



April 28, 2020 Special General Election – 7th Congressional District
Voter Protection Hotline 443-221-4779
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is this election being held?

A: This election is being held to fill the vacancy created by the death of Congressman Elijah Cummings. Kweisi Mfume is the Democratic nominee. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, this election is being held primarily by mail with limited in-person voting locations. It is strongly recommended for voters to vote by mail, if possible.

There will be one in-person voting location in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. Specific voting locations in each jurisdiction will be announced by the State Board of Elections *by Monday April 20, 2020*.

Q: When will I receive my ballot?

A: Ballots were mailed on April 8, 2020. Voters who live in the 7th Congressional District should expect to receive their ballots *beginning* April 10 or 11, 2020.

Q: I'm not sure I am registered or if my address is current. How can I check?

A: Visit <https://elections.maryland.gov/index.html>.¹

Q: What do I do when I receive my ballot?

A: Open and vote your ballot immediately. This will ensure that your voice is heard!

- Use a **black pen** to fill out your choice. Fill in the oval completely.
- Do not write anywhere else on your ballot. This will make the ballot difficult to scan.
- Place your completed ballot in the reply envelope provided.
- Sign and date the “oath of absentee voter” on the back of the return envelope after you have sealed it.
- To seal your envelope, use a wet sponge or paper towel or a piece of tape. **“Whether healthy or sick, please don’t lick!”**
- Despite what it says in the instructions that accompanied your ballot, **YOU DO NOT NEED TO PUT POSTAGE ON YOUR BALLOT TO RETURN IT!**
- Put your ballot in the mail as soon as possible. **All ballots *must be postmarked by April 28, 2020 to be counted.***

¹ If the voter is willing to give you her name and address, you can look up the voter’s information for her using the SBE website.

- **Don't want to mail your ballot?** You can **drop your ballot off** at the Board of Elections in your County/City of registration **by 8:00 p.m. on April 28, 2020**. Secure drop boxes will be located outside of the local board. **[NOTE: Currently only the Baltimore County Board of Elections has a drop box available outside of the office during normal business hours. The drop boxes at the Baltimore City and Howard County Boards of Elections have not been installed yet and may only be available for a couple of days around April 28.** Voters can contact their local boards to inquire about drop-off availability]

Baltimore City Board of Elections: 417 E. Fayette St., Benton Office Building, Room #129, Baltimore, Md. 21202. Phone: 410-396-1444 or email: election.judge@baltimorecity.gov

Baltimore County Board of Elections: 11112 Gilroy Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031. Phone: 410-887-5700 or email: elections@baltimorecountymd.gov

Howard County Board of Elections: 9770 Patuxent Woods Dr #200, Columbia, MD 21046. Phone: 410-313-5820 or email: gmickley@howardcountymd.gov

Q: Do I need to put postage on my ballot?

A: **No.** All ballots are being sent with a postage-prepaid return envelope.² This is the same envelope you will sign on the back.

Q: When do I have to mail my ballot?

A: Vote your ballot and put it in the mail as soon as you receive it. **Your ballot must be postmarked by April 28, 2020** (the day of the election). **Your ballot must be received by the board of elections by May 8, 2020 in order to be counted.**

Q: What if I need assistance voting my ballot?

A: If you have a disability or are unable to read or write, you may get help voting your ballot. Anyone can help you *except*:

- a candidate on your ballot;
- your employer or anyone who represents your employer; or
- an officer or representative of your union.

The person helping you can:

- mark the ballot after you tell him or her who to mark the ballot for;
- print your name and write his or her initials next to your name if you cannot sign the oath.

² If you register to vote or update your address between April 22 and April 24, you will need to request online ballot delivery. If you request online ballot delivery (i.e. the ballot is sent to you via email and you print it out to vote it) **YOU WILL NEED TO PUT POSTAGE ON THE ENVELOPE IN WHICH YOU MAIL THE BALLOT!**

- The person helping you *must* complete and sign the enclosed “Certificate of Person Assisting Absentee Voter” and cannot try to influence your choice.

Q: What do I do if I make a mistake on my ballot or mark it inadvertently?

A: You need to request a new ballot immediately. Contact your local board of elections:

- **Baltimore City Board of Elections:** 410-396-1444 or election.judge@baltimorecity.gov
- **Baltimore County Board of Elections:** 410-887-5700 or elections@baltimorecountymd.gov
- **Howard County Board of Elections:** 410-313-5820 or gmickley@howardcountymd.gov

Q: How can I find out if my ballot has been received by the board of elections?

A: You can track your ballot by visiting <https://elections.maryland.gov/index.html>

Q: What do I do if I do not receive a ballot?

A: If you have not received a ballot by April 20, 2020, contact your local board of elections immediately to request a ballot.

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- **Baltimore County Board of Elections:** 410-887-5700 or elections@baltimorecountymd.gov
- **Howard County Board of Elections:** 410-313-5820 or gmickley@howardcountymd.gov

Q: What do I do if I am not registered to vote?

A: The State Board of Elections (SBE) has extended the deadline to register to vote until Friday April 24, 2020.³ Visit <https://elections.maryland.gov/index.html> to register to vote online.

Note: if you register to vote between April 22 and April 24, you will need to request that your ballot is delivered to you online. A ballot will be sent to the email you provide. You will print and vote the ballot and mail it to your local board of elections. If you are able to print an envelope, you will be provided with the appropriate mailing address. If you are not able to print an envelope, you will be given the address of your local board. If you mail a ballot delivered to you online, **YOU WILL NEED TO PUT POSTAGE ON THE ENVELOPE. ONE STAMP WILL BE SUFFICIENT.**

Q: What do I do if I have moved and my address is not up to date?

A: SBE has extended the deadline to update your address until Friday, April 24, 2020. To update your voter registration address, visit <https://elections.maryland.gov/index.html>.

³ Please encourage anyone who is not registered or needs to update their address ASAP. The earlier they do so, the more likely they can receive a mail ballot and will not have to use the online ballot delivery system.

Note: if you update your address between April 22 and April 24, you will need to request that your ballot is delivered to you online. A ballot will be sent to the email you provide. You will print and vote the ballot and mail it to your local board of elections. If you are able to print an envelope, you will be provided with the appropriate mailing address. If you are not able to print an envelope, you will be given the address of your local board. If you mail a ballot delivered to you online, **YOU WILL NEED TO PUT POSTAGE ON THE ENVELOPE. ONE STAMP WILL BE SUFFICIENT.**

Q: My ballot return envelope says “ID required” on the outside. Why do I need to show ID? What kind of ID is acceptable?

A: Your ballot return envelope will say “ID required” if you did not show ID when you registered to vote or if the board of elections was unable to verify your ID upon registration. You will need to include a copy of your current and valid photo ID with your ballot or a copy of one of the following that shows your current address and is not older than 3 months:

- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck
- Government check
- Other government document that shows your name and address

Note: if you do not have access to a copy machine, you may take a photo of any of the above with your phone and email it to your local board of elections. You should call the local board to let them know that you will be emailing this information.

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- **Baltimore County Board of Elections:** 410-887-5700 or elections@baltimorecountymd.gov
- **Howard County Board of Elections:** 410-313-5820 or gmickley@howardcountymd.gov

Q: Do I have to put my ballot in the mail or can I drop it off?

A: You can drop your ballot off. Ballots may be dropped at the ballot drop-boxes at the Board of Elections in the County/City in which you are registered to vote. **Ballots MUST be dropped off by 8:00 p.m. on April 28, 2020. [NOTE: Currently only the Baltimore County Board of Elections has a drop box available outside of the office during normal business hours. The drop boxes at the Baltimore City and Howard County Boards of Elections have not been installed yet and may only be available for a couple of days around April 28.** Voters can contact their local boards to inquire about drop-off availability].

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Q: What if I already requested an absentee ballot for the April 28, 2020 election?

A: If you already requested an absentee ballot you may have already received it or will receive it shortly. Please follow the instructions on the absentee ballot and make sure you mail your ballot by **April 28, 2020**.

Q: What if I want to write-in a candidate?

A: To write-in a candidate, follow the instructions that accompanied your ballot.

Q: Will ballots be available in braille and large print?

A: No. Visually impaired voters can get assistance with voting their ballots (see above), or they can vote independently in person using the Ballot Marking Device at the in-person voting location in their county of residence on April 28.

Q: Can I register and vote at the same time at an in-person location on April 28th?

A: Yes. Same day registration will be available at in-person voting locations on April 28.

Q: What do I do if I am an overseas or military voter?

A: If you mail your ballot from a military post office (APO/FPO) or U.S. embassy or consulate, you do not need to put postage on your ballot. If you mail your ballot through another country's mail system you must ensure you have required postage for delivery.

Q: When will we know who won the election?

A: Because this is a vote by mail election, it will take longer than usual to count the ballots. We may not know who the winner is on April 28.

Q: When is the Presidential Primary?

A: Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the Maryland Presidential Primary has been moved to June 2, 2020. This will also be a primarily vote by mail election, though there will be some limited opportunities for in-person voting. The Maryland Democratic Party will provide information on this election on its website and through social media.