

indicating your choice. Do not repair or make identifying mark." If both sides of one or more punchcards are used to accommodate the ballot, the words "vote both sides" and the other wording required by this subsection shall appear on both sides of each punchcard. Where punchcards are used, these instructions may appear on stubs attached to the cards which may be removed after the absentee voter has voted. The designation of the election district or ward and the precinct shall be left blank on paper ballots on the back and outside of said ballots and on punchcard ballots on each punchcard and on the outside of the covering folders for said ballots, and such designation may be filled in by the appropriate board before being sent to any registered absentee voter.

27-9.

(b) At any time after 4 p.m. on the Wednesday following election day and not later than the canvass of the votes cast at the regular voting places in this State at any election, the several boards shall meet at the usual place for holding the circuit court for the county or at the usual offices of the board and shall proceed to count, certify and canvass the absentee ballots contained in the ballot envelopes. EACH BOARD OF CANVASSERS SHALL KEEP THE BALLOTS SAFE FROM TAMPERING UNTIL THE CANVASS IS COMPLETED.

(d) A ballot may not be rejected by the board except by the unanimous vote of the entire board. IF THE INTENT OF THE VOTER IS NOT CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED, ONLY THE VOTE FOR THAT OFFICE OR QUESTION SHALL BE REJECTED. IF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS DETERMINES A BALLOT IS INTENTIONALLY MARKED WITH AN IDENTIFYING MARK THE ENTIRE BALLOT SHALL NOT BE COUNTED. This canvass shall be conducted by election district or ward [and precinct] or by congressional, councilmanic, or legislative districts [in accordance with the applicable provisions of § 14-1 of this article]. Absentee ballots may not be separately disclosed or reported by precinct. 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 months] after the date of election at which they were cast[,] FOR THE TIME REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW, unless prior to that time, the board is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, to keep the same for any longer period. The several boards may appoint such numbers of temporary judges as the boards may deem necessary to adequately and promptly carry out the provisions of this section.

(g) Whenever any board shall determine from proof or investigation that any person who has marked and transmitted or deposited in person with the board an absentee ballot, whether under act of Congress or the provisions of this subtitle, has died before election day, said board shall not count the ballot of the said deceased voter, but it shall be preserved by the board for [six months] THE TIME REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW, and may