

State of Maryland

Proposed 2022 Election Calendar Changes – August 1, 2022

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 election day, the State Board of Elections is scheduled to certify the election results of the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election on August 15, 2022.

The Maryland Code, Election Law Article, prescribes certain deadlines for actions that may affect the general election ballot after the primary results are certified. These include:

Declining a Nomination: A candidate that is the nominee for an office, as determined from the certified election results, may decline the nomination by filing certain documents with the appropriate board of elections. The current deadline to decline nomination is Tuesday, August 2, 2022. Because it is necessary that the deadline to decline nomination be after the certification date, we propose that the deadline to decline nomination be extended to Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

Removal of a Candidate’s Name Due to Death or Disqualification: Monday, August 15, 2022 is currently the deadline for the State Board to remove a candidate’s name from the ballot due to the candidate’s death or disqualification. We propose that this deadline be extended to Tuesday, August 16, 2022, to align with the proposed deadline to decline the nomination.

Filling the Vacancy on a Ballot due to the above: If a candidate declines the nomination, the appropriate central committee may fill the vacancy. The current deadline for a central committee to fill this vacancy is Friday, August 12, 2022. For the same reasons, it is necessary to extend the deadline to fill a vacancy caused by a declination, or death/disqualification, to Friday, August 19, 2022. This proposed deadline would then align with the deadline to fill a vacancy due to death or disqualification.