

from the face of the returns to have received the highest number of votes for the various offices voted for, and shall issue certificates of election to said persons. In case any proposition or question other than the election of an officer shall have been submitted to the voters at said election, the Mayor and Common Council shall in like manner declare whether or not such proposition has been carried or defeated.

In case the returns are not signed by all the Judges and Clerks of Election, or in case the two sets of returns are not identical, the Mayor and Common Council shall consider such returns and the statements, if any are accompanying them, signed by the Election Officials refusing to sign the returns, and they shall upon these papers determine which parties, if any, are elected to the various offices, and shall issue certificates according to their determination. They shall in like manner, in case any proposition or question other than the election of officials has been submitted to the voters at said election, determine whether or not said proposition has been carried or defeated.

Any defeated candidate at such election may contest the same and the Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County shall have jurisdiction to determine such contest, and may adopt such modes of proceeding and adjudging costs in cases of contested election as to him may seem most satisfactory. No such contest shall, however, be considered unless a petition is filed in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County within seven days, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, after the decision of the Mayor and Common Council of Mount Rainier on said election shall be made.

Any legally qualified voter who has voted at any election in said town on any question submitted to the voters shall have a similar right of contesting the result of such election to be exercised in a similar way.

Powers of Mayor.

Section 14. *And be it further enacted,* That the Mayor elected hereunder shall qualify upon the next Monday night succeeding his election by taking an oath before any officer of the State of Maryland duly authorized to take an affidavit to the effect that he will obey the constitution of the United States and the constitution and laws of the State of Maryland, and will fairly and impartially administer the duties of his office. The Mayor shall act as chairman of the Council during his