

and the number on the protective counter, if one is provided, of each voting machine used in each election precinct or district in each election; it shall open the counter compartment of each such machine and without unlocking such machine against voting, shall verify the votes cast thereon. In the case of voting machines which have provided a printed or photographic record of the numbers registered on the counters by voting the board shall verify the votes cast as shown by the printed or photographic record pertaining to each such machine used in each election precinct or district in each election. Before making any verification, the board shall give notice, in writing, to the custodian of the voting machines and to the chairman of the state central committee of each party in the counties or in Baltimore City which shall have nominated candidates for any general election or shall have candidates for nomination at any primary election. Each of the said chairmen shall have the right to appoint and designate two representatives who shall each have the right personally to examine and make a copy of the vote recorded on the machines.

(b) If upon such verification, it shall be found that the original returns have been incorrectly made from any machine or machines, a statement in writing shall be prepared, giving in detail as to each such machine, the result of the verification. Such statement shall be witnessed by the persons present and shall be filed with the other returns of said election. This return shall thereupon supersede the returns filed by the judges of the election precinct in which the unofficial count was made.

(c) If during the verification, any discrepancy cannot be reconciled, the board, after the expiration of the time within which petition for recount may be made, with the assistance of the custodian of the machine, shall unlock the voting and counting mechanism of the machine. In the presence of the authorized representative present, they shall proceed to thoroughly examine and test the machine to determine and reveal the true cause or causes, if any, of the discrepancy in the returns from such machine. Before testing the counters, they shall be reset at zero, after which each counter shall be operated at least one hundred times. After the completion of such examination and test, the custodian shall then and there prepare a statement, in writing, giving in detail the result thereof, and such statement shall be witnessed by the persons present and shall be filed in the office of the board.

#### **17-5. Certified copies of returns.**

(a) On the second Tuesday after any election or, if the canvass is completed after this time, within forty-eight hours after its completion, the board of canvassers shall transmit the statements made by them, attested by the signature of their chairman and secretary, to the clerk of the circuit court for the county or to the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, as the case may be, who shall enter the same of record. The clerks of the circuit courts for the counties and the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City shall send a copy of these statements to the Secretary of State.

(b) In all general elections where votes have been cast for candidates for any offices by the writing-in of such candidates' names on the ballots, it shall not be necessary for the board of canvassers to transmit a statement of returns as to such write-in candidates