

be retained as if said ballot had been spoiled; and no voter shall be allowed over seven minutes in which to vote.

SEC. 201. Immediately upon the closing of the polls the judges of election shall proceed to count the ballots, and the counting or canvass thereof shall not be adjourned or postponed until the count or canvass shall have been fully completed; nor until the returns have been announced publicly and the written returns herein provided for fully completed and signed by the judges and clerks of election. In counting the said ballots the judges of election shall be governed by the manifest intent of the voter, where the same can be ascertained, and a cross (X) mark protruding slightly beyond any square in which the same should be made shall not be sufficient cause to reject any ballot; and no ballots shall be wholly rejected if more candidates under any one head or designation for office shall be voted for than there are offices to be filled, but shall be counted for all other candidates under other heads or designations for whom the same may be properly marked.

SEC. 202. The judges shall make duplicate statements or returns of the result of the canvass of said votes, each of which shall, if possible, be upon a single sheet of paper, and shall contain a caption containing the day on which said election was held and the hours thereof, and showing the whole number of votes given for each candidate, designating the office for which they were given. Such statements or returns shall be printed, or partly printed or written, and in case a proposition of any kind has been submitted to the voters at any such election, it shall also show in like manner the number of votes for and against such proposition, and at the end of each such statement or return shall be printed or written a certificate that the same is correct in all respects; which certificate and each sheet of paper forming a part of the statement shall be subscribed by the judges and clerks of such election.

If any judge or clerk shall decline to sign such return, he shall state his reasons therefor in writing, and a copy thereof, signed by himself, shall be enclosed with each return; and each return or statement shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall then be securely sealed and each of the judges and clerks shall then write his name across the fold of the envelope; one of which envelopes shall be directed to the Mayor and the other to the City Council of said town of Laurel; the one addressed to the Mayor shall be delivered to him, and the one addressed to the City Council shall be delivered to the President of the City Council at the time hereinafter mentioned.