

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title or of § 14-1 pertaining to the use of three return sheets, a local board may adopt a procedure using a single general return sheet under the following conditions:

(1) At least 25 days before an election the local board shall advise the State Board of its intention to utilize a single general return sheet for each district, ward or precinct; and

(2) The members of the local board shall sign a certification that every counter used in the election has been canvassed and verified by the board; and

(3) At the time of submitting the certified copies of returns required by § 17-5, the local Board shall furnish a copy of the certification specified in PARAGRAPH (2) [above] OF THIS SECTION.

17-4.

(a) (1) Within ten days after each election, each board as a part of its canvass shall verify the votes cast on the voting machines. The paper roll shall be inspected for votes cast for write-in candidates, and a tabulation of all such votes cast shall become a part of the official canvass. In the case of voting machines which have not provided a printed or photographic record of the numbers registered on the counters by voting, the board shall make a record of the number of the seal 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 machine and without unlocking the machine against voting, shall verify the votes cast.

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 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, to the chairman of the central committee of any 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 and to every candidate who is not a candidate or nominee of a political party, each of whom has the right to appoint and designate two representatives who each have the right personally to examine and make a copy of the vote recorded on the machines.

(2) Upon completion of verification the members of the local board shall sign a certification that every counter used in the election has been canvassed and verified by the board.