

Montgomery County Board of Elections
Frequently asked questions for the 2020 Presidential General Election
(Updated as of August 21, 2020)

Q: What are the key things that I need to know about the 2020 Presidential General election?

- The November 3, 2020 election mission is to “Stay Safe, Stay Home and Vote by Mail” because of concerns about the COVID-19 Pandemic and impact to voters and election workers.
- Vote by Mail applications are projected to be mailed August 24, 2020 through August 28, 2020. Ballots will be mailed in late September, with a target date of September 24, 2020. **Unlike the Primary Election, a ballot will not automatically be sent to you. You must request a vote by mail ballot.** After completing your application and receiving your ballot, voters are strongly encouraged to return their ballot as soon as they receive it.
- The two best methods for returning your Vote by Mail ballot are as follows: placing your ballot in the United States Postal System mail, using the postage prepaid return envelope that you will be provided or placing your return envelope and ballot in one of the County’s drop boxes, described below.
- Do not wait until the last minute to return your ballot, please. You are strongly encouraged to mail the voted ballot no later than October 28, 2020 to allow the US Postal Service time to deliver the mail in time. **Ballots must be postmarked the date of the election, November 3, 2020.**

The Board encourages voters to drop your ballot at one of the many “Vote by Mail” Drop Boxes. The Board hopes to be able to install the drop boxes in early October and they will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Drop Boxes are located at the Early Voting Centers, the Board of Elections and the City of Rockville. The Board is attempting to add locations.

- You must be registered to vote for President of the United States in Maryland.
- There will be early voting from October 26, 2020 through November 2, 2020, as discussed below.
- There will be Vote Centers on Election Day on November 3, 2020, as discussed below.
- Same Day Voter Registration is available at Early Voting and Election Day sites. Identification is required.

Q: Do I need to request a ballot?

Yes, you do need to request a ballot. A Vote by Mail application will be mailed on or about August 24. It is expected to take 5 days for delivery. You can apply now at: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>

Voters who have moved, who are temporarily away from home, or who have not received a Vote by Mail application by Friday, September 8, 2020, should visit the [voter lookup tool](#) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788 to verify their information and request a ballot.

Q: Where are you sending my ballot?

To confirm your mailing address, visit the [voter lookup tool](#) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788. If you have changed your address, we will send you a new ballot. You must update your address by October 13, 2020.

Q: What if I do not get my ballot in the mail?

Once you complete your Vote by Mail ballot application, it may take up to 15 days for our office to receive the Vote by Mail application and process it. Using the online application process for Vote by Mail takes several days off the time it takes to deliver a Vote by Mail ballot to your requested address. If you do not receive your ballot within 10 days of your request after October 1, 2020, visit the [voter lookup tool](#) on the Maryland State Board of Elections' website or text CHECK to 77788 and click on the link to request a replacement ballot.

Q: I already requested an absentee ballot. Will I get two ballots?

No. You will only receive one ballot.

Q: What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a mail-in ballot?

There is no difference.

Q: What should I use to fill out my ballot?

It is recommended that you use a black or blue ballpoint pen. DO NOT use pencil, marker or crayon.

Q: What are important steps with returning the Vote by Mail ballot?

It is critical to **sign your name to the oath and date your signature on the back of the return voted ballot envelope.** Sign only the envelope; do not sign the ballot. Mark the ballot with a black or blue ink pen. Mail the ballot by October 28, 2020 or deliver it to a drop box by November 3, 2020 by 8:00 P.M. to insure your vote counts. Postage is prepaid when you return a voted ballot envelope to the Elections Board. Web delivery ballots require postage on the envelope.

Q: How do I return my ballot?

Instructions will be provided with your Vote by Mail ballot. After you sign and date the voter oath, place the ballot in the return envelope. You can simply drop it in the mail. We encourage that it be completed and mailed by October 28, 2020. No postage is necessary with the US Mail return ballot envelopes. Use the drop boxes located in the County at the Early Voting Centers until the polls close on November 3, 2020.

Q: What is the deadline to return my voted ballot?

If you return your ballot by U.S. Postal Service, it must be postmarked by November 3, 2020. Do not wait. Placing your ballot in the postal stream on November 2 or 3 may result in it being postmarked November 4, 2020. If this occurs, your ballot will be rejected as untimely.

If you return your ballot to the Board of Elections drop box at 18753 N. Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg, Maryland, or at one of the additional drop boxes that will be established at the Early Voting and Vote Center locations. **DROP BOXES ARE NOT INSTALLED TO DATE, A LIST OF THE LOCATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE.** Your ballot must be deposited before the polls close by 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020.

Q: Where can I find a USPS drop box or Post Office?

You can find the nearest drop box or Post Office [here](#). No postage is necessary. Again, voters are strongly encouraged to return their ballot via the Post Office or drop box as soon as you have received it.

If you prefer, you may use the 24 hour drop box at the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 18753 N. Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Additional drop boxes will also be established at other locations. Voters may drop off their ballot at any time at one of the drop box locations after October 1, 2020 until 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020.

Q: How can I find out whether you received my ballot?

Information on the status of your ballot is available using the [voter lookup tool](#) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or by texting CHECK to 77788.

Q: Will there be early voting for the 2020 Presidential General Election?

Yes. Early voting will be available for the 2020 Presidential General Election. The Early voting hours are from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM beginning October 26, 2020 and closes November 2, 2020 at 8:00 PM for the 2020 General Election. The eleven early voting locations are listed below:

- Activity Center at Bohrer Park
- Damascus Community Rec Center
- Executive Office Building
- Germantown Community Rec Center
- Jane E. Lawton Community Rec Center
- Marilyn Praisner Community Rec Center
- Mid-County Community Rec Center
- Potomac Community Rec Center
- Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department (The Ballroom)
- Silver Spring Civic Building
- Wheaton Library & Community Rec Center

Q: Can I vote at my usual polling place?

No. Neighborhood polling places have been closed because it was determined that voting in the traditional manner would “enable the transmission of the Coronavirus, and pose risks to public health, welfare, and safety.”

As previously noted, to limit community spread of COVID-19 and to save lives, all voters will be mailed Vote by Mail applications. Please complete and return the application and a ballot with prepaid postage will be mailed to you,

Q: Where can I vote on Election Day?

In-person voting will be limited and is intended only for those voters who cannot vote by mail. If you must vote on Election Day, you will be able to vote at any one of our eleven Early Voting Centers. In addition, you will be able to vote at any Montgomery County Public High School. You will be able to vote at:

- Albert Einstein High School
- Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
- Clarksburg High School
- Colonel Zadok Magruder High School
- Damascus High School
- Gaithersburg High School
- James Hubert Blake High School
- John F. Kennedy High School
- Montgomery Blair High School
- Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Rec Center
- Northwest High School
- Northwood High School
- Paint Branch High School
- Poolesville High School
- Quince Orchard High School
- Richard Montgomery High School
- Rockville High School
- Seneca Valley High School
- Sherwood High School
- Springbrook High School
- Thomas S. Wootton High School
- Walt Whitman High School
- Walter Johnson High School
- Watkins Mill High School
- Wheaton High School
- White Oak Community Rec Center
- Winston Churchill High School
- Montgomery County Conference Center at North Bethesda Marriott

Q: Do I have to vote at the high school closest to my home?

No, you may go to any Montgomery County Public High School, early voting center and/or the Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center and/or White Oak Community Recreation Center to vote on Election Day.

Q: 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 find it convenient to request a web delivery ballot and use the online tool provided by the State Board of Elections to help you mark your ballot. The tool is compatible with most common software used by individuals with disabilities, and you can use your own assistive devices with this tool.

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.

Voters who can vote by mail are asked to participate in mail-in voting to help avoid long lines and to protect the health and safety of those who must vote in person.

Q: Where can I find Voter Registration paper forms to print and share with voters?

The Board of Elections located at 18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg MD 20877 or call the Board of Elections' office at 240-777-8500.

Paper voter registration applications are available in the following languages:

- [English](#)
- [Español](#)
- [Traditional Chinese](#)
- [Simplified Chinese](#)
- [Korean](#)

Voters who register or update their voter record using these forms will be mailed a voter notification card to confirm their registration.

Q: What is the deadline to change my address or party affiliation?

The deadline to register to vote, or to change your residential address or party affiliation, is Wednesday, October 13, 2020. To verify your voter registration, visit the [voter lookup tool](#) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788.

Q: What is the deadline to request a vote by mail ballot?

Please confirm your mailing address using the [voter lookup tool](#) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788 before requesting a ballot.

If you do need to request a ballot, the deadline to request a ballot by mail is Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

If you have a printer and the necessary postage available to you to print your own ballot from home and mail it in, the deadline to request a web delivery ballot is Tuesday, October 20, 2020. If you request a web delivery ballot, you will receive a login and password to print your own ballot and must pay for your own postage to return it. The State Board of Elections will resolve your issues at 800-222-VOTE.

Q: Ballots are not being mailed to inactive voters. Why not? What do I do if I think my voter registration is inactive?

Ballots are not being mailed to inactive voters because voters are only considered “inactive” in the State of Maryland if their mail is returned undeliverable or if another state notifies us that you have moved.

If you are concerned that your voter registration may be inactive, visit the [voter lookup tool](#) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788 and verify your address. If your address has changed, please update it immediately.

Q: Is it permitted for a voter to pick up and deliver the voted and sealed vote by mail ballot to the Board of Elections Office, mailbox or drop box for another voter on their behalf?

There is no federal or State law that prohibits individuals collecting other voters’ voted ballots and delivering them to a local board of elections, a ballot drop off location, or a mailbox. State law establishes a process for appointing someone to pick up and deliver a ballot to a voter, but this process does not apply to just returning voted ballots to a ballot drop location. Prohibiting someone from returning other voters’ voted ballots would require action by the Maryland General Assembly.

Q: Is same-day registration available during early voting or Election Day?

Yes. However, the voter registration deadline is October 13, so few voters should need to take advantage of same-day registration. As a public health measure, the Montgomery County Board of Elections asks that voters register prior to Election Day so that you can receive and return your ballot by mail. Same Day Voter Registration will be available at Early Voting and all Election Day Centers.

Q: What is the Board of Elections doing to protect against fraud?

The Board of Elections is taking all of the same safeguards to protect against fraud that we do for every election. All systems are designed to make sure that each

voter has the opportunity to vote one and only one ballot. Any allegation or evidence of fraud will be investigated and referred for prosecution. If you see or hear of any attempted voter fraud, contact the Office of the Attorney General at 410-575-6300 or En Espanol 410-230-1712 or 1-888-743-0023 toll free in Maryland or via TDD at 800.735-2258

Q: What is the Board of Elections doing to protect against hacking?

The Board of Elections is taking all of the same cybersecurity safeguards that we do for every election. The State Board of Elections has invested significant funding in securing the statewide voter registration system, including features for ballot request and delivery. The election will not be certified for several weeks after Election Day to allow time to conduct audits, investigate complaints, and make sure every eligible vote is counted.

Q: How can I sign up to work during early voting or at an Election Day vote center?

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is recruiting for voters to be trained as Election Judges to conduct the November 3, Presidential General Election. You can sign up to work in the election [here](#).

Q.: How can I sign up to work as a canvass worker?

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is recruiting voters to serve as canvass workers to process Vote by Mail ballots and Provisional ballots. You can sign up to serve as a canvass worker [here](#).

Q: How can I request a copy of my voter registration card?

You do not need your voter registration card to vote. However, if you wish to request one, you may do so using the [voter lookup tool](#) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or by texting CHECK to 77788.

Q: Where can I go for more information?

Information from the Maryland State Board of Elections about the November 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election can be found [here](#). Information from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services regarding COVID-19 can be found [here](#).