

plaints which may be preferred to them in writing against the fitness or qualifications of any person so appointed judge or clerk, and to remove any such judge or clerk whom upon inquiry they shall find to be unfit or incapable. The board shall forthwith appoint persons, in the manner hereinbefore prescribed to fill all vacancies in the office of judge or clerk, and shall immediately make public the names of such persons so appointed by advertisement, as nearly as may be as hereinbefore provided for the original appointment. The record of appointments to fill vacancies shall be kept in the books hereinbefore prescribed in section nine, which books, with the recommendations and protests made to them and all their other records and papers, shall always be open to the inspection of the public. After notice, as aforesaid, of their appointment, the judges and clerks shall again be notified to appear at the office of said board, and shall then and there, after taking the oath of office before one of said supervisors, receive their commissions. The oath of office shall be in writing, and subscribed by each one in a book to be kept for that purpose by the supervisors, and shall be in substance as follows: I—residing at—in the city or county of—in the State of Maryland, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a legal voter in the—precinct of the—ward of the city of—(or district, county) in the said State; that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and laws thereof, and that I will faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of an officer of registration and judge of election (or clerk of election) for the—precinct of the—ward of the city of—(or—district) of—county in the State of Maryland, according to the best of my ability; and I do further swear (or affirm) that I will not attempt to ascertain, save in cases and in the manner in which I am authorized by law so to do, for what candidate or candidates any person shall vote or has voted [or how he shall vote or has voted] on any question which may be or may have been submitted to the vote of the people; and if such knowledge shall be acquired by me, I will not directly or indirectly by word or act divulge or reveal the same, or aid in doing so, save when I may be required to do so by law in some legal proceeding.