

No. 754, A.]

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CHAPTER 423

AN ACT to amend 6.60 (3) and (5), 10.385 and 11.13 of the statutes, relating to the disposal of ballots.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 6.60 (3) and (5) of the statutes are amended to read:

6.60 (3) Before separating, the inspectors shall fold in 2 folds and string closely upon a single piece of flexible wire, all ballots which shall have been counted by them, except those marked "Objected To," unite the ends of such wire in a firm knot, or each set of ballots shall be tied securely in bundles, seal the knot in such manner that it cannot be untied without breaking the seal, inclose the ballots so strung or packaged in a secure canvas covering and securely tie and seal such canvas covering with official wax impression seals, to be provided, by the inspectors in such manner that it cannot be opened without breaking the seals, and return said ballots, together with the ballots marked "Defective or Objected to" in such sealed canvas covering to the county clerk, and such officer shall carefully preserve said ballots for 60 days, and at the expiration of that time shall * * * *dispose of them in the manner prescribed by the county board or the governing body of the municipality as to ballots in municipal elections.*

(5) The inspectors for city, town and village elections, after counting the ballots, shall return them to the ballot boxes, lock the boxes, paste paper over the slots, sign their names to such paper and deliver the ballot boxes so locked, pasted and subscribed, with the keys thereof, to the city, town or village clerk, who shall keep such ballots for 60 days, or until they are * * * *disposed of* as provided by law. When canvas bags are provided by proper authority, ballots may be preserved therein, properly sealed, instead of in ballot boxes.

SECTION 2. 10.385 of the statutes is amended to read:

10.385 DISPOSAL OF BALLOTS. The provision of s. 6.60 relating to the return and * * * *disposal* of ballots shall apply to local primaries and election so far as applicable; and in towns, villages and cities of the second, third and fourth classes, the town clerk, village clerk or city clerk, as the case may be, shall have the custody of such ballots and * * * *dispose of* them within the time and in the manner so provided * * *.

SECTION 3. 11.13 of the statutes is amended to read:

11.13 The inspectors as soon as the count is completed and fully ascertained, shall seal, close, lock the machine, or remove the record so as to provide against voting or being tampered with, and in case of a machine so sealed or locked, it shall so remain for a period of at least 30 days, unless opened by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. When irregular ballots have been voted, the inspectors shall return them in a properly sealed package indorsed "Irregular Ballots," and indicating the precinct and county and file such package with the county clerk. It shall be preserved for 6 months after such election and may be opened and its contents examined only upon an order of a court of competent jurisdiction; at the end of such 6 months, unless ordered otherwise by the court, such package and its contents shall be * * * *disposed of* by the county clerk. All tally sheets taken from such machine, if any, shall be returned in the same manner.

Approved July 2, 1953.
