



Maryland State Board of Elections

151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401

P.O. Box 6486  
Annapolis, MD 21401-0486

Phone: 1-800-222-8683  
[www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us)



# VOTING IN MARYLAND

---

**2011 - 2012**





# Voter Registration

## Eligibility

### *Am I eligible to register to vote?*

To register to vote, you must be:

- > A U.S. citizen;
- > A Maryland resident; and
- > At least 16 years old\*.

You cannot have been:

- > Convicted of buying or selling votes;
- > Found by a court to be incapable of voting by reason of mental disability; or
- > Convicted of a felony or if you have, you have completed a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction.

\*You may register to vote if you are at least 16 years old but cannot vote unless you will be at least 18 years old by the next general election.

### *Can I register to vote if I am in the military or live overseas?*

Certain U.S. citizens who live overseas or are in the military are eligible to register and vote in Maryland. If you are an overseas citizen, military personnel, or dependent of military personnel, you may register to vote in Maryland if your current or last U.S. residence was in Maryland. To register, use the Federal Post Card Application available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

### *Can I register to vote if I have been convicted of a crime?*

If you have been convicted of a felony, you are eligible to register to vote once you have completed the court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction. For the purposes of eligibility to register to vote, convictions include federal, state and out-of-state convictions.

You are not eligible to vote if you have been convicted of buying or selling votes.

### *How can I determine if I qualify to have my voting rights restored following a felony conviction?*

You should contact the Division of Parole and Probation within the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services or a comparable agency in the state in which you were convicted.

## Process

### *When may I apply to register to vote?*

A voter registration application may be submitted to your local board of elections or the State Board of Elections at any time. However, an application must be postmarked by the voter registration deadline in order to vote in the next scheduled election. If you submit a voter registration application during the period that registration is closed, your application will be held at the local board of elections and processed when registration reopens.

The close of voter registration is:

- August 23, 2011, for the Baltimore City Primary Election
- October 18, 2011, for the Baltimore City General Election
- March 13, 2012, for the Presidential Primary Election
- October 16, 2012, for the Presidential General Election

*Where may I apply to register to vote?*

You may complete a voter registration application in person at:

- > Your local board of elections;
- > The State Board of Elections;
- > The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- > The Department of Social Services;
- > The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA);
- > Offices on Aging;
- > The MTA Paratransit Certification Office;
- > All public institutions of higher education;
- > Recruitment offices of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- > Marriage license offices; and
- > Offices for students with disabilities at all Maryland colleges and universities.

*May I apply to register to vote by mail?*

Yes. You may print an application from [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us) or contact your local board of elections or the State Board of Elections to request an application.

*What information do I need to provide on the application?*

In addition to basic identifying information, federal law requires that you provide on your voter registration application a Maryland driver's license number or MVA ID Card number or, if you do not have a Maryland driver's license or MVA ID Card, the last four digits of your social security number. Your application will NOT be processed unless you provide this information or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that you do not have a Maryland driver's license, MVA ID Card, or social security number.

*How do I affiliate with a political party?*

You have the option to register with any of Maryland's recognized political parties. If you choose not to register with a party, you will be registered as "unaffiliated." If registered as unaffiliated, you will generally not be able to vote in primary elections, but you will be able to vote in any nonpartisan primary election held in your jurisdiction, such as a primary election to select nominees for the board of education, and any general election.

## Verification of Registration

If your application is complete, you are considered a registered voter. If you do not receive a Voter Notification Card three weeks after you submit an application, you should contact your local board of elections. You can also verify whether you are registered to vote by visiting [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

Registration is permanent as long as you continue to live in Maryland and keep your name and address current with your local board of elections. You do not have to re-register when you move within the State.

## Updating Information

### Name and Address

You must notify the local board of elections where you currently live if your voter registration information has changed. If you complete a change of address form at the MVA, this information will be sent to your local board of elections for processing, unless you indicate that you do not want to change your voter registration information. You can also send changes on a voter registration application or on any signed written notice.

If you do not receive a Voter Notification Card with your updated information three weeks after you submit information, you should contact the local board of elections where you now live to ensure that your records are up-to-date. You can also verify whether the local board of elections has your new information by visiting [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

*What should I do if I move to another county within the State or to Baltimore City?*

You should immediately provide your new address to the local board of elections in your new jurisdiction.

### Political Party

*May I change parties?*

Yes. To change your party affiliation, submit a new voter registration application or a signed written request to your local board of elections. The deadline to change your party affiliation for the Baltimore City elections is August 23, 2011, and the deadline for the Presidential election is March 13, 2012. If you request a change in party affiliation after this date, your request will be held at your local board of elections and processed when registration reopens after the primary election.

## Primary Elections

*What is a party primary election?*

The Democratic and Republican Parties are required to use primary elections to choose their candidates for the general election.

*How can I vote in a party primary election?*

Generally, you must be registered as a Democrat or Republican to take part in that party's primary election.

## Contests on the 2011 Baltimore City Ballot

Mayor  
President of the City Council  
Comptroller  
Member of the City Council

## Contests on the 2012 Presidential Ballot

President/Vice President of the United States  
United States Senator  
Representatives in Congress  
Judges of the Circuit Court  
Judges of the Court of Special Appeals  
Judges of the Court of Appeals  
County Commissioner (Cecil County)  
Board of Education (Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington and Worcester Counties)  
Delegates to the Democratic National Convention  
Delegates to the Republican National Convention

## 2011 Baltimore City Election

**Last day to register to vote before the Primary Election**

August 23, 2011 &gt; 9 pm

**Early Voting**

September 1-3, 2011 &gt; centers open 10 am to 8 pm

September 6-8, 2011 &gt; centers open 10 am to 8 pm

**Primary Election Day**

September 13, 2011 &gt; polls open 7 am to 8 pm

**Voter registration reopens**

September 26, 2011

**Last day to register to vote before the General Election**

October 18, 2011 &gt; 9 pm

**Early Voting**

October 28-29, 2011 &gt; centers open 10 am to 8 pm

October 31-November 3, 2011 &gt; centers open 10 am to 8 pm

**General Election Day**

November 8, 2011 &gt; polls open 7 am to 8 pm

**Voter registration reopens**

November 21, 2011

## 2012 Presidential Election

**Last day to register to vote before the Primary Election**

March 13, 2012 &gt; 9 pm

**Early Voting**

March 24 and March 26-29, 2012 &gt; centers open 10 am to 8 pm

Sunday, March 25, 2012 &gt; centers open 12 pm to 6 pm

**Primary Election Day**

April 3, 2012 &gt; polls open 7 am to 8 pm

**Voter registration reopens**

April 16, 2012

**Last day to register to vote before the General Election**

October 16, 2012 &gt; 9 pm

**Early Voting**

October 27-November 1, 2012 &gt; centers open 10 am to 8 pm

Sunday, October 28, 2012 &gt; centers open 12 pm to 6 pm

**General Election Day**

November 6, 2012 &gt; polls open 7 am to 8 pm

**Voter registration reopens**

November 19, 2012

## In Person Voting

You may vote in person during early voting or at your assigned polling place on election day.

### When and Where

#### *When can I vote?*

Please review the election calendars in this brochure for the specific dates for early voting for upcoming elections. During the early voting period, early voting centers are open continuously from 10 am to 8 pm each day except Sundays. On Sundays, early voting centers are open from 12 pm to 6 pm.

On election day, polls are open continuously from 7 am to 8 pm.

If you are in line at 8 pm, you will be permitted to vote. If you are unable to vote during early voting or on election day or would prefer to vote by absentee ballot, please review the section on absentee voting.

#### *Where will I vote?*

During early voting, you can vote at any early voting center in the jurisdiction where you reside. Early voting centers are listed at [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

On election day, you should vote at the polling place listed on your Voter Notification Card. You can also look up your polling place at [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us).

### Voting Systems

#### *How will I cast my vote?*

During early voting or on election day, you will vote on a touchscreen voting system. With a touchscreen voting system, you touch the screen to make, change, and review selections and cast a ballot.

Instructions will be available at the early voting centers and at your polling place to familiarize you with the ballot. You may ask an election judge to explain how to vote, but you must cast your vote alone, unless you are unable to do so because you have a disability or are unable to read or write the English language.

For absentee voting and provisional voting, you will be issued a paper ballot. You will fill in the oval next to the candidate or ballot question response for which you want to vote. At the local board of elections, your ballot is fed into an optical scan voting unit, which reads and tabulates the selections you made.

## Language

*Are election materials available in languages other than English?*

Federal law requires Montgomery County to provide election materials in Spanish. Non-English materials may be provided in other jurisdictions on a voluntary basis. Contact your local board of elections to determine what is available in your jurisdiction.

## Accessibility

Maryland's touchscreen voting system allows for independent voting by most voters with disabilities. The ballot is available in magnified and contrasting text and in an audio format. The touchscreen is adjustable to accommodate voters who prefer to sit while voting.

## Assistance

If you have a disability or are unable to write or read the English language, you may select someone to assist you. By law, your employer, an agent of your employer, an officer or agent of your union, or a challenger or watcher are **not** allowed to assist you. An election judge may assist you, but only in the presence of another election judge of a different political party.

# Absentee Voting

## Eligibility

Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot.

## Application Process

*How do I apply for an absentee ballot?*

You must apply in writing for an absentee ballot. An application may be printed from the State's website at [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us), or requested by telephone, in writing, or in person at your local board of elections.

You may apply for an absentee ballot by mail or fax for the **2011 Baltimore City Election** until:

- > Tuesday, September 6, 2011, for the Primary Election
- > Tuesday, November 1, 2011, for the General Election

You may apply for an absentee ballot by mail or fax for the **2012 Presidential Election** until:

- > Tuesday, March 27, 2012, for the Primary Election
- > Tuesday, October 30, 2012, for the General Election

To apply for an absentee ballot after these dates through election day, you must apply in person at your local board of elections.

### *When will I receive my absentee ballot?*

When your application is processed and you are qualified, an absentee ballot will be mailed or issued to you. Ballots are typically available 3 weeks before an election. If you are a military or overseas voter, your ballot will be transmitted to you at least 45 days before an election.

### *Can someone else pick up and return my absentee ballot?*

You may designate an agent, on a form provided by the local board of elections or available at [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us), to obtain and return your absentee ballot. For more information, contact your local board of elections.

## **Voting Process**

### *How do I cast an absentee ballot?*

With your absentee ballot, you will receive detailed instructions on how to complete the ballot. Please read these instructions and return the voted ballot to your local board of elections promptly.

- > If you hand deliver your absentee ballot, you must deliver it to your local board of elections by 8 pm on election day.
- > If you mail your absentee ballot, you must mail it on or before election day and it must be received by your local board of elections by 10 am on:
  - Wednesday, September 21, 2011, for the Baltimore City Primary Election
  - Friday, November 18, 2011, for the Baltimore City General Election
  - Friday, April 13, 2012, for the Presidential Primary Election
  - Friday, November 16, 2012, for the Presidential General Election

**All ballots must have a postmark on or before election day. Postage is required when you mail your ballot. You must sign the absentee ballot envelope for your ballot to count.**

# Voting Instructions

Maryland's voting system features enhance voter accessibility.

Please ask the election judge about your voting options:



- Audio Ballot with headphones and keypad
- Adjustable Screen for seated voting
- Large Text
- High Contrast



## Start: Insert Card



1

Insert voter access card into slot at right of screen. Card should be face up with the arrow first. Push card firmly until you hear a click.

## Read "Instructions to Voters"



2

Touch "Large Text" to increase text size.  
Touch "High Contrast" to view a black and white ballot.  
Touch "Next" to access ballot.

## Select Candidates or Questions



3

Touch the box next to the candidate or question of your choice. To change or cancel your selection, touch the box again.

Touch "Next" to advance the ballot page.

Touch "Instructions" to go back to the instructions page.

Touch "Previous" to go to previous screen.

## Review & Cast Ballot



4

On "Summary Page," review your choices. If you do not fully vote a contest, "No Vote Cast" will appear in red.

To go back, Touch a contest or Touch "Previous."

Touch "Cast Ballot" when ready to record your vote.

*Once your ballot is "cast," you may not vote again.*

## Finish: Remove Card



5

Remove the voter access card and return it to the election judge.



# Maryland VOTES

*In Touch With The Future*

# Maryland State Board of Elections

1-800-222-8683

151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401 • P.O. Box 6486, Annapolis, MD 21401-0486  
MD Relay Service (800) 735-2258 • [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us) • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F

## Local Board of Elections

### Allegany County

701 Kelly Road, Suite 213  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
301-777-5931  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm M-F

### Anne Arundel County

7320 Ritchie Hwy., 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 490  
Glen Burnie, MD 21060-0490  
410-222-6600  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Baltimore City

Charles L. Benton Bldg.  
417 E. Fayette Street, Rm. 129  
Baltimore, MD 21202-3432  
410-396-5550  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Baltimore County

106 Bloomsbury Ave.  
Catonsville, MD 21228  
410-887-5700  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Calvert County

30 Duke Street - Lower Level  
P.O. Box 798  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-0798  
410-535-2214  
DC Line 301-855-1376  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Caroline County

Health & Public Services Bldg.  
403 S. Seventh Street, Suite 247  
Denton, MD 21629-1378  
410-479-8145  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Carroll County

300 South Center Street, Rm. 212  
Westminster, MD 21157-5248  
410-386-2080  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Cecil County

200 Chesapeake Blvd.  
Suite 1900  
Elkton, MD 21921-6395  
410-996-5310  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Charles County

201 East Charles Street  
P.O. Box 908  
La Plata, MD 20646-0908  
301-934-8972  
301-870-3167  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Dorchester County

501 Court Lane, Rm. 105  
P.O. Box 414  
Cambridge, MD 21613-0414  
410-228-2560  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Frederick County

Winchester Hall  
12 E. Church Street  
Frederick, MD 21701-5447  
301-600-8683  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm M-F

### Garrett County

Public Service Center  
2008 Maryland Hwy., Ste. 1  
Mountain Lake Park, MD 21550  
301-334-6985  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Harford County

133 Industry Lane  
Forest Hill, MD 21050  
410-638-3565  
8:00 am - 6:00 pm M-F

### Howard County

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200  
Columbia, MD 21046  
410-313-5820  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Kent County

135 Dixon Drive  
Chestertown, MD 21620-1141  
410-778-0038  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Montgomery County

P.O. Box 4333  
Rockville, MD 20849-4333  
240-777-VOTE (8683)  
[www.777vote.com](http://www.777vote.com)  
TDD 800-735-2258  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm M-F

### Prince George's County

16201 Trade Zone Ave., Suite 108  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
301-430-8020  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Queen Anne's County

132 N. Commerce Street  
P.O. Box 274  
Centreville, MD 21617-0274  
410-758-0832  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### St. Mary's County

41650 Tudor Hall Rd.  
P.O. Box 197  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301-475-7844 ext.1100  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F

### Somerset County

11916 Somerset Ave.  
County Office Building, Suite 102  
Princess Anne, MD 21853-0096  
410-651-0767  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Talbot County

142 N. Harrison Street  
P.O. Box 353  
Easton, MD 21601-0353  
410-770-8099  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Washington County

35 W. Washington Street, Rm. 101  
Hagerstown, MD 21740-4833  
240-313-2050  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Wicomico County

123 Bateman St.  
P.O. Box 4091  
Salisbury, MD 21803-4091  
410-548-4830  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F

### Worcester County

100 Belt Street  
Snow Hill, MD 21863-1300  
410-632-1320  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F