

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

P.O. BOX 6486, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0486 PHONE (410) 269-2840

Bobbie S. Mack, Chairman
David J. McManus, Jr., Vice Chairman
Patrick J. Hogan
Janet S. Owens
Charles E. Thomann



Linda H. Lamone
Administrator

Nikki Charlson
Deputy Administrator

Maryland State Board of Elections Encourages Voter Registration

October 14th is the Deadline to Register to Vote or Update Voter Registrations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mary Cramer Wagner
410-269-2850

Annapolis, Maryland (September 30, 2014) – Maryland has taken an important step in its participation with the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

This week, the State Board Elections (SBE) will send postcards and emails to 200,000 eligible Marylanders offering them an opportunity to register to vote. The notification provides a link to Maryland’s online voter registration system. This is just one step SBE is taking to ensure that every eligible Marylander has the opportunity to cast a ballot on Election Day.

Recipients were chosen because they have a Maryland Driver’s License or a state ID, but do not appear to be on the voter registration list. Some people who are registered to vote may receive a postcard or email. That is most likely because their voter and Motor Vehicles Administration records do not match exactly.

If anyone receives the notification and believes they are already registered, they can confirm their status using Maryland’s Voter Lookup at elections.maryland.gov. They can also call SBE at 800-222-8683. Eligible Marylanders who wish to vote in the 2014 General Election must act quickly to register or update their registration because the voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 14th.

ERIC is a multi-state partnership that uses sophisticated, secure data-matching to improve the accuracy of state voter registration systems. Maryland’s list of 200,000 recipients is the result of ERIC’s data-matching process which uses advanced technology to compare information on eligible voters from voter registration rolls, motor vehicle records and Social Security death records. States receive reports from ERIC that identify voters whose records might be outdated because they have moved, changed their names or died.

ERIC can also identify potentially eligible citizens who are not registered to vote. In compliance with federal law, states then contact these individuals and encourage them to register or update their voter records. ERIC member states commit to contacting eligible but unregistered residents identified by ERIC, educating them on the most efficient means to register to vote. Maryland took that step this week, informing eligible voters about Maryland’s online voter registration system. Members also commit to contacting voters whose registration information is identified by ERIC as inaccurate or outdated, educating voters on how to update their record.

Maryland is one of 11 states and the District of Columbia participating in ERIC. More states are expected to join in the coming years. ERIC is owned, managed and funded by the participating states. It was formed in 2012 with assistance from the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The 2014 Gubernatorial General Election is Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Starting Thursday, October 23rd through and including Thursday, October 30th, voters may vote in person between 10am and 8pm at the designated early voting center(s) in their county of residence. Information about early voting centers and early voting in general is available at www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/early_voting.html.

For more information, voters may contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-222-VOTE (8683) or visit www.elections.maryland.gov.

###