent in that once registered, the registration remains in force (subject to adjustment, e.g. change of name and/or address) unless there is valid cause for cancellation, (death, migration, etc.).

It should be noted, however, that the system itself may undergo change from time to time, and in such circumstances, the Commission may request all registered persons to re-register or to update their registration. Failure to comply within the specified time may result in the registration being cancelled.

The system is personal in that a prospective registrant must apply in person to the Registration Officer if the registration is to be effected. In actuality, no person can apply for registration on behalf of another person.

The system also provides for the issue of an identification card to the registrant when the registration is effected. Identification cards are issued in three (3) colours.

Blue lettering and background	-	Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago
Pink lettering and background	-	Citizens of Commonwealth countries
Orange lettering and background	-	Citizens of non- commonwealth countries

B.2. Facilities for Conducting Registration

(i) **Establishment of Registration Areas/ Polling Divisions.**

For the purpose of registration, Trinidad and Tobago is at present divided into nineteen (19) registration areas. To enable a more manageable and effective manner of registration, registration areas are divided into smaller units described as polling divisions. In delineating the boundaries of polling divisions, due consideration is given to ensuring that communities are not divided, as a consequence, the size of the electorate of polling divisions varies. Maps of registration areas showing the polling divisions into which each registration area is divided are prepared for use during the registration process, as aids to field investigators and, as required by law, are displayed in the respective offices for public scrutiny.

Polling Divisions are assigned distinguishing numbers by a system that uses progressions of five (5), i.e. Polling Division No. 0005, 0010, etc. This system facilitates the numbering of new polling divisions which may be created where the size of the electorate of a polling division becomes too large to be managed effectively. A newly created polling division is assigned a number between the progression. For example, should the electorate of polling division 0005 become too large, the polling division is subdivided and the newly created polling division is assigned the number 0006.

At present, the nineteen (19) registration areas as shown at page 27 are divided into 1173 polling divisions, 1127 in Trinidad and 46 in Tobago. From time to time, the total number of polling divisions may be increased or decreased due to growth and or shifts in population.

(ii) Establishment of Registration Offices and Sub-Offices

To service the nineteen (19) registration areas, fifteen (15) registration offices and ten (10) sub-offices were established. Each registration office is staffed based on the size of the electorate of the registration area the office services and is headed by a registration officer.

Registration offices are equipped with the required equipment and supplies to facilitate registration; i.e. registration area maps, unit registers arranged according to polling divisions; cabinets for filing unit registers, registration record cards for recording data of registered persons, the original of which is filed alphabetically, according to surnames in the appropriate unit register, cameras and films for photographing registrants etc.

(iii) Processing of Registrations

The registering officer, satisfied that the applicant is qualified to be registered, proceeds to complete a registration record card in duplicate. When completed, the applicant is asked to check the information to ensure same was recorded correctly as given, and if satisfied, signs the registration card in the space provided. The applicant is then photographed (the applicant may if he/she wishes furnish two (2) photographs in colour or black and white 1" x 1 1/4") and given a certificate as to provisional registration (pink form) which is presented when taking delivery of the identification card. In keeping with the system of personal registration, the registrant is required to collect the identification card in person.

If the registrant is qualified to be an elector (i.e. age 18 and over) a check card is prepared thereby initiating field investigations with a view to determining the accuracy of the information given as well as the polling division and electoral district in which the registrant should be placed.

Having determined the validity of the data, it is then coded and sent to the Central Office together with the duplicate registration record card and one photograph, where the data is entered in the Commission's register of electors and the required identification card produced. The duplicate registration record card is kept at the Central Electoral Office as part of the central register which is a legal requirement. The finished ID Card is returned to the registration office, where the registrant is requested to collect same. The original registration record card with photograph attached is filed in the Unit Register.

If the registrant is qualified as a non-elector (i.e. age 15 - 17), the duplicate registration record card together with one photograph is sent to the Central Office for the production of the required ID Card which, on completion, is returned to the registration office for issue to the registrant. The original registration card is kept on file until the registrant attains age 18 when a field investigation would be carried out to confirm or correct the data on the registration record card. The registrant if qualified is accordingly deemed to be an elector and the data coded and sent to the Central Office for inclusion in the Commission's register of electors.

It is to be noted that the registered non-elector on attaining the age of eighteen (18) is not required to take any action in order to have his/her name placed on the list of electors.

An important aspect of the registration process is the Commission's statutory obligation to produce an annual list of electors on the 1st of July of every year. This list is produced from the Commission's register of electors, the relevant parts of which are placed at the respective registration

offices for public scrutiny. This provides the electorate with the opportunity to make representation for corrections where necessary and objections to names appearing thereon.

C. The Conduct of Elections

Unlike the United States of America where elections are fixed dates on the calendar, in Trinidad and Tobago election dates are not legislated. More importantly, under the Westminster style of constituent Assembly to which Trinidad and Tobago adheres, the Prime Minister has the prerogative to call elections when he/she deems it propitious to do so. As a consequence, the Commission must keep its machinery in motion in the event a "snap" election is called.

C.1 The System of Voting

The Constitution provides for a system of voting in accordance with the Westminster style of first-past-the-post or simple majority, and for a system of balloting that uses the ballot box. In essence, at the close of the poll, the candidate for whom the largest number of votes has been polled is declared elected.

Provision is made for three (3) types of elections, i.e. Parliamentary Elections at the national level, and, at the Local Government level, Municipal Council Elections in Trinidad and the Tobago House of Assembly elections in Tobago.

- (i) Parliamentary elections - The Constitution provides for the life of Parliament to expire five (5) years after its first sitting and that elections must be held within three (3) months of its dissolution;
- (ii) Municipal Council Elections - provision is made in the Municipal Corporation Act 1990 (Act 21 of 1990) for elections to be held at the end of the third year of the life of the Councils, and
- (iii) Tobago House of Assembly Elections - The Tobago House of Assembly Act 1980 (Act No. 37 of 1980) provides for members of the Assembly to be elected every four (4) years.

The rules by which the elections are conducted are stated in the Representation of the People Act.

C.2 The Electoral Process

There are several statutory obligations and deadlines that must be met as the process develops prior to the actual conduct of the poll on polling day. Outlined hereunder are some of the steps in the run-up to elections.

(i) **Order Defining and Describing the Electoral Districts.**

The first indication of pending elections is the Order made by the President defining the number and boundaries of the Electoral Districts into which Trinidad and Tobago (in the case of parliamentary election) or the Municipalities (in the case of Municipal Councils elections in Trinidad) or Tobago (in the case of the Tobago House of Assembly) should be divided. The Order gives effect to the recommendations of the Commission contained in its report as approved by Parliament.

(ii) **Electoral Registration**

Prior to the issuing of writs of elections, the President may, by Proclamation, declare a period of electoral registration in the electoral districts as defined in the Order pertaining to the said elections. The Proclamation also states the date fixed for the commencement of the period of electoral registration. During the period from the date of commencement of electoral registration to the day before the qualifying date (a period of nine (9) days - the qualifying date being the ninth day following the date of the commencement of electoral registration) temporary registration offices are established in the electoral districts to facilitate persons who wish to regularize their registration status.

Simultaneously with the commencement of electoral registration, the Commission launches its voter-education programme through the electronic and print media,

and by utilizing public address systems in the districts in an attempt to alert the public of the facilities provided and the services offered. Equally important, the programme is intended to urge persons to check the Preliminary list of electors posted at two places in the polling divisions; or to call the Commission's hot-line numbers or the relevant registration offices to ensure that their names appear correctly on the list of electors.

The Commission spares no effort in trying to reach all sectors of the society, reinforcing its call with the slogan "To vote you must be registered". It (Commission) also emphasises the fact that at the close of registration on the day before the qualifying date, no further registration transactions are effected until after the elections to which the period of electoral registration relates.

(iii) **Writ of Election and Notice of Election**

As soon as possible after the announcement of an election date by the Prime Minister, Writs of Elections signed by the President are issued to persons appointed as Returning Officers by the Commission, commanding them to arrange for the nomination of candidates on the appointed day and where necessary, to conduct a poll.

On receipt of the Writ of Election, each Returning Officer must publish in at least one daily newspaper, and post at strategic locations in the electoral district a Notice of Election. The Notice of Election must indicate:-

- (a) the address of the office of the Returning Officer;
- (b) the dates and hours of operation of the office;
- (c) the date and time for the holding of preliminary examination of nomination papers;

- (d) the date and hours of operation for the nomination of candidates;
- (e) the date and hours for the conduct of the poll;
- (f) the date and time for the declaration of the results of the poll; and
- (g) the date and time for the recount, if same is requested.

(IV) **List of Electors**

During an election year, the Commission is obliged to publish four (4) types of list of electors.

- (1) The existing Annual List of Electors - this list is published on the 1st of July in every year;
- (2) The Preliminary List of Electors - this list is the annual list as updated and is published on the date of commencement of electoral registration. A copy of the list must be posted at two places in the polling division to which the list relates. The locations where the list is posted are published in at least one daily newspaper, as a public service.
- (3) The Revised List of Electors - this list which reflects all the amendments made to the preliminary list, is posted not later than fourteen (14) clear days prior to the date of the elections. This list is posted in the same two places in the polling division where the preliminary list was posted and a notice to the effect is published in at least one (1) daily newspaper;
- (4) The Supplemental List of Electors - this list reflects the names of duly registered electors which were omitted from the list or of unqualified persons included due to inadvertence. This list is posted alongside the revised list of

electors. The revised list of electors together with the supplemental list are the lists used at polling stations for conducting the poll.

All lists are printed according to polling division with the names arranged in alphabetical order. Copies of all lists are made available to registration officers and returning officers for their use. In addition, the Commission furnishes registration officers and returning officers with lists of electors with the names arranged in alphabetical order according to the registration area and the electoral district for accessing names easily. Copies of the lists published by the Commission are made available to political parties and the general public, on request, at a minimal cost.

(V) **Nomination of Candidates**

Any person seeking to be a candidate at an election must be nominated by at least six (6) persons who are registered electors and whose names appear on the list of electors for the electoral district in which the candidate is seeking nomination. A person may seek nomination as a candidate for one electoral district only. Prospective candidates may complete and submit the relevant forms to the returning officer for checking on the date fixed for the preliminary examination of nomination papers i.e. seven (7) days before nomination day. However, all nomination papers must be presented to the returning officer on nomination day for processing and validation.

The conditions for candidature for parliamentary elections are set out in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago at sections 47 and 48, a summary of which is stated hereunder.

A nominee for parliamentary elections must be:-

- (a) a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago of age 18 years and over and qualified to be an elector; and

- (b) has resided in Trinidad and Tobago for a period of 2 years immediately before the date of his/her nomination for election or is domiciled and resident in Trinidad and Tobago at that date.

Conversely, no person will qualify to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives who:-

- (a) is not a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago; (Sections 47 and 48)
- (b) is declared bankrupt;
- (c) is mentally ill (legally);
- (d) is under sentence of death or serving imprisonment in excess of 12 months;
- (e) is responsible for conducting elections;
- (f) is convicted of any electoral offence; and
- (g) is not qualified to be registered as an elector under any law in Trinidad and Tobago.

The qualifications and disqualifications with respect to candidature for Municipal Councils and Tobago House of Assembly elections are similar to those for parliamentary elections, except:-

- (a) the candidate must reside in Tobago (Tobago House of Assembly Elections);
- (b) the candidate must qualify by residence or property ownership within the Municipality (Municipal Council Elections);

No person will qualify as a candidate who

- (a) has been debarred from the practice of his/her profession on account of any act including dishonesty; or

- (b) has been surcharged to an amount exceeding \$2,500.00 within five years of the date of elections.

On nomination Day, the Returning Officer, having examined all nomination papers presented to him, and having found same to be valid, accepts the deposits and declares the nominee to be a candidate for the electoral district. The amount of the deposit is \$500.00 in the case of Parliamentary Elections and \$200.00 for Municipal Council or Tobago House of Assembly Election.

(VI) **Establishment of Polling Stations and Issue of Poll Cards**

Returning officers together with the Commission conduct an inspection of buildings exercise for the establishment of polling stations. The main criteria for selecting buildings/sites for use as polling stations are:-

- (a) The safety of the building and its capacity for accommodating the continuous flow of voters and the congregating of persons waiting to cast their vote;
- (b) The building should be public or community owned property with adequate space on the lower level to facilitate physically handicapped and elderly voters;
- (c) The building should be located within the electoral district and as far as practicable in the polling division or polling divisions to which the polling stations relate.

However, if there is difficulty in finding a building to accord with (b) or (c), and there is a building that meets those criteria except it is located outside the electoral district, provision is made in the Act for using such a building. Use of such a building must be publicized. The returning officer for that other electoral district must be accordingly notified.

On completion of the exercise to select buildings for use as polling stations, and with the approval of the Commission, the returning officer proceeds to publish the information regarding the establishment of polling stations in his/her electoral district under the caption 'NOTICE OF TAKING A POLL'. This notice which is published in at least one (1) daily newspaper states the following:-

- (a) The date of the election and the hours during which the poll will be conducted;
- (b) the polling station number, which is the same number as that of the polling division it services and the address of the polling station;
- (c) the exact description and/or address of the polling stations, if there are more than one for the polling division; e.g. if polling division 0160 has seven (7) polling stations, the polling stations are described 0160-1; 0160-2; 0160-3; 0160-4 and 0160-5; etc. or if due to the terrain, polling stations for the same polling division are located at different addresses.
- (d) information on candidates i.e. name, address, occupation and symbol.

Copies of the notice are posted at the office of the returning officer and at strategic locations in the electoral district. Copies are also made available to candidates, the media and the police.

The data on polling stations is entered on computer from which poll cards are printed and mailed to electors. The poll card contains information such as the elector's name, address, registration number, the election to which it relates, the date of the election, the polling division number and the number and address of the polling station. Other relevant information is entered when presented to the poll clerk on polling day. The elector is advised to bring the poll card to the polling station on polling day.

Should the elector fail to bring same, a poll card is completed at the polling station but this action takes time and slows the process.

(VII) **Polling Day Activities**

Polling commences at 6.00 a.m. and closes at 6.00 p.m. However, all persons standing on line at 6.00 p.m. are allowed to vote before the poll closes. No person is permitted to join the line after 6.00 p.m.

In the event of riots, natural disasters, fire or other unforeseen circumstances, provision is made at Section 34 of the Act and Election Rule 56 for the adjournment, and resumption of the poll.

The staff at a polling station comprises:-

The Presiding Officer
The Deputy Presiding Officer
Two (2) Poll Clerks
Information Officer/s (where more than one (1) station is on the same compound).

Accommodation is also made for each candidate to have a polling agent i.e. agent of candidate, at the polling station.

The Presiding Officer is responsible for the operations of the polling station and may delegate assignments as warranted to ensure the smooth functioning of the station. He/she is given an adequate supply of ballot papers according to the electorate, list of electors for the polling division (revised list which includes the supplemental list) together with all other forms, envelopes, documents, stationery, supplies and equipment, ballot boxes, poll card box, etc. Also furnished is the Unit Register for the polling division or the relevant part thereof. The lay-out of the polling station and the role and function of each official are shown on the charts at pages 47 to 51. It is important to

note that all persons functioning as elections officials are trained and evaluated prior to selection and that all appointments are made by the Commission.

Persons allowed to enter the polling station other than the voters are officials of the Commission, the returning officer or his/her clerk, the roving officer (an extension of the returning officer), the candidates for a specific period and police officers. All persons other than voters entering the polling station, including the polling station staff, must make a declaration of secrecy.

There are several activities which are designated as election offences if carried out on polling day. Details of these offences are included at Sections 85 to 94 of the Act. Since time and space do not permit, mention will be made only of a few offences relating to campaign activities. According to the Election Rules, no congregating, nor anything which may be construed as campaigning nor trying to induce an elector to vote or not to vote in a certain way is permitted within 100 yards of the polling station. Persons found guilty of committing such offences are liable to a fine of seven hundred and fifty (\$750.00) dollars or six months imprisonment.

(VIII)

Close of Poll Activities

At the close of poll, when the last elector has voted, the presiding officer, in the presence of all persons permitted to witness the count, proceeds with the count by first distributing tally sheets to all persons present. The presiding officer then opens the ballot box and empties the contents on a cleared table. If the station was predesignated a station for the intermixing of ballots of special electors (electors qualified to vote prior to polling day) the ballots from the special ballot box would be intermixed with the ballots cast at the polling station, before the count begins.

Having instructed all present on how to complete the tally sheet, the presiding officer examines each ballot to ensure it bears his/her initials (or the initials of the Returning Officer for those used by the special electors) and calls the name of the candidate for whom the ballot is marked while displaying the ballot for those present to see. After the last ballot has been examined, the Deputy Presiding Officer compares the totals on his/her tally sheet with that of the other persons to ensure the totals tally.

During the examination, any ballot which carries a mark that could not clearly distinguish for which candidate the mark was intended is rejected.

The Presiding Officer shall also reject all ballot papers:-

- (a) that have not been issued at that polling station
- (b) that have not been marked for any candidate;
- (c) on which votes have been given for more than one (1) candidate;
- (d) upon which there is any writing or mark by which the elector could be identified.

Where a decision as to whether a ballot should be counted for a particular candidate is questioned by a polling agent, the presiding officer may or may not decide to allow the ballot to be counted for that candidate. Either way, he/she would place on the back of the ballot a 'Q' and his/her initials to indicate that the ballot was questioned.

The presiding officer then checks the ballots stacked for each candidate against the totals on the tally sheets to ensure the figures tally. Having tallied the votes, the presiding officer prepares a statement of the poll showing how the votes were distributed among the candidates, the number of rejected

ballots, spoilt ballots, unused ballot papers and other pertinent information. The statement of the poll is signed by the presiding officer, other polling station officials and the candidates or their agents and made in sufficient quantities for distribution to the Returning Officer, the Chief Election Officer, the Presiding Officer, the Deputy Presiding Officer and, equally important, the Polling Agents.

The Returning Officer, on receiving the statement of the poll for each polling station in his/her electoral district makes a public announcement of the returns. If by 12.00 noon the following day no request is made for a recount, the Returning Officer declares the result of the poll and furnishes each candidate with a summary statement of the total votes cast, together with a declaration as to which candidate received the most votes and has therefore been elected.

The foregoing paragraphs showed the various steps in the development of the infrastructure for the exercise of the franchise. However, in order to exercise one's franchise certain requirements must be met. These requirements are outlined in **PART III**.

PART III. THE EXERCISE OF THE FRANCHISE

In 1976, the franchise was extended to persons eighteen (18) years and over. Notwithstanding, there are other requirements to be met by persons wishing to exercise this right. The procedures to be followed in meeting these requirements are stated hereunder.

A. Getting one's name on the List of Electors

In Trinidad and Tobago the process of registration is voluntary (one may or may not choose to register). However, the first requirement in the exercise of the franchise is the inclusion of the person's name on the list of electors for the specific polling division and the election to which the list relates. In essence, for one's name to appear on the list of electors, one must register.

A.1. Who may Register

The provisions, at Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, stipulate who may register under Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Personal Registration system. Thus a person may register if:-

- (a) he is qualified to be registered as an elector; and
- (b) he is age fifteen (15) or over and is not exempted by order of the President of Trinidad and Tobago.

Persons qualify to register as electors for Parliamentary, Municipal Council and Tobago House of Assembly Elections if they are:-

- (a) citizens of Trinidad and Tobago age eighteen (18) and over who have resided for at least two (2) months in the electoral district for which application is made;
- (b) citizens of the Commonwealth with residential status of Trinidad and Tobago who have been seised of that status for at least one (1) year, the last two (2) months of which have been spent in the electoral district for which application is made; and

- (c) for Municipal Council and Tobago House of Assembly Elections only, aliens or non-Commonwealth persons who have been residing in Trinidad and Tobago for at least five (5) years and for two (2) months prior to the qualifying date have been resident in an electoral district in the municipality, in the case of Municipal Elections, and in an electoral district in Tobago in the case of the Tobago House of Assembly Elections.

Persons may qualify for registration as non-electors if they are:-

- (a) citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who are age 15 but under age 18;
- (b) citizens of the Commonwealth who are over age 17 and are not seised of resident status of Trinidad and Tobago.

A.2 How to Register

Application for registration must be made in person at the Office of the Registration Officer for the district in which the applicant lives.

The applicant must present:-

- (a) a birth certificate issued by the Registrar General, or a passport. (If the applicant is a naturalised citizen proof of naturalization must be presented);
- (b) if the applicant is a Commonwealth citizen with residential status, a passport and evidence that residence has been granted;
- (c) two (2) recent photographs 1 1/4" x 1" in colour or black and white, if the applicant does not wish to be photographed by the Commission;
- (d) a marriage certificate if the applicant is married and carries a name different from that on the birth certificate or passport; or

- (e) a deed poll if the applicant is using a name different from that appearing on the birth certificate or passport;
- (f) Photocopies of all documents presented.

NOTE

- (1) Except in instances stipulated in the Act, e.g. disfigurement or religious persuasion, failure to supply photographs or to be photographed by the Commission will render the registration incomplete, resulting in the applicant's name not being placed on the list of electors nor an identification card being issued.
- (2) In a case where the birth certificate does not bear the name of the applicant, an affidavit in support of the birth certificate and photocopies of same must be presented when applying for registration.

A.3 Where to Register

To facilitate easy registration, fifteen (15) registration offices and ten (10) registration sub-offices are established at central locations within the registration areas into which Trinidad and Tobago is divided. Stated hereunder are the names of the registration areas and the addresses of the registration offices and sub-offices.

REGISTRATION AREA	ADDRESS OF OFFICES/SUB OFFICES
Port of Spain	2nd Floor, (Room 201), Salvatori Building, Frederick Street, Port of Spain.
Laventille	3rd Floor (Room 309), Salvatori Building, Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain.

Diego Martin	2nd Floor, (Room 218), Salvatori Building, Frederick Street, Port of Spain; Sub-Office Ministry of Works Building, Four Roads, Diego Martin.
San Juan	3rd Floor, (Room 318), Salvatori Building, Frederick Street, Port of Spain; Sub-Office 54 5th Street, Barataria.
Tunapuna	Railway Road, Tunapuna.
Arima and Piarco	Corner Pro Queen Street and Robinson Circular, Arima; Sub- Office Blanchisseuse Post Office Building, Blanchisseuse.
Sangre Grande	54, Foster Road, Sangre Grande; Sub-Office Revenue Office Building, Toco.
Point Fortin and Siparia	Furlonge Street, Point Fortin and Mary Street, Siparia.
Tobago	Bacolet Street, (Opposite Fairfield Complex), Scarborough. Sub-Office Post Office Building, Roxborough.

Chaguanas	Corner Main & Endeavour Roads, (Ground Floor) Chaguanas.
Couva	Railway Road, Couva.
Tabaquite/ Talparo	3 Carib Street, San Fernando. Sub-Offices Corner Main and Endeavour Roads Chaguanas (Upper Floor); Tabaquite Post Office Building, Tabaquite.
San Fernando Penal/Debe	194, Circular Road, San Fernando. Sub-Office Mary Street, Siparia.
Princes Town	High Street, (Hosein Building/ Upper Floor), Princes Town.
Rio Claro and Mayaro	Naparima-Mayaro Road, Rio Claro. Sub-Offices Administration Building, Mayaro; Administration Building, Guayaguayare.

B. Casting the Vote

When a person enters a polling station, before he/she is issued a ballot paper, several requirements must be met. The steps in meeting these requirements are outlined hereunder:-

B.1 Who May Vote

The ideal voter is the person whose name appears on the list of electors for the polling division in which he/she resides, and he/she is in possession of an identification card and possibly a

poll card. However, other persons may be entitled to vote:-

- (i) a person whose name does not appear on the list of electors, but whose registration card is in the unit register;
- (ii) a person whose name is on the list but has no identification card.

Such persons must make the required affirmation before being allowed to vote.

Special Elector

Registered electors may also qualify to vote as special electors if they meet any of the criteria listed hereunder. Persons wishing to be treated as special electors must apply on the prescribed form to the returning officer for the respective electoral districts.

Criteria for Qualifying as a Special Elector

- (a) a member of the Police Force, the Special Reserve Police Force established under the Special Reserve Police Ordinance, the Estate Police established under the Supplemental Police Ordinance;
- (b) a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force;
- (c) a member of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, the Chief Election Officer, Deputy Chief Election Officer, Assistant Chief Election Officer;
- (d) the Returning Officer, of an electoral district other than that in which he is registered for the purposes of the election;
- (e) a Presiding Officer, a Deputy Presiding Officer, a Poll Clerk;
- (f) Polling Agent;
- (g) a candidate or the spouse of a candidate for an Electoral District other than that for which he/she is registered for the purpose of election.

- (h) an election agent or sub agent who is registered for the purpose of election in an electoral district other than that of his/her candidate;
- (i) unable or likely to be unable to go in person to the polling station at which the elector is entitled to vote unless he/she travels between Trinidad and Tobago;
- (j) unable or likely to be unable to go in person to the polling station at which entitled to vote by reason of being:-
 - (i) a patient in a public hospital or a private hospital approved by the Elections and Boundaries Commission, or an inmate in a public institution; or
 - (ii) a prisoner within the meaning of that expression in Section 2 of the Prisons Ordinance;
- (k) a member of a Flight Crew; and
- (l) a person engaged in offshore petroleum operation.

B.2 Where to Vote

(i) **Special Electors**

Persons listed as special electors may vote before polling day at special polling stations established either by the Commission or by the Returning Officer for the district in which they qualify to vote. The Commission's stations cater for electors of all electoral districts and operate between the hours of 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. for a period of not less than two (2) days prior to regular polling day.

The special polling station established by the Returning Officer functions for approximately seven (7) days closing at 3.00 p.m. on regular polling day. However, in order to vote at a special polling station established by the Returning Officer, the elector must be registered in the electoral district to which the special polling station relates. The locations of the special polling stations established by the Commission and by Returning Officers are published in the press.

NOTE: The names of persons whose applications to vote as special electors are approved are removed from the list of electors used at the regular polling station. Persons qualified to vote as special electors are not permitted to vote at regular polling stations on polling day.

(ii) **Ordinary Electors**

The locations of polling stations are stated in the Notice of Taking A Poll published in the press and posted at the office of the Returning Officer or at strategic locations in the electoral district.

In addition, the poll card mailed to the elector bears the number and address of the polling station which the elector should attend.

B.3 How to Vote

(i) **Special Elector**

Prior to the date fixed for the commencement of polling by special electors, the Returning Officer arranges for the undermentioned documents to be forwarded in a sealed envelope to each elector who qualifies to vote as a special elector, and whose name now appears on the list of special electors.

- (a) a ballot paper;
- (b) a ballot paper envelope;
- (c) a covering envelope which bears the declaration;
- (d) a notice re - the location of the special polling station;
- (e) instructions for marking and folding the Ballot paper.

During the period that the special polling stations are functioning, the special elector takes the contents of his special elector envelope to the special presiding officer where he identifies himself by calling his name and presenting his identification card. The special presiding officer verifies this by checking the list of special electors, comparing the photograph with the face of the elector or with the photograph attached to the registration record card (applicable to special station of Returning Officer).

Satisfied that the correct person is before him he asks the elector to display his ballot paper. If the ballot is not marked, the special presiding officer requests that he completes the declaration and signs same in the appropriate space. The special presiding officer then endorses the declaration.

Having been advised as to the procedure, the elector proceeds to the voting booth with his ballot paper. He stamps or marks an X next to the symbol of the candidate of his choice, folds the ballot paper in a manner that allows the initials of the Returning Officer to be seen without exposing his mark. He then returns to the special presiding officer who instructs him to place his ballot in the ballot paper envelope and seal same. The special elector is requested to place his signature next to entries made on the prescribed form, place the sealed ballot paper envelope into the covering envelope and insert it into the special ballot box. The elector is then asked to leave the station.

NOTE

- (1) Staining of the index or any other finger does not apply in special voting.
- (2) Poll cards are not used in special voting.

B.3 (ii) Ordinary Electors

All electors with the exception of those qualified as special electors, attend a regular polling station on polling day. These stations operate from 6.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. However, persons in line at 6.00 p.m. will be permitted to enter the polling station.

On entering the polling station, the elector is directed to either of the two poll clerks and having met the requirements, is then directed to the presiding officer who, satisfied that the person is indeed entitled to vote, issues a ballot paper. Having instructed the elector on the procedures for marking and folding the ballot paper, the Presiding Officer directs him/her to the voting booth where the ballot is marked in secret.

On leaving the voting booth, the elector goes to the deputy presiding officer, and displays the folded ballot so that the presiding officer's initials are visible. The elector is then requested to dip his/her index finger in the electoral ink, after which the elector is allowed to place the ballot in the ballot box. The deputy presiding officer indicates on the elector's poll card that he/she has voted, places the poll card in the poll card box and directs the elector to the exit.

Special arrangements are made for electors who are blind or otherwise physically handicapped to cast their vote.

Graphic illustrations of the voting procedures are shown on the charts at pages 47 to 51.

PART IV **MILESTONES IN THE EVOLUTION OF
THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

- 1946 (a) Universal Adult Suffrage attained; franchise extended to persons 21 and over.
 - (b) Provision for a Supervisor of Election responsible for fairness and impartiality.
 - (c) Single seat electoral districts.
 - (d) Introduction of ballot boxes.
 - (e) Introduction of candidates' symbols on ballot paper.
 - (f) Time off (2 hours) to be given by employers to allow employees to vote.
- 1956 Introduction of electoral ink.
- 1961 Voting machines to record votes (instead of ballot boxes).
- 1961 Identification Cards with photographs to be used at polling stations.
- 1961 Registration records available at polling stations.
- 1966 First elections conducted by the Elections Commission as provided for in the 1962 Constitution.
- 1971 No-vote campaign by opposition parties.
- 1976 The Voting Machine replaced by the ballot box.
- 1976 Franchise extended to eighteen (18) year olds.

1980 Commencement of computerisation
of Elections and Boundaries
Commission registration records.

(Records subsequently destroyed
by fire)

1985 Countrywide Registration Update.
Computerisation of records.

1986 Issue of Computer generated
Identification Cards.

CONCLUSION

Trinidad and Tobago has shown phenomenal growth in its electoral system over the last one hundred and forty-six (146) years. In 1924, with the franchise extended to men age twenty-one (21) and women age thirty (30), and with seven of the 26-member Assembly elected, the electorate constituted a mere 6 per cent of the population. On July 1, 1993, the date of the publication of the Annual List of Electors, the electorate constituted approximately 70 per cent. This quantum leap is due mainly to the early struggles which resulted in the grant of universal adult suffrage, and the continued reforms effected and legislations enacted for enhancing the infrastructure for the exercise of the franchise.

The many innovations introduced in stages in the evolution of the system have their foundation in Law and have helped to enhance a system that has gained international recognition over the years. Perhaps some of the most laudable of these enhancements have been the introduction of identification cards with photographs and the use of electoral ink, factors designed to counteract fraud at polling stations. These have given greater credence to the electoral system.

On a national scale, the identification card, by virtue of the many uses to which it is put by all sectors of the society, has given the registration system a stability that redounds to the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago. It can safely be said that its increased usage has risen beyond the greatest expectations of those who conceived the idea of its introduction in 1961.

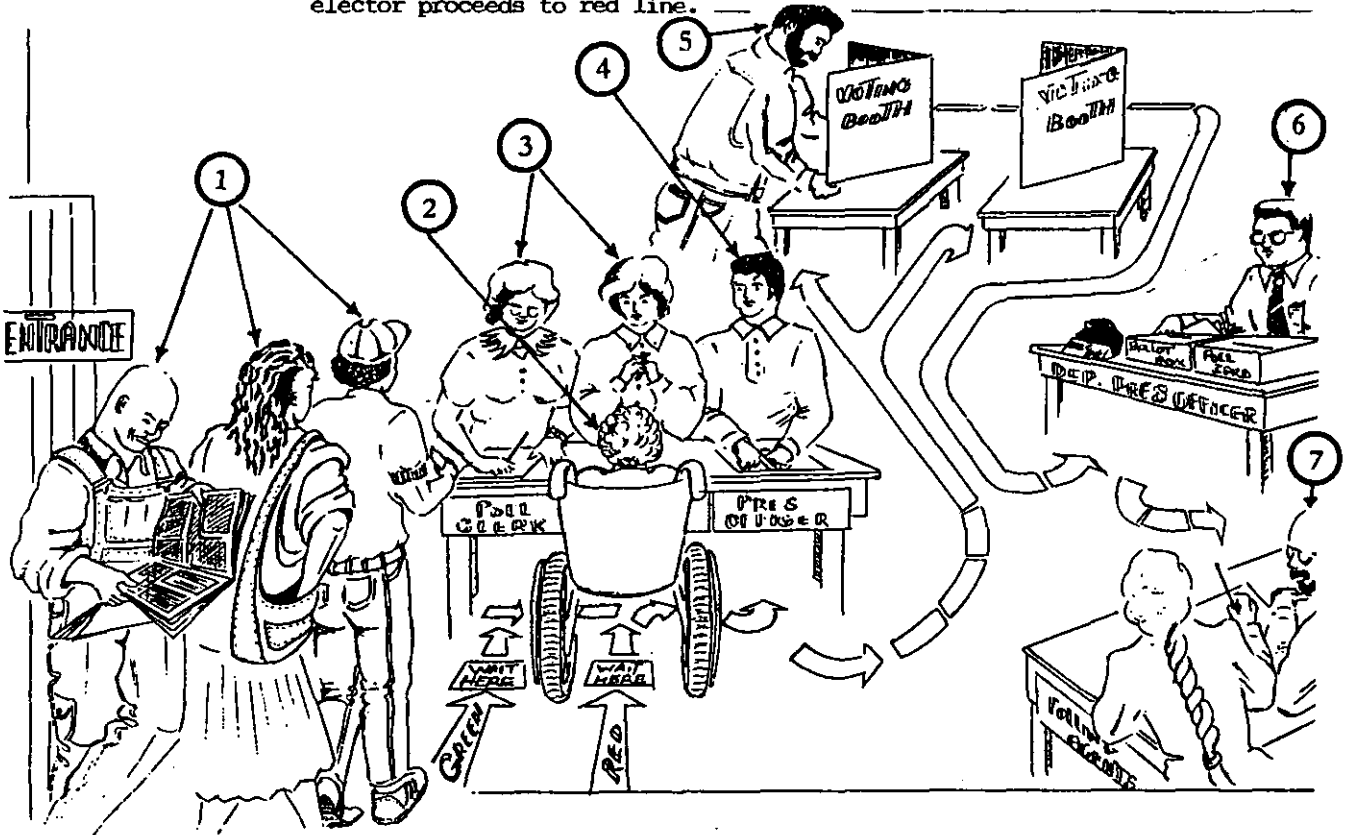
The system, though, has had to keep apace of technological advancement, and while the technology of the voting machine was utilised from 1961 to 1971 when it was replaced by the ballot box, the use of advanced technology is evidenced by the increasing use of computers. This technology aids in the storage and rapid retrieval of data and assists generally in expediting key areas of electoral activity.

During the mid 1980's the Commission, in its effort to further refine the electoral infrastructure, implemented measures which not only achieved an electoral system that is transparent and conducive to free and fair elections, but equally important, has gained the recognition of international organizations such as the United Nations (U. N.), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organization of American States (O. A. S.). The selection of officers of the Elections and Boundaries Commission to function as observers with those organisations and, in general, the role played by Trinidad and Tobago in such places as Namibia, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guyana, Ghana and Lesotho attests to this recognition.

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

POLLING STATION LAY-OUT

Elector enters polling station and proceeds to green line if in possession of identification card and name on list, otherwise elector proceeds to red line.



Electors in Green Line
Elector in Red Line
Poll Clerks
Presiding Officer

(5) Voter marking ballot
(6) Deputy Presiding Officer
(7) Polling Agents

NOTE: IT IS AN OFFENCE WILLFULLY TO GIVE INCORRECT INFORMATION TO THE REGISTRATION OFFICER

										2. REGISTRATION NUMBER				
1. Full Name (Surname First)						File Number								
3. Residential Address						4. Mailing Address (if different)				5. RA		6. PD		
7. Sex: M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>		8. Height (cm)		9. Colour of Skin		10. Colour of Eyes		11. Blood Type		12. Marital Status				
13. Date of Birth			14. Place of Birth			15. Citizenship Status			16. Residential Status					
Birth Cert. Entry No. Vol. No. Folio No.			17. National Insurance No.			18. Social Assistance No.			19. Date Residence taken up in: (A) Trinidad and Tobago					
Passport Number			Date of Issue			Place of Issue			(B) Electoral District					
20. Usual Occupation			21. Name and Address of Employer											
CG 1 <input type="checkbox"/> P 2 <input type="checkbox"/> R 3 <input type="checkbox"/>			22. Have you been Registered previously? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			23. If Yes, State (A) Registration No.			(B) Under what name			(C) Under what Address		
24. List Names and Dates of Birth. of Minors (Under 15)														
26. Are you eligible for Jury Service? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				27. If Yes, State the Basis of Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> Salary <input type="checkbox"/> Property <input type="checkbox"/> Through Husband				28. If Eligibility through Husband, Basis of Husband's eligibility <input type="checkbox"/> Salary <input type="checkbox"/> Property						
29. Address of Property:						30. Municipal Property Qualification.								
						Date _____ Address _____								
33. Date of Registration						34. Signature of Officer Registering								
35. Photograph														
31. Thumb Print														

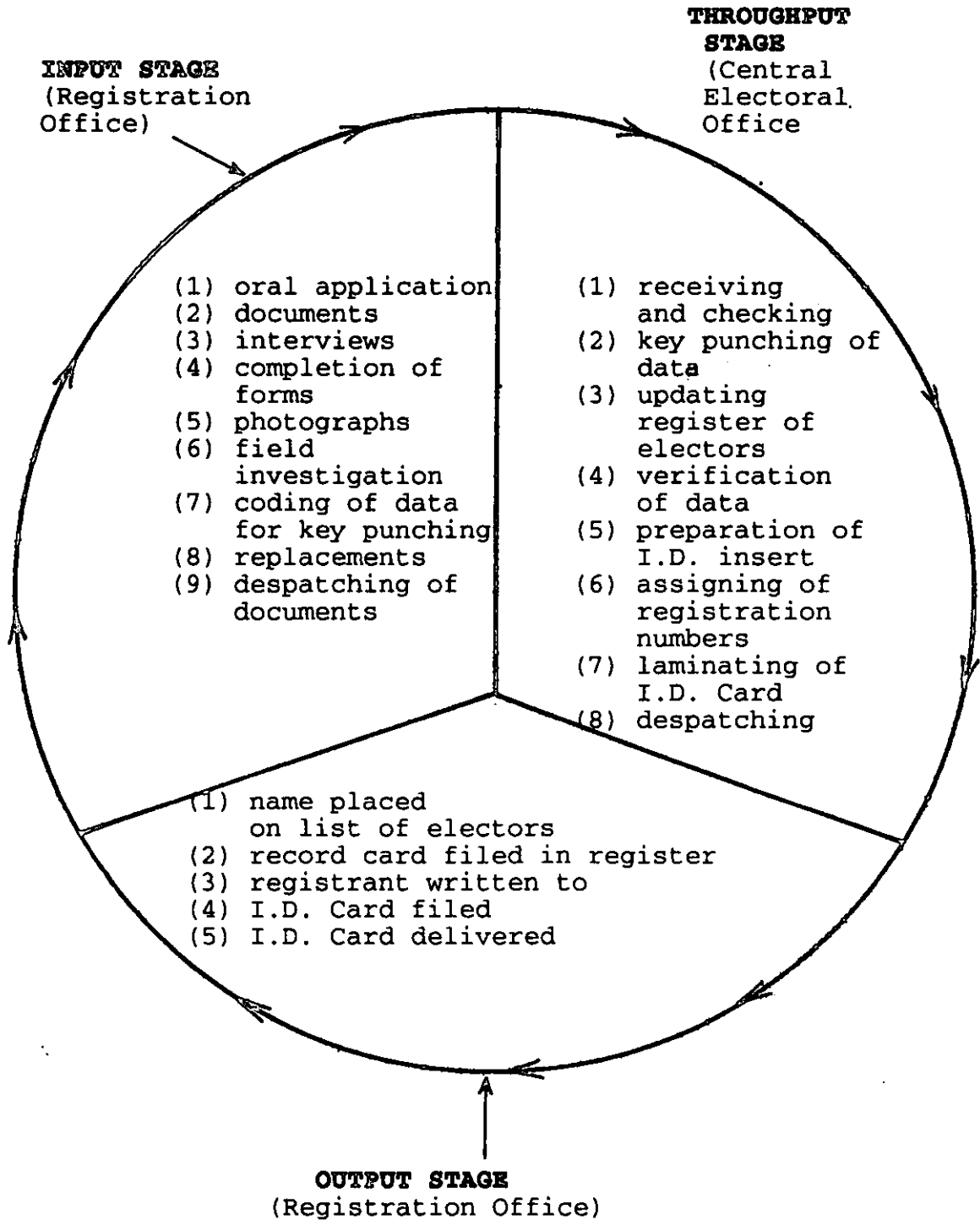
38. General Remarks:															
36. (A) List of Electors Checked (B) Included in List of Cancellations (C) Check Card Issued (D) Check Card Executed										Officers' Initials					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No					
37. Changes since Registration															
(A) Residence						(B) Electoral Status									
Date Changed		Now Residential Address			RA	PD	Date Changed		Reason for Change		Signature of R.O.				
38. DATE ELIGIBLE FOR:				39. Record of Receipt of Identification Card				Signature		Date					
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION															
TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION															
MUNICIPAL ELECTION															
COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION															
40. Cancellation				41. Re-Instatement				42. Remarks							
Code No.		Date		Signature of R.O.		Date		Signature of R.O.							

Stages in the Processing of a Registration

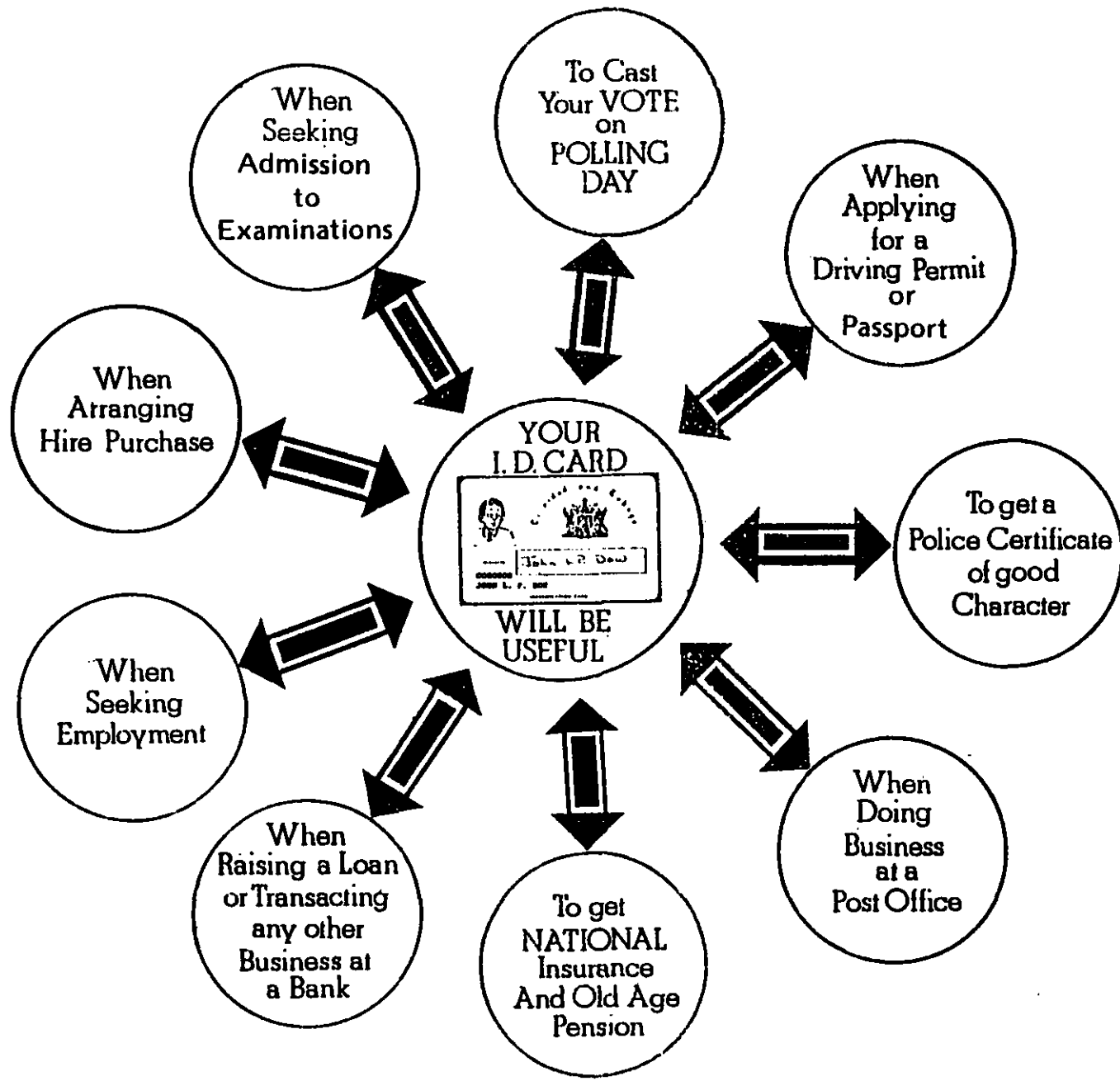
The processing of a registration, from the recording of data to the actual delivery of the identification card to the registrant, is one that entails a range of activities involving several sections of the organisation.

These are graphically illustrated in the following model which is representative of the registration system.

It is to be noted that at the output stage the registrant attains the objective of having his name listed and qualifying for the right to exercise his franchise. This, in essence, is the major objective of the electoral system.

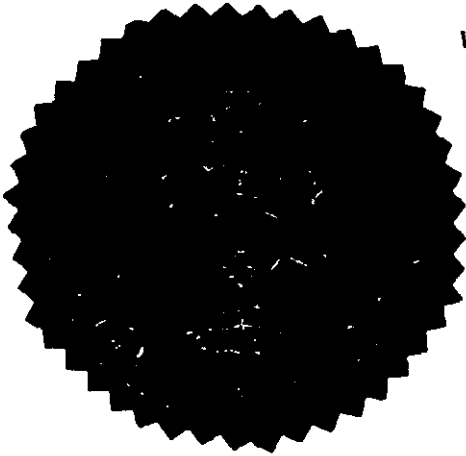


Of great significance, on a national scale, is the identification card. Apart from its use as an electoral document it is demanded by many public and private sector organisations in the transaction of business requiring identification. Its usages are graphically illustrated overleaf.



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, CHAPTER 2:01



WRIT OF ELECTION

BY HIS EXCELLENCY NOOR MOHAMED HASSANALI,
PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

SPECIMEN

President

TO THE RETURNING OFFICER OF THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF
MORIAH/PARLATUVIER

WHEREAS I think it expedient that writs should issue for the election of members to serve in the Tobago House of Assembly.

I COMMAND YOU that notice of the time and place of election being first duly given you do, on the 20TH day of NOVEMBER, 1992 which said day shall be nomination day in the said electoral district of MORIAH/PARLATUVIER cause election to be made according to law of a member to serve in the Tobago House of Assembly for the said electoral district of MORIAH/PARLATUVIER and that, if necessary, you do cause a poll to be taken on the 7TH day of DECEMBER, 1992 and that you do cause the name of such member when so elected to be certified to the Chief Election Officer on the seventh day next following the declaration by you of the result of the poll.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO, AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
ST. ANN'S.
THIS 9TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1992

Endorsement

Received the within Writ on the10th..... day ofNOVEMBER....., 1978...

SPECIMEN

[Signature]
.....
Returning Officer for the Electoral District
ofMORIAH/PARLATUVIER.....

I hereby certify that the member elected for the electoral district of MORIAH/PARLATUVIER in pursuance of the within writ as having received most votes lawfully given is HOCHOY CHARLES of GOLDEN LANE, TOBAGO.

Dated at SCARBOROUGH this 8TH day of DECEMBER 1978.

[Signature]
RETURNING OFFICER
MORIAH/PARLATUVIER

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

TALLY SHEET

For the Counting of Votes

To be used by the returning officer, election clerk, presiding officer, other polling station officials and all the persons lawfully present at the counting of the ballots cast for the various candidates. Check marks will be made consecutively in the small squares under the name of the candidate, in the appropriate column, as each vote is being called by the presiding officer or the returning officer.

Column of Votes Cast for:	Column of Votes Cast for:	Column of Votes Cast for:	Column of Votes Cast for:	Column of Votes Cast for:	Column of Votes Cast for:
<i>(Insert name of Candidate)</i>	<i>(Insert name of Candidate)</i>	<i>(Insert name of Candidate)</i>	<i>(Insert name of Candidate)</i>	<i>(Insert name of Candidate)</i>	<i>(Insert name of Candidate)</i>
5					5
10					10
15					15
20					20
25					25
30					30
35					35
40					40
45					45
50					50
55					55
60					60
65					65
70					70
75					75
80					80
85					85
90					90
95					95
100					100
105					105
110					110
115					115
120					120
125					125
130					130
135					135
140					140
145					145
150					150
155					155
160					160
165					165
170					170
175					175
180					180
185					185
190					190
195					195
200					200

COMPLETED SPECIMEN

APPENDIX (xxiii)

Form No. 69

(Election rules 97 (1) (d), 97 (12)).

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT
STATEMENT OF THE POLL

Electoral District of MARACAS / SANTA CRUZ

Polling Station No. 0920-2

Name of Presiding Officer CORNELIUS QUINLAN

a.	Number of ballots cast for	<u>A</u>	<u>198</u>
b.	Number of ballots cast for	<u>B</u>	<u>132</u>
c.	Number of ballots cast for	<u>C</u>	<u>98</u>
d.	Number of ballots cast for	<u>D</u>	<u>06</u>
e.	Number of ballots cast for		
f.	Number of ballots cast for		
g.	Number of ballots cast for		
h.	Number of ballots cast for		
i.	Number of ballots cast for		
j.	Number of ballots cast for		
k.	Number of Rejected ballots		<u>04</u>
l.	TOTAL number of ballots found in Box (Add (a) through (k))		<u>438</u>
m.	Number of destroyed ballots		<u>-</u>
n.	Number of spoiled ballots		<u>05</u>
o.	Number of unused ballot papers undetached from the books		<u>357</u>
p.	TOTAL: (Add (l) through (o))		
q.	Number of ballot papers received from Returning Officer		<u>800</u>

NOTE: If the entries at (p) and (q) disagree, the Statement is inaccurate. Carefully re-examine (a) to (q).

r.	Number of Suspect ballots	<u>01</u>	
s.	Number of Questioned ballots	<u>03</u>	
t.	Number of ballots found in Special Ballot Box	<u>-</u>	

Number of poll cards found in Poll Card Box	<u>438</u>
Number of names on Official List of Electors used at polling station	<u>724</u>

I hereby certify that the above Statement is correct, and that a copy was handed to the Deputy Presiding Officer, the Poll Clerk and to each of the candidates or their agents who were present at the count.

Dated at SANTA CRUZ this 10 day of JUNE 19 92

Signature of Presiding Officer C. Quinlan

Certified in the presence of :

Deputy Presiding Officer ANDRE MURRAY

Poll Clerk THAIS MC KENZIE

and Candidates/Agents SHAHEED AZAN

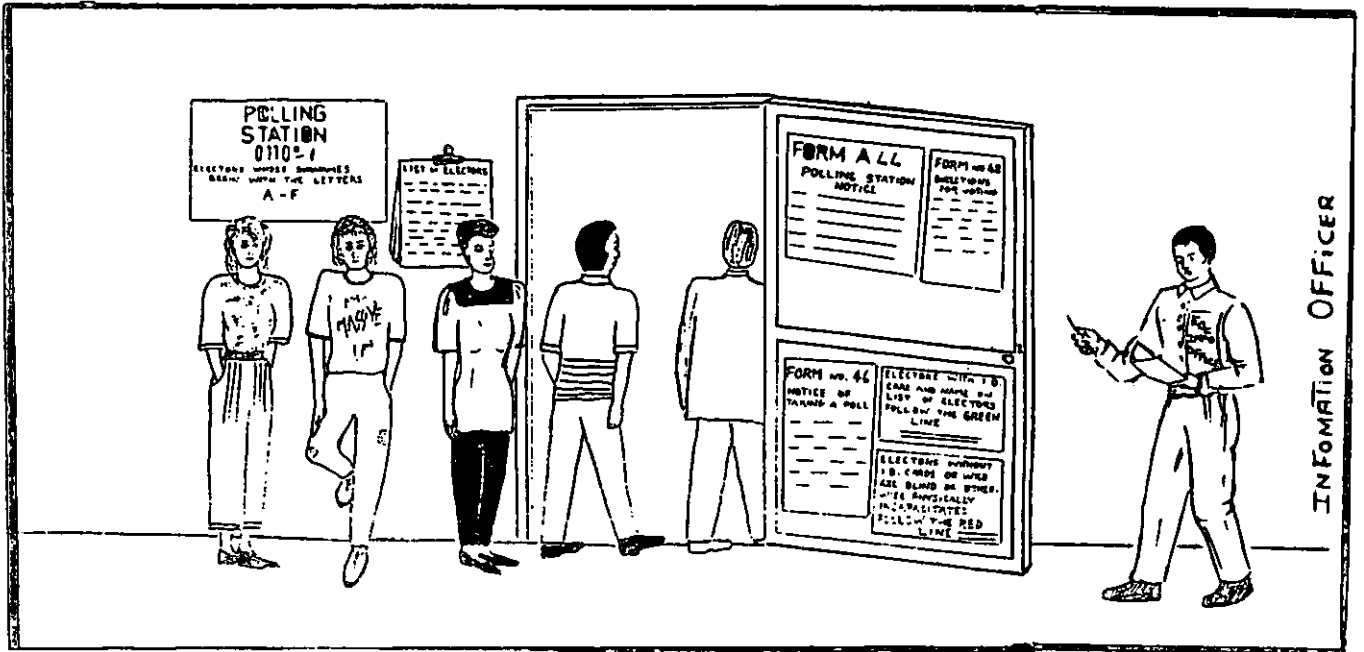
TRAVANEE MONTGOMERY

EVERETTE STEVENSON

YOKO LEE KING

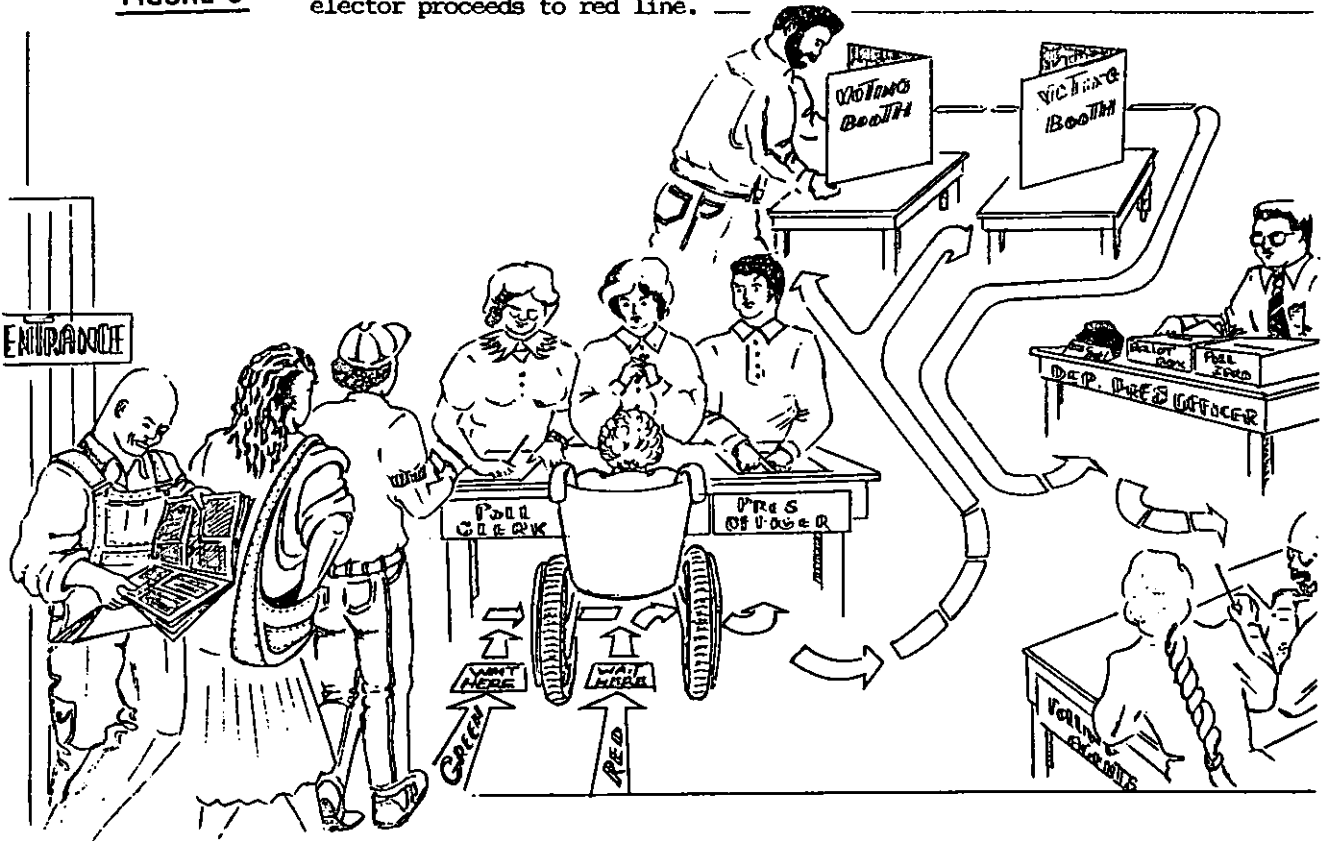
STEP 1. Elector enters polling station compound: Checks for name on list and ensures that he/she is at the correct polling station.

FIGURE 2



STEP 2. Elector enters polling station and proceeds to green line if in possession of identification card and name on list, otherwise elector proceeds to red line.

FIGURE 3



STEP 3A. Green Line: Elector hands poll card and identification card to Poll Clerk.

FIGURE 4



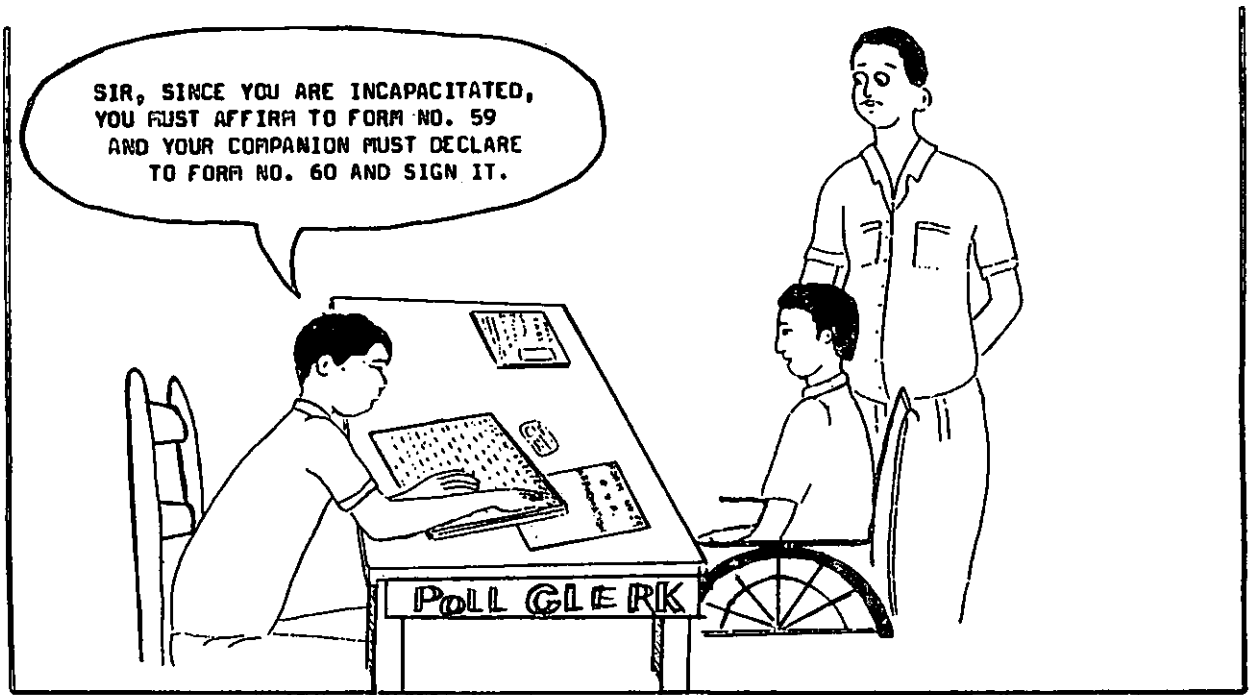
STEP 3B. Red Line: Elector hands poll card to Poll Clerk and makes relevant affirmation.

FIGURE 5



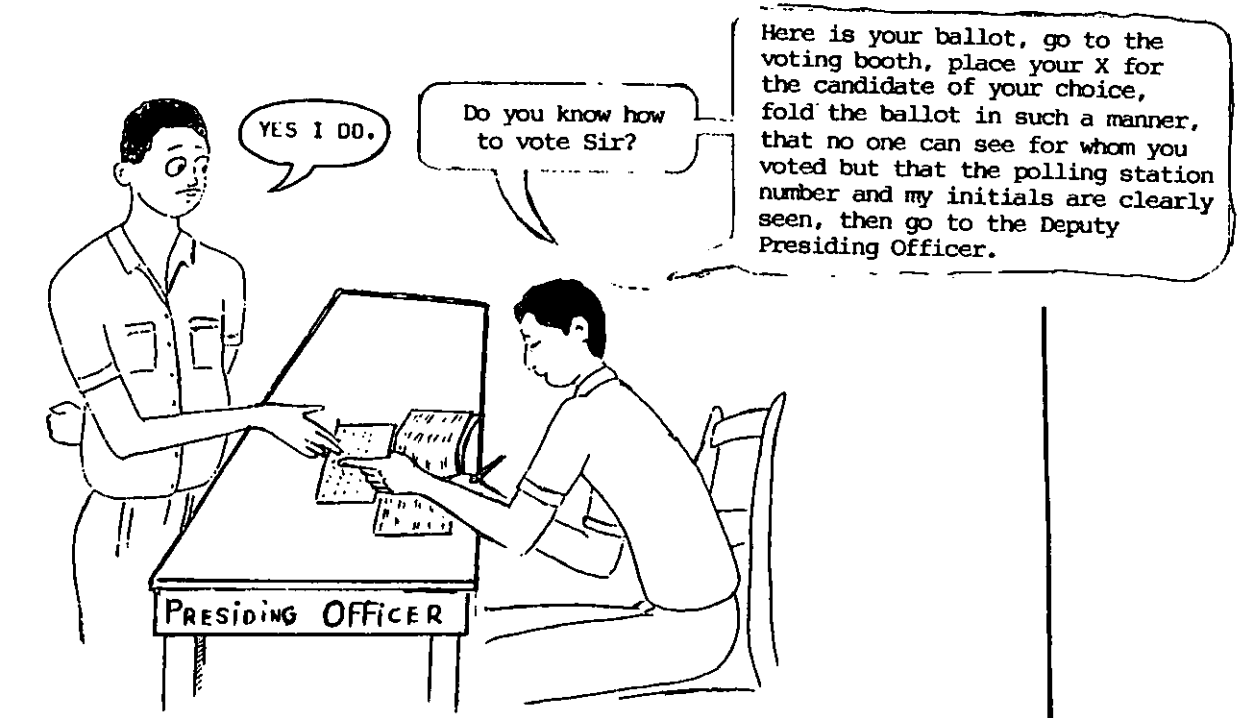
STEP 3C. Red Line: Incapacitated Elector with companion presents poll card and identification card to Poll Clerk.

FIGURE 6



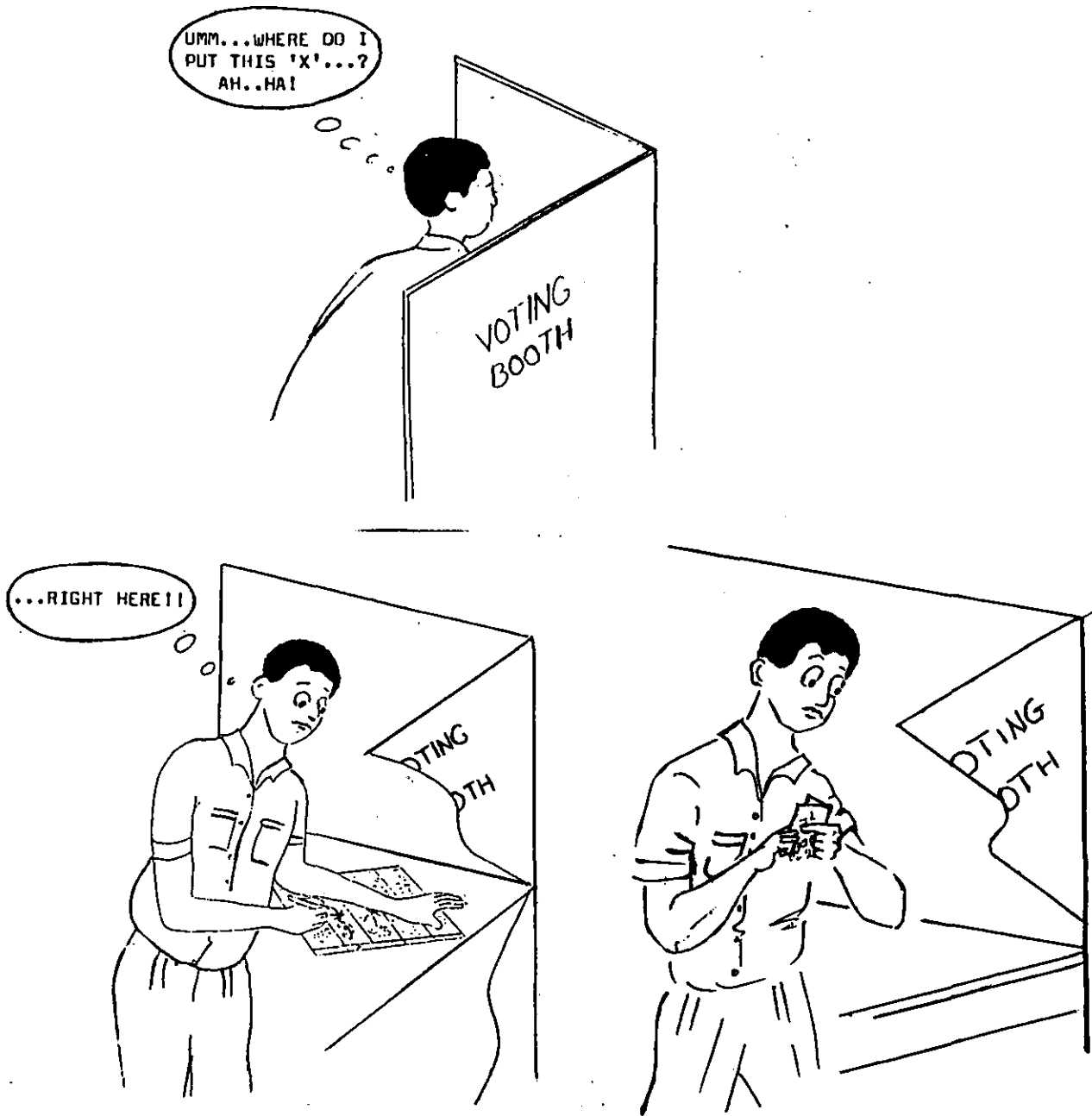
STEP 4. Elector takes poll card and identification card (if any) to Presiding Officer.

FIGURE 7



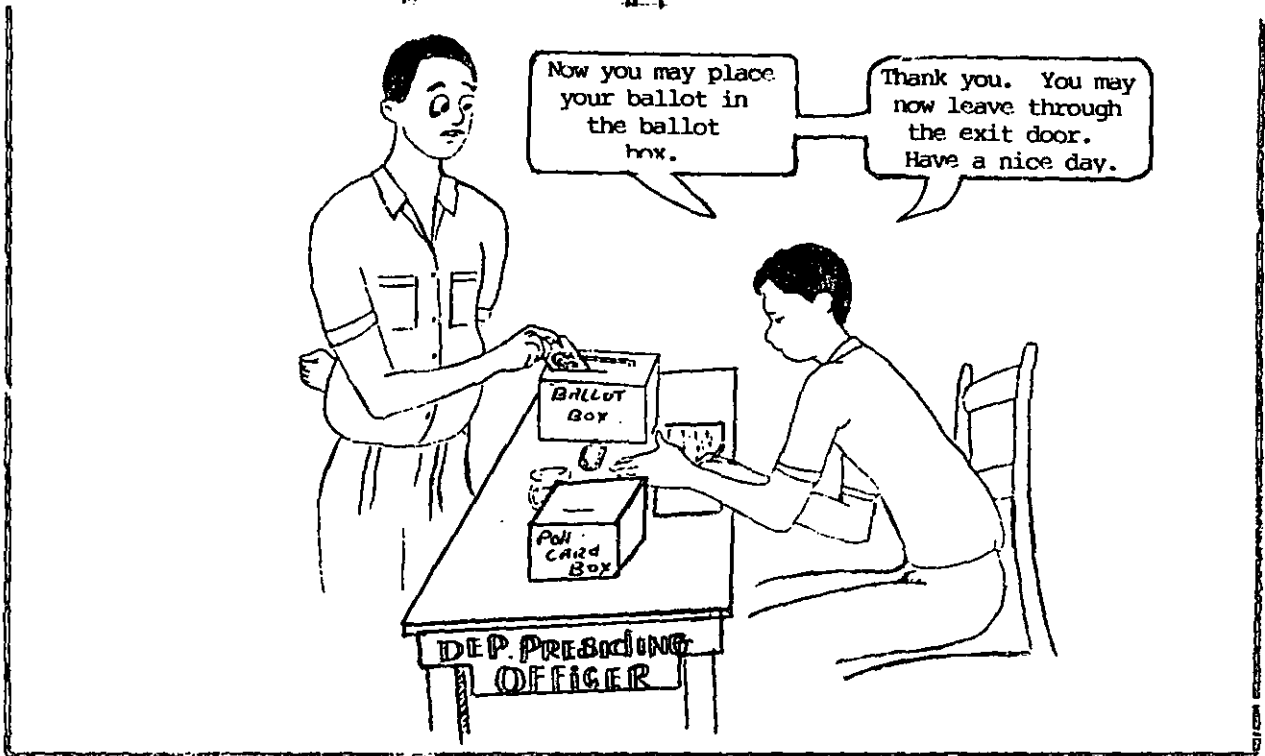
STEP 5. Elector enters voting booth, marks ballot and folds it as directed.

FIGURE 8



STEP 6. Elector goes to Deputy Presiding Officer with folded ballot.

FIGURE 9



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