

1898, ch. 2. 1904, ch. 329, sec. 270HHH. 1918 Code, sec. 410.

385. The judges shall then open the ballot box and count and announce the whole number of ballots in the box. They shall reject any ballots which are deceitfully folded together, and any ballots which do not have endorsed thereon the name or initials of the judge who held the ballots. If the voter has marked more names than there are persons to be elected to an office, or if, for any reason, it is impossible to determine the voter's choice for any office to be filled, his ballot shall not be counted for such office. Ballots not counted for such defects shall be marked "Defective" on the back thereof, and shall be wrapped in a separate package and returned to the ballot box, as hereinafter directed. When the voter marks the cross-mark opposite the party emblem, his vote shall be counted as cast for all the candidates in such party group whose names are not erased, and the effect of such marking shall not be altered by him also making the cross mark opposite one or more names of candidates in the said group; but if a voter shall have made the cross mark opposite a party name or emblem and also opposite one or more names of candidates in another column, his vote shall be counted for such candidate so marked in another column and also for all the candidates under the marked party name or emblem whose names are not erased, and each name in said marked party group opposite the name of any candidate marked as aforesaid in another column shall be deemed erased, unless the voter has, by erasure, indicated some other name in the said marked group that is to be omitted in its stead. The said judges shall count the votes in the following manner: They shall open the ballots, and all of these shall be canvassed separately by one of the judges sitting between two other judges, which judge shall call out each name and the office for which it is designated, the other judges looking at the ballot at the same time, and the clerks making tally of the same, or the said judges may first canvass and count the "straights," or full tickets, laying aside, while so doing, the "split" or "scratched" tickets, and after they have so canvassed and counted the straight or full tickets, they shall, if such there are, proceed to call off, canvass and count each name and the office for which it is designated on the split or scratched tickets, so previously laid aside, the several judges looking at each ballot, and the clerks making tally of the same. When all the ballots have been canvassed in this manner, the election clerks shall compare their tallies together and ascertain the total number of votes received by each candidate, and when they agree upon the number, one of them shall announce, in a loud voice, to the judges the aggregate number of votes received by each candidate. If requested by any watcher or challenger present at any canvass, it shall be the duty of the judges, and each of them, to exhibit to such watcher or challenger, any ballot cast, fully opened, or in such condition and manner that he may fully read and examine the same, but the judges shall not allow any ballot to be taken from their hands. As the ballots are counted they shall be strung upon a strong twine.