

which polled the largest number of votes at the last preceding general election; the compensation of the ballot clerks shall be the same as that of judges of election; before proceeding to act they shall take and subscribe an oath (or affirmation), if they be conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath in the form following: I will not attempt to ascertain, save in cases and in the manner in which I am authorized by law to do, for what candidate or candidates any person shall vote or have voted, or how any person 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 in the performance of my duty, 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, and I will in all things faithfully execute the duties of my office of ballot clerk according to the best of my knowledge, without favor or partiality, so help me God. The proceedings of the board of supervisors of election in the city of Baltimore, with reference to the advertisement of names of the appointees for said ballot clerks, and of the hearing and disposal of complaints in regard to them, and the filling of vacancies in the office shall be the same as now provided by law in reference to the judges of election; the obligation to serve as such clerks, and the penalty for refusal to serve shall be the same as now provided by law in regard to judges of election in like case, as well in the several counties as in the city of Baltimore respectively, and any person having served as ballot clerk shall not be obliged to serve again for three years thereafter; warrants shall be issued to said ballot clerks in the same manner and by the same persons as to the judges of election; the two ballot clerks appointed above for each district or precinct polling-place, shall on the morning of the election and after the ballots have been opened by the return judge, receive the same from the judges of election and have charge thereof, and shall furnish them to the voters in the manner hereinafter set forth; if any ballot clerk shall fail to appear at the opening of the polls, or be, or become unable to serve, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as now provided by law for a like vacancy in the office of judge of election or clerk.

153. The said board of supervisors of election respectively, shall cause each polling-place to be suitably provided with a sufficient number of voting shelves or compartments, at or in which voters may conveniently mark their ballots, so that in marking thereof they may be in sight but be screened from the observation of others, and a guard-rail shall be so constructed and placed that only such persons as are inside said rail can approach within six feet of the ballot-boxes, and of such voting shelves or compartments; the arrangements shall be such that neither the ballot-boxes nor the voting shelves or compartments shall be hidden