

I am 17 years old. Can I vote?

■ You can vote in the Primary on September 14 if you will be 18 by the General election on November 2.

What if I'm a student?

■ You can register to vote at your school address if you wish to. The law does not prohibit students from voting where they attend school. Information: http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration/students.html.

What if I've been convicted of a crime?

■ If you were convicted of a misdemeanor, you can still vote, but you have to vote by absentee ballot if you're still in jail.

■ If you were convicted of a felony by a state or federal court, you can vote if you're not currently incarcerated or on probation or parole. Your right to vote is automatically restored when you complete your sentence.

What if I'm homeless?

■ You don't need a home to register, if you can show that you live and receive mail in the state.

REGISTRATION

How do I register?

■ You can register to vote:

(1) **in person**, by filling out a voter registration form at your local elections office;

(2) **by mail**, by filling out a voter registration form and mailing it to the State Board of Elections or your local elections office;

(3) **when you apply for services** at the Department of Motor Vehicles and state agencies that provide public assistance (such as Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps) or services to people with disabilities. Md. Elec. Law § 3-201. Full list: http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration/index.html.

■ You can get voter registration forms from your local elections office, from most libraries, colleges and high schools, by calling (800) 222-8683, or by visiting http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration/application.html.

What's the registration deadline?

■ For the Primary: Tuesday, August 24.

■ For the General election: Tuesday, October 12.

What if I miss the deadlines?

■ You won't be able to vote in the September 14 Primary or November 2 election, but you can register to vote in other future elections.

What if I've moved or changed my name?

■ You should notify your local board of elections, either in person or by mail, before the registration deadline.

How do I know if I'm registered?

■ You can check your registration status by calling your local elections office or online at <http://www.mdelections.umd.edu/voter-registration/status/>.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Who can use an absentee ballot?

■ Any registered voter can use an absentee ballot.

How do I get an absentee ballot?

■ You must request one. Request forms are available online at http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/documents/2010_Absentee_Ballot_Application_English.pdf or by calling (800) 222-8683.

■ **For the Primary:** If mailed, your application must be received by your local board of elections no later than 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7. If faxed or emailed, your application must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on September 7. After these deadlines, you can complete a Late Application for Absentee Ballot in person at your local board of elections.

■ **For the General election:** If mailed, your application must be received by your local board of elections no later than 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26. If faxed or emailed, your application must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 26. After these deadlines, you can complete a Late Application for Absentee Ballot in person at your local board of elections.

■ You must apply for an absentee ballot each Primary and General election separately.

What's the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

■ Your completed absentee ballot must either be received by your local elections office by 8 p.m. on Primary Day/Election Day, or be postmarked no later than Primary Day/Election Day and received by your local board of elections no later than 10 a.m. on Friday, September 22, 2010 (Primary) or Friday, November 12, 2010 (General).

VOTING EARLY

Can I vote before Election Day?

■ Any registered voter can vote early.

When can I vote early?

■ **For the Primary:** Early voting centers will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. from Friday, September 3 through Thursday, September 9, except for Sunday, September 5, when early voting centers will be closed.

■ **For the General election:** Early voting centers will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. from Friday, October 22 through Thursday, October 28, except for Sunday, October 24 when early voting centers will be closed.

■ For both the Primary and General election, if you are in line at 8 p.m. you will be able to vote.

Where can I vote early?

■ Each county in Maryland will have at least one (1) early voting center. You can find your local early voting center by visiting http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/early_voting.html or calling your local board of elections or (800) 222-8683.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

When is Election Day?

■ The Primary election is Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

■ The General election is Tuesday, November 2, 2010.

When are the polls open?

■ Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You have the right to vote if you're in line or inside your polling place when the polls close. Md. Elec. Law § 10-301.

Can I get time off from work to vote?

■ Maybe. If your work schedule would prevent you from voting in person while the polls are open, you have the right to take time off from work (up to two hours must be paid time off) in order to vote. You should give your employer at least two working days' notice of your need to take time off, and your employer probably has the right to specify which hours you get to take. Md. Elec. Law § 10-315.

Where do I vote?

■ On Election Day, you have to vote at the polling place to which you're assigned.

■ Your assigned polling place will be listed on the voter registration card that you should receive in the mail when you register.

■ If you don't have your card, you can call your local board of elections or look up your polling place online at <http://mdelections.umd.edu/poll-locations>.

What if my polling place is not accessible?

■ If you find this out before Election Day, call your local board of elections right away and ask for reassignment to an accessible polling place. You have to request reassignment by Tuesday, August 24 for the Primary and by Tuesday, October 12 for the General election. Or, if you prefer, you can vote by absentee ballot or vote early. All of the early voting centers in Maryland are fully accessible. Md. Elec. Law § 10-301.1.

■ Otherwise, bring one or more people to assist you. You have the right to have anyone you choose assist you as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.

Can I take election materials with me into my polling place?

■ Yes. You can take written or printed election materials with you as long as they're for your own use in casting your ballot. Examples include a sample ballot, a voter guide, or this card. But you're not allowed to show or distribute these materials to anyone else within 100 feet of your polling place. You are allowed to wear campaign clothing, stickers, or buttons in your polling place. Md. Elec. Law § 16-206.

Can I get a ballot in my native language?

■ If you vote in Montgomery County, you have the right to assistance in Spanish. Poll workers are required to offer this assistance to you. If they don't, tell a poll worker that you want

assistance in Spanish. You're entitled to a translation of all ballots and other election materials.

- If you vote in Prince George's County or Baltimore City, election materials and ballots will be available in Spanish.

- Even if assistance in your language isn't available where you vote, you have the right to bring an interpreter with you to the polls or to get language assistance from anyone you choose, including a poll worker, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.

What if I need help in the voting booth?

- If you need instructions on how to use the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to help you at any time you ask—even after you've entered the voting booth.

VOTER ID

Do I have to show ID?

- Probably not. Most voters won't need to show ID at all.

- You ONLY need ID if:

- (1) you're a first-time voter in Maryland; **and**

- (2) you registered to vote by mail; **and**

- (3) you haven't yet provided any identification to your local board of elections. If you registered after January 1, 2006, you probably provided ID as part of the registration process.

What are the accepted forms of ID?

- Accepted forms of ID include the last four digits of your social security number, a valid Maryland driver's license, a valid state or federal ID card, a valid U.S. passport, a valid U.S. military ID card, a valid employee ID card (with photo), a valid student ID card (with photo), and a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, pay check, or any other government document that shows your name and address. Full list: http://elections.state.md.us/voting/election_day_questions.html#identification.

What if I don't have any ID?

- You can cast a provisional ballot. If you have time and have ID at home or work, it's usually better to get your ID and return to the polls to cast a regular ballot. Md. Elec. Law § 9-404, Md. Elec. Law § 10-312.

- Provisional ballots are counted regardless of whether they will change the outcome of the election. If you cast a provisional ballot at the wrong polling place, only the contests that appear on the ballot where you live will be counted.

PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

What if I'm not on the voter list?

- First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place for your address.

- If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot, even if your name isn't on the voter list, as long as you're willing to swear or affirm that you believe you registered to vote.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

- Go to the right polling place. You can ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered. You can also call your local elections office or look up your polling place online at <http://mdelections.umd.edu/poll-locations>.

- If you can't figure out where you're registered, go the polling place that you think is most likely to be the right one for your address and ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure that you're at the right polling place.

What if someone challenges my right to vote?

- You can establish your identity by presenting your voter registration card, or any form of ID required of first-time voters. If you have ID, you'll be able to cast a regular ballot. Otherwise, you might have to vote by provisional ballot. Md. Elec. Law § 10-312.

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

- Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher, call your local board of elections, or call the ACLU of Maryland Election Protection hotline at 888-496-ACLU.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?

- Tell a poll worker before you cast your ballot. Once you cast your ballot, it's too late to change it. Md. Code Regs. 33.10.11.24.

- If your voting machine malfunctions, notify a poll worker immediately and request a different machine.

- If you make a mistake on a paper ballot, you have the right to up to two replacement ballots. Md. Code Regs. 33.10.11.24.

How do I make a complaint?

- First, ask for an election supervisor at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints that arise on Election Day. Candidates, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers at your polling place that might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you whom you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your local elections office or the ACLU of Maryland Election Protection hotline at 888-496-ACLU.

State Board of Elections:
(800) 222-8683

U.S. Department of Justice:
(800) 253-3931

ACLU Voting Rights Project:
(877) 523-2792; <http://www.votingrights.org>

ACLU of Maryland's Election Protection Hotline:
(888) 496-ACLU

MARYLAND

VOTER EMPOWERMENT CARD

2010 ELECTIONS



The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to

defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The ACLU doesn't endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but we believe that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote.

This card is designed to help you protect your own right to vote. Keep it handy, and take it with you to the polls on Primary Day and Election Day.



www.aclu-md.org

WHO CAN VOTE

Can I vote in Maryland?

- You can vote in the September 14 Primary election if you're registered to vote by August 24, 2010. If you did not select a political party you may only be able to vote in non-partisan races, such as judicial and board of education.

- You can vote in the November 2 General election if you're registered to vote by Tuesday, October 12, 2010.

- You can register if you meet all of the following qualifications:

- (1) you're a U.S. citizen;

- (2) you're a legal resident of Maryland;

- (3) you are at least 16 years old (but you still cannot actually vote unless you will be 18 by November 2, 2010);

- (4) you are under guardianship and a court has not determined that you cannot vote, even with assistance;

- (5) you have not been convicted of buying or selling votes. Md. Elec. Law § 3-102.