



Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator

Katherine Berry
Deputy Administrator

Michael Summers, Chairman
Jim Shalleck, Vice Chairman

Diane Butler
Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Eric Bryant

From the Desk of Jared DeMarinis, Maryland State Administrator of Elections:

Replacement Ballot Update:

This afternoon, replacement ballots were sent to voters in the following counties:

Anne Arundel, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, and Washington

Tomorrow morning, replacement ballots will be mailed to voters in Baltimore City, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

By the end of tomorrow, all replacement ballots will be mailed out, which is two days ahead of the scheduled May 29th deadline date previously given by our vendor.

All impacted voters will receive detailed instructions in their ballot packet. Additionally, impacted voters must remember to dispose of their original ballot and vote the replacement ballot. Replacement ballots can be returned via drop box, at an early voting center during early voting, at a polling place on Election Day, at a local board of elections or postmarked no later than June 23.

The Local Boards of Elections (LBEs) have been instrumental in assisting The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) with management of this procedural change. SBE has provided the LBEs with many tools needed to streamline communication and to ensure they are able to conduct their canvasses (counting of mail-in ballots) in the most transparent way possible. LBEs are currently working to quarantine and organize the original set of ballots returned, while also preparing for the replacement ballots to begin returning. Additionally, they are picking up ballots at drop boxes and receiving web delivery and in-person ballots in preparation for the first days of canvass, which the law requires to begin on June 1 and continue through the first day of early voting. The partnership that SBE and the LBEs have during this time is especially important.

Transparency:

This Thursday, the State Administrator will address the bipartisan State Board in an open meeting on the situation, corrective actions and outreach to voters.

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