

Chapter 6 - Check-in Judges

Same Day Registration	6-2
Election Morning Set-up	6-2
During Voting Hours	6-3
Important Reminders.....	6-4
Voter Update Form	6-5
Issuing a Provisional Ballot.....	6-7
Blind/Low Vision Voters and Voters Who Cannot Sign Any Form(s).....	6-7
Closing the Polls.....	6-8

Same Day Registration

Same day registration allows individuals to register and vote at an early voting center during the early voting period and at a precinct polling place on election day. To register to vote a regular ballot at a polling place on election day, an individual must:

- Register at the assigned polling place where they live.
- Show a current Maryland driver's license or MVA ID card or an official document with the applicant's name and address that establishes that the applicant lives in the precinct. Official documents include the following, which must have been issued within the past three months: a utility bill, a bank statement, a government-issued check, a paycheck, a government-issued document, or a document issued by an independent institution of higher education; and
- Be a pre-qualified voter in the pollbook.

If an applicant is able to prove that they live in the county or precinct in which they wish to register and they are pre-qualified in the pollbook, they should be issued a voter authority card, sign that voter authority card, and be issued a regular ballot.

If the applicant is unable to prove that they live in the county or precinct, or if they are not pre-qualified in the pollbook, the applicant should be issued a provisional ballot.

The Carroll County Board of Elections will decide which election judges will be responsible for same day registration. Those election judges will be trained to follow the same day registration procedures.

Election Morning Set-up

All tasks are supervised by the chief judges.

Arrive by 6:00 a.m.

Make sure you sign the *Payroll Sheet*.

1. Help set up for the election as assigned by the chief judges, including:
 - Lay out supplies
 - Post signs
 - Set up tables

6-2 Check-in Judges



Work together so that your polling place is ready to open by 7:00 a.m.

2. Check that the correct pollbooks and printers have been sent to the correct polling place using the *Pollbook Integrity Report* located in the precinct binder.
3. Set up the individual check-in tables.

Each check-in judge should have the following:

- Pollbooks
- Stylus for the pollbook
- Printer for the pollbook
- Extra roll of paper for the printer
- Pens
- Maryland Flag

Check-in judges will share the following items found in the check-in judges' folder:

- *Voter Update Forms*
- *Voter Assistance Forms*
- Blank paper
- Envelope for completed *Voter Update Forms*
- Qualified but unable to sign labels
- Unable to sign the voter authority card labels
- Election Day Log

4. Prepare the pollbooks and printers for election day using the instructions in *Chapter 10 – Pollbook*.

During Voting Hours

The check-in judges must:

- Use the pollbook to look up and check voter information.
- Print voter authority cards from the pollbook.
- Ask voters to check the printed information on their voter authority card.

- For voters who are unable to read the information on their voter authority card, read the printed information on the voter authority to the voter and ask the voter to confirm that the information is correct.
- Tell voters to sign their voter authority card. See the section “*Voters Who Cannot Sign Any Form(s)*” below for information about how to assist voters who are unable to sign their voter authority cards.
- Circle the ballot style.
- Write your initials on each voter authority card.
- Send the voter to the ballot issuance table.
- Have voters fill out the *Voter Update Form*, if needed.
- Direct the voter who must vote a provisional ballot to the provisional ballot judge.



Only use the pollbook to look up the voter you are checking in. You may not look up any other person unless you are directed by a chief judge. If you look up anyone else, you may be removed from being an election judge and not be paid.

Important Reminders

- **DO NOT** ask a voter to show ID **unless** the voter is marked as “Show ID” in the pollbook.
- If any voter offers their ID, you may accept it. However, the voter **must** also say his or her name, address, and month and day of birth.
- A voter who cannot speak may choose to write down their information or provide a document (or ID) with their information to give to the check-in judge. Check-in judges should have blank paper and pens available or accept a document with the required information.
- If a voter’s identity is challenged, tell a chief judge right away.
Do not check-in this voter any further, except as specified below:
 - If the challenged voter provides an acceptable ID to the chief judge, continue to check-in the voter.

6-4 Check-in Judges

- If the challenged voter does not provide an acceptable ID to the chief judge, the voter must use a provisional ballot (use provisional code #8) *but should still be checked in.*
- If you are working outside of your home precinct, the pollbook will not show if you voted during early voting.



If you checked in the wrong voter and have already printed the voter authority card, tell a chief judge right away.

Voter Update Form

The *Voter Update Form* is used to update information about the voter for future elections.

- **During early voting**, a person can register to vote or change an address and should be sent to the provisional/check-in judge to be checked in.
- **On election day**, the following information about the voter may be updated using the *Voter Update Form* if the information on file for that voter is not correct:
 1. **Address:** If the voter moved **less than 21 days before election day**, fill out a *Voter Update Form*. The voter can use a regular ballot.



If the voter moved more than 21 days before election day, the voter must use a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot application will serve to update the voter's information, and no Voter Update Form is needed.

"21 Day" dates for the 2026 elections:

Primary Election – If the voter moved on or before June 2nd, 2026, the voter must vote a provisional ballot.

General Election – If the voter moved on or before October 13, 2026, the voter must vote a provisional ballot.

2. **Name:** The voter's name may have changed (perhaps due to marriage) or be different (perhaps it was misspelled) from the information in the pollbook.

3. **Date of Birth:** The date of birth for the voter may not be right in the pollbook. But check the information on the pollbook to **make sure** you are checking in the correct voter. For example, some parents and children may have the same name and live at the same address but have different dates of birth. Then give the voter a *Voter Update Form* to change the date of birth.
4. **Party Affiliation:** The voter's party affiliation may be changed for the **next** election. It cannot be changed for the current election.
5. **Identification Information:** If the pollbook indicates "ID Required" for the voter, then fill out the "Identification Information" section of the *Voter Update Form*. Give the voter a regular ballot **if the voter presents an acceptable ID**. See *Chapter 10 - Pollbook* for a list of acceptable ID.
6. **Death Notice:** A voter may report the death of another voter and ask that the voter's name be removed from voter registration records. This request will be investigated by the Carroll County Board of Elections before the voter registration record is changed.

Figure - Voter Update Form

Maryland Voter Update Form		
You may need to fill out this form if your information has changed. Please use blue or black ink. Election Judge: If a voter must vote a provisional ballot, do not use this form.		
Voter Information To be filled out by Election Judge. Use voter authority card to fill out this information.	1	Voter ID # _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____ Middle _____ Suffix (Jr, Sr, III, IV) _____ Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) _____
Contact Information	2	Email _____ Phone _____
Change of Address	3	☐ Check here if you moved less than 21 days before the election. Provide your new address below. Street _____ Unit # _____ City _____ State <u>MD</u> Zip _____ Mailing Address (if different) Street or PO Box _____ Unit # _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Change of Name, Date of Birth, and/or Gender	4	First Name _____ Last Name _____ Middle _____ Suffix (Jr, Sr, III, IV) _____ Date of Birth _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Unspecified/Other
Change of Party Affiliation	5	For future elections, I want my party affiliation to be: ☐ Democratic Party ☐ Republican Party ☐ Green Party ☐ Libertarian Party ☐ Working Class Party ☐ Unaffiliated (independent of any party) ☐ Other (please specify) _____
Identification Information Election Judge use only	6	Indicate the type of ID provided only if "ID required" is specified on the pollbook. Photo ID - The photo ID does not need an address. If there is an address, the address does not need to match the address on the VAC or this form. ☐ M/D Driver's Licence or MVA ID # _____ ☐ Other Photo ID _____ Non Photo ID - The document must be current (dated within the last 3 months) and must contain the same name and address as listed on the VAC or this form. ☐ Utility Bill ☐ Bank Statement ☐ Pay Check ☐ Government Check ☐ Other Government Document: _____
Death Notice Please sign in section 8 for the deceased voter.	7	I, _____ confirm that the voter listed above is deceased. I ask that the voter's name be removed from the voter registration records. My relationship to the deceased _____
Signature of Voter If the voter is deceased, the person filling out this form should sign here. Election Judge does not sign here.	8	I affirm under penalty of perjury that the information on this form is true and correct. Voter, sign and date here (Required) X Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



If a voter cannot be found in the pollbook, tell a chief judge right away. The chief judge will call the Carroll County Board of Elections office for further verification of a voter's status. Voters who are not found in the pollbook may only be issued a provisional ballot. See Chapter 10 – Pollbook for more information.

Issuing a Provisional Ballot

In some situations, a voter must use a provisional ballot. Examples include voters with a “pending” status and voters who are not in their registered precinct.

Check-in judges are required to send a provisional voter or a same day registration voter to a provisional check-in judge to issue a voter authority card. **Check-in judges are NOT to issue a voter authority card for provisional voters or same day registration voters.**

Sometimes the pollbook will allow a voter to be issued a regular ballot, but the voter should be issued a provisional ballot instead. Examples include:

- A voter whose status is “Active (or Inactive)-Show ID,” but the voter is unable to show an acceptable ID.
- A voter who is challenged by a watcher, but the voter is unable to show an acceptable ID.
- A voter who voted during extended hours.
- During a primary election, a voter who claims a different party affiliation than what is shown in the pollbook.

Blind/Low Vision Voters and Voters Who Cannot Sign Any Form(s)

Follow regular check-in procedures and tell the voter when a signature is needed. Let the voter tell you if they cannot sign their name. Magnifiers are available from the voting judges if needed.

If the voter is **blind or has low vision**, on all forms requesting a voter signature, place the tip of a pen at the beginning of the signature line and inform the voter you have done so. Then allow the voter to take control of the pen, rather than guiding the voter's hand to the signature line.

If a voter is **unable to sign** his or her voter authority card, *Voter Update Form*, or any other form(s), ask the voter to make an “X” or similar mark on the signature line. This mark is acceptable as that voter’s signature.

- If a voter cannot sign his or her voter authority card, *Voter Update Form*, or any other form(s), ask the voter to make an “X” or similar mark on the signature line. This mark can be used as that person’s signature.
- When a voter is unable to make a mark, write the following statement on the back of the form the voter should sign:
 - On the voter authority card: “This voter is qualified to vote but is unable to sign his or her name.”
 - **On all other forms except the voter authority card:** “This voter is unable to sign his or her name.”
 - Sign your name and write the date under the statement.



Always ask the voter before helping. Do not assume a voter cannot sign his or her own name.



If a voter cannot read the voter authority card because the print is too small and insists on being able to read and sign the voter authority card, tell the chief judge. If the polling place has a copy machine, the chief judge can enlarge the voter authority card so that the voter is able to see it better. After the voter signs the copy of the voter authority card, the check-in judge will staple the original voter authority card printed from the pollbook to the enlarged, signed copy.

Closing the Polls

All voters who are in the check-in line by 8:00 p.m. are allowed to vote. After the last person who was in line by 8:00 p.m. has voted, the polls are officially closed.

1. Print and sign the *Consolidated Ballot Counts Report* and *Consolidated Voter Counts Report* from each pollbook. Attach them to the *Pollbook Integrity Report*.

6-8 Check-in Judges

2. When the election field support tell you, shut down and pack up the pollbooks and printers. The election field support personnel will remove the compact flash cards (CF cards).
3. Assist the election field support with packing the pollbooks. Instructions in the *Pollbook Step-by-Step Guide* or *Chapter 10 - Pollbook* will be followed to properly close the polls.
4. Fill out the *Pollbook Integrity Report*. Give it to the chief judges.
5. Pack all other check-in supplies.
6. Help close the polls by doing anything else the chief judges ask you to do.



Extended voting hours may be ordered. When this happens, all election judges must continue to work. All voters who are in the check-in line at the end of the extended voting hours are allowed to vote. See Appendix 1 – Extended Hours for more information.