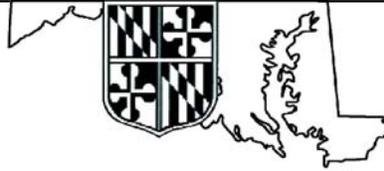


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Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot for the 2012 Presidential Primary Election

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Nikki Baines Trella
Election Reform Director
410-269-2843

Annapolis, Maryland (March 12, 2012) – The deadline to request by mail, fax, or email an absentee ballot for the 2012 Presidential Primary Election is **Tuesday, March 27, 2012**. Any registered voter in Maryland may request and vote by absentee ballot.

A voter who wishes to vote by absentee ballot must request an absentee ballot in writing and sign the request. An application can be printed from the State Board of Elections' website at www.elections.state.md.us/voting/absentee.html or requested by telephone, in writing, or in person at the voter's local board of elections. Addresses and contact information for the local boards of elections are available at www.elections.state.md.us/about/county_boards.html.

A local board of elections must **receive** a completed and signed absentee ballot application:

- If mailed, by 8:00 pm on Tuesday, March 27, 2012
- If faxed or emailed, by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 27, 2012

After Tuesday, March 27, 2012, all requests for an absentee ballot must be made **in person** at a local board of elections. After March 27th, the late application for absentee ballot will be posted at www.elections.state.md.us/voting/absentee.html, but a voter must submit the late application *in person* at the voter's local board of elections during normal business hours.

The 2012 Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2012, and the 2012 Presidential General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Starting the 2nd Saturday before the election through the Thursday before the election, voters can vote in person at the designated early voting center(s) in their county of residence. Early voting locations and hours and additional election-related information and dates are available at www.elections.state.md.us/voting/early_voting.html.

For more information, please contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-222-VOTE (8683) or www.elections.state.md.us.

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