

ballot boxes containing the ballots shall be kept by the Supervisors of Election for thirty days from the date of said election, unless there is a recount, in which case they shall be kept until said recounting is finally concluded. After the thirty days has elapsed, or the recount has been concluded, the Supervisors of Election shall open said ballot boxes and destroy said ballots.

The Mayor and Common Council shall on the first Wednesday after each election held under the provisions of this Act, convene to receive the returns of election. When said meeting has been called to order, the Supervisors of Election for each precinct shall attend and present to the Mayor and to the Town Clerk and Treasurer the returns of election respectively addressed to them. The Mayor and Common Council 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 persons elected who shall appear 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 for each precinct, or in case the two sets of returns for said precinct 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.