

from, and the ballot-box delivered to the chief judge of the election or his associate of the same political party, and the key thereof to the minority judge of election for safe keeping, until as hereinafter provided; thereupon the judges of election shall all write their names on a strip of paper of sufficient length for the following purpose; said strip shall be pasted over the key-hole of the ballot-box, in such manner that the signatures shall extend across the opening of the lid, and so that when the key is inserted it will tear the paper so pasted over the keyhole; such paper shall be securely fastened to the box with sealing-wax or other adhesive material. Within three days after an election, and sooner, if practicable, the ballot-box and the key thereof in the city of Baltimore shall be returned and delivered to the board of police commissioners of Baltimore, and in the counties to the clerk of the circuit court for the county, who shall safely keep the same for the space of six months from the day of such delivery, at which time said ballot-box shall be opened by said board of police commissioners or clerks, as the case may be, in the presence of one or more judges of the orphans' court, and in said presence said ballots shall be destroyed; and the said police commissioners of the city of Baltimore shall record among the minutes of their office, and the clerks of the counties among the land records of their office, a certificate of said fact, signed by said judge or judges.

P. G. L., (1860,) art. 35, sec. 41. 1844, ch. 284, sec. 6. 1888, ch. 112.

80. The ballot-box, after it has been locked and sealed at the close of an election and the count of the ballots, shall not again be opened until after the expiration of six months from its delivery to the board of police commissioners of Baltimore city, or to the clerks of the courts aforesaid, except in case of a judicial investigation or a contested election, as hereinafter provided, and then only on an order to the officer or officers having charge thereof from some one of the courts of Baltimore city, or from the circuit court for the counties, or some one of the judges thereof, as the case may require, and then only on such terms and conditions, and subject to such restriction as the said courts or judges shall in said order prescribe and determine.