

polls. (Md. Election Code § 9-404)

- If a poll worker tells you that you are not on the list of registered voters, first ask him or her to check the list again and to confirm that you are at the right polling place. If that fails, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name is not on the voter list. (Md. Election Code § 9-404)
- If anyone challenges your eligibility to vote even though you are on the list of registered voters, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if you sign a form attesting to your identity. (Md. Election code § 10-312)
- If you need help in the voting booth because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker. You have a right to have anyone you choose help you in the voting booth as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union. (Md. Election Code § 10-310)

HOW CAN I MINIMIZE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS?

- Vote early in the day to avoid the last minute rush.
- Bring some form of identification even though it is not required.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time in the voting booth. There is no time limit.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

National Hotline: **1-866-OUR-VOTE**

State Board of Elections: (800) 222-8683

ACLU of Maryland: (410) 889-8555



MARYLAND

Voter Empowerment Card

WHO CAN VOTE?

- You must be registered in order to vote.
- You can register if you meet all of the following qualifications: (1) you are a citizen of the United States; (2) you are a legal resident of Maryland; (3) you will be at least 18 years old on Election Day; (4) you are not under a legal guardianship for a mental disability; (5) you have not been convicted of buying or selling votes; (6) you have not been convicted more than once of a crime of violence.
- If you have one prior conviction for a felony or infamous crime (any crime involving deceit, fraud or corruption), you can register to vote only if you have completed all the requirements of your court-imposed sentence (including parole, probation, community service, restitution, and fines). If you have been convicted more than once of a felony or other infamous crime, you will have to complete all requirements of each court-imposed sentence and then complete a three-year waiting period without additional disqualifying convictions.
- If you have questions about whether you are qualified to vote because of previous convictions, contact the Office of the Attorney General at 410-576-6327.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- You must submit a voter registration application in order to register.

- You can get an application in person at your local Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections. Voter registration applications are also available throughout Maryland at State agencies, such as the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Social Services, the Motor Vehicle Administration, Offices on Aging, and all public institutions of higher education. You can also request a form at <http://www.aclu.org/vec> or call 1-800-222-VOTE.
- You should re-register every time your name or address changes.
- The deadline for registering to vote is 21 days before Election Day.

WHEN DO I VOTE?

- In presidential election years, primary Election Day is the first Tuesday in March. In other years, primary Election Day is the Tuesday after the second Monday in September. General Election Day is always the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- On Election Day, polling places will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You have the right to vote if you are in line when the polls close. (Md. Election Code, § 10-301)
- Anyone may instead vote by absentee ballot. Contact your county elections office for application information. Absentee ballot applications are also available online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>. The deadline for applying to vote by absentee ballot is one week before Election Day at 4:30 p.m. (or midnight by fax).

WHERE DO I VOTE?

- For voting on Election Day, your polling place will be printed on the voter notification card that you receive by

mail when you register.

- Call your county Board of Elections for polling place information. You can also find polling place information online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>.
- If you are elderly or disabled and are assigned to a polling place that is not barrier free, you may request a reassignment by writing to your county elections office. (Md. Election Code 10-102)

IS IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE?

- No. Federal law requires poll workers to ask for it only if you are a first-time voter who registered by mail and did not submit the required identification before Election Day, but you have the right to vote by provisional ballot even if you don't have identification with you at the polls. (HAVA § 303(b); Md. Election Code § 9-404)
- Accepted forms of identification include a voter registration card, social security card, Maryland driver's license, employee ID card with photo, current bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address. (Md. Election Code 10-312)

HOW DO I HANDLE COMMON PROBLEMS?

- If your work schedule would prevent you from voting while the polls are open, ask your employer for time off to vote. You have the right to up to two hours off, with pay, if you would not otherwise be able to vote. (Md. Election Code § 10-315)
- If a poll worker tells you that you can't vote because you don't have proper identification, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to vote on a provisional ballot even if you don't have identification with you at the