

## WHO CAN VOTE

**You can register to vote if you meet all of the following qualifications:**

- (1) you are a U.S. citizen;
  - (2) you are 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 3, 2020);
  - (4) you are under guardianship and no court has determined that you cannot vote, even with assistance;
  - (5) you have not been convicted of buying or selling votes;
  - (6) you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction.
- Md. Elec. Law § 3-102.

### **I am 17 years old. Can I vote?**

A registered 17 year old may vote in the Primary if they will be 18 years old on or before General Election. You can vote in the General Election if you are 18 on **November 3, 2020**. See [https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/17\\_year\\_old.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/17_year_old.html)

### **What if I am 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. More information at: [https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/students.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/students.html)

### **What if I have 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 are still incarcerated. If you were convicted of a felony by a state or federal court, you can vote if you are not currently incarcerated. Your right to vote is automatically restored once you are no longer incarcerated, but you will need to register again.

### **What if I am homeless?**

You do not need a home to register if you can show that you live and receive mail in the state.

## REGISTRATION

**You can register to vote:**

- (1) **in person**, by filling out a voter registration form at your local elections office before election day
- (2) **at an early voting center** during early voting (see “Voting Early” section for details);
- (3) **at your assigned polling place** on election day (see “Where do I vote?” section for more information on how to find your assigned polling place);
- (4) **by mail\***, by filling out a voter registration form and mailing it to the State Board of Elections or your local elections office;
- (5) **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; or
- (6) **online**, by using Maryland’s Online Voter Registration system at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>

\*You can get voter registration forms from your local elections office, most libraries, colleges and high schools by calling (800) 222-8683, in person at a polling place on the day-of election, or by visiting [https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/application.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/application.html)

### **Is there a deadline to register to vote?**

To register to vote **before** election day in person, online or by mail, your application has to be submitted online or postmarked by April 7<sup>th</sup> (if registering before the Primary) or October 13<sup>th</sup> (if registering before the General.) Online submissions must be received by 9pm. However, **if you miss those deadlines, you can still register to vote** at your assigned polling place on election day or during early voting at an early voting center. To find an early voting center, see the “Where can I vote early?” section. To find your assigned polling place, see the “Where do I vote?” section.

### **To register to vote at the polls on Election Day (including early voting, Primary or General), what documents should I bring with me?**

To register to vote you will need to bring an ID or proof of residence. See the “Voter ID” section for more information.

### **What if I have moved or changed my name?**

You should notify your local board of elections. You can make changes either in person at your local board of elections office, by mail, during early voting at an early voting center in the county where you live, or at your assigned polling place on the day-of elections. You will need to bring your ID with an updated address or your ID and a document that proves your new residence to vote on a regular ballot, or just proof of residence to vote on a provisional ballot.

### **How do I know if I am registered?**

You can check your registration status by calling your local elections office or online at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>.

## 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 <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>, in person at your local board of elections office, or by calling (800) 222-8683.

For the 2020 Primary Election, your request must be received (not just mailed) by: April 21, 2020, if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax OR April 24, 2020, if you want to download your ballot from the State's website.

For the 2020 General Election, your request must be received (not just mailed) by: October 27, 2020, if you want to receive your ballot by mail or fax OR October 30, 2020, if you want to download your ballot from the State's website.

### **What is the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?**

If you hand-deliver your ballot, you must deliver it to your local board of elections by 8pm on Election Day. If you mail your ballot, the envelope must be postmarked on or before election day and received by your local board of elections by 10 am on April 28 (primary election) or November 3 (general election).

## VOTING EARLY

### **Can I vote before Election Day?**

Any registered voter can vote early.

### **When can I vote early?**

For the Primary Election: Early voting centers will be open from April 16 through April 23 from 10 am- 8 pm. If you are in line at 8 p.m. you will be able to vote.

For the General Election: Early voting centers will be open from October 22 through October 29 from 10 am - 8 pm. 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 <https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/2020%20Early%20Voting%20Centers.pdf> or calling your local board of elections at (800) 222-8683.

## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

### **When is Election Day?**

The Primary election is Tuesday, **April 28, 2020**.  
The General election is Tuesday, **November 3, 2020**.

### **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 are 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, 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 should vote at your assigned polling place. Your assigned polling place will be listed on the voter registration card that you should receive in the mail when you register. If you do not have your card, you can call your local board of elections or look up your polling place online at <http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/where.html>.

### **What if my polling place is not accessible?**

If you find this out before Election Day, see [www.elections.state.md.us/voting/accessibility.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/accessibility.html), complete the Request for Polling Place Change or Absentee Ballot and submit it to your local board of elections. The board of elections will do its best to change your polling place to one that is accessible for you. If your polling place cannot be changed, a local election official will notify you and send you an absentee ballot. See the Absentee Ballot section for instructions and deadlines. 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, or a candidate on the ballot.

### 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 are for your own use in casting your ballot. Include a sample ballot, a voter guide, or this card. But you are 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 do not, tell a poll worker that you want assistance in Spanish. You are 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. You always 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, or a candidate on the ballot.

### 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. They are required to help you at any time you ask—even after you have entered the voting booth.

## VOTER ID

### Do I have to show ID?

If you have registered to vote prior to election day, probably not. You will ONLY need ID if:

- (1) you are a first-time voter in Maryland; **and**
- (2) you registered to vote by mail; **and**
- (3) you have not yet provided any identification to your local board of elections.

To register to vote at your polling place during the Primary or General Election, you will need to bring a form of ID or proof of residency to your assigned polling place.

### What are the accepted forms of ID?

Accepted forms of ID include MVA-issued license, ID card, or change of address card, or a paycheck, bank statement, utility bill, or a government document with your name and address.

### What if I do not have any ID?

You can cast a provisional ballot with proof of residency. However, if you have time and have an ID at home or work, it is usually better to retrieve 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 am not on the voter list?

First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you are at the right polling place for your address. If you are at the right polling place but your name is not on the voter list, you have the right to register to vote or cast a provisional ballot.

### 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 are registered. You can also call your local elections office or look up your polling place online at <http://www.elections.state.md.us/voting/where.html>. If you need help, call the ACLU of Maryland's Election Protection Hotline at (410) 889-8555.

### What if someone challenges my right to vote?

Only an election judge can challenge your eligibility to vote. If your identity is challenged, you can present your voter registration card or ID. If you have ID, you will 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 410-889-8555.

### 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 is 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. They 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 not resolve your complaint, call your local elections office or the ACLU of Maryland Election Protection hotline at 410-889-8555.

### Maryland State Board of Elections:

(800) 222-8683

<http://www.elections.state.md.us>

### U.S. Department of Justice:

(800) 253-3931

### ACLU of Maryland's Election Protection Hotline:

(410) 889-8555

[www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org)

**ACLU**  
Maryland



## KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS:

### MARYLAND

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

### QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status. If you are not registered to vote prior to Election Day, you can register to vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day with proper ID or proof of residency.
- Find out where your polling place is before Election Day.
- Consider voting early or absentee if possible.
- Check to see if you need identification to vote (see Voter ID section).
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time.
- Ask for help if you need it.

The Maryland ACLU works to ensure that all people in the state of Maryland are free to think and speak as they choose and can lead their lives free from discrimination and unwarranted government intrusion. We are guided in our work by the United States Bill of Rights and the Maryland Declaration of Rights. The ACLU of Maryland acts without partisanship to achieve these goals and does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party.

**ACLU of Maryland's  
Election Protection Hotline:**  
(410) 889-8555

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