**Disclaimer:** This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

**Note:** This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. **Am I registered to vote?**

Voters can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the Maryland State Board of Elections website ([https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch](https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch)). Voters can also call Maryland’s State Board of Elections at (410) 269-2840 or contact their local election board.

To register to vote in Maryland, an applicant must be:
- A U.S. citizen;
- A Maryland resident; and
- At least 16 years old.
  - While eligible to register at age 16, only voters who will be at least 18 years old by the next general election will be eligible to vote. A voter who will be 18 by the general election is eligible to vote in the primary election despite not yet being 18 at the time of the primary election.
2. Where do I vote?

Voters can determine their proper polling place by checking the Maryland State Board of Elections website (https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch) or contacting their local election board. If a voter has moved recently and has not updated his or her voter registration, refer to Question #6.

For the Special Election on April 28, 2020: Every active registered voter in the 7th Congressional District was mailed a mail-in ballot on April 8, 2020. These voters will not need to request a ballot to receive one. However, “inactive” voters will not be mailed ballots. Voters can check their voter status on the State Board of Elections website, HERE, and if a voter is “inactive” they can update their status to “active” by confirming their address with their local Board of Elections prior to April 24. Alternatively, “inactive” voters will need to vote in person on Election Day. Voters can check to see if they live in the 7th District by checking their voter registration record (click the link HERE). Voters will also receive a return envelope and prepaid postage.

Voters returning completed ballots by mail must ensure that those ballots are postmarked by April 28. Voters can also return completed ballots to a secure drop box location by 8PM on April 28. Only three vote centers will be available for voters seeking to cast ballots in person. The vote centers are at the following locations:

(1) Baltimore City voters - Edmondson High School, 501 N. Athol Avenue, Baltimore, 21229;  
(2) Baltimore County voters - Martin’s West, 6817 Dogwood Road, Windsor Mill, 21244; and  
(3) Howard County voters – Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road, West Friendship 21794.

For the Primary Election on June 2, 2020: Active eligible voter will be mailed a ballot. These voters will not need to request a ballot to receive one. However, “inactive” voters will not be mailed ballots. Voters can check their voter status on the State Board of Elections website, HERE, and if a voter is “inactive” they can update their status to “active” by confirming their address with their local Board of Elections prior to May 27. Alternatively, “inactive” voters will need to vote in person on Election Day. Note that Maryland is a closed primary state. As a result, for primary elections on June 2, only voters registered in a party will be eligible to vote in that party’s primary elections.

Election officials plan to mail ballots in early May. All mailed ballots will include a return envelope and prepaid postage. Voters will mail ballots to the address on file.

Voters seeking to have their ballot mailed to another address must submit an absentee ballot application to their local board of election. If the voter has a Maryland Driver’s License or ID Card, they can submit this application online by clicking HERE. Otherwise the voter must complete the paper absentee ballot form available by clicking HERE (English), or HERE (Spanish), and return it by mail, fax or email. This request must be received by May 26, if you request a ballot to be mailed to you, or by May 29 if you submit your request online.

If a voter has not received their mail-in ballot, they can request access to an electronic ballot up through Election Day. The voter should send an email to absentee.sbe@maryland.gov or call 1-800-222-8683 and request an electronic ballot for this election. The voter should include their full name, date of birth, political affiliation, and their registration address in the email. Once processed, the voter will have the ability to obtain access to an electronic ballot and oath, which they can complete, and return either by mail or at a dropbox on Election Day.

Voters returning completed ballots by mail must ensure that those ballots are postmarked by June 2. Voters can also return completed ballots to secure drop box locations from May 21 through June 2. Locations of drop boxes are available by clicking HERE.

On Election Day, only a limited number of vote centers will be available for voters to cast ballots in-person. The list of available vote centers is available by clicking HERE.
3. **When do the polls open and close?**

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST on Election Day.\(^1\) A voter in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.\(^2\)

Early voting starts the 2nd Thursday before a primary or general election through the Thursday before the election.\(^3\) In a presidential general election, the early voting centers will be open between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. EST each early voting day.\(^4\) In all other elections, the voting centers will be open between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. EST each early voting day.\(^5\)

There will be no early voting for the June 2, 2020 primary election. Instead voters will receive mail-in ballots as described in Question #2, above, and can return them to available drop boxes. For the November 3, 2020 general election, early voting will begin on October 22, 2020.\(^6\)

If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in line to vote before 8:00 p.m. EST from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. **When is/was the voter registration deadline?**

Registration to vote and/or change voter registration records closes 21 days before an election.\(^7\) For submissions through the State Board’s online voter registration system, the deadline is 11:59 p.m. EST.\(^8\) For all other methods of submission the deadline is 5:00 p.m. EST.\(^9\)

For the June 2, 2020 primary election, the deadline was moved to May 27, 2020.

For the general election, the deadline is October 13, 2020.\(^10\)

Maryland voters who miss the regular registration deadline still have an opportunity to vote. A qualified voter can register in person during the early voting period, which begins the 2nd Thursday before an election (see Question #16), or on election day (see Question #18), and may vote that same day.\(^11\) Note, however, that during the April 28, 2020 Special Election, and the June 2, 2020 primary election, there will be no early voting available. Voters will only be able to register at in person poll sites on Election Day.

5. **Can I vote without providing identification?**

Voters only have to show identification in certain limited circumstances.\(^12\) Only some first time voters in Maryland will be asked to show ID before voting. Acceptable identification includes:\(^13\)

- A current and valid Maryland driver’s license;
- A current and valid ID issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration;
- A current and valid student ID;
- A current and valid employee ID;
- A current and valid military ID;
- A current and valid U.S. passport;
- Any other current and valid Maryland- or federal government-issued photo ID; or
- A current (i.e., from within the last three months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the individual.
Voters who cannot provide identification may have to vote a provisional ballot.14 (A provisional ballot allows someone who thinks they are an eligible voter to cast a ballot. Upon later review, if the local board of elections determines that the provisional voter is registered and eligible to vote in Maryland and vote a provisional ballot, the ballot will be counted. If the voter is not eligible to vote a provisional ballot, the ballot may be rejected.)

6. I moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

After registration has ended, voters can either update their registration at the early voting center for their new address and vote a regular ballot,15 or they can vote a provisional ballot at the polling location for their new address.16

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the election judges if the voting equipment breaks down.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

Voters who are not listed on the precinct register will receive a provisional ballot.17 Every voter who claims to be registered and eligible to vote must have the opportunity to vote.

- There are three possible outcomes for a voter’s provisional ballot:
  - For voters who are registered and in the correct precinct, the entire ballot will be counted.18
  - For voters who are registered and in the wrong precinct, only votes relating to contests that appear on the ballot issued at the voter’s correct precinct will be counted.19
  - For voters who are not registered, no part of the ballot will be counted.20

9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

Voters’ names can be removed from the list of registered voters only:21

- By voter’s request;
- If the voter is currently serving a court-ordered term of imprisonment for a felony conviction;
- Following a conviction for buying or selling votes;
- If the voter is under guardianship for mental disability, and a court has found that the voter cannot communicate a desire to participate in the voting process;
- By the voter’s death;
- By a move outside the state; or
- If the State Administrator of Elections (or a designee) has determined pursuant to the administrative complaint process that the voter is not qualified to be registered to vote.

Voters who believe that they have been mistakenly added to or removed from the voter list can file an administrative complaint.22

Voters whose names were removed in one of the above ways, and who subsequently become eligible to vote again, must re-register in order to have their names restored to the statewide voter registration system.23
These steps can help determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (see Question #1)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see Question #1 and Question #6)
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter’s name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (see Question #1)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Voters who have been convicted of a felony and have already completed serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment are eligible to register to vote unless they have been convicted of buying or selling votes.

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Voters should only be offered a provisional ballot if:

- Their name does not appear on the precinct register (refer to Question #8);
- They are among the first-time Maryland voters who need to present identification (refer to Question #5) and do not have the necessary identification;
- Their identity was challenged, and they were unable to provide the required identification (refer to Question #5);
- They appeared at the polling place after 8:00 p.m. but are being permitted to vote because of a court or other order extending voting hours;
- Their registration status is pending;
- The precinct register indicates that they were issued an absentee ballot (refer to Question #17) or already voted;
- Their party affiliation listed in the precinct register differs from the voter’s stated affiliation (in a primary election);
- They moved and failed to update their registration in time (refer to Question #6);
- They could not provide proof of residency in the county during early voting (refer to Question #5) or were not “pre-qualified”; or
- A technical or administrative issue is causing delays in voting.

Other than for these reasons, you should be able to cast a regular ballot.

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

Students may register at their school address only if they consider this address to be their “official” or “permanent” home. If they do not consider their parent’s home to be their home and do not intend to return there after school, their school address may be their residence. Students receiving financial aid from another state or jurisdiction should verify that registering at their school address will not impact their eligibility for financial aid.

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?


Almost all of Maryland’s polling places should be accessible to voters with disabilities on election day. All of the early voting centers in Maryland should be accessible to voters with disabilities.

Voters can use the voter look-up website to find out if their polling place is accessible. If it is not, there will be an explanation as to why not.

If a polling place is not accessible:

- Voters can vote during early voting, when available. Note early voting will not be available for the April 28, 2020 Special Election in the 7th Congressional District, or the June 2, 2020 Primary.
- Voters can complete the Request for Polling Place Change or Absentee Ballot (PDF) and submit it to their local board of elections. The board of elections will do its best to change their polling place to one that is accessible. If the polling place cannot be changed, a local election official will notify the voter and send them an absentee ballot.
- You can vote using an absentee ballot: You can request an absentee ballot by mail or through the Maryland State Board of Elections’ (SBE’s) website. If you have a disability and cannot mark your ballot independently, the SBE offers an online tool to help you mark your ballot. With this tool, most voters with disabilities can make selections without help. If you would like to use this online tool, request an absentee ballot and check the box saying that you want to print your ballot from the SBE’s website.

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. A voter requiring assistance at the polls for any of the reasons stated above may choose any individual to assist the voter in marking or preparing the ballot, except the voter’s employer, an agent of that employer, an officer or agent of the voter’s union, a candidate on the voter’s ballot (if the voter is casting a provisional ballot), or a designated poll watcher or challenger. If the voter declines to select an individual, an election judge, in the presence of another election judge that represents another political party, shall assist the voter in the manner prescribed by the voter. The person rendering assistance may not suggest in any way how the voter should vote.

Also note that Montgomery County is required to ensure that elections are accessible to English and Spanish speakers. As a result, the County must provide voting materials such as ballots, forms and other voter information in at least English and Spanish, and it must make Spanish interpreters available at some precincts with expected higher levels of Spanish-speaking voters.

15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Voting information and instructions should be posted at each active voting place. In addition, before a voter enters the voting booth, an election judge may instruct the voter about the operation of the voting system and allow the voter an opportunity to operate a model voting device. After a voter enters the voting booth, two election judges representing different political parties may instruct the voter on the operation of the voting device, but may not suggest how the voter should vote, and should exit the voting booth so the voter can vote privately.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

You can either vote in person during early voting or by absentee ballot.
Certain first-time Maryland voters (refer to Question #5) will have to provide a copy of their identification with either the absentee ballot application or the absentee ballot. If one of these voters returns an absentee ballot without having provided the required identification, the ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot.

Absentee Voting: Any registered Maryland voter can request an absentee ballot. No special circumstances are necessary. Generally, voters submitting applications for absentee ballots by mail or online must ensure that the application is received by the local Board of Elections no later than seven days prior to Election Day if they are requesting receipt of the ballot by mail, and by no later than the Friday before Election Day if they are seeking receipt of the ballot electronically. Note that the electronic request system is available to voters with a Maryland driver’s license or an ID card issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. To receive an absentee ballot in person at a local board of elections office, the voter must request the ballot by the close of polls on election day.

For the April 28 Special Election, and the June 2 Primary Election, active eligible voters should automatically receive mail-in ballots at the address listed in the registration list. However, voters can submit requests for absentee ballots delivered to a different address. The deadlines for submitting requests are as follows:

To change address for delivery of mail-in ballot by mail: April 21 (Special Election); May 26 (Primary Election); and October 27 (General Election)

The change address for delivery of mail-in ballot online: April 24 (Special Election); May 29 (Primary Election); October 30 (General Election).

If a voter has not received their mail-in ballot for the June 2 election, they can request an electronic ballot up through Election Day. The voter should send an email to absentee.sbe@maryland.gov or call 1-800-222-8683 and request an electronic ballot for this election. The voter should include their full name, date of birth, political affiliation, and their registration address in the email. Once processed, the voter will have the ability to obtain access to an electronic ballot and oath, which they can complete, and return either by mail or at a dropbox on Election Day.

Returned ballots must be postmarked by primary election day (June 2, 2020) or general election day (November 3, 2020) and received by 10 a.m. on June 12, 2020 (for the primary election) or November 13, 2020 (for the general election).

Early Voting: Registered voters may also go in person to an early voting center in their county to vote. In addition, any person who is eligible to register to vote (but not yet registered), or who is registered to vote but has moved, can go to an early voting center and register to vote or update the address of registration, and then vote. Party affiliation may not be changed at an early voting center. Early voting is conducted between the second and first Thursday before an election (October 22, 2020 through October 29, 2020 for the general election). While all early voting centers are generally open continuously from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during primary elections, there will be no in-person early voting available during the June 2 primary. There will be longer hours (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) before the general election. Anyone in line at 8:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote. You can find the locations of early voting centers online at the Maryland State Board of Elections website (https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/early_voting.html).

Military-Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting: Absent uniformed service members (and their eligible dependents) and U.S. citizens living outside of the United States may request an absentee ballot under the

Individuals who voted via absentee or provisional ballot can use an online lookup tool, typically available ten days after an election, to determine whether their ballot was counted, and the reason why if it was not.

17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on election day?

As long as the voter has not already submitted the absentee ballot, and is otherwise qualified, the voter should be allowed to vote in person by a provisional ballot.40

18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?41

Maryland has same-day registration during both the early voting period and on election day.

In order to register during the early voting period, an individual should go to an early voting center in the county where they live and bring a document that proves where they live.

Acceptable documents include:
- A current and valid Maryland driver’s license or Maryland identification card containing the applicant’s current address;
- If the applicant does not have one of the valid forms of identification listed above, they may provide a copy of an official document that:
  - meets the requirements established by the State Board; and
  - contains the applicant’s name and current address.

To register during the general election, the individual should go to their assigned polling place and bring a document that proves where they live.

Acceptable documents include:
- A current and valid Maryland driver’s license;
- A current and valid ID issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration;
- A current and valid change of address card issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (only if the individual’s Maryland issued driver’s license or identification card does not contain their current address).

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

In Maryland, individuals may not canvass, electioneer, or post any campaign material within the polling place or within 100 feet of the polling place (in Montgomery County the electioneering boundary may be between 25 and 100 feet of the polling place).42

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

In Maryland, voters may only be challenged on grounds of identity. The challenged voter may present identification; if the poll worker can establish the identity of the voter, the voter will be given a regular ballot. Otherwise, the voter will be given a provisional ballot and may submit other relevant materials. The local election board will look at this information and the information provided by the challenger to determine whether the ballot will be counted.43
21. Can I vote in the primary election?

The presidential primary in Maryland is “closed,” meaning that voters must be registered members of the party holding the primary to vote in the primary. Unaffiliated voters cannot participate in primary elections with the exception of voting for non-partisan offices (e.g., schoolboard). Voters have until 30 days before the primary election to change their party affiliation.

If there are non-partisan offices that are elected in the primary election (e.g., school board), any voter can vote for these offices. To determine what offices require political affiliation, please visit your local board of elections website (https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html).

An individual may change their political party affiliation except during the 21 days before a primary election (see Question #3). For the 2020 Primary Election, the deadline to change your party affiliation is May 12, 2020.
12 Md. Code Regs. §§ 33.07.06.01, 33.07.06.03.
13 Md. Code Regs. § 33.01.01.01; see also https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/election_day_questions.html.
18 Md. Code Regs. § 33.16.05.03.
19 Id.
21 Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law §§ 3-501, 3-102(b); see also Md. Code Regs. § 33.05.06.03 et seq.
25 Md. Code Regs. § 33.16.03.01; see also Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-404.
26 See https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/students.html.
27 See https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/accessibility.html.
28 Md. Code Regs. § 33.07.05.02.
32 Md. Code Regs. § 33.11.02.07.
33 Md. Code Regs. § 33.11.05.03.
34 Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-304; Md. Code Regs. 33.11.02.01 § A.
36 See https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html.
38 Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-305; see also http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/early_voting.html.
40 Md. Code Regs. § 33.16.03.01.
44 See https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/primary.html