



How Aging Services Providers Can Support Older Marylanders in Exercising their Right to Vote

In order to help the people we serve prepare to vote, there are a number of steps you can take to offer them reliable information. For the first time ever, LeadingAge has published a [Voting Plan Toolkit](#). We encourage all members to take advantage of this toolkit to determine their organization's plan to help residents have access to voting. The toolkit also contains a voting plan worksheet that can be used individually by staff and residents.

Below you will find information on voting in Maryland, including contact information for local boards of election, important deadlines, instructions for requesting a mail-in ballot, early voting, and more.

Important Deadlines for Voting in Maryland:

- Marylanders must register to vote by October 13, 2020.
- Mail-in ballot requests must be *received* (not just mailed) by October 20, 2020.
- Voted ballot must be returned (by mail, or hand delivered) by 10am on November 13. [Drop boxes are also available. View the list of locations here.](#)

Helpful Links about Voting in Maryland:

[Information on voting in person in Maryland](#)

[Information on Voting by Mail-in Ballot](#)

[Local boards of elections](#)

[How Maryland Votes Guide](#)

Vote by Mail

[Information on Voting by Mail-in Ballot](#)

If you are unable to vote during early voting or on election day, you may vote by absentee ballot. Below are some of the key dates and pieces of information of which you should be aware. Please visit the state Board of Elections website for additional information - [Find out more information about mail-in voting](#).

Important Notes:

- **The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Your request must be received (not just mailed) by Tuesday, October 20, 2020.**
- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the State Board of Elections and many local board offices are currently closed to the public. As a result, an in-person request for a mail-in ballot MAY NOT be available, or available by appointment only. Please check with your [local board of elections](#) office before making an in-person request for a mail-in ballot.
- A recent change in the law requires the State Board of Elections and each local board of elections to refer to absentee ballots as "mail-in ballots" and absentee voting as "mail-in voting." Please note that this change in terminology does NOT change the process of mail-in voting.
- Maryland does not have a permanent mail-in list. If you wish to vote by mail-in ballot, you must apply for a mail-in ballot each primary and general election cycle.

Who may vote by mail-in ballot?

- Any registered voter may vote by mail-in ballot. You don't need a reason to vote by mail-in ballot. It's another way to vote if you don't want to or can't go to an early voting center or your polling place.
- If you do not know if you are registered to vote, use our [Voter Look-up](#) to find out. If you are not registered to vote, find out [how to register to vote](#).

How do I request a mail-in ballot?

- There are three ways you can request a mail-in ballot.
 1. [Online if you have a Maryland's driver's license or MVA-issued ID card](#).
 2. Complete and return one of the forms below. Read the instructions, enter the required information, print the form, sign it, and return it to your local board of elections. You can return it by mail, fax, or email (scanned as an attachment).
 - [Mail-in ballot application for 2020 elections \(PDF\)*](#)
 - [Solicitud de Papeleta de Votante Ausente para las Elecciones del 2020 \(PDF\)](#)
 3. Go to your [local board of elections](#) and fill out and turn in the form.

* The State Board of Elections mailed this form to each eligible voter who hadn't already requested a ballot. If you already submitted a form, you do not need to submit another one. Use our [Voter Look-Up](#) website to check that you submitted a request.

How do I know if my request for mail-in ballot was received and processed?

- Visit the [voter look-up website](#) to verify if your [local board of elections](#) received your request for a ballot and the status of your mail-in ballot. If you have more questions, please contact your [local board of elections](#).

Can I have help voting?

- Yes, if you have a disability or are unable to read or write, you may have help requesting a mail-in ballot and voting. Any person can help you except:
 1. A candidate on your ballot;
 2. Your employer or an agent of your employer; or
 3. An officer or agent of your union.
- If you need help completing the mail-in ballot application, someone can help you with Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the application and must complete Part 4. If you cannot sign the application, the person helping you should print your name in Part 3 and write his or her initials after your name.
- If you need help voting your ballot, the person helping you must mark the ballot according to your wishes and cannot make an effort to influence your vote. This person must also complete the Certification of Person Assisting mail-in Voter (provided with your mail-in ballot). This certification must be returned with your voted ballot.

[Contact your local board of elections](#) for more information on this process.

Vote in Person: Early Voting and Election Day Voting

[Information on Voting In Person in Maryland](#)

[Information on Early Voting in Maryland](#)

When can I vote?

For the 2020 Presidential General Election:

- You can either vote in person during early voting or on election day or by [mail-in ballot](#).
- [Early voting](#) starts on Monday October 26, 2020 and goes through Monday, November 2, 2020. Each [early voting center](#) will be open continuously from 7 am to 8 pm each day. Anyone in line at 8 pm will be allowed to vote.
- On election day, you can vote at any [election day vote center \(PDF\)](#) ([Excel](#)) in the county in which you live. On election day, vote centers are open continuously from 7 am until 8 pm on. Anyone in line at 8 pm will be allowed to vote.

Where should I vote?

For the 2020 Presidential General Election:

- During [early voting](#), you can vote at any [early voting center](#) in the jurisdiction where you live.
- On election day, you can vote at any [election day voting center \(PDF\)](#) ([Excel](#)) in the jurisdiction you live.

How will I cast my vote?

For the 2020 Presidential General Election:

- During early voting or on election day, you will hand mark a paper ballot. Use the pen provided to fill in the oval next to your choices. You can also mark your ballot electronically. Review your ballot choices, place your voted ballot into the privacy sleeve and take it to the scanner. An election worker will direct you to insert your ballot into the scanning unit to cast your vote. Your ballot will be scanned and dropped into a secure ballot box.
- There will be instructions available at the [early voting centers](#) and [election day vote centers \(PDF\)](#) ([Excel](#)) to familiarize you with the ballot. You may ask an election judge to explain how to vote, but you must cast your vote alone, unless you are unable to do so because you have a disability or are unable to read or write the English language.
- For [mail-in voting](#) and [provisional voting](#), you will be issued a paper ballot. Use a black ink pen to fill in the oval next to your choices. Provisional ballots are returned to local election office in secure bags on election night. Mail-in and provisional ballots will be scanned at the local election office.

I have a disability. Will I be able to vote?

Yes. All early voting centers in Maryland are accessible to voters with disabilities. See [Access by Voters with Disabilities](#) for more information.