



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, State Administrator of Elections:

Voter Registration Deadline:

The State Board of Elections (SBE) reminds everyone that Maryland is a closed primary state. The deadline to change your party affiliation is today, June 2.

If you still need to register to vote, there are three ways to register for this year's elections.

Register Online: The preliminary deadline to register or update voter registration is Tuesday, June 2. To register online, use SBE's online registration [system](#).

Register by Mail: Residents can register by printing the registration form and mailing it by June 2. Mailed registrations must be postmarked by this date. Alternatively, residents can submit it at their local board of elections.

Register In-Person: Residents can register during Early Voting from Thursday, June 11 to Thursday, June 18 or on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, June 23. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters in line by 8 p.m. will be able to register.

Mail-in Voting Safeguards:

The safeguards that ensure only one ballot per voter is counted, and that the ballot was correctly issued to the voter, are long-standing protocols in effect in every election. Every mail-in ballot issued is tracked in the secure statewide voter registration system with a unique identifier on the accompanying envelope and voter's oath. At present, local boards of election are using these codes to identify and quarantine original mail-in ballots as they are received. Codes will also enable them to sort between original ballots from voters who do and do not return replacement ballots.

Before counting an original ballot from a voter who fails to return their replacement ballot, each local board of canvassers will review results of an investigation to confirm that the original ballot matches the voter's recorded party affiliation. More information about management of original ballots from voters who fail to return a replacement ballot will be available after the special meeting of the State Board of Elections scheduled for June 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Communications from SBE:

The State Board of Elections has sent out several communications to affected voters over the last couple of weeks. SBE encourages voters to be mindful of interacting with communications that appear suspicious. If a text message or email includes a link, ensure that you look for "maryland.gov" in a website's URL. Only those links will navigate to the official SBE website before you enter any personal information. If you are ever unsure, contact the SBE to confirm the communication came from our office.

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