Get Out to Vote in 2020!

Greetings HANDLS participants! In 2020, you can choose to vote for the next President of the United States. In this newsletter, you will learn about the election process, how to register, and how to vote.

There are two elections in 2020: the Primary Election (April 28, 2020) and the General Election (November 3, 2020). You must apply to register to vote in the Primary Election by 9PM on April 7, 2020. You may also register and vote on the same day, during the early voting period.

> There are two elections, a primary in April and the general election in November

Primary election

The Primary Election allows voters to choose which candidates can run for President. A voter can only vote for a candidate that belongs to their political party. For example, a voter who is a registered democrat can only vote for a democratic candidate in the Primary Election.

Primary election early voting

- Thursday, April 16, 2020 – April 23, 2020
- Hours: 10AM-8PM

Locations

- Westside Skill Center – 4501 Edmondson Ave., 21229
- The League for People with Disabilities – 1111 E. Coldspring Lane, 21239
- Mount Pleasant Ministries – 6000 Radecke Ave., 21206
- Public Safety Training Center – 3500 W. Northern Pkwy., 21215
- Southeast Anchor Library – 3601 Eastern Ave., 21224
- Community Engagement Center – 870 W. Baltimore St., 21201
- Patapsco Elementary School – 844 Roundview Rd., 21225

Primary election day

- April 28, 2020
- Hours: 7AM-8PM

Locations

Your polling location is listed on your voter registration card. You can also check this website: https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch

General election

The General Election is when all candidates run against each other for President. The candidates include the Primary Election winners. People can vote for their favorite candidate, regardless of political party affiliation. For example, a voter who is a registered democrat can vote for their favorite candidate, even if the candidate is not a democrat.

General election early voting

- October 22, 2020 - October 29, 2020
- Hours: 8AM-8PM

General election day

- November 3, 2020
- Hours: 7AM-8PM

Why should I vote?

Here are some reasons to consider voting in 2020…

- Communities that vote get more attention from candidates. Candidates are less likely to visit and listen to communities that don't vote.
- When many people vote, they send the message that attention to their neighborhood and new policies are needed.

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- Many people cannot vote, including children. We can vote for candidates who will support our children's best interests.
- Voting makes your voice heard on an issue or candidate. Every vote counts! When we vote and get our family members to vote, we can create change. Many elections are decided by less than 100 votes.
- If you don't vote, you're letting others decide who wins. You're also letting others decide which issues matter. These issues could include healthcare, education, income inequality, public safety, and social services.
- Voting is one of our most important right as citizens. Throughout the history of our country, many people have fought for the right to vote. By voting, you honor the brave people who believed all citizens deserve the right to vote.

> Voting is the way we make our choices known

How do I choose a candidate?

When deciding who to vote for, it's important to:

- Decide what strengths you're looking for in a candidate.
- Research their positions on the issues that matter to you.
- Learn about their leadership skills.
- Beware of misleading information.

Do research on the candidates by visiting their websites, watching the news, or reading the newspaper. Learn what the candidates stand for so you can decide who best represents your values and concerns. Talk to your friends and family about the issues that are important to you. Be careful, some candidates will distort information and sway perceptions.

The Guide to Informed Voting explains information about candidates. The website has information on campaign finance, defines political terms, and explains campaign ads. You can find the guide at https://www.aascu.org/programs/ADP/VotingResources/InformedVoting.pdf.

Maryland sends a sample ballot to every registered voter. You can make your decision about who to vote for ahead of time and note your decision on the sample ballot. You can take a sample ballot with you into the polls. The sample ballot may look exactly like the real one.

How do I register to vote?

To register to vote in Maryland, you must be a U.S. citizen, a Maryland Resident, and at least 16 years old. People can register to vote at age 16, but cannot actually vote until they are 18.

People cannot vote if they are currently imprisoned (effective March 10, 2016), have been convicted of buying/selling votes, are under guardianship for mental disability and are unable to communicate a desire to vote.

There are 4 ways that you can register to vote in Maryland.

Register online. https://www.baltimorevotes.org/register-to-vote-now. You must provide a valid Maryland ID or driver's license number. If you provide a Maryland-issued ID, the signature on file with the MVA will become your official voter registration signature.

Register by mail. Download the Voter Registration Application Form. If you do not have a computer, you can ask a friend or family member to print the application form for you. Librarians at the public library can also help you with the computer if you would like to print the form there.

Be sure to sign the form before mailing it. The Voter Registration Application form cannot be processed without an ORIGINAL signature. Mail the form to: State Board of Elections, P.O. Box 6486, Annapolis, MD 21401-0486.

Register in person. You can register at the following locations: Local election offices, Maryland State Board of Elections, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Social Services, Motor Vehicle Administration, Offices on Aging, MTA Paratransit Certification Office, Public higher education institutions, Military recruitment offices, Marriage license offices

Register during the early voting period. In 2013, the Maryland State Legislature approved a bill that authorized same-day voter registration during the early voting period. Early voting for the next primary election is Thursday, April 16, 2020 through Thursday, April 23, 2020. Early voting for the next general election is Thursday, October 22, 2020 through Thursday, October 29, 2020. You can register right at the polling station and vote at the same time. Voters must provide proof of residency (e.g., utility bill, pay stub with your current address) and identity (e.g., driver's license) at the time of registration.

To see if you are already registered to vote, visit: https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/votersearch.

Which political parties are recognized in Maryland?

Democratic Party. https://democrats.org/

Republican Party. https://www.gop.com/

Bread & Roses Party. https://www.breadandroses.us/

Did you know?

You don't need a home to vote: http://nationalhomeless.org/campaigns/voting/. If you are homeless and want to register to vote you can use the address of a homeless shelter or healthcare for the homeless.

Individuals convicted of a felony are ineligible to vote while in prison but can register and vote upon release, even while on probation or parole (as of April 2016). Ex-offenders should re-register to vote.

Address Confidentiality Programs (ACP) and Confidential Voter Listings are programs that enable survivors of domestic violence (and sometimes victims of sexual assault and/or stalking) to vote without fear of being found by their abusers by providing a substitute address for public records. Confidential Voter Listings only provide confidentiality on election-related public records. The National Network to End Domestic Violence provides a list of programs at https://nnedv.org/.

Almost all of Maryland's polling places are accessible to voters with disabilities on election day. All the early voting centers in Maryland are accessible to voters with disabilities. You can find out specific information about your polling place by calling the board of elections or checking the website: https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/accessibility.html.

Voting resources

Baltimore City Board of Elections. https://boe.baltimorecity.gov/boe-resources

Voting resources for Maryland residents. https://www.maryland.gov/pages/residents.aspx?view=Voting

Maryland State Board of Elections.
http://www.elections.state.md.us/
Email: info.sbe@maryland.gov
Phone: 1-800-222-8683

Election process information. https://www.usa.gov/how-to-vote

The Baltimore Votes Coalition. https://www.baltimorevotes.org/about-baltimorevotes

References

https://boe.baltimorecity.gov/boe-resources

https://www.usa.gov/how-to-vote

https://www.baltimorevotes.org/about-baltimorevotes

https://baltimorewomenunited.org/get-out-the-womens-vote

https://www.maryland.gov/pages/residents.aspx?view=Voting

Our mobile research vehicles are parked at 5225 Hamilton Ave

U.S Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health • National Institute on Aging

Newsletter for the HANDLS community

The purpose of this study is to learn about changes in health over time. Using our medical research vehicles, we want to study as many people with different backgrounds as we can. We want this study to help us understand healthy aging by examining the influences of different backgrounds on changes in health over time. The information we gather will help improve health and prevent disabilities. Our goal is to gather information to improve health and prevent disabilities for people of all backgrounds, particularly in minority communities and communities with limited resources.

For information about our study call 877-677-9538 or visit our website https://handls.nih.gov.