

close of the polls in the presence of such candidates or electors as wish to attend.

**SEC. 28. CHECKING THE RETURNS — VALID AND INVALID BALLOTS.** At the central counting place the ballot boxes shall be opened and the numbers of ballots found therein recorded and compared with the records sent from the corresponding voting places. The records thus compared shall be made available to the public with notations explaining any corrections made therein. If any discrepancy appears which cannot be reconciled it shall be shown on the record. All ballots found in the ballot boxes which bear no evidence of having been improperly cast shall be accepted. The ballots in each ballot box shall also be examined for validity and those which are found to be invalid or blank shall be separated from the rest. The number of valid ballots from each voting place and the total number of valid ballots shall be recorded. A ballot shall be held invalid if the voter has voted for more than five candidates, or if it contains any work, mark or other sign apparently intended to identify the voter. Every ballot not thus invalid shall be counted, whether marked according to the directions printed on it or not. No ballot shall be held invalid because it is marked in ink or pencil different from the one supplied at the voting place, or because the names of candidates thereon for whom the voter did not mark a choice have been stricken out. These same rules shall apply to ballots used in special elections.

**SEC. 29. SUPERVISION.** Every regularly nominated candidate shall have the right to be present during the entire count, with facilities for examining all operations closely and for keeping all the ballots or their containers in view when the counting is not in progress. He shall have the right to designate in writing an alternate to act in his place when he may be absent. Representatives of the press and, so far as may be consistent with good order and with convenience in counting, the general public shall also be given every facility for witnessing the count.

**SEC. 30. PRESERVATION OF BALLOTS.** All the ballots cast at each election of the Council, whether valid or invalid, shall be preserved by the town clerk until the term of the Councilmen elected thereby has expired. All ballots cast at any other municipal election shall be preserved for two months.

**SEC. 31. VOTING MACHINES.** The Council may by ordinance provide for the use of voting machines in municipal elections. Any election in which they are so used shall be as valid as if