



Carroll County Board of Elections



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410-386-2080

MD RELAY: Call 711 or 800-735-2258 (TTY)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Update – September 2020

Katherine Berry
Election Director

What is the difference between absentee voting and mail-in ballot voting? They are one in the same. The Maryland State Legislature changed the law to remove the term “absentee” and replace it with “mail-in”.

Will I get a mail-in ballot application? Yes. Governor Hogan mandated that all voters will be mailed an application beginning August 24. If a voter submitted an application before August 5, they will NOT get another application. If a voter submitted an application between August 5-24, they will get another application. It does not have to be submitted again. An application can also be completed online at:
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1> .

Will I get a sample of my ballot? Yes. All registered voters who have not requested a mail-in ballot will get a sample ballot in late-September.

Where can I vote in-person? At an early voting center or at ANY vote center on election day.

Where are the early voting centers? Westminster Senior Center & South Carroll Swim Club.

When is early voting? Monday, October 26th - Monday, November 2nd 7am-8pm, including Saturday and Sunday.

When is election day? Tuesday, November 3rd 7am-8pm.

Where are the vote centers on election day? Westminster Senior Center, South Carroll Swim Club, North Carroll Middle School, Francis Scott Key High School, Liberty High School, Manchester Valley High School, New Windsor Community Room, Parr’s Ridge Elementary, Pleasant Valley Fire Department, Sandymount Elementary, South Carroll High School, Taneytown Elementary, & Winter’s Mill High School.

How do I get my mail-in ballot application to the Carroll County Board of Elections?

Applications can be mailed to 300 South Center Street, Westminster, MD 21157, emailed to

ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov or put in a secure box outside of the Board of Elections office (300 S Center St. Westminster).

What if I do NOT get a mail-in ballot application or sample ballot? Email the Board of Elections at ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov OR <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> to verify your voter registration information is accurate.

When does my mail-in ballot application need to be received by the Board of Elections? Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

When does my mail-in ballot have to be returned to the Board of Elections? The mail-in ballots can be delivered at a drop box beginning September 28 through November 3. If you mail your ballot, the ballot must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020, and received at the office by Friday, November 13, 2020. The ballot can be taken to a Board of Elections drop off location by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. (The drop boxes are managed by the Board of Elections staff.)

Will drop-boxes for the mail-in ballot be available? Yes. A drop box will be available at Board of Elections Office, Liberty High School, North Carroll Senior Center, South Carroll Swim Club, Taneytown Police Station, & Westminster Senior Center.

Can I request a mail-in ballot AND vote in-person? If you complete an application for a mail-in ballot, you will only be eligible to vote a provisional ballot if you choose to vote in-person in lieu of voting the ballot you get by mail.

Can I cancel my mail-in ballot request and vote in-person? No. The data was pulled for the mailing on September 9, so you will be required to vote a provisional ballot if you choose to vote in-person.

When will my mail-in ballot be counted? The local board of election office will begin counting ballots in early-October. Results are not released until after the polls close on Election night. ALL ballots are counted no matter what.

My signature on file and my current signature are different due to age, injury or other reason. Will this disqualify my ballot? Ballot envelopes are reviewed to ensure there is a signature and that it matches the preprinted name of the voter. While Maryland law does not require the Carroll County Board of Elections to verify a signature against the signature on file, the Board routinely does so and if something abnormal is noted, the Ballot is given a special review by the Board of Canvassers (The Board of Elections members overseeing the ballot count.) It takes a unanimous vote of the Board of Canvassers to disqualify a ballot.

Is there security in place to ensure that a voter does not vote more than one time? Voters are mailed a ballot to the address that they request on the mail-in ballot application, so if voters submit more than one ballot with their signature on the oath, these will be pulled aside for further examination and sent to the State Board of Elections for review to be sent to the Attorney General's Office for double-voting. If a voter goes to early voting or a vote center and votes a provisional ballot AND mails their mail-in ballot, only one ballot will be counted AND their name will be sent to the State Board of Elections for review to be sent to the Attorney General's Office for double-voting.

How can I find out if the Board of Elections has received my application or voted mail-in ballot? You can check the status of your ballot at: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>, call (410)386-2080 or email ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov.

How do I contact the Carroll County Board of Elections? You may call (410)386-2080 and leave a message. All calls are returned in the order that they are received. You may also contact the office at ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov.

When will I hear if I've been selected as an election judge? Election judge assignments are filled.

Why aren't all polling places open on election day? Historically, 10% of people who express interest in being an election judge drop out before being assigned and trained. Another 10%-20% who have been trained and assigned quit the week before election day. Even with the recent recruitment efforts, we are running a risk of not having enough election judges when we know we will have to fill the spots where people quit before election day. The Board of Elections which is staffed by 7 employees are responsible for running 30 days of counting ballots prior to election day, 30 days of drop box management, 8 days of early voting, manually processing all by-mail applications and manually processing all by mail-ballots. As a result of all of these factors, the election judge training must be completed in September following all social distancing guidelines to ensure the health and safety of the employees, so we are limited in the amount of locations that can be used.

How will the vote centers and early voting centers be enforcing CDC guidelines? Election judges will be provided with face shields, gloves, sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and surgical masks. If a voter does not have a mask, they will be offered one. All voters will get hand sanitizer upon entry to the polling place. All voters will be given their own pen to use through the entire voting process.