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Domestic Violence Awareness Month Highlights Importance of Voter Confidentiality Programs in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 4, 2024) -- The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month by highlighting two state programs that enable survivors of domestic violence to maintain confidentiality while exercising their right to vote.

"Maryland is committed to ensuring that survivors of domestic violence can exercise their fundamental right to vote without fear or compromise to their safety," said State Administrator Jared DeMarinis. "Through our confidentiality program, we provide secure ways for survivors to participate in our elections while protecting their personal information. No one should have to choose between their safety and their voice in our democracy, and we are dedicated to safeguarding both."

Survivors of domestic violence can apply to their [local board of elections](#) to keep their address, phone number, and email address confidential in their voter registration profile. To apply for this status, complete a [Confidentiality Request Form](#), select the category "Persons Being Threatened," and provide the supporting documentation listed on the form. Survivors of domestic violence can also select the category, "Nondisclosure of Personal Information for Personal Safety" and provide the supporting documentation listed. Complete and sign the form, attach supporting documents, and return them to the election office in the county where you reside.

Additionally, Maryland's 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. Participation in the ACP also covers records maintained by SBE.

The deadline to register to vote or update registration information for the 2024 Presidential General Election is October 15, 2024. Registrations being mailed must be postmarked by this date. To register or check that your registration is up to date, use SBE's [online registration system](#). Those who prefer not to register online may print the registration form ([English version](#) and [Spanish version](#)) and submit it at their local board of election.

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