

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2023

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Highlights Importance of Voter Confidentially Programs

The Maryland State Board of Elections and Office of the Secretary of State offer resources for voters who need to keep identifying information confidential

ANNAPOLIS, Md – Today, The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) joins the nation in recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month as a time to unite in the work to end domestic violence and share resources to help current and past victims of domestic violence.

SBE has the ability to make a voter’s address, phone number, and email address confidential in their voter registration profile for certain categories of voters. Victims of domestic violence can apply to their local board of election under the second regulatory subsection (‘Persons Being Threatened’) by providing “proof of a threat to their personal safety,” such as a restraining order, police report, or statement from a social services agency.

Victims of domestic violence can also apply to their local board of elections under the fourth subsection (‘Any Other Individual Who Requires Confidentiality’) by providing documentation that shows the public disclosure of their information presents a threat to their continued safety.

Additionally, the Office of the Secretary of State operates the [Address Confidentiality Program](#) (ACP), which assists survivors of threatened, attempted, or actual domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, or human trafficking. ACP standards are administered by the Secretary of State and participation in the ACP extends to cover records maintained by SBE.

“Everyone deserves the right to activate their voting rights safely and securely—without the risk of endangering themselves or their loved ones,” said Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator Jared DeMarinis. “The Maryland State Board of Elections, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of State, is proud to offer these programs to ensure that all Marylanders can safely vote.”

Individuals interested in applying for confidentiality in their voter registration profile should [reach out](#) to their local board of election. The deadline to register to vote or update registration information for the 2024 Primary Election is April 23, 2024. Eligible voters interested in casting a ballot in the 2024 Primary and General Election can register to [vote online](#) or can print the voter registration application (English or Spanish version) and return it by mail or to their local board of elections. The 2024 Primary Election is on May 14th and the General Election is on November 5, 2024.

MARYLAND

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About Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October was first declared as *National Domestic Violence Awareness Month* in 1989. Since then, October has been a time to acknowledge domestic violence survivors, be a voice for its victims, and highlight those who are working to create lasting change.

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For inquiries about Maryland's efforts for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, reporters may contact: Rick Abbruzzese at ra@kopublicaffairs.com.

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