

The following opinion of S. Jackson Wallis Esq. in regard to Registration was received by the Board and ordered to be placed on the minutes.

St. Paul St.

June 29th. 1868

To the Board of
Police Commissioners,
Gentlemen;

My opinion has been requested by the Board as to the mode in which the approaching election of the 8th of July is to be conducted with reference to the matter of registration.

The law of the late Session went into effect on the 1st day of June, and the act of 1867, Ch. 336, being expressly repealed thereby has of course no further vitality. Were this all, there would clearly be no operative system of registration, inasmuch as the act of 1868 does not provide for any action, on the part of the officers who are to process under it, prior to September of this year. But the act of 1868 provides further, that the newly appointed Registers, when they do meet in September, shall receive and correct the existing lists. It therefore recognizes these lists as continuing to be legal and operative, at that time, and, so being, they must be legal and operative immediately, and on the 8th of July proximo. In view of this and the fact that the Constitution prescribes a system of registration as the mode by which the right of suffrage shall be established, I regard it as clear that the election of July 8th must be held under and according to these lists, as far as is practicable.

The only difficulty that I see, is as to the mode in which the judges of election shall be furnished with them; for, the act of 1867 being dead, and that of 1868 having no provision applicable to the case, the judges cannot demand or receive the lists, officially, from the officers now having charge of them. In most of the precincts, however, the judges no doubt retain the lists which they received at the last regular election, and I presume that in any precinct where they are wanting, they can be procured informally from the legal custodians. Should this not be practicable, the judges,