

## TAKOMA PARK

PRINTED THE RETURN ADDRESS OF THE CITY CLERK AND IN BOLDFACE TYPE THE WORDS "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT, CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND."

(8) INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS. THE PRINTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CASTING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS SHALL BE AS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF ELECTION LAWS.

(9) CANVASSING OF BALLOTS.

(I) OPENING OR UNFOLDING BALLOTS. THE JUDGES AND CLERKS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL SHALL NOT OPEN OR UNFOLD ANY ABSENTEE BALLOT PRIOR TO THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE CANVASS OF THE ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(II) PROCEDURE GENERALLY: AT ANY TIME AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS AND NOT LATER THAN THE CANVASS OF THE VOTES CAST AT THE REGULAR POLLING PLACES IN THE CITY AT ANY ELECTION, THE JUDGES AND CLERKS OF ELECTION SHALL MEET AT A PLACE TO BE DETERMINED BY THEM AND SHALL PROCEED TO COUNT, CERTIFY AND CANVASS THE ABSENTEE BALLOTS CONTAINED IN THE BALLOT ENVELOPES RECEIVED BY THEM PRIOR TO THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY. NO BALLOT SHALL BE REJECTED BY THE JUDGES AND CLERKS OF ELECTION EXCEPT BY THE UNANIMOUS VOTE OF ALL JUDGES AND CLERKS OF ELECTION. ALL VOTERS' APPLICATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS, BALLOT ENVELOPES AND BALLOTS SHALL BE KEPT SEPARATE AND APART FROM BALLOTS CAST IN THE REGULAR VOTING PLACES AND RETAINED FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF ELECTION AT WHICH THEY WERE CAST, UNLESS PRIOR TO THAT TIME, THE CITY CLERK SHALL BE ORDERED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO KEEP THE SAME FOR ANY LONGER PERIOD.

(III) BALLOT VOTED FOR PERSON WHO HAS CEASED TO BE A CANDIDATE. ANY ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTED FOR A PERSON WHO HAS CEASED TO BE A CANDIDATE SHALL NOT BE COUNTED FOR SUCH CANDIDATE, BUT SUCH VOTE SHALL NOT INVALIDATE THE REMAINDER OF SUCH BALLOT.

(IV) VOTER DYING BEFORE ELECTION DAY. WHENEVER THE JUDGES AND CLERKS OF ELECTION SHALL DETERMINE FROM PROOF OR INVESTIGATION THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS MARKED AND TRANSMITTED OR DEPOSITED IN PERSON WITH THE CITY CLERK AN ABSENTEE BALLOT HAS DIED BEFORE ELECTION DAY, SAID JUDGES AND CLERKS OF ELECTION SHALL NOT COUNT THE BALLOT OF THE DECEASED VOTER, BUT IT SHALL BE PRESERVED BY THE CITY CLERK FOR SIX MONTHS AND MAY THEN BE DESTROYED UNLESS, PRIOR TO THAT TIME, THE CITY CLERK IS ORDERED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO KEEP THE SAME FOR ANY LONGER PERIOD. IF AT OR PRIOR TO THE TIME OF SUCH COUNTING AND CANVASSING, THE JUDGES AND