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Online Voter Registration Now Available in Maryland

Marylanders can register to vote and update voter registration information on SBE's website

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annapolis, Maryland (August 7, 2012): The State Board of Elections (SBE) announced today that Marylanders can now register to vote and update address information online. The new way to register to vote is available from SBE's homepage at www.elections.state.md.us. Voters can also check the status of their registration on the same website.

"Online voter registration is another tool to make the voting process easier and more accessible," said Linda H. Lamone, State Administrator. "Marylanders can now register to vote or update their address whenever it's most convenient for them."

Maryland joins a handful of other states that offer online voter registration for eligible residents. Based on experiences in other jurisdictions, Maryland's election officials expect to see improved accuracy in the voter registration list and greater efficiency and reduced costs in processing registrations. Previously, paper applications were required and local election officials manually entered the data into the State's voter registration system.

To use the online system, an eligible Maryland resident must have a Maryland-issued driver's license or an ID card issued by Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The individual enters into SBE's website the same information that is required on the paper application and submits the data electronically. Election officials review and accept the data in the State's voter registration database and notify the individual of the status of his or her registration. Individuals who do not have a Maryland driver's license or State ID card may use the system to complete and print the voter registration form and mail the completed form to their local election official.

In addition to registering to vote or updating voter information online, eligible Maryland residents may also register or update information by completing the State's voter registration application and mailing it to their local election official. The paper application is available at many government offices, including MVA offices, State department of health offices, local department of Social Services offices, and post offices, or by calling 1-800-222-8683 to request an application by mail.

In 2011, Maryland's election law was changed to authorize online voter registration. SBE developed the system with the assistance of MVA. This project was partially funded by a grant from the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program¹.

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