

applicant to cast his ballot, and should the answer of said applicant be in the negative to one or more of said questions, then and in that event he shall not be allowed to vote. Should the applicant answer one or more of the above questions falsely he shall be guilty of the crime of perjury and subject to the penalties provided by the laws of the State of Maryland. Immediately upon the closing of the polls, the judges of the election shall proceed to count the ballots but no ballot cast by a voter dwelling in one ward for a candidate for the office of Councilmen of another ward, and no ballot cast for more than one candidate for the office of Mayor, shall be counted. The counting of the ballots shall not be adjourned or postponed until it shall have been fully completed, and the returns shall be announced publicly and written returns fully completed and signed by the judges and clerks of election, and sealed in an envelope with the names of said judges and clerks signed thereon, shall be sent, one copy to the Mayor of said town and one copy to the Town Clerk and Treasurer, for file among the records of the town. Any judge or clerk who declines to sign said returns shall prepare, sign, and seal in an envelope, and send as aforesaid, an individual return, giving his reason therefor. The ballots shall then be returned to the ballot boxes from which they were removed, a paper seal with the signatures of the judges and clerks thereon shall be pasted upon said ballot boxes in such manner that the boxes cannot be opened without breaking said seal, and said boxes, sealed as aforesaid, shall then be retained by the Board of Election Supervisors for a period of thirty days after which period of time the boxes may be opened and the ballots destroyed. Provided, however, that if there be a contest of the election, said ballots shall not be destroyed until after the decision of the Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County.

Any candidate at said elections 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 just.

No such contest shall, however, be considered unless the petition for the same is filed in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County within seven days, exclusive of Sundays and legal holidays, after the public announcement by the Board of Election Supervisors of the result of the election.