



## MDP Voter Protection FAQs

Reach out to us here:

**1-833-MD-VOTES**

**Text MDVOTES to 55444**

[voterprotection@mddems.org](mailto:voterprotection@mddems.org)

**1. What is the date for the Presidential General Election in Maryland?**

- Tuesday, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Early voting will take place from October 26, 2020 through November 2, 2020, including Saturday and Sunday, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**2. How can I vote in the Presidential General Election?**

Voters can vote by mail or in-person. The MDP is ***strongly*** encouraging voters to vote by mail. This is the safest way to vote during the pandemic.

**To vote by mail:** Voters must submit a ballot application online or by mail to receive their ballot in the mail. Mail-in ballot applications will be sent to every eligible voter between August 24 - August 28, 2020, unless the voter already requested a mail-in ballot by early August. Those voters will not be sent an application. Voters can check whether or not their mail-in ballot request has been received by going to the Voter Look-Up section of the SBE website: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>

- Ballots will be mailed 30-45 days before the November election, assuming the voter has requested a ballot by mid-September. After mid-September, ballots will be mailed to voters as applications are received and processed.

- Upon completing the ballot, voters **must sign the oath on the ballot**. Ballots can be dropped off at any ballot drop off location in the voter's county or can be returned via US mail.

**To vote in person:** Voters can go to any Early Vote Center in their county of registration from Monday October 26, 2020 to Monday November 2, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. to vote (including Saturday and Sunday). Voters can vote on Election Day, November 3, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at any of the Election Day Vote Centers or Early Vote Centers in their county of registration. Most of the 282 Election Day Vote Centers will be public high schools, though similar facilities may substitute in some counties.

***A list of Early Vote Centers will be linked here as soon as a final list is available.***

**Note: Voters can only vote at a vote center in their county of registration, otherwise they will have to vote provisionally.**

### **3. Do I need to request a mail ballot?**

Yes! Voters who wish to vote by mail must complete and submit a ballot application requesting to receive their ballot by mail or by email. Voters may request a ballot online on the SBE website using this link:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinemailinrequest/InstructionsStep1>.

This is the fastest way to get your mail-in ballot request processed, especially if you have a Maryland driver's license or MVA-issued ID card. If voters do not have a Maryland driver's license or MVA-issued ID card, you can print and mail an application. Links to English and Spanish applications are below.

[https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee\\_Ballot\\_Application\\_English.pdf](https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee_Ballot_Application_English.pdf).

[https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee\\_Ballot\\_Application\\_Spanish.pdf](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee_Ballot_Application_Spanish.pdf)

The State Board of Elections will be mailing ballot applications to all eligible voters beginning August 24, 2020. Voters should only submit one ballot application request, either online, or by mail to request a mail-in ballot. Applications will be accompanied by a postage paid envelope for requests submitted by mail.

**Note: If you request a mail ballot and then decide to vote in person during Early Voting or on Election Day you will be required to cast a provisional ballot!**

#### **4. What do I do if I HAVE NOT received my mail-in ballot request application?**

If you have not received a ballot request application by September 10, 2020 you should apply online at:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinemailinrequest/InstructionsStep1>.

You can also download the application and submit it by mail (you will need to pay postage).

Download the application here:

English:

[https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee\\_Ballot\\_Application\\_English.pdf](https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee_Ballot_Application_English.pdf)

Spanish:

[https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee\\_Ballot\\_Application\\_Spanish.pdf](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Absentee_Ballot_Application_Spanish.pdf)

#### **5. If I requested a mail-in ballot for the Presidential Primary in June, do I need to request another ballot?**

This depends. If when you requested a mail-in ballot for the Primary election you checked “both” elections, then no. If you did not check both elections, then yes, you will need to request a mail-in ballot. You can do this online or via mail when you receive the mail-in ballot application that will be mailed to all eligible voters beginning August 24, 2020.

#### **6. What do I do when I receive my ballot?**

Open and vote your ballot immediately. This will ensure that your voice is heard!

- Use a black pen to fill out your choice. Fill in the oval completely.
- Do not write anywhere else on your ballot. This will make the ballot difficult to scan.
- Place your completed ballot in the reply envelope provided.
- Sign and date the “voter’s oath” on the back of the return envelope after you have sealed it. This is very important: **YOU MUST SIGN THE OATH IN ORDER FOR YOUR BALLOT TO BE TO BE COUNTED!**

● **New for 2020 General Election:** The return envelope will include a flap to cover the voter's signature and ensure the voter's privacy. There are instructions on how to affix the flap on the return envelope. The Local Board of Elections will remove the flap when the ballot is received and canvassed.

● To seal your envelope, use a wet sponge or paper towel or a piece of tape. *"Whether healthy or sick, please don't lick!"*

● **YOU DO NOT NEED TO PUT POSTAGE ON YOUR BALLOT TO RETURN IT!** Mail-in ballots will be accompanied by postage paid return envelopes.

● Put your ballot in the mail or place it in one of the ballot drop boxes as soon as possible. **All ballots must be postmarked or placed in a drop box by 8:00 p.m. by November 3, 2020 to be counted.**

## 7. What is the deadline for my ballot to be counted?

Voted ballots must be **postmarked** on or before November 3, 2020.

Please note, simply putting your ballot in a mailbox on November 3 does not guarantee that your ballot will be postmarked by that date. **We strongly recommend mailing your ballot as soon as you receive it to ensure it is postmarked timely or using one of the ballot drop box locations in your county.**

## 8. What if I don't want to mail my ballot? Can I drop my ballot off in person?

Yes! Ballot drop boxes will be located in every county. We do not yet have information regarding the location of ballot drop boxes. Local boards of elections will be responsible for placing and emptying the drop boxes (twice a day). As soon as we have a list we will update this document. Voted ballots must be in the drop box by 8:00 p.m. on November 3.

Contact information for the local boards of elections can be found here:

[https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county\\_boards.html](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html).

## 9. What if I don't receive a ballot?

Voters who do not timely receive ballots will likely need to vote in person unless there is enough time for a replacement ballot to be mailed. See #2, above for times and locations. If you requested a mail-in ballot and do not receive it, you will have to cast a provisional ballot at the vote center, but it will be counted as long as you do not vote the mail-in ballot.

## 10. What if I need help filling out my ballot?

If you have a disability or are unable to read or write, you may get help voting your ballot. Anyone can help you **except**:

- a candidate on your ballot;
- your employer or anyone who represents your employer; or
- an officer or representative of your union.

The person helping you **may**:

- mark the ballot after you tell him or her who to mark the ballot for;
- print your name and write his or her initials next to your name if you cannot sign the oath.
- **The person helping you *must* complete and sign the enclosed “Certificate of Person Assisting Absentee Voter” and cannot try to influence your choice.**

## 11. What if I need assistance getting to one of the in-person voting locations?

Please call 301-946-1001 for assistance arranging transportation to a voting location. You will need to leave a message, but your call will be returned within 24 hours.

## 12. How do I check my voter registration?

If you aren't sure if you are registered, or at what address, check your voter registration status by visiting the State Board of Elections [voter services site](#). You can also call 1-800-222-8683 and ask a State Board of Elections representative to check your registration. You can also provide your information to an MDP Hotline volunteer and they can look it up for you.

## 13. What kind of identification is required for me to vote by mail?

If you are a registered voter and voted before, no identification is required to receive or submit a ballot by mail. You only need to sign the oath on the return envelope and mail or drop off your ballot. A very small number of newly registered voters may need to provide ID with their voted ballots. If you have to provide ID, there will be instructions with your ballot, and the envelope your ballot arrives in will have “ID Required” printed on the outside.

**14. My ballot return envelope says “ID required” on the outside. Why do I need to show ID? What kind of ID is acceptable?**

Your ballot return envelope will say “ID required” if you did not show ID when you registered to vote or if the board of elections was unable to verify your ID upon registration. You will need to include a copy of your current and valid photo ID with your ballot or a copy of one of the following that shows your current address and is not older than 3 months:

- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document that shows your name and address

**Note:** if you do not have access to a copy machine, you may take a photo of any of the above with your phone and email it to your local board of elections. You should call the local board to let them know that you will be emailing this information.

Contact information for the local boards of elections can be found here:

[https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county\\_boards.html](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html).

**15. Can I register to vote online?**

Yes! [It is possible to register to vote in Maryland elections online, click here to find out more information.](#)

**The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, October 13, 2020 by 9:00 p.m.**

**16. Do I need identification to register to vote?**

No, but you must provide some information so election officials can verify your identity. If you use the State Board’s online system to register, you must enter your Maryland driver's license number or Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) issued state ID number, the date MVA issued your license or ID card, and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you reside outside of the United States or are a member of the military or spouse or dependent of a member of the military, you must enter the last 4 digits of your US social security number. If

you provide a license or State ID number, your signature on file with the MVA will become your official voter registration signature. If you provide a social security number, it will be used as your official voter registration signature.

If you use the paper application to register, you must also provide your Maryland driver's license number or MVA-issued state ID number if you have one. If you don't have one, you must provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you don't have either number, check box 6c. If you check box 6c, you might be required to show ID before voting for the first time.

### **17. Can I register to vote and vote the same day at one of the in-person voting locations during Early Voting or on Election Day?**

Yes! Same day registration will be available at the in-person voting locations during Early Voting and on Election Day.

For same day registration, go to an early voting center or election day voting center in the county where you live and bring a document that proves where you live. To prove where you live, bring your MVA-issued license, ID card, or change of address card, or your paycheck, bank statement, utility bill, or other government document with your name and new address.

If you are unable to provide proof of residence at the time of registration, you will need to cast a provisional ballot. The ballot will be counted once you provide the necessary proof of residence to the board of elections before 10 am on the second Wednesday after the election.

Find your in-person Early Voting Centers here:

<https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/2020%20Early%20Voting%20Centers.pdf>

Find your in-person Election Day Voting Centers here:

[mddems.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MD-Election-Day-Voting-Centers.pdf](http://mddems.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MD-Election-Day-Voting-Centers.pdf)

### **18. How will I know that my ballot will be counted?**

You can check that your ballot was counted by visiting the [voter services site](#). If you do not have internet access, call 1-800-222-8683 and ask a State Board of Elections representative to check the status of your voted ballot. It will take some time to count all of the mail ballots.

Information regarding your ballot will be posted about 10, but maybe more, days after the election.

**19. What do I do if I make a mistake on my ballot or mark it inadvertently or if I accidentally threw my ballot in the trash?**

You need to request a new ballot immediately. Contact your local board of elections.

Contact information for the local boards of elections can be found here:

[https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county\\_boards.html](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html).

**20. If I forgot to sign the oath on my ballot, will I be able to correct the error?**

If you forget to sign your ballot, your local board of elections will attempt to contact you no later than Wednesday, November 11, 2020. The local Board of Elections will try to contact you by email, phone, or postal mail depending upon the information on file for you. The local board may email you an electronic oath for you to print, sign, and return to the local board of elections. The oath may be returned in person, by mail, or scanned or a picture may be taken of the oath and emailed back to the local board. Alternatively, the local board may also schedule an appointment for you to come in-person to the Board's office to sign your ballot.

**All oaths must be signed and received by the local board elections by 10 a.m. on November 12, 2020.**

**21. How can I update my address?**

You can update your address online. You can use the voter registration application to make the change, or you can submit in writing your new address. Voters must update their address with their local board of elections. [For instructions on updating your address, please click here.](#)  
**The deadline to update your address is Tuesday, October 13, 2020.**

**22. What do I do if I am an overseas or military voter?**

If you mail your ballot from a military post office (APO/FPO) or U.S. embassy or consulate, you do not need to put postage on your ballot. If you mail your ballot through another country's mail system you must ensure you have required postage for delivery. Ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 and must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 13, 2020.

**23. What if I want to write-in a candidate?**



To write-in a candidate, follow the instructions that came with your ballot.

**24. Will ballots be available in braille and large print?**

Yes, a ballot marking device will be available at all in-person early voting and election day vote centers. Blind voters and voters with low vision are able to vote by listening to the ballot selections and by using the keypad. High contrast and large print functions are also available at the voting unit.

However, if you do not want to vote in person, you can request and receive your ballot electronically and use an online tool that will help you mark their ballot. The tool is compatible with most software used by individuals with disabilities, which permits each voter to use their own assistive devices with the tool. The tool allows voters to make their choices on the computer and print the ballot with the voters' choices marked.

**25. When will we know who won the election?**

Because the majority of ballots will be cast by mail, it will take longer than usual to count the ballots. We may not know who the winners are in all of the contests on November 3, 2020.

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