

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Maryland – General Election 2024**

Last Updated: 8/6/2024

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**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.

REGISTERING TO ELECTION DAY EARLY VOTE VOTE BY MAIL

**VOTE** 

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# **REGISTERING TO VOTE**

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

To register to vote in Maryland, an individual must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- A Maryland resident; and
- At least 16 years old.<sup>1</sup>
  - Under Maryland law, a registered voter who is under the age of 18 may vote in a primary election in which candidates are nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the voter is at least 18 years old, otherwise a voter must be 18 year old to vote.<sup>2</sup>

To register to vote in Maryland, an applicant cannot:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-102(a)(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-102(a)(2).

- Have been convicted of a felony and be currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment;
- Be under guardianship for mental disability and found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote; or
- Have been convicted of buying or selling votes.<sup>3</sup>
- 2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?

A voter must be registered with a political party to vote in that party's primary election.<sup>4</sup> A voter that is registered as "unaffiliated" will only be able to vote in races for nonpartisan offices that are on the same ballot as the party primaries. Party affiliation may be changed up until the close of advance voter registration (21 days before the primary).<sup>5</sup>

3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?

Voters can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the Maryland <u>Voter Lookup Website</u>. They can also call Maryland's State Board of Elections at (410) 269-2840 or (800) 222-8683 (toll free) or contact their <u>local boards of elections</u>.

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

**Apply online**. Eligible voters may register to vote or update their registered address online using Maryland's Online Voter Registration System (OLVR). To submit a registration electronically, a voter must provide a valid Maryland-issued state ID number or driver's license number, and the last four digits of their Social Security number. An applicant who is an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter who does not have a Maryland-issued driver's license or MVA identification card only needs to enter the last four digits of their Social Security number. Voters who do not have these forms of identification cannot use the OLVR to register (but may submit a printed application).

**Submit a printed application**. To register or update a registered address, an eligible voter may request a form from their local board of elections or print an application from the State Board of Elections website. Applications are available in English, Spanish, French, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Korean Once completed with an *original signature*, it should be returned by mail or by hand to their local board of elections or the State Board of Elections.<sup>7</sup>

**Complete voter registration application in person**. Applications may be completed in person when applying for a driver's license or identification card at a <u>Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)</u> office.<sup>8</sup> They may also register to vote at a number of other government offices, including:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-102(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Md. Code §§ 3-202(a)(4), 3-203(c)(3), 3-304(b)(4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/primary.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-204.1(b)(3); Md. Code Regs. §§ 33.05.02.03.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-201(a); see also https://elections.maryland.gov/voter registration/application.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-201(a)(4).

- a local board of elections;
- the State Board of Elections;
- a local Department of Health office;
- a Maryland Department of Human Services local office;
- a local Area Agency on Aging office;
- the MTA Paratransit Certification Office;
- All public institutions of higher education;
- Recruitment offices of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- Marriage license offices; and
- Offices for students with disabilities at all Maryland colleges and universities.

**Same-day registration and voting**. Voters can also utilize same-day registration to register and vote on election day at their polling place or during early voting at any early voting center. See <u>Question 7</u>.

**Assistance**: A voter may receive assistance in signing a voter registration application. The person assisting the voter in preparing the voter registration application must also submit a signed statement affirming that the applicant is unable to sign their name; the applicant is qualified to register to vote in Maryland; and that the information provided about the applicant is true.<sup>10</sup>

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

No ID is normally required to register to vote, but ID will be required to vote if the voter registered by mail or is registering or changing their address using same day registration. See <u>Question 19</u>.

6. **DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?

The deadline to advance register to vote for the November 5, 2024 general election is 21 days before the election (October 15, 2024). Voters registering online must complete the registration by 11:59 p.m., voters registering in person must do so by 5:00 p.m., and voters registering by mail must have the application postmarked by this date.

Voters who missed the deadline for advance registration may use same day registration to register on election day at their polling place or during the early voting period at an early voting center.

7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

Yes. During early voting, a voter can register to vote and vote at a voting center in the **county** where they live, or within city limits for Baltimore residents. On Election Day, a voter may register to vote and vote at their **assigned polling place**. If they are not at the correct polling place, they will be given a provisional ballot, but it is not likely to count. The voter will be asked to complete a voter registration application and proof of residency (see <u>Question 19</u>) to an election official at the polling place or voting center.

8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 3-204(a); see also <a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\_registration/index.html">https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\_registration/index.html</a> (see "The Registration Process – Where may I apply to register to vote?").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.05.04.04(B)(2).

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Voters should update their address as soon as possible. Voters can update their address through the <u>Maryland Online Voter Registration System</u> or by contacting their <u>local board of elections</u>.

Some voters who moved permanently but have not updated their address may be required to vote a provisional ballot. Their votes will be counted provided that they complete and sign a provisional ballot application. Refer to the table below for more details.

Moved within the same county on or before October 15, 2024 (21 days prior to the election)	Moved within the same county after October 15, 2024	Moved to a different county after October 15, 2024	Moved to a different county on or before October 15, 2024	Moved from a different state
The voter can cast a regular ballot at any early voting center in their county, or a provisional ballot on Election Day at the polling place for the new precinct <sup>11</sup>	The voter can cast a regular ballot at any early voting center in their county. On Election Day the voter may vote a regular ballot at their previous polling place or vote a provisional ballot at the polling place for the precinct in which they now reside.	The voter may cast a regular ballot at the election day polling place for their earlier address or at any early voting vote center in the former county. Or they may cast a provisional ballot at their new polling place or at any early voting center in the voter's new county.	The voter can cast a provisional ballot at any early voting center in their new county or at the Election Day polling place corresponding to their new address.	If the voter moved to Maryland from another state the voter may register at either an early voting center or at the precinct for their residence and vote a regular ballot  The voter need not be a Maryland resident for a certain period of time before being eligible to vote in Maryland.

### 9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?

A voter who is not currently residing at their registered address can vote by submitting an application for a mail-in ballot. See Questions 31-48.

The voter can also cast a regular ballot in person during early voting or apply for and complete in person a mail-in ballot at the <u>local board of elections</u> office in the county where the voter is registered.

10. **STUDENT:** I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

To be eligible to register to vote in Maryland you must be a resident of Maryland. A voter's residential address is the address they consider home, and is usually, though not always, used for tax returns, government documents, driver's licenses, bank accounts, credit cards, insurance, etc. A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Change of Address

college or university student who is living at school may usually elect to vote at either their school address or their home address (which will require that they return home to voter or obtain a mail ballot). If a voter lives on campus and gives a campus address as their residential address, they should be sure to list their dormitory and room number (a PO Box is not a residential address but may be listed on the registration form as a mailing address). Out of state students electing to register in Maryland should cancel any out of state registrations.<sup>12</sup>

### 11. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

Military and other overseas citizens may use the standard procedure for voting by mail, but there are also <u>special provisions</u> for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with family members of all these groups, and other citizens who reside outside the United States. Their address for voting purposes will be their last address at which they were registered or lived when enlisting or moving out of the country.<sup>13</sup>

**Registering and Requesting a Mail-In Ballot**: Military and overseas voters may register to and request a mail ballot in the same manner as any other voter (See Questions 4 and 35). However, they can also fill out a Federal Post Card Application ("FPCA") and send it to the local board of elections where they last resided in Maryland. It allows eligible military or overseas voters to simultaneously register and request their mail-in ballot. If a voter registers with a state voter registration form, they must separately request a mail-in ballot. The deadlines for registering to vote (see Question 6) and applying for mail-in ballots (see Question 33) are the same as for in-state Maryland residents. Note that if the voter is registering to vote for the first time, the FPCA must be mailed in (i.e., may not be emailed or faxed) as it requires an original signature.

**Receiving a Mail-In Ballot:** Military and overseas voters may receive their mail-in ballots by mail, email/online or fax. To request electronic transmission of the blank ballot, military and overseas voters must mark the appropriate box and provide an email address or fax number on the Federal Post Card Application.

**Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot:** The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a back-up ballot that military and overseas voters may use if they registered and requested an absentee ballot by the request deadlined but do not receive their regular ballot in time for it to be received before the return deadline. Military voters may use the FWAB whether they are located inside or outside the United States (including APO and FPO addresses), provided that they are away from their voting residence for service-related activities.

Casting a Mail-In Ballot: Ballots may only be returned by mail, hand-delivery, or ballot drop off box; they cannot be submitted via email or fax: If hand delivered, the ballot must be returned to the <u>local</u> board of elections polling place, or drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day (November 5, 2024. If mailed, it must be (postmarked by election day and received by 10:00 am on November 15, 2024. For specific instructions, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's <u>website</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See <a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\_registration/students.html">https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\_registration/students.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> See Overseas and Military Voters

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See Absentee Voting by Military Voters and Voters who Reside Outside the U.S..

12. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?

An individual who has been convicted of a **felony** and is **currently incarcerated** cannot vote. Once released from incarceration even if on parole or probation the person can vote unless the conviction was for buying or selling votes. An individual with *misdemeanor* convictions is <u>not disqualified from voting</u>. The person will have to reregister.

13. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?

It depends. A voter who is *currently incarcerated for a felony offense* is not permitted to vote. Pretrial detainees who have not yet been convicted and persons with misdemeanor convictions are *not* disqualified from voting. Like all other qualified voters, those serving jail time in pretrial detention or on misdemeanor convictions may register and apply for and cast a mail-in ballot.

14. REGISTRATION CHALLENGED: My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

An individual's right to vote may only be challenged at the polls on grounds of identity.<sup>15</sup> An individual whose right to vote has been challenged may establish their identity by providing one of the following:

- the individual's voter registration card;
- the individual's Social Security card;
- the individual's valid Maryland driver's license;
- any identification card issued to the individual by a political subdivision of the State, the State, the federal government, or any unit of a political subdivision of the State, the State, or the federal government;
- any employee identification card of the individual that contains a photograph of the individual and is issued by the employer of the individual in the ordinary course of the employer's business; or
- a copy of a current bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and current address of the individual.

If the individual challenged provides one of the documents listed above they will be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

If the individual challenged does not provide one of the forms of identification listed above the election judge will

- require the challenger to provide, in writing and under penalty of perjury, the reason(s) for the challenge; and
- offer the individual challenged the opportunity to vote using a provisional ballot, and to submit an attestation of their identity.

During the canvas of provisional ballots the local election board will review the information provided and determine whether the challenged voter is who they claim to be and if they are eligible to vote.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-312.

# **HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY**

### 15. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

On Election Day, vote centers are open continuously from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Anyone in line at 8 p.m. must be allowed to vote.<sup>16</sup>

### 16. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?

On Election Day, voters can vote in-person at their assigned Election Day polling place. A voter can use the <u>Voter Location Lookup</u> to search for the voter's assigned polling place by address. Registered voters who have not moved can also find their polling place using the <u>Voter Lookup</u> tool.

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to Question 8.

### 17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?

Yes. Every employer in Maryland is required to provide up to two hours of paid leave on election day to permit an employee to cast a ballot if the employee does not have two hours of continuous off-duty during the hours the polls are open. Poll Workers will provide the employer with proof that they have voted or attempted to vote.<sup>17</sup>

### 18. CLOSING: What if the polls close when I am already in line?

Anyone in line at 8 pm will be allowed to vote. <sup>18</sup> Advise voters to **stay in line!** 

#### 19. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?

Generally, a voter will not be asked to show ID if the voter's name is on the list of registered voters assigned to the polling place. However, a voter will be asked to show identification if:

- The voter registered by mail and has not previously met the identification requirements;
- Someone in the voting center challenges a voter's identity; or
- The voter registers to vote or changes their address during early voting or on Election Day.<sup>19</sup>

### Acceptable identification includes:

Any of the following so long as it is current and valid and contains a photograph of the
individual: Maryland driver's license; ID issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration;
student ID; employee ID; military ID; U.S. passport; or other Maryland- or federal

https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/votingFAQ.aspx#7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-301.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-315.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-301(b); see <a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/index.html">https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/index.html</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Md. Code Regs. §§ 33.07.06.01, 33.07.06.03; see also Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-312;

government-issued 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.<sup>20</sup>

### 20. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** Can I vote without providing identification?

Voters who cannot provide identification or proof of residency may vote by provisional ballot.<sup>21</sup> A voter who has cast a provisional ballot must provide identification and/or proof of residence to the local board of elections by 10 a.m. on November 13, 2024 in order to have their provisional ballot counted.<sup>22</sup>

21. **NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE:** I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

Yes, but first, check the state website lookup tools to determine whether the voter is <u>registered</u> and at the correct <u>polling location</u>. If the voter has moved, see <u>Question 8</u>. If the voter is at the correct polling location and not showing as registered the voter can register and vote using same day registration. See <u>Question 7</u>. If the voter *is* in the right location and the lookup shows them as being registered, ask the poll worker to call the Board of Elections or request a provisional ballot.<sup>23</sup>

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

A provisional ballot allows someone who believes that they are eligible to vote despite questions about their eligibility. Among the reasons a voter may be told that they need to vote by provisional ballot are:

- Election officials could not find the voter's name on the list of voters where the voter went to vote. This often happens because the voter is not registered to vote or the voter has moved and did not update their address.
- The voter is not eligible to vote at a polling place.
- Records show that the voter was provided with a mail-in ballot for this election or already voted in this election. If the voter has not already voted, election officials will count the voter's provisional ballot.
- The voter was required to, but did not, provide proof of residency. The voter did not provide identification when required.
- The voter did not provide their driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number on the voter's voter registration form or the board of elections could not verify the number provided.
- Someone has challenged the voter's right to vote and the voter was unable to provide the required identification at the time they tried to vote. See Question 14.
- A court ordered polling places to stay open late, and the voter voted during this time. When a
  court issues an order like this, all voters who vote during the extra hours must vote by

https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/election\_day\_questions.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Md. Code Regs. §§ 33.01.01.01(B)(19), (26), and (30); see also

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-404; Md. Code Regs. §33.07.06.05; *see also* https://elections.marvland.gov/voting/provisional\_voting.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 11-303; Md. Code Regs. §§ 33.16.04.02(B)(2)(c), (C)(2), and (E)(2), and 33.16.05.02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-404.

- provisional ballot. As long as the court order is upheld, the voter's provisional ballot will be counted.
- In a primary election, the voter's party affiliation listed in the precinct register differs from the voter's stated affiliation.<sup>24</sup>
- 23. **REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?

Yes, the voter may request a provisional ballot if their name is not on the rolls at their polling place or if the voter lacks adequate identification or proof of residence. Provisional ballots list the same choices as regular ballots and look the same. However, a provisional voter must complete the information on the provisional ballot envelope, put the ballot inside the envelope, and give it to the election judge for placement in the provisional ballot bag. The provisional ballot will not be placed in a scanner at the polling place.<sup>25</sup>

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

In many cases the Board of Elections will investigate the reasons for the provisional ballot and no further action by the voter is necessary. But, voters using a provisional ballot because they did not provide satisfactory identification or proof of residence should go to the <u>local board of elections</u> before 10 a.m. eight days after the election, on November 13, 2024 for the general election, with the required documentation so that they can insure that their provisional ballot will be counted. <sup>26</sup> See Question 5 for information about the documents that can be used as identification or for proof of residency.

After the election, the voter can use the <u>voter look-up website</u> to find out if their provisional ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted. This information is available 10 days after the election.<sup>27</sup>

# HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state defined as: voting in-person at an early voting location during the early voting period)

25. **AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?

Yes. Maryland has early voting.

26. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 33.16.03.01. See also, https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/provisional\_voting.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> See https://www.marvlandattornevgeneral.gov/Pages/votingFAQ.aspx#8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 11-303; Md. Code Regs. §§ 33.16.04.02(B)(2)(c), (C)(2), and (E)(2), and 33.16.05.02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> See https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/provisional voting.html.

No. A voter does not need a reason to vote early.<sup>28</sup>

#### 27. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

Early voting runs from 12 to 5 days before the election. For the general election it will be available from Thursday, October 24, 2024 through Thursday, October 31, 2024. Early voting centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day.<sup>29</sup> Anyone in line at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

### 28. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

The voter may vote in any early voting center in the county where they live. When available, a voter will be able to access a list of early voting centers on their <u>Voter Lookup</u>. The list of early voting centers will also be posted <u>here</u>.

29. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

Same as Election Day voting, see question 19.

### 30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?

A voter needing assistance in accessing the polls or voting may receive it. See Questions 76 through 81 for information about specific types of assistance that may be provided.

# **HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL**

(in this state defined as: obtaining a ballot by mail or online and returning it to the board of elections)

### 31. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

It depends. While a voter will need to make an initial application for a mail-in ballot, when doing so the voter may request to be added to the permanent mail-in ballot list. Maryland will then send them a ballot for each future election that the voter is eligible to participate in. To receive a primary ballot they must have designated a party. As ballots will not be forwarded, they must update their registration if they move.

32. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

No, the voter does not need a specific reason to vote by mail.<sup>30</sup>

33. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-301.1(a)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-301.1; see also https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2024/index.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-304; https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html

The deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot for the 2024 General Election depends on how the voter wants to receive their ballot:

- In Person: The deadline to request a mail-in ballot in person is Election Day (i.e., November 5, 2024). It may either be voted and returned at that time or taken and returned later. An agent may also pick up a ballot for a voter.
- Mail or Fax: For the voter to receive a mail-in ballot by mail or fax their request must be received (and not just mailed) one week before the election, October 29, 2024.
- Internet: For the voter to receive a ballot through the internet, their request must be received 4 days prior to the election, November 1, 2024. The request must be received by 5:00 p.m. if sent in the mail or by 11:59 if sent by fax or submitted online<sup>31</sup>

### 34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

Yes, if the voter has a disability or is unable to read or write, they may obtain help requesting a mail-in ballot and voting. Any person can help the voter except:

- A candidate on the voter's ballot;
- The voter's employer or an agent of the voter's employer; or
- An officer or agent of the voter's union.<sup>32</sup>

## 35. **APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

Voters with a Maryland driver's license or state ID may apply on-line. Other voters must sign and return a paper application form and return it to their local board of elections by hand, mail, FAX or as an email attachment. Voters may apply in person at their <u>local board of elections</u>. Paper forms may be obtained by contacting the Board of Elections or by downloading a copy in <u>English</u> or <u>Spanish</u>. Public libraries may also assist in downloading the form.

A voter may also designate someone as their agent, who will take the voter's completed mail-in ballot application to the voter's local board of elections, pick up their ballot, and deliver it to them. The agent must be at least 18 years old and may not be a candidate on the ballot. The voter and designated agent must complete the <u>Designation of Agent Form</u>.

### 36. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

Most voters need not include copies of their identification when submitting a mail-in ballot application. However, voters who registered to vote by mail and are voting in Maryland for the first time may need to include a copy of an acceptable form of identification either with their application for a mail-in ballot or with their mail-in ballot<sup>33</sup> See Question 19. Voters can use the Voter Look-Up website to check whether they need to provide identification.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-305(d).

<sup>32</sup> See https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Md. Code Reg. § 33.11.02.07.

37. **RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

Voters may elect on the application to receive the ballot by FAX or to have it mailed to *any* address including to a PO Box. They may also ask that it be delivered through an email lin that will allow the voter to download the ballot.

Mail-in ballots are made available 35 to 45 days before the election.

38. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

Voters who miss the application deadline may vote in person on election day or during early voting. They, or their designated agent, may also pick up a ballot in person through election day. See <a href="Question 35">Question 35</a>.

39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

The voter can check the status of their application and/or ballot on the <u>voter look-up website</u> or by contacting the voter's <u>local board of elections</u>.

*Note*: There may be delays in updating the information on the website. If the website does not show that the application has been received or that the mail ballot has been received, the voter should consider contacting their <u>local board of elections</u>. They should confer with them about whether they should obtain a replacement ballot or take some other action in order to ensure that their vote is counted.<sup>34</sup>

40. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

First, the voter should visit the <u>voter look-up website</u> to determine why the application or ballot was indeed rejected, and if no reason was given, the voter should contact their <u>local board of elections</u>. They should take whatever action is necessary to cure the problem.

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

The instructions that accompany the ballot should be carefully reviewed.<sup>35</sup>

The voter:

- Must use black ink to mark the ballot;
- Must take care not to vote for more candidates than the number specified in the contest heading, but can vote for fewer candidates than specified if the voter wishes to do so;
- May not write in a candidate in a primary election;<sup>36</sup>
- If the voter requested and received a link to access their blank ballot through the internet the ballot must be printed and returned by mail or by hand-delivery. They should

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> See Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 16-201(b)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-309.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 8-205.

- o Print out their ballot and complete it by hand<sup>37</sup>; or,
- Use the online marking tool to complete their ballot before printing it.<sup>38</sup>
- Should *not* sign the ballot or add any information to the ballot that might be used to identify who submitted the ballot;
- Should, once they have finished voting their mail-in ballot, place the ballot in the return envelope provided for that purpose and sign the oath on the envelope; and
- Should seal the return envelope.
- Voters cannot email or fax their voted mail-in ballot.<sup>39</sup>

Voters who registered by mail and have not previously presented a copy of an acceptable form of identification must include one for their vote to be counted.<sup>40</sup> See <u>Question 19</u>. Voters may check the <u>voter look-up website</u> to determine if they need to provide a copy of their identification. The information will appear on the voter's "Voter Information Record".

### 42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

Yes, if the voter has a disability or is unable to read or write, they may request help with completing their mail-in ballot and voting. Any person can help except:

- A candidate on the ballot;
- The voter's employer or an agent of the voter's employer; or
- An officer or agent of the voter's union.

The person helping must mark the ballot according to the voter's wishes and cannot make an effort to influence the vote. This person must also complete the Certification of Person Assisting mail-in Voter (provided with the ballot).<sup>41</sup>

# 43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?

- Mail the voted ballot. The ballot must be postmarked on or before general election day (November 5, 2024) and received by the local board of elections by 10 a.m. on November 15, 2024
- Hand Deliver the ballot. Ballots can be hand delivered to an early or election day voting center
  in their county or to their board of elections or deposited in a ballot drop off box until the close
  of polls at 8:00 p.m. on election day
- Voters cannot email or fax their voted mail-in ballot.<sup>42</sup>

### 44. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-308.1(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Md. Code Reg. §33.11.03.08; *See* <a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html">https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html</a> ("How do I return my voted ballot?").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Md. Code Reg. § 33.11.02.07(B).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> See https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> See, Md. Code Reg. §33.11.03.08; See also, <a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html">https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html</a> ("How do I return my voted ballot?").

Voters can drop off their ballots at an early voting center during early voting, at a ballot drop off box location, or at their local board of elections or an Election Day polling place before 8 p.m. on Election Day. 43

#### 45. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

A qualified applicant may designate a duly authorized agent to pick up from and deliver a mail-in ballot to the voter's <u>local board of elections</u> provided the agent meets the following qualifications:

- 1. must be at least 18 years old;
- 2. may not be a candidate on that ballot; and
- 3. is designated in a <u>Designation of Agent Form</u> completed by the voter and the designated agent and signed by the voter under penalty of perjury.

### 46. **LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

If the voter's ballot is lost or spoiled and was received by mail or fax, the voter should contact their local board of elections, and request a replacement ballot. If the voter downloaded their ballot, the voter should log back into the website. If the voter made their selections in the system, the voter should make their selections again and print the ballot. (Maryland does not save the voter's marked ballot, so the voter must make their selections again.) If the voter printed a blank ballot and marked their ballot by hand, print another ballot and mark the ballot.

# 47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

Ballots are typically mailed or available for download approximately three weeks before an election. If a voter requested a ballot but has not received it, and the voter verified on the <u>voter look-up website</u> that the ballot was sent, the voter should wait a few days. The ballot may be in transit. If the election is one week away and the voter has not received the ballot, the voter should contact their <u>local board of elections</u>. See in person option below.

## 48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Voters who requested but have not received and/or returned a completed mail-in ballot They can fill out a provisional ballot in person on Election Day. Once election officials confirm that the voter has not previously voted, they will count the provisional ballot.<sup>44</sup>

If a voter has submitted a mail-in ballot, a reasonable amount of time for the board of elections to receive the ballot and update the website has elapsed, and it is not shown as having been received, the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> See, Md. Code Reg. §33.11.03.08; *See also,* <a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html">https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html</a> ("How do I return my voted ballot?").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.16.03.01(A)(4)(a); https://elections.maryland.gov/press\_room/rumor\_control.html.

voter should consider contacting their <u>local board of elections</u>. If Election Day (November 5, 2024) is approaching, the voter may want to confer with officials at the board of election about whether they should obtain a replacement mail-in ballot or take some other action in order to ensure that their vote is counted. Voters should seek advice on how to address these types of circumstances as voting more than once is a crime in Maryland.<sup>45</sup>

## **HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE**

(Maryland refers to "Absentee Ballots" as "Mail-in Ballots")

### 49. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

The law requires the State Board of Elections and each local board of elections to refer to absentee ballots as "mail-in ballots" and absentee voting as "mail-in voting."

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. A voter does not need a specific reason to request a mail-in ballot.<sup>46</sup>

#### 50. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. See <u>Question 33</u> for the deadlines for requesting a mail in ballot.

### 51. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. See <u>Question 36</u> for information on identification requirements.

#### 52. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Not as such, but any voter can a0098nt an agent to pick up and return a ballot through the close of polls on election day. See <u>Question 35</u>.

### 53. **APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. See <u>Question 35</u> for information on returning mail-in ballot applications.

54. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> See Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 16-201(b)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 9-304; https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. See <u>Question 39</u> for information on the status of mail-in ballot applications or mail-in ballot returns.

55. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. See <u>Question 40</u> for information on how to address rejected mail-in ballot applications or ballots.

56. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. See <u>Question 41</u> for information on how to complete a mail-in ballot.

57. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

Maryland refers to absentee ballots as mail-in ballots. See <u>Question 42</u> for information on obtaining assistance in completing a mail-in ballot.

58. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

See Question 43 for information on returning a mail-in ballot..

59. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

See Question 44 for information on drop off locations for a mail-in ballot.

60. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

See Question 45 for information on having someone other than the voter return a completed mail-in ballot.

61. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

See Question 46 on what to do if a mail-in ballot is lost or spoiled.

62. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

See Question 47 on what to do if a mail-in ballot is not received.

- 63. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

  See Question 48.
- 64. IN PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

Maryland refers to in-person absentee voting as early voting. For information on early voting see Questions 25-30.

# **POLLING PLACE ISSUES**

65. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What should I do?

Polling places are required to be open from 7 am to 8 pm during early voting and on election day.<sup>47</sup> If a voter arrives at a polling place during these hours and it is not open they should contact their <u>local</u> board of elections.

If a voter arrives at what they believe to be their polling place during these hours and they do not see the polling place they should see if there are other entrances to the building. If the voter still can not find their polling place they should check the <u>Voter Lookup Website</u> to make sure that they are at the right address for their polling place.

If the voter has confirmed that they are at the correct address and they do not see the polling place they should contact their <u>local board of elections</u>.

66. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

Anyone in line at 8 p.m. on Election Day must be allowed to vote.<sup>48</sup> Encourage voters to stay in line!

67. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

Voters should immediately notify the poll workers if the voting equipment breaks down.

Under Maryland law, each polling place and early voting center is required to have a paper or electronic backup copy of the election register available for the use of the poll workers if the computer-based record of registered voters does not function properly during an election.<sup>49</sup>

Voters who appear in person to vote on Election Day will be given the choice to mark a pre-printed paper ballot by hand or to mark their ballots using an electronic ballot marking device. If there are problems with the electronic devices, voters can still vote by marking pre-printed paper ballots by hand. If the scanner used to tabulate the voters' paper ballots also is not working, ballots may be stored for later scanning<sup>50</sup>

68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-301.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-301; <a href="https://elections.marvland.gov/voting/index.html">https://elections.marvland.gov/voting/index.html</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-302.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> See https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/votingFAQ.aspx#6

Maryland law requires election judges to establish an area with a radius of approximately 100 feet around the entrance to a polling place (in Montgomery County the line may be as close as 25 feet to the entrance of the polling place). Within this exclusion zone, canvassing, electioneering or posting of any campaign material is prohibited.<sup>51</sup> Prohibited activities include handing out campaign literature for or against a candidate or ballot issue, soliciting signatures on petitions, or canvassing voters outside the polling place to determine their entitlement to vote. It has also been interpreted to preclude candidates, challengers or watchers, or others from wearing or carrying any clothing button, sticker, sign, or other paraphernalia that indicates support or opposition to a candidate or question.<sup>52</sup>

Voters may be approached outside of this area so long as they are not being harassed or intimidated (see <u>Question 71</u>).

It is also a crime to canvass, electioneer, or post campaign material in a way that blocks access to a **ballot drop box**.<sup>53</sup>

The following individuals are permitted in the polling place during voting:

- a voter, someone assisting the voter in the voting process, and up to two individuals under 18 who are in the care of the voter;
- polling place staff;
- a member or representative of the State Board or local board of elections;
- an accredited watcher or challenger; and
- any other individual authorized by the State Board or local board of elections.<sup>54</sup>
- 69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

The rules against visibly wearing or carrying clothing, buttons, stickers, signs, or other objects in support of or opposition to a candidate, question, or contest **do not apply** to a voter. But the voter may not loiter at the polling place and must leave immediately after voting<sup>55</sup> However, other prohibitions on electioneering or campaigning do apply to voters. See Question 68.

Also, electronic communication devices may not be used in a polling place. This includes cameras, cell phones, pagers and computer equipment. There are exceptions to this rule for cameras used by media representatives (as long as they are not recording polling place operations, or a screen or ballot); cell phones, pagers or computer equipment used by election officials and police acting in their official capacities; and cell phones or other electronic devices used by a voter to provide lawful proof of residency or ID.<sup>56</sup>

Voters may be accompanied by someone assisting them in the voting process, and up to two children under 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 16-206.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> See, https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Reports/GUIDANCE ON VOTER INTIMIDATION.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 16-206(a)(11).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-308(a).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.07.09.03.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.07.04.02.

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70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Poll workers are prohibited from visibly wearing or carrying clothing, buttons, stickers, signs, or other objects in support of or opposition to a candidate, question, or contest while in the polling place. 57 They are also prohibited from campaigning at the polling place (see Question 68) or "willfully and knowingly" interfering with a voter's legal efforts to cast a vote.58

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

Voter intimidation is a crime under both Maryland and federal law. Under Maryland law, a person may not willfully and knowingly influence or attempt to influence a voter's voting decision, or a voter's decision whether to go to the polls to cast a vote, through the use of force, threat, menace, intimidation, bribery, reward, or offer of reward. A person also may not engage in conduct that results or has the intent to result in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of race, color, or disability.

Whether conduct constitutes intimidation under Maryland or federal law will be context specific. However, the following types of behavior have been determined by the Maryland Attorney General to likely constitute intimidation:

- Violent behavior inside or outside a polling place;
- Confronting voters while wearing military-style or official-looking uniforms;
- Brandishing firearms or the intimidating display of firearms;
- Disrupting voting lines or blocking the entrance to the polling place;
- Following voters to, from, or within the polling place;
- Purposefully invading voters' personal space in a way that violates COVID-related social distancing;
- Verbal threats of violence;
- Spreading false information about voter fraud, voting requirements, or related criminal penalties;
- Aggressively approaching voters' vehicles or writing down voters' license plate numbers;
- Harassing voters, aggressively questioning them about their qualifications to vote; and
- Assembly of a private militia outside a polling place.

Similarly, under federal law, it is a crime for a person to intimidate, threaten, coerce or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right to vote for any candidate for President, Vice President, Presidential Elector, Member of the Senate, or Member of the House of Representatives, at any election held solely or in part for the purpose of electing such candidate.

Maryland law requires election judges to keep the peace. Specifically, election judges are authorized to order the arrest of any person who breaches the peace, violates election laws, or interferes with the work of the judges in conducting the election and carrying out their assigned tasks.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.07.09.03.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 16-303.

<sup>59</sup> See https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Reports/GUIDANCE ON VOTER INTIMIDATION.pdf.

#### 72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

In Maryland, only challenges to a voter's identity are permitted. Challenges must be made before a voter is issued a ballot or voter authority card. All challengers are prohibited from, among other things, ascertaining how a voter voted or intends to vote, questioning voters directly (may only do so through poll workers, known as "election judges" in Maryland), assisting voters in voting, or physically handling an original election document.

If a challenge is made, the voter will be asked to provide identification. A challenge to a voter's identity shall not prevent the voter from voting. If the voter cannot provide any of the above forms of identification, the poll worker receiving the challenge shall:

- require the challenger to provide in writing, under penalty of perjury, the reasons for the challenge;
- offer the challenged individual the opportunity to:
  - o cast a provisional ballot; and
  - o submit an attestation, witnessed by the poll worker, of the individual's identity; and
- submit the provisional ballot and other materials related to the challenge to the local board of elections.<sup>60</sup>
- 73. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?

Uniformed police officers are permitted at polling places if they are performing official government functions. In addition, a law enforcement officer or security guard who is on duty or traveling to or from duty may vote while wearing a uniform. Only law enforcement officers and security guards that are on duty at a polling place may be armed within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place. <sup>62</sup>

Voters should alert a poll worker or their <u>local board of elections</u> if they are made uncomfortable or intimidated by the presence of police officers at the polls.

74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

A voter who is told that they are not on the registration roll at a polling place should first check the <u>Voter Lookup Website</u> to make sure that they are at the correct polling place. If a voter is not at the correct polling place they should go to the correct one so that their vote can be counted in all of the races on their ballot. If the voter is not registered, they can register at the polls. *See Question 4* (*Same-day registration and voting*).

75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

See Question 22 (Given Provisional Ballot) and Question 24 (Provisional Ballot Next Steps).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-312.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> See Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 16-903(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> See Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 16-903(a)(3).

# **ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE**

76. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. Poll workers will answer questions and help you, if needed. 63

77. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

All of the early voting centers are accessible to voters with disabilities. A voter can contact their <u>local</u> <u>board of elections</u> and inquire about which Election Day polling places are accessible in the county.

In addition, a voter may request and obtain assistance in marking and casting their ballot. The voter may select anyone to assist them except:

- Their employer or an agent of their employer;
- Their union or an agent or officer of their union;
- A person who has been designated a challenger or a watcher for the election; or,
- If they are casting a provisional ballot, a candidate on that ballot.<sup>64</sup>

The voter may also receive assistance from two election judges.

Voters with physical disabilities can also vote by mail-in ballot. Voters can request to receive their ballot via the State Board of Elections website and can use an online tool to help them mark their ballot. This tool will allow voters to make choices on their computer and have it printed on their ballot so that they can make their selections independently.<sup>65</sup>

Note also that if a voter's assigned polling place is not structurally barrier free, the voter may request a reassignment by the local board. To qualify for a reassignment, the voter must submit a request in writing to the local board not later than the close of registration for the election. The local board will either (1) assign the voter to an election district, ward, or precinct in the voter's county that contains a structurally barrier free polling place and where they will be able to vote a ballot that is identical to the ballot that they would have voted at the polling place that corresponds with their residence; or (2) issue the voter a mail-in ballot.<sup>66</sup>

78. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. A ballot marking device that is accessible to most voters is available at all voting locations in early voting centers and Election Day polling places. Voters should ask a poll worker if they want to use this device.<sup>67</sup>

In addition, a voter requiring assistance may choose any individual to assist the voter in marking or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-310(c).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.17.06.06(B)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-310(c).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-102.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> See https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/accessibility.html.

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.<sup>68</sup> If the voter declines to select an individual, a poll worker, in the presence of another poll worker that represents another political party, shall assist the voter in the manner prescribed by the voter.<sup>69</sup>

79. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Persons needing language access may receive it as set forth in Question 78.

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.

80. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

Curbside voting is not currently available in Maryland.

81. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

Yes, the voter may bring any printed material, including the voter's marked specimen ballot. They may not, however, bring voting materials on phones or other electronic devices.

# **STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT**

82. **FAILURE TO SIGN MAIL-IN VOTE ENVELOPE OATH:** What happens if the voter fails to sign the oath on the envelope in which the mail-in ballot is returned?

As soon as practicable, but no more than three business days after the election director determines that the voter failed to sign the oath, the election director must notify the voter that the oath was not signed and provide information about how the voter can provide a signed oath so that their vote can be counted. Voters may communicate with the local board to correct the failure to sign the oath by text, email, portal, mailed form, and in-person visit to the local board. A voter can sign the oath by email, SBE-approved text application, mail, in-person visit to the local board, or other means offered by the State Board.<sup>71</sup>

#### 83. NON-CITIZEN VOTING

Maryland allows cities and towns to authorize non-citizens to vote in local elections. About all local jurisdictions allow non-citizens to vote.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.07.05.02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-310(c).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law § 10-310(c)(2)(ii); See <a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/election">https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/election</a> day questions.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Md. Code Regs. § 33.11.03.06(C).

### 84. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Helpful resources on voting in Maryland include:

The Maryland State Board of Elections

Maryland Votes 2024

**Rumor Control** 

The Maryland Attorney General

**Guidance on Voter Intimidation** 

**Local boards of elections**