

## **VI-B. Registration Appeals Board**

### **A. Registration Appeals Board Defined (Title 21-A §103)**

1. Municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more must have a Registration Appeals Board to hear appeals of persons aggrieved by a decision of the registrar to either remove a name from the voting list or refuse to place a name on the voting list.

**Note:** In municipalities with a population of less than 5,000 – the municipal officers hear appeals per section 163 of Title 21-A.

### **B. Appointment and Term of Office (Title 21-A §103.1, §103.3)**

1. The Board consists of 3 members appointed by the Municipal Officers.
2. The Chair is nominated by the municipal clerk, and serves a 4-year term.
3. Two members are nominated by the major political parties, and serve 3-year terms.

**Note:** The clerk and registrar are ineligible to serve on the Board.

### **C. Duties of the Registration Appeals Board (Title 21-A §103.6)**

1. Upon a written complaint of a person aggrieved by a decision of the registrar, the chair shall immediately set a time and place for the Board to hold a hearing.
2. The Board must give notice to the complainant, at least 20 days in advance of the hearing.
3. The hearing is *de novo*, which means the Board conducts a new hearing, rather than simply reviewing the decision of the registrar for errors in applying the law. The Board must give the voter the opportunity to testify and to present witnesses and other evidence at the hearing.
4. After the hearing, the Board may affirm, modify or reverse the decision of the registrar. The decision must be provided to the voter in writing and include information on how to appeal the decision (see next sub-section).
5. Decisions of the Registration Appeals Board may be appealed to Superior Court in accordance with Rule 80B of the Rules of Civil Procedure.