

By Order filed March 15, 2022 in *In the Matter of 2022 Legislative Districting of the State*, the Maryland Court of Appeals, pursuant to its authority under Article III, §5 of the Maryland Constitution, postponed the primary election date for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election from June 28, 2022 to July 19, 2022.

By that same order, the Court of Appeals delegated to the State Board of Elections the authority to “adjust any deadlines related to certifying, displaying, and printing ballots.”

Due to the postponed primary election day, The State Board of Elections faces two challenges.

First, many local boards of elections reserved early voting sites and polling places for the original election day. These sites were not available for the postponed primary election date because the facilities were reserved for another purpose or under construction at that time. Accordingly, many local boards were forced to contract for new early voting sites and polling places; or, to consolidate precincts into a single building that was available on the postponed primary day.

The local boards of elections are either able to return to original sites, unconsolidated sites or have identified additional site changes needed for the 2022 General Election.

Second, the Maryland Code, Election Law Article, prescribes certain deadlines for actions that may affect the general election ballot. One of these deadlines is imposed by § 9-207(a)(2), requiring the full general election ballot to be certified and displayed by September 6, 2022. Because of the late primary election and ongoing election matters in the circuit courts, the general election ballot is not ready yet for certification.

The State Board of Elections therefore voted today to move the § 9-207 deadline by two days, to September 8, 2022. The deadlines associated with challenging the content or display the general election ballot has likewise been moved to September 10, 2022.