

before being distributed the ballots shall be so folded in marked creases that the width and length of the ballots when folded shall be uniform, and of proper width to be placed without difficulty in the ballot-boxes now provided by law; on the back and outside shall be printed the words "Official Ballot For," followed by the designation of the polling-place for which it is prepared, the date of the election, and a fac-simile of the signature of the president or presiding officer of the board of supervisors of election by whom the ballot has been prepared.

138. It shall be the duty of the secretary of State at least thirty days before the first election, at which any of the ballots provided for in the preceding section can be used, to cause to be prepared and transmitted to said respective boards of supervisors, sample printed forms of ballots for their assistance in the preparation of the ballots by them, and also prepare and cause to be printed in clear, large type on separate cards, to be called cards of instructions, at the expense of the State, and transmit to said respective boards of supervisors, full instructions for the guidance of voters as to obtaining ballots, the manner of marking them, the method of gaining assistance, and the manner of obtaining new ballots in place of those accidentally spoiled, together with copies of sections one hundred and sixty-two to one hundred and sixty-six, inclusive, to the number of ten for each polling-place.

139. Any person whose name has been presented as a candidate for any office may cause his name to be withdrawn from nomination by request in writing signed by him and acknowledged before an officer qualified to take acknowledgments of deeds, filed with the secretary of State or clerk, as the case may be, before he shall have transmitted the names of the nominees, or thereafter with the officers by whom ballots for such office are to be prepared at any time before the ballots have been prepared, and no name so withdrawn shall be printed upon the ballots.

140. All ballots when printed shall be folded as hereinbefore provided and fastened together in convenient numbers in packages, books or blocks, in such manner that each ballot may be attached and removed separately; a record of the number of ballots printed and furnished for each polling-place shall be kept and preserved by the said boards of supervisors of election respectively; said record shall be retained in their respective offices for six months after each election, with reference to which it was made, and shall then be destroyed, unless a contest shall have occurred with respect to some office embraced therein, when the same shall be preserved until said contest shall be ended.

141. There shall be provided for each voting place, at which an election is to be held, two sets of such ballots, each of not less than one hundred for every fifty, or fraction of fifty registered voters therein, and it shall be the duty of the registers of voters