

State of Maryland Absentee Instructions

Verifying the status of your absentee ballot

You can visit www.elections.state.md.us to verify that your absentee ballot was received and after the election, whether it was counted. You can also obtain this information by calling 1-800-222-8683.

Contact Information

Maryland State Board of Elections

Website: elections.state.md.us

E-mail: info@elections.state.md.us

Phone: 1-800-222-8683

Fax: 1-410-974-2019

Final checklist

- ❖ Check that you have voted all of the contests for which you want to vote.
- ❖ Do not sign your name or make any other mark on the ballot.
- ❖ Write-in votes are only allowed in general elections. Do not write in votes in a primary election.
- ❖ Check that your oath is signed and dated. Your ballot will not count if your oath is not signed.
- ❖ In your envelope, put only your voted ballot and if applicable, ID information and the signed Certification of Person Assisting Absentee Voter.
- ❖ Seal the envelope and mail it promptly to your county board of elections.

State of Maryland Absentee Instructions

Introduction

At your request, these absentee voting materials have been sent to you. The materials include: (1) an absentee ballot; (2) a return envelope with the Oath of Absentee Voter printed on the back; and (3) a Certification of Person Assisting Absentee Voter. Please read these instructions before voting your ballot.

Voting your absentee ballot

1. Find a place where you can vote your ballot in private.
2. Use only a No. 2 pencil. Pens and other pencils may not be read by the voting unit.
3. Review your ballot before voting. Your ballot may be multiple pages.
4. Completely fill in the oval to the left of your choice.
5. Do not vote for more candidates than the number specified in the contest heading. If you wish, you may vote for fewer candidates than specified.
6. If you made a mistake or changed your mind after filling in the oval, do not erase the mark. Call your county board of elections to receive a new ballot. You may be required to submit your spoiled ballot before getting a new one.
7. Do not sign your name or make any other mark on your ballot.
8. Write-in voting is only allowed in general elections. A general election ballot has spaces for write-in votes. To cast a write-in vote:
 - (a) fill in the oval to the left of the space for the write-in vote; and
 - (b) write the last name and first name (or first initial) of the person in the appropriate space.

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Voting with assistance

If you have a disability or are unable to read or write, you may have help. Any person can help you, except a candidate on your ballot, your employer or agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union. The person helping you:

1. Can mark the ballot according to your wishes.
2. Can print your name, followed by his or her initials, if you cannot sign the oath.
3. Cannot make any effort to influence your vote.
4. Must complete the Certification of Person Assisting Absentee Voter included in these materials.

ID Information

If “ID Required” is stamped on your envelope, you must send ID information with your voted ballot. The acceptable forms of ID are:

1. A copy of a current and valid photo ID; or
2. A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows your name and address. Current means that the document is dated within 3 months of the election.

If you received a Request for Maryland Driver’s License or Social Security Number form, please complete the form, put it in a separate envelope, and return it immediately to your county board of elections. Your county board of elections needs to process this form **before** processing your voted ballot.

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After voting

1. Refold the ballot as it was folded.
2. Put in the envelope:
 - a. Your voted ballot;
 - b. A completed Certification of Person Assisting Absentee Voter if someone helped you vote this ballot; and
 - c. A copy of ID information if “ID Required” is stamped on your envelope.
3. Read the Oath of Absentee Voter, and print, sign, and date the oath. (You may use a pen to sign and date the oath.) If you cannot sign your name, see “Voting with assistance” section of these instructions. You must sign the oath or your ballot will not count.
4. Remove the two adhesive covers, and seal the envelope.

Returning your absentee ballot

You must mail or hand deliver your absentee ballot to your county board of elections. You cannot email or fax a voted absentee ballot or take your voted ballot to an early voting center or a polling place.

1. If you hand deliver your ballot, you must deliver it to your county board of elections by 8 pm on election day.
2. If you mail your ballot, you must mail it on or before April 3, 2012 (primary election) or November 6, 2012 (general election), **and** it must be received by your county board of elections by 10 am on April 13, 2012 (primary election) or November 16, 2012 (general election).

Note: If you mail your ballot via a foreign mail system, affix the proper postage to get the ballot into the U.S. postal system. If you mail your ballot from a military post office (APO/FPO) or U.S. embassy or consulate, postage is not required.