



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

FAQ for Maryland Voters with Disabilities

For all voters:

1. What should I do if I have a question about my ballot?

- Call 1-833-MD-VOTES or TEXT MDVOTES to 55444

For voting by mail:

2. How do I request a mail-in ballot?

- 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/onlinemailrequest/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://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.
 - Ballot applications **must be received by October 20, 2020**.
 - ***If you mail your ballot application, please do so no later than Oct. 15th, 2020 to ensure that it is received by Oct. 20th.***

3. Can I have assistance filling out my mail-in ballot?

- Yes. 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.

4. Can I get an accessible ballot if I don't want to vote in-person?

- 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.
 - To do so, request a mail-in ballot and check the box saying that you want to print your ballot from SBE's website.
- If you want a large-print mail-in ballot, you can call your local board of elections to request it.
 - Find their contact here:
https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html

For in-person voting:

5. Are there free or discounted rides to the polls or a dropbox location?

- Yes! On Election Day, the ridesharing company Lyft has announced that it will be offering 50% off one ride up to \$10 to any polling location or dropbox using the code **2020VOTE**. Uber has announced that they will also provide a code for riders to receive reduced-cost rides to the polls.

6. Can someone help me vote in person?

- Yes. You can bring someone to help you vote as long as that person is not:
 - Your employer or an agent of your employer

- An officer or agent of your union
 - A challenger or watcher
- Or, you may choose to have two election judges (one from each political party) help you.
- The person helping you must sign the Voter Assistance Form and cannot suggest how you should vote.

7. I'm blind or low-vision. Will there be accommodations for me at my polling place?

- 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. Polling places are required by law to be accessible. If you have any accessibility issues at your polling place, please call the Maryland Democratic Party Voter Protection Hotline at 1-833-MD-VOTES.

8. What if I submitted an application for a mail-in ballot but decided to vote in person instead?

- 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. This is because elections officials do not have any way to know if you have already cast a mail ballot. Once they determine you have not cast a mail ballot, your provisional ballot will be counted. You can check the status of your provisional ballot at:
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>.

9. Can I register to vote on the same day I vote?

- 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.

10. Does my polling place have to be accessible?

- Yes. All polling places must have:
 - Accessible parking spaces

- An accessible path of travel from the parking area to the polling place, including curb cuts where needed;
- An accessible entrance to the building, including ramps if necessary, and which is at least 32" wide;
- Signage indicating the accessible entrance; and
- Seating for voters waiting to vote

11. If I am physically unable to stand in line for a long period of time due to my disability, am I able to request assistance at my polling place from election judges?

- Unfortunately, in Maryland, election judges are not required to give voting order priority to people with disabilities. There should be seating available while waiting in line.
- If you anticipate this being a problem, we recommend voting by mail or early voting, which should have shorter lines.

Additional Resources:

- [Disability Rights Maryland Voting Page](#)
 - Disability Rights Maryland Voter Hotline
 - 443-692-2492; 800-233-7201 ext. 2492; TTY 410-235-5387
 - Voting@DisabilityRightsMD.org
- [National Council on Independent Living Plan Your Vote Campaign](#)
- [Autistic Self-Advocacy Network Voting Toolkit](#)
- [Association of University Centers on Disability's Plan Your Vote Tool](#)