

present to the Commissioners and to the Town Clerk the returns of election respectively addressed to them. The Commissioners shall then examine said returns and if they find them to be signed by all the Judges and Clerks of Election, and identical, they shall canvass them and declare those five persons elected who shall appear from the face of the returns to have received the highest number of votes, 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 Commissioners 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 Commissioners 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 of 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 Commissioners of the Town of Bladensburg 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 contest the result of such election to be exercised in a similar way.

In the event of a tie vote in any election for commissioner, the Commissioners shall arrange with the candidates tied for a drawing to determine which of said candidates shall serve, such drawing to be determined by and under the supervision of the Commissioners who were in office at the time of election, and in the event any candidate refuses to participate in such drawing the Commissioners shall name someone to draw for him or them, and at the conclusion of such drawing the Commissioners shall declare who is the person or persons determined by such drawing to be elected.