



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the June 2nd Presidential Primary Election  
Voter Protection Hotline  
**1-833-MD-VOTES**

Please use these FAQs to answer calls to the Voter Protection Hotline. If a voter has a question you are unable to answer, please take the voter's contact information and send a brief summary of the issue to [voterprotection@mddems.org](mailto:voterprotection@mddems.org) so the voter can be contacted.

**1. What is the date for the Presidential Primary Election in Maryland?**

A: June 2, 2020.

Your ballot has "April 28, 2020" printed at the top because there was insufficient time to reprint the ballots after the presidential primary election date was changed to June 2nd due to the coronavirus. **The April date does not affect your ballot being counted.** Your ballot will be counted for the June 2, 2020 Presidential Primary Election if it is postmarked by June 2nd.

**2. How can I vote in the Presidential Primary Election?**

A: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Hogan issued an order for a vote by mail election with limited in-person voting available on election day.

To reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus, voters are strongly encouraged to vote by mail. The State Board of Elections will mail ballots to all eligible voters. **No postage is needed to return your ballot - you will get a postage paid return envelope with your ballot.**

On June 2nd, there will be at least one voting location in every jurisdiction for in-person voting.

**3. Do I need to request a ballot?**

A: No. The State Board of Elections will mail ballots to all eligible active voters.

**4. When will my ballot arrive in the mail?**

A: Ballots will start arriving in mailboxes in early May and continue arriving until mid-May.

**5. What do I do if I haven't received my ballot?**

A: If you have not received a ballot by May 19, 2020, you should contact your local board of elections to request another ballot. Contact information for the local boards of elections can be found here: [https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county\\_boards.html](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html).

**6. If I previously requested an absentee ballot, do I need to request another ballot?**

A: No. All eligible voters will receive a ballot for the 2020 Presidential Primary Election.

**7. 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. This is very important: **YOU MUST SIGN YOUR BALLOT IN ORDER FOR IT TO BE COUNTED!**
- To seal your envelope, use a wet sponge or paper towel or a piece of tape. “Whether healthy or sick, please don't lick!”

● **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 June 2, 2020 to be counted.

**8. What is the deadline for my ballot to be mailed in to be counted?**

A: Voted ballots must be **postmarked** on or before June 2, 2020. Please note, simply putting your ballot in a mailbox on June 2 does not guarantee that your ballot will be postmarked June 2, 2020. **We strongly recommend mailing your ballot as soon as you receive it to ensure it is postmarked timely.** If you are unable to mail your ballot before June 2, you should consider dropping your ballot off at one of the ballot drop off locations in your county (see list below).

**9. What if I don't want to mail my ballot? Can I drop my ballot off in person?**

A: Yes, you can drop off your ballot at designated locations within your jurisdiction. Ballot drop off locations must be open by 7:00 a.m. on May 21, 2020. Some ballot drop off locations will be open before May 21, contact your local board of elections for information. **Ballots must be dropped off by 8:00 p.m. on June 2.** See here for locations: [https://www.elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/20\\_PP\\_Vote%20Centers\\_and\\_Drop%20off%20Locations.pdf](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/20_PP_Vote%20Centers_and_Drop%20off%20Locations.pdf)

**10. What if I can't vote by mail, didn't receive a ballot or don't want to vote by mail?**

A: If you cannot vote by mail, there will be at least one in-person voting location in each county and Baltimore City. Larger counties will have up to four in-person voting locations. **The in-person voting locations will be open only on June 2nd from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.** To find in-person locations for voting in your county, see, here: [https://www.elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/20\\_PP\\_Vote%20Centers\\_and\\_Drop%20off%20Locations.pdf](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/20_PP_Vote%20Centers_and_Drop%20off%20Locations.pdf)

**11. What if I need help filling out 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.
- The person helping you *must* complete and sign the enclosed “Certificate of Person Assisting Absentee Voter” and cannot try to influence your choice.

**12. What if I need assistance getting to one of the in-person voting locations?**

A. Please call 301-946-1001 for assistance arranging transportation to a voting location. You will need to leave a message, but your call will be returned within 24 hours.

**13. How do I check my voter registration?**

A: If you aren't sure if you are registered, or at what address, check your voter registration status by visiting the State Board of Elections [voter services site](#). You can also call 1-800-222-8683 and ask a State Board of Elections representative to check your registration. If a Hotline caller is willing to give you their information, you may look up their information for them using the voter services site.

**14. What kind of identification is required for me to cast a ballot by mail?**

A: If you are a registered voter and voted before, no identification is required to receive or submit a ballot by mail. A very small number of newly registered voters may need to provide ID with their voted ballots. If you have to provide ID, there will be instructions with your ballot, and the envelope your ballot arrives in will have “ID Required” printed on the outside.

**15. 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.

**16. Can I register to vote online?**

A: Yes! [It is possible to register to vote in Maryland elections online, click here to find out more information.](#) **The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, May 27, 2020 by 11:59 p.m.**

If you register on May 27, you will need to receive your ballot through SBE’s online ballot delivery process. 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.** Electronic ballots will be provided to voters through election day.

**17. Do I need identification to register to vote?**

A: No, but you must provide some information so election officials can verify your identity.

If you use the State Board’s online system to register, you must enter your

Maryland driver's license number or Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) issued state ID number, the date MVA issued your license or ID card, and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you reside outside of the United States or are a member of the military or spouse or dependent of a member of the military, you must enter the last 4 digits of your US social security number. If you provide a license or State ID number, your signature on file with the MVA will become your official voter registration signature. If you provide a social security number, it will be used as your official voter registration signature.

If you use the paper application to register, you must also provide your Maryland driver's license number or MVA-issued state ID number if you have one. If you don't have one, you must provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you don't have either number, check box 6c. If you check box 6c, you might be required to show ID before voting for the first time.

**18. Can I register to vote and vote the same day at one of the in-person voting locations on June 2nd?**

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

**19. How will I know that my ballot will be counted?**

A: You can check that your ballot was counted by visiting the [voter services site](#). If you do not have internet access, call 1-800-222-8683 and ask a State Board of Elections representative to check the status of your voted ballot. It will take some time to count all of the mail ballots. Information regarding your ballot will be posted about 10 days after the election.

**20. What do I do if I make a mistake on my ballot or mark it inadvertently or if I accidentally threw my ballot in the trash?**

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

**21. If I forgot to sign the oath on my ballot, will I be able to correct the error?**

A: If you forget to sign your ballot, the State Board of Elections will contact you no later than Wednesday, June 10. The local Board of Elections will try to contact you by email, phone, or postal mail depending upon the information the State Board has on file for you.

The local board may email you an electronic oath for you to print, sign, and return to the local board of elections. The oath may be returned in person, by mail, or scanned or a picture may be taken of the oath and emailed back to the local board.

Alternatively, the local board may also schedule an appointment for you to come in-person to the Board's office to sign your ballot.

All oaths must be signed and received by the local board elections by 10 a.m. on June 12, 2020.

**22. How can I update my address?**

A: You can update your address online. You can use the voter registration application to make the change, or you can submit in writing your new address. Voters must update their address with their local board of elections. [For instructions on updating your address, please click here.](#) **The deadline to update your address is Wednesday, May 27th.** If you update your address on Wednesday, May 27, you will need have your ballot delivered to you electronically (see #16 above)

**23. 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.

**24. What if I want to write-in a candidate?**

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

**25. 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 any of the in-person voting locations in their county of residence on June 2, 2020.

**26. 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 winners are in all of the contests on June 2, 2020.

**27. Will the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election also be a vote by mail election?**

A: A decision regarding the November election has not been made yet. We are hopeful that one will be made by mid-June.