![Montgomery County Democratic Party logo]

Frequently Asked Questions
[Updated as of May 6, 2020]
Maryland Democratic Primary Election
June 2, 2020

Contents

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*This document was updated on **May 6, 2020** to reflect the latest information from the Board of Elections as well as provide additional clarifying information.*

1. **Why is the election being held on June 2?**

    Originally scheduled for April 28, the Maryland Presidential Primary Election was postponed to **Tuesday, June 2, 2020** due to the coronavirus pandemic.

2. **Why is the Election Date on my ballot April 28?**

    Printing of the ballots for the Maryland Presidential Primary was already underway when the Governor issued a proclamation to change the date of the primary to June 2. Reprinting the ballots would have been costly, may have resulted in a delay in mailing ballots to voters, and may have resulted in other errors or complications. **Your ballot is valid.** The April 28 date printed at the top is immaterial.

3. **Who can vote in the June 2 Maryland Democratic Primary?**

    Only Maryland voters who are registered Democrats as of **Wednesday, May 27, 2020,** or who register to vote on Election Day can vote in the Maryland Democratic Primary.

4. **Why should I vote in the primary if we already have a presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee?**

    On June 2, Montgomery County Democratic Party voters not only will vote for a Presidential nominee and candidates for the U.S. Congress, they also will choose delegates for the 2020 Democratic National Convention. Also on the ballot are non-partisan candidates for Judges of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Board of Education. Ballots cast for presidential candidates who dropped out of the race will give those Democrats the opportunity to influence the 2020 Democratic Party platform.

    It is vital—*vital*—that Maryland Democrats turn out in high numbers for this primary election. We must demonstrate our strength, determination, and resolve to defeat Donald Trump and elect Democrats to local, state, and federal offices nationwide. This is especially important given the outrageous efforts to disenfranchise voters in the recent primary election in Wisconsin. Republican legislators forced Wisconsin citizens to vote in person, forcing them to risk their lives and the lives of their loved ones or risk losing their right to vote.

5. **How will the June 2 Primary be conducted?**

The June 2 primary will be conducted primarily by **Vote-By-Mail.** All **active** Democratic Party voters will receive their ballots in the mail. If you are an active voter, **you do not need to request an absentee ballot.** Voters may return their ballots by mail, **postmarked no later** than **Tuesday, June 2, 2020,** in the **pre-addressed, postage-paid envelopes** provided; no stamp is required.

Voters must SIGN THE OATH on the outside of the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope in order for their vote to be counted. The signed envelope and the ballot will be separated prior to tallying votes so that the secrecy of your ballot will be maintained.

Voters also may drop off their sealed ballots at one of six locations throughout the county. Voters who are unable to Vote-By-Mail or voters who don't receive ballots in the mail will be able to vote in person at four locations on **Election Day, June 2**.

Voters are strongly encouraged to return their ballots by mail promptly after receiving them to avoid interpersonal contact at ballot drop-off locations. Vote-By-Mail is the safest way to vote and maintain proper social distancing.

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6. **How can I be sure I will receive my Vote-By-Mail ballot?**

You should **confirm, and, if necessary, update** your Voter Registration record with the Maryland Board of Elections no later than **Wednesday, May 27, 2020,** and preferably **RIGHT NOW**, to receive your Vote-By-Mail ballot. Confirm in your voter record:

- your current, correct **Residential Address**

- your Mailing Address: **SAME AS RESIDENTIAL**

A *MAILED BALLOT SENT TO THE WRONG ADDRESS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED.*

Use Your Isolation to Check Your Voter Registration.

Text CHECK to 77788.

A reply text message will contain a hyperlink to the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Lookup page. Click on the link, then enter the information requested to confirm your registration.

OR

Go to:
Bit.ly/MDVoterLookup

OR

Go directly to the page:
https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch

PLEASE NOTE:

You must enter your name EXACTLY as it appears in your Voter Registration record in order to find your record on the Voter Lookup site. In some cases, the first name field in Voter Registration records contains part or all of a voter's middle name. If the information you first enter does not produce your Voter Registration record, try alternative combinations. For example:

If your name is **Benjamin Cobb Smith,**

and entering "Benjamin" in the first name field of the Voter Lookup does not produce your Voter Registration record, try entering the following combinations in the first name field:

- Ben
- Ben C.
- Benjamin C.
- Benjamin Cobb

If any information in your Voter Registration record is **incorrect,** see **Question 7** below for instructions on how to correct your Voter Registration record.

7. **How do I update or correct my Voter Registration record?**

   Go to **bit.ly/MDVotesByMail**

   This quick link will take you to the Maryland State Board of Elections **Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request** page; **OR**

   Go directly to the page:
   https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/VoterType

   Do not be confused by the title of the page. Maryland voters must use the same form to register to vote, change their residential address, request an absentee ballot, or change their party affiliation. You must complete the entire form, select **Democrat** as your party affiliation, and submit the form no later than **Wednesday, May 27, 2020** in order to be eligible to vote in the **June 2 Maryland Democratic Primary**.

8. **When can I expect to receive my ballot? What should I do if I do not receive it?**

   If you do not receive your Vote-By-Mail ballot by **Friday, May 15, 2020,** it is strongly recommended that request an absentee ballot for *mail delivery* no later than **Tuesday, May 26, 2020,** by going to:

   Go to **bit.ly/MDVotesByMail**

   This quick link will take you to the Maryland State Board of Elections **Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request** page; **OR**

   Go directly to the page:
   https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/VoterType

   If you have a printer and the necessary first-class postage, you can request *online delivery* of your ballot using the **Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request** no later than **Friday, May 29, 2020.** A login and password will be sent to you via email to print your own ballot. You must pay for your own postage to return it.

9. **Should I request an absentee ballot?**

   No. All Maryland voters *may* request an absentee ballot, but it is *neither necessary nor recommended* for **Active** voters to do so for this election.

10. **What should I do if I think my voter registration is Inactive?**

    Updating your Voter Registration as described in **Question 7** to reflect your current residential address OR requesting an absentee ballot will change your status from Inactive to Active. **You do not need to do both.** If you update your residential address your status will automatically change from Inactive to Active.

    After **May 1, 2020,** Inactive voters are advised to *both* update their Voter Registration *and* request an absentee ballot **for mail delivery** no later than **Tuesday, May 26, 2020,** to ensure that they receive their ballot, though it may arrive later than the ballots sent to Active voters.

11. I have already requested an absentee ballot for the June 2 Primary. Will I still receive my ballot?

Yes. If you requested that your absentee ballot be mailed to you, you will receive your ballot with a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope just like all other Active voters.

12. I requested online delivery of my absentee ballot. Will I still receive it?

Yes, though you should be aware that if you requested **online delivery** of your absentee ballot, you will receive your absentee ballot **online** and **not** by mail, and a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope **will not be provided**. You will have to properly address your own envelope and affix first-class postage.

13. Can I change online delivery of my absentee ballot to receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot?

Yes. Call the Montgomery County Board of Elections at **(240) 777-8500**, MD Relay (711): **(800) 735-2258**, *as soon as possible,* and no later than **Tuesday, May 26, 2020**, to request the change in delivery method.

14. How should I complete my ballot?

Voters are advised to read the entire information packet accompanying the Vote By Mail ballot *before* completing their ballots.

A **black** or **blue ballpoint pen** is recommended, and a **black ballpoint pen** is preferable. DO NOT use pencil, any kind of felt-tip marker, or crayon.

15. How can I be certain my Vote-By-Mail ballot will be postmarked by the June 2 deadline?

- *Mail it early.* Every US Postal Service mailbox is a ballot box.

- *Mail it no later than Wednesday, May 27.*

- After May 27, *hand-carry* your Vote-By-Mail ballot to the **nearest U.S. Post Office** no later than **Tuesday, June 2,** and ask a postal clerk to **hand-postmark your ballot envelope** with a **legible** postmark **in your presence.**

16. How can I be sure my ballot has been received and my vote has been counted?

Go to **Bit.ly/MDVoterLookup; OR**

Go directly to the Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Lookup site: **https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch**

After you have submitted your information and located your Voter Registration record, click on "Status of My Absentee or Provisional Ballots." The status of your ballot will be displayed here **AFTER** your ballot has been tallied.

PLEASE NOTE: The Board of Elections will not begin tallying ballots until **May 21, 2020,** and it will take time to tally all ballots. The results of early tallies will not be posted until polls have closed on **Election Day, Tuesday, June 2.**

17. Where can I find the nearest USPS mailbox or Post Office?

Go to **https://tools.usps.com/find-location.htm** to find the U.S. Post Office or mailbox (called "Collection Boxes" on the website) nearest you.

18. Where are the six (6) Montgomery County Ballot Drop-off locations?

All voters are strongly encouraged to return their ballots by mail. Voters who prefer to do so may deposit their ballot in a Board of Elections drop box at one of the following locations beginning **Thursday, May 21** until the polls close at **8 pm** on **Tuesday, June 2**:

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
506 South Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Germantown Community Recreation Center
18905 Kingsview Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center
14906 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Montgomery County Board of Elections – AVAILABLE NOW!
18753 North Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Rockville City Hall
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Silver Spring Civic Building
1 Veterans Plaza
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center
11701 Georgia Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

19. I have a disability and find it difficult to Vote By Mail? What are my options?

If you prefer to vote from home, you may request **online delivery** of your ballot (see Question 8) and use the online tool provided by the State Board of Elections to help you mark your ballot. The tool is compatible with the most common software used by individuals with disabilities. You can use your own assistive devices with this tool.

Persons with disabilities may be assisted by another person in completing their ballot. If you are assisted by another person, they may not suggest how you should vote and may not be your employer or an officer or agent of your union and must sign a Certificate of Assistance and return it with your ballot.

Ballot marking devices will also be available at the Election Day vote centers that offer an audio ballot with a headset and keypad, high contrast and large print functions, and other features designed to allow voters to cast a ballot privately and independently.

20. Is it possible to vote in person?

Voters who cannot or choose not to Vote-By-Mail may visit one of these four locations on **Election Day, June 2, ONLY** to cast their ballots in person. Voters must comply with the public health directive of the Governor by wearing a face mask or other face covering.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
506 South Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Germantown Community Recreation Center
18905 Kingsview Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center
14906 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Silver Spring Civic Building
1 Veterans Plaza
Silver Spring, MD 20910

As a public health measure, the Montgomery County Board of Elections asks that all voters return their ballot by mail. If voters who can vote by mail choose instead to vote in person, it will create very long lines and endanger the health and safety of others.

21. If I am not a registered Democrat, can I change my affiliation to vote in the Democratic Primary?

Yes. Unaffiliated voters and voters registered as members of another party may change their party affiliation to the Democratic Party and vote in the June 2 Primary. The deadline for changing party affiliation is **Wednesday, May 27, 2020.**

22. How do I change my party affiliation?

Go to **bit.ly/MDVotesByMail**; **OR**

Go directly to the page:
https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/VoterType

Do not be confused by the title of the page. Maryland voters must use the same form to register to vote, change their residential address, request an absentee ballot, or change their party affiliation. You must complete the form, select **Democrat** as your party affiliation, and submit the form no later than **Wednesday, May 27, 2020** in order to be eligible to vote in the **June 2 Maryland Democratic Primary**.

23. I haven't voted in a recent election. Will I receive a Vote-By-Mail-ballot?

Voters who haven't voted in the last two election cycles, or for whom mail from the Maryland Board of Elections has been returned as undeliverable, are considered **Inactive** voters. Inactive voters **will not** receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot unless they take action to change their status to **Active** no later than **Wednesday, May 27, 2020.**

Any of the following actions initiated by an inactive voter will change the status of that voter from **Inactive** to **Active:**

- Change your residential address in your Voter Registration record;
- Change your party affiliation in your Voter Registration record;
- Make any other changes to your Voter Registration record;
- Request an absentee ballot.

To do any of the above online, go to:
bit.ly/MDVotesByMail

OR

Go directly to the page:
https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/VoterType

Do not be confused by the title of the page. Maryland voters must use the same form to register to vote, change their residential address, request an absentee ballot, or change their party affiliation. You must complete and submit the form no later than **May 27, 2020,** and choose the Democratic Party as your party affiliation, in order to be eligible to vote in the **June 2 Maryland Democratic Primary**.

24. Can I still vote if I do not receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot?

Yes. Any voter who does not receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot, whether active or inactive, may vote by requesting an absentee ballot no later than **Wednesday, May 27, 2020**, or by voting in person on **Election Day, June 2,** at one of the four ballot drop-off / in-person voting locations. Inactive voters voting in person should be prepared to provide proof of identity and current residence.

25. How do I register to vote?

New voters may register to vote in advance until **Wednesday, May 27, 2020**, or in person on **Election Day, June 2,** at any of the four in-person Vote Centers (see Question 20).

To Register to Vote in advance:

Go to **bit.ly/MDVotesByMail**; **OR**

Go directly to the page:
https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/VoterType

26. Are paper voter registration application forms and Vote-ByMail ballot request forms available in English and other languages?

Yes. Paper Voter Registration Applications are available online in the following languages to print and share with voters who do not have Internet access:

English
bit.ly/MDVRA_English

Español
bit.ly/MDVRA_Spanish

Traditional Chinese
bit.ly/MDVRA_TraditionalChinese

Simplified Chinese
bit.ly/MDVRA_SimplifiedChinese

Korean
bit.ly/MDVRA_Korean

Voters who register or update their voter record using these forms will be mailed a ballot. Voters must provide their own postage and address the envelope to the Board of Elections in the County in which they reside. Addresses for all County Boards of Elections are provided with the application forms.

Voters who have not received their ballot by **Friday, May 15, 2020,** may request a ballot using one of these paper **Absentee Ballot Request Forms:**

English
bit.ly/MDBRF_English

Español
bit.ly/MDBRF_Spanish

Paper Voter Registration Applications and Absentee Ballot Request Forms are also available by calling the Montgomery County Board of Elections at **(240) 777-8500**, MD Relay (711): **(800) 735-2258**, *as soon as possible,* and no later than **Tuesday, May 26, 2020.**

27. Will there be early voting in the June 2 Maryland Primary Election?

No. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, early voting has been canceled for the 2020 Maryland Primary Election.

28. Can I vote at my usual polling place on Election Day?

No. Neighborhood polling places have been closed by Proclamation of the Governor for because voting in the traditional manner would enable the transmission of the novel coronavirus, and pose risks to public health, welfare, and safety.

29. This election is not being conducted in accordance with Maryland election statutes. Is this legal?

Yes. Under the Public Safety article of the Maryland Code, the Governor has broad power to declare emergencies and enact emergency decrees by proclamation to provide, among other things, for the orderly conduct of elections in times of emergency.

30. How will the November General Election be conducted?

At this time, no change in the method or operation of the General Election is contemplated.

31. Where can I find more information?

Maryland State Board of Elections
https://www.elections.maryland.gov/

Montgomery County Board of Elections
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/elections/index2.html