

Said strips 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 key hole of the ballot box in such papers, shall be securely fastened to the box with sealing wax or other adhesive material; within one day after an election and on said election day if practicable, the ballot box and the key thereof shall be delivered to the clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington 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 clerk and said ballots destroyed; during which space of six months said ballot box shall not be opened except when ordered by the Court in a judicial investigation or contested election; the presiding judges of election, or in case of inability to attend, shall within one day after each election under the penalty of five hundred dollars meet in the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington County, with the books of the polls and the certificates the aforesaid judges so assembled shall cast up the whole vote of all the wards if an election be held for an officer to be voted for by all citizens of Hagerstown, and for the respective wards when an officer has been voted for by the voters of such respective wards, and shall then make out a plain, fair and distinct statement and certificate of the number of votes which shall have been given for each candidate for each of the officers voted for at said election, and the same shall then be filed with the clerk of the said court, the form of said certificate shall be as follows: To ——— whereas, an election for ——— was held on the ——— of ———, in the year ———, in the city of Hagerstown, and in the wards designated by number ———, conformably to the laws of the State of Maryland and the charter of Hagerstown, and whereas we the subscribers, attending judges at the close of election in said districts, having thus assembled in the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court for Washington County with the books of the polls, on which are endorsed the several certificates agreeably to law, and having cast up the whole number of votes given in said wards according to the certificates made out on the day of election by the judges, it appears that ——— has the greatest number of legal vote for ———, whereupon we do determine, declare and return, that the said ——— is duly elected.

Given under our hands this ——— day of ———, in the year ———, immediately upon receiving and filing said certificate, said clerk shall notify the persons chosen of their election in accordance with the return of the judges.