

(d) *Certificates of Nomination of Independent Candidates.* All certificates of nomination for independent candidates shall be filed on or before the date specified in Section 67 of this Article.

(e) *Withdrawals.* Candidates for nomination and nominees wishing to withdraw or decline a nomination shall do so on or before the day specified in Section 73 of this Article.

(f) *Certificates of Candidacy for President and Vice-President of the United States.* Any candidate for the offices of either President or Vice-President of the United States shall file a certificate of candidacy for said office on or before the date specified in Section 76 of this Article.

(g) *State Conventions.* The State conventions of political parties shall meet on or before the date specified in Section 80 of this Article.

(h) *Constitutional Amendments, Referenda, or Other Questions.* Constitutional amendments, referenda or other questions, except as specified in Sub-section (i) of this section, shall be certified to the Boards of Supervisors of Elections on or before the date specified in Section 167 of this Article.

(i) *Questions Arising Under Article 11A of the Constitution.* Questions arising under Article 11A of the Constitution of Maryland shall be certified to the proper officer or officers on or before the day specified in Section 167 of this Article.

(j) *Printing Ballots.* Ballots shall be printed and in the possession of the Supervisors of Elections not later than the date specified in Section 93 of this Article.

**253. Ballots Received.** (a) *Duties of Secretary of State.* The Secretary of State shall open all Return Envelopes, State and Federal, as soon as received by him, shall withdraw therefrom the Ballot Envelopes and shall immediately transmit such Ballot Envelopes unopened, unmarked and unchanged in any way, in packages sealed by him, to the Board named on the outside of said State Return Envelopes and to the appropriate Board disclosed by the address of the Absentee Resident on the Federal Ballot Envelope. The Secretary of State shall require each Board receiving from him Ballot Envelopes to give him a receipt showing the date of such delivery and the number of Ballot Envelopes delivered.

(b) *Ballot Sent to Wrong Board.* If a State or Federal Ballot Envelope is delivered to the wrong Board, such Board shall immediately send said Ballot Envelope unopened, unmarked and unchanged in any way to the proper Board.

(c) *Preservation of Records.* All Return Envelopes, both State and Federal, received by the Secretary of State after the date of any election, shall be preserved by him for six months and then destroyed, unless prior to that time he be ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction to keep the same for any longer period. The receipts given the Secretary of State by the several Boards shall be also kept by him for the same period.

**254. Ballots Received by Boards of Supervisors.** (a) *Registration of Voter.* Upon receipt by a Board at any time prior to the closing of the polls on election day of a State or Federal Ballot Envelope