

Key of ballot-box—who delivered to.

the ballot-box and the key thereof in the city of Baltimore shall be returned and delivered to the board of police commissioners of Baltimore, and in the counties to the clerk of the circuit court of the 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 board of police commissioners or clerks, as the case may be, in the presence of one or more judges of the orphans' court, and in said presence said ballots shall be destroyed; and the said police commissioners of the city of Baltimore shall record among the minutes of their office and the clerks of the counties among the land records of their office a certificate of said fact, signed by said judge or judges.

Ballot-box—how opened.

41. The ballot-box, after it has been locked and sealed at the close of an election, and the count of the ballots, shall not again be opened until after the expiration of six months from its delivery to the board of police commissioners of Baltimore city, or to the clerks of the courts aforesaid, except in case of a judicial investigation or a contested election as hereinafter provided, and then only on an order to the officer or officers having charge thereof from some one of the courts of Baltimore city, or from the circuit court of the counties, or some one of the judges thereof, as the case may require, and then only on such terms and conditions, and subject to such restrictions as the said courts or judges shall in said order prescribe and determine.

Ballots—how produced.

65. The board of police commissioners in the city of Baltimore, and the clerks of the circuit courts in the counties, to whom ballots have been returned under the provisions of this article, shall produce any of such ballots in regard to which testimony may be proposed to be taken before a justice of the peace taking examinations in a contested election, and shall furnish said justice copies of the same only on an order first had and obtained from some one of the courts of Baltimore city or of the circuit courts of the counties, or some one of the judges thereof, and then in pursuance of the terms and conditions of said order, and subject to its re-