

Primary Elections.

1908, ch. 737, sec. 160 A. 1910, ch. 741, sec. 160 A (p. 113).

178. Political parties which, at the general election held on November 2, 1909, in the State of Maryland, or which at any future general election next preceding any primary election to be held hereunder, as shall have polled ten per cent. of the entire vote cast in the State at such or any such general election, shall hereafter nominate all their candidates for public office in and for Baltimore city and the several counties of the State and shall elect all delegates to county, legislative district, city or State conventions and all members of managing bodies of said political parties, in and for Baltimore city and the several counties of the State, and all precinct, ward, city and county executives, or executive committees, whenever the political party usage provides for such executive committee or any of the same, by means of primary elections, conducted under and in accordance with the provisions of this sub-title, and not otherwise, except as herein provided, and the several boards of supervisors of elections shall not print on the official ballot to be voted at any general or special election to be hereinafter held the name or names of any such candidate or candidates for election in Baltimore city or any of the counties of the State of any of said parties who shall not be so nominated, and whose nomination shall not be certified to them, or to the secretary of state, as having been so nominated.

Provided, That the provisions of this sub-title requiring the nomination of candidates by direct vote shall not apply to the nomination of such candidates for county offices, state senate, and members of the house of delegates in the counties of Howard, Somerset, Washington, Worcester, and Wicomico, except as hereinafter provided, but such candidates shall be selected by a county convention, delegates to which shall be selected in all respects as provided for in this sub-title, and the nominations of such candidates by such convention shall be duly certified by the chairman and secretary of such convention to the board of election supervisors of said county, and it shall be the duty of said supervisors to place the names of such candidates upon the official ballot in the manner prescribed by the general election laws of this State, and provided further that at the first primary election held under the provisions of the foregoing proviso in each of said named counties, the official ballots of the respective political parties participating therein shall contain squares, properly designated, in which the voters of such parties may by such cross mark in such square indicate their preference for or against primaries in their respective parties by direct vote for candidates for county offices, for the state senate, and for members of the house of delegates; and provided further, that if the majority of the votes cast by either of such parties in any such county so excepted shall indicate a preference for direct primaries, then and in that event, each county in which, by such direct vote, a preference has been so