

**STATE OF MARYLAND – VOTER BILL OF RIGHTS**  
*Calvert County Edition*

**Important information for Maryland voters:**

1. Check your voting status prior to Primary Election Day or Election Day<sup>1</sup>
  2. Know where your polling location is and when it is open for voting
  3. Know your party affiliation at least four weeks prior to Primary Election Day
  4. Check to see if you need ID (see Voter ID section)
  5. Read the ballot carefully to make sure you are selecting the right number of candidates for each office.
  6. Don't hurry – take your time
  7. Ask an election judge for help if you have any questions.
  8. Consider whether a vote-by-mail ballot or early voting might be best for your needs
- <sup>1</sup>To confirm that you are registered, confirm your polling place or verify your party affiliation, call your local Board of Elections (“BOE”) or check online at**

<https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/> or  
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>.  
Scroll down and choose “Polling Place Address and Directions”  
[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

**IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES**

Deadline to Register for 2020 General Election: Tuesday, October 13

**Deadline to submit vote-by-mail application: October 27 (by mail)**

**Deadline to submit vote-by-mail application: October 30 (electronically)**

General Early Voting: Monday, October 26 – Monday, November 2<sup>2</sup> - 7 AM to 8 PM

General Election Day: **Tuesday, November 3<sup>2</sup>** - 7 AM to 8 PM

<sup>2</sup>Voter registration is available during Early Voting and on Election Days

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

To register and/or to vote, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- A Maryland resident\*
- At least 16 years of age\*\*

You must **NOT** be:

- Currently incarcerated for a felony conviction\*\*\*
- Convicted of buying or selling votes
- Under guardianship for mental disability and found by a court to be unable to communicate the desire to vote

\*You may vote if you are homeless provided you can show that you live and receive mail in Maryland.

\*\*You may only vote in a primary or general election if you will be 18 years of age before or on the next general election date.

- The Secure and Accessible Registration Act (aka “Automatic Voter Registration”) passed the Maryland General Assembly in 2018. Once infrastructure has been implemented, MD citizens will be automatically registered through certain agencies unless they choose to opt out.
- The Maryland Election Day Voter Registration Amendment passed during the 2018 Maryland General Assembly and overwhelmingly as a referendum on the 2018 General Election Ballot by Maryland voters. This allows Maryland residents to register to vote on Election Day beginning in 2020. The Maryland General Assembly passed additional legislation during the 2019 legislative session to put this process in place.
  - Individuals appearing at a polling place on Election Day with the intention to register to vote must provide proof of residency as described in the Voter ID section. If the voter is a resident of the precinct and is qualified to register, the voter is issued a regular ballot. If the voter is a resident of the county but not the precinct and is qualified to register to vote, the voter is issued a provisional ballot.

**At the Polling Place**

- If you are told you are not on the list of registered voters, ask the election judge to check again on the Maryland State list. If you are not on either list, ask for a provisional ballot so that you can cast a ballot. If you are at the wrong polling place and have time to get there, please cast your vote in the correct place. If you cannot do that, ask for a provisional ballot.
- Only a challenger/watcher can challenge your identity. If you are able to provide ID to prove your identity, you should be able to cast a regular ballot. If not, insist on a provisional ballot.
- If you are being denied the right to vote, you have the right to know why. Before leaving the polling place, ask the Chief Election Judge to provide you with a written explanation.
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, you have a right to a new ballot, but you must ask before you cast your ballot. You have a right to two replacement ballots.
- You have a right to ask for help in the voting booth. Ask an election judge for assistance. No one should influence your voting in any way.
- You have a right to a translation of all ballots and other elections materials. You have a right to bring an interpreter with you or get assistance from anyone you choose, provided the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, an officer or agent of your labor union, or a candidate on the ballot. Ask an election judge for assistance.
- You have a right to have your children, under the age of 18, accompany you throughout the voting process.
- **If you have a complaint, ask to see the Chief Election Judge(s). You may also contact the local BOE, Maryland State BOE, or the ACLU.**

**\*\*Once released from incarceration, you may vote if you are on parole or probation, but you must register to vote.**

### You can register to vote:

- Online by using Maryland’s online voter registration system  
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1> or <https://www.vote.org/register-to-vote/> or [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)
- In person – complete and sign a voter registration application at the BOE
  - Calvert County BOE – 30 Duke Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
Phone: 410-535-2214 (by appointment only)
- At service centers [MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (“MVA”)] or state agencies providing public assistance (Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, Dept. of Social Services, Offices on Aging, Public Higher Education Institutions, Military Recruitment Offices, Marriage License Offices) or agencies providing services to people with disabilities (MTA Paratransit Certification Office).
- At your Early Voting location during the early voting period
- At your polling station on Primary and General Election Days
- By mail – complete and sign a voter registration application and mail it to the State or local BOE at PO Box 798, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. The application must be postmarked on or before the deadline (October 13 for General Election)

### VOTER ID

You have a right to know why you are being asked to show ID.

- You will be asked to provide identification if you are a first-time voter and you registered by mail and did not provide a valid form of identification.
- You are registering to vote or changing your address during early voting period
- Acceptable identification includes photo and non-photo ID (if photo not available)
  - Maryland driver’s license or MVA-issued identification
  - Student ID card or Employee ID that includes a photo
  - Passport or other government-issued ID
  - Utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck that is not older than 3 months.

### VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS (aka “Absentee Ballots”)

You have a right to vote in Primary and/or General Elections using a vote-by-mail ballot. There are no special conditions that need to be met. **Status of vote-by-mail ballots can be tracked online.**

- A vote-by-mail ballot may be obtained from the Maryland BOE website:  
<https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> or at any local BOE office.
- The completed application must be received in the BOE office (not just mailed by)
  - at least seven (7) days prior to election day if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax (October 27 for General Election Day)
  - at least four (4) days prior to election day if you wish to download your ballot from the State’s website (October 30 for General Election)
- A vote-by-mail ballot submitted by mail **must be postmarked on or before the election day** and received by the local BOE by 10 AM on the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the election.

- A voter may hand-deliver a vote-by-mail ballot to the local BOE or a polling place as well as secure drop boxes by 8 PM on election day.
- **The 2020 General Election will be a traditional election with five polling places open (one at Calvert BOE with other four TBD) and early voting will be in place.**
  - **The Calvert BOE will mail each eligible, active voter an application for a vote-by-mail ballot between August 24 and 28. The return envelope will be postage prepaid.**
  - **If a voter has not received an application by 9/8, call Calvert BOE.**
  - **Upon receipt of the application for a vote-by-mail ballot, the BOE will send the voter a mail-in ballot to complete, sign and return.**
- **The League of Women Voters of Calvert County strongly recommends completing an application for a vote-by-mail ballot online. This will ensure that you receive your ballot with adequate time to return it and allows time to update information, if needed.**
- **Anyone needing help completing an absentee voter application should call the League of Women Voters of Maryland (410-269-0232).**

### PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

- The provisional ballot is designed to make sure no one is turned away at the polls.
- Provisional ballots are issued in the following circumstances:
  - Your name is not in the voter registration database.
  - You moved but you did not update your address for voting.
  - The database shows that you received a vote-by-mail ballot or that you already voted in this election. Your provisional ballot will only count if you did not vote by vote-by-mail ballot or did not already vote.
  - During Early Voting you tried to register or change your address but your eligibility was not determined at that time. You have until 10 AM on the 8<sup>th</sup> day following the election to prove where you live to the local BOE.
  - You did not provide ID when asked. You have until 10 AM on the 8<sup>th</sup> day following the election to prove your identity.
  - You did not provide your driver’s license number or last four digits of your Social Security Number on your voter registration application. You have until 10 AM on the 8<sup>th</sup> day following the election to prove your identity.
  - Someone challenged your right to vote. If your local BOE determines you are who you say you are, your ballot will count. It is advisable to provide ID to the local BOE by 10 AM on the 8<sup>th</sup> day following the election.
  - A court ordered a polling place to stay open late. In this case, all ballots cast during the extra hours will be by contingency ballot.
- After the election, you can verify if your provisional ballot was counted, and if not, why, by using the Maryland State BOE voter look-up website.
- A provisional ballot will be considered valid if the local BOE is able to verify that the voter is registered and eligible to vote in Maryland.
- A valid provisional ballot is counted even if it will not change the outcome of the election.

### FAQS:

- You must be affiliated with a specific political party to vote in the Primary Election.