

MUNICIPAL CHARTERS

(iv) (a) The Board of Election Judges shall not open or unfold any absentee ballots at any time prior to the closing of the polls and the beginning of the canvass of the ballots.

At any time after the closing of the polls and not later than the canvass of the votes cast at the regular voting places in the Town at any election, the Board of Election Judges shall meet and 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 Board except by the unanimous vote of the entire Board. All voters' applications, medical certificates, notarial affidavits, certifications, ballot envelopes and ballots shall be kept separate and apart from ballots cast at the regular voting places and retained for six (6) months after the date of the election at which they were cast, unless prior to that time, the Board shall be ordered by a Court of competent jurisdiction to keep the same for any longer period.

(b) 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.

(c) Whenever the Board shall determine from proof or investigation that any person who has marked, transmitted or deposited in person with the Board an absentee ballot has died before election day, the Board shall not count the ballot of said deceased voter.

(d) If the Board determines the provisions for filling out and signing the oath on the outside of the ballot envelope have been substantially complied with and that the person signing the voter's oath is entitled to vote under this section and has not already voted on election day, they shall open the ballot envelope and remove the ballot therefrom and place it in the ballot box or ballot boxes prepared for that purpose. When any ballot envelope is opened, the Board shall enter in the election poll book the fact that the voter whose name appears thereon has voted using the initials "A.B." to indicate the vote has been by absentee ballot. If there be more than one (1) ballot in the ballot envelope, all shall be rejected. Absentee ballots may be marked by any kind of pencil or ink. If any Board receives from the same person prior to the closing of the polls on election day more than one (1) absentee ballot, it shall count, certify and canvass only the absentee ballot contained in the ballot envelope on which the voter's oath is first executed, and if the oath on two (2) or