



Carroll County Board of Elections



300 S. Center Street, Room 212, Westminster, MD 21158

Mailing Address: PO Box 3191, Westminster, MD 21158

Phone: (410) 386-2080

Email: ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov

Website: elections.carrollcountymd.gov

AGENDA*

Carroll County Board of Elections

300 S Center Street, Westminster

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

10:00 am

- I. Call Meeting to Order and Declaration of Quorum
- II. Welcome
- III. Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. May 21, 2025 – Open Meeting
- V. Correspondence
- VI. Attorney Report
- VII. Election Directors' Report
- VIII. Unfinished Business
- IX. New Business
 - a. Contract Renewal for Board Attorney
- X. Disclosure of Campaign Contributions
- XI. Adjournment

**This Agenda is subject to change*

Closed Meeting: A portion of the meeting may be closed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Title 10, Subtitle 5, section §3-305(b).

Public Participation: Members of the public may address the Board. Pursuant to §3.2B of the Board's bylaws, public participation at a meeting must be pre-scheduled and pre-approved by the President. To request approval to speak at a board meeting, contact Erin Perrone at 410-386-2081 or by email erine.perrone@maryland.gov no later than 5 pm the day before the meeting.



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Election Directors' Report Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Public Information Requests

- Nothing to report

Important Meetings and Events

- June 19th – Holiday – Juneteenth – Office Closed
- June 26th – Erin & Jen – SBE/LBE Collaboration Meeting with SBE
- July 4th – Holiday – Independence Day – Office Closed
- July 15th – Staff – MAEO Meeting
- July 16th – Board Meeting (if needed)

Candidate Filing – 2026 Gubernatorial Election

- Encourage candidates to make an appointment via our website
- Candidates who have filed can be found on SBE's website at https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/Primary_candidates/index.html

Voter Registration

- Monthly statistical reports are available on our website. The link to the reports is <https://elections.carrollcountymd.gov/monthlyStats.aspx>.
- Day to day electronic batches and processing mail

As of 5/31/2025	DEM	REP	UNA & OTHER	TOTAL
Active Voters	33,184	64,788	33,613	131,585
Inactive Voters	1,235	2,359	1,521	5,115
TOTAL	34,419	67,147	34,134	136,700

IT/Warehouse

- Working on moving to the new warehouse
- Preparing for the 2026 elections

Personnel

- "I Voted" Sticker Contest
- Performance Evaluation Program (PEPs)

Budget/County

- FY26 Budget
 - Received final budget that begins July 1st
- Office Move Update
 - Thursday, June 12th – Approval of security and networking purchase
 - Working with the county for furniture and moving company
 - **GOAL:** Move and be in operation by Labor Day



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2025 Board Meetings

- July 16, 2025
- August 20, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- October 15, 2025 - **Early voting centers, polling places, and ballot drop box approval**
- November 19, 2025
- December 17, 2025

2026 Gubernatorial Elections – Important Dates

- Primary Advanced Deadline to Register – Tuesday, June 2, 2026
- Primary Early Voting – Thursday, June 11 through Thursday, June 18, 2026
- Primary Election – Tuesday, June 23, 2026
- General Advanced Deadline to Register – Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- General Early Voting – Thursday, October 22 through Thursday, October 29, 2026
- General Election – Tuesday, November 3, 2026

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

SERENA BRYSON
6413 Cabin Branch Court
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

and

KIMBERLE D. FIELDS
41600 Shadrick Street, Apt. 600
Leonardtown, MD 20650

and

AMBER IVEY
1613 East 33rd Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

and

ROBERT SARTWELL
7258 214th Street
Pasadena, MD 21122

and

DONA J. SAUERBURGER
1606 Huntcliff Way
Gambrills, MD 21054

Plaintiffs,

v.

GOVERNOR WESTLEY W. MOORE
in his Official Capacity as
Chief Executive Officer,
STATE OF MARYLAND,
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

and

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF
ELECTIONS,
151 West Street

Case No.:

Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

and

JARED DEMARINIS,
in his Official Capacity as Maryland State
Administrator of Elections,
Maryland State Board of Elections,
151 West Street
Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

and

MICHAEL G. SUMMERS,
in his Official Capacity as Chairman,
Maryland State Board of Elections,
151 West Street
Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

Defendants.

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Plaintiffs, by and through their undersigned attorneys, bring this civil action against the Defendants, and state:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action challenges the “closed primary elections” in this State which are sponsored and held by the State Board of Elections on the grounds that these closed primary elections violate the Plaintiffs’ rights, as unaffiliated voters, to vote and participate in all elections held in the State as provided for in Article 1, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution of 1867 and secured by Article 7 (the “Free Elections Clause”) and Article 24 (the “Equal Protection Clause”) of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

2. Plaintiffs are five individual qualified voters who are registered as “unaffiliated” as

to any of the State-recognized political parties.

3. Plaintiffs, as unaffiliated voters, are not permitted to vote in the Statewide and most primary elections, according to the rules of the State-recognized political parties regarding eligibility to vote in the primary elections for local, state, and federal offices, which rules are endorsed and implemented by the Defendants. By excluding unaffiliated voters from participating in the primary elections, these elections are considered “closed primary elections.”

4. Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment that, as duly registered unaffiliated voters, these “closed primary elections” violate their constitutional right to vote as guaranteed by the State’s constitution, and seek permanent injunctive relief preventing Defendants from conducting, organizing or funding such “closed” primary elections.

JURISDICTION

5. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Cts & Jud. Proc. § 1-501.

6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Cts & Jud. Proc. § 6-201.

FACTS

The Parties

7. Plaintiff Serena Bryson is a United States citizen and a resident of Prince George’s County, Maryland, and in all other respects is a qualified voter under the laws of the State of Maryland. She is and has been registered to vote as an unaffiliated voter in Maryland since 2018.

8. Plaintiff Kimberle D. Fields is a United States citizen and a resident of St. Mary’s County, Maryland, and in all other respects is a qualified voter under the laws of the State of Maryland. She is and has been registered to vote as an unaffiliated voter in Maryland since 2020.

9. Plaintiff Amber Ivey is a United States citizen and a resident of Baltimore City, Maryland, and in all other respects is a qualified voter under the laws of the State of Maryland. She is and has been registered to vote as an unaffiliated voter in Maryland since 2019.

10. Plaintiff Robert Sartwell is a United States citizen and a resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and in all other respects is a qualified voter under the laws of the State of Maryland. He is and has been registered to vote as an unaffiliated voter in Maryland since 1997.

11. Plaintiff Dona J. Sauerburger is a United States citizen and a resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and in all other respects is a qualified voter under the laws of the State of Maryland. She is and has been registered to vote as an unaffiliated voter in Maryland since 2008.

12. Defendant Governor Westley W. Moore, is the Chief Executive Officer of the State of Maryland and has a sworn responsibility for the execution of the laws and the Constitution of the State of Maryland.

13. Defendant Maryland State Board of Elections (“Board of Elections”) is responsible for conducting, overseeing, and funding elections within the State of Maryland.

14. Defendant Michael G. Summers is Chairman of the Maryland State Board of Elections, and is responsible for supervising and overseeing the conduct of elections within the State of Maryland.

15. Defendant Jared DeMarinis is the Maryland State Administrator of Elections, and is Maryland’s chief election official responsible for the conduct of elections in the State.

Voter Registration in Maryland and Registering as an Unaffiliated Voter

16. In Maryland, any person who is a United States citizen, a Maryland resident, and is at least 16 years old and will be at least 18 years old by the next general election, is eligible to register to vote. *See* EL § 3-102(a).

17. When a person registers to vote in Maryland, they have the option to register as being affiliated with any one of Maryland’s recognized political parties or to register as “unaffiliated.”

18. As of the 2024 statewide and local elections, Maryland recognized three political parties: the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, and the Green Party.

19. Over the past decade or so, there has been an increasing number of voters registering as “unaffiliated,” particularly true among the younger voter population. According to the Maryland Board of Elections Voter Registration Activity Reports, in 2012, 558,562 Maryland citizens were registered as unaffiliated as of February of that year, representing 16% of all registered voters;¹ as of February 2022 that number increased to 824,969 citizens registered as unaffiliated voters, representing 20% of all registered voters;² and, as of February 2025, that number increased further to 944,876 citizens registered as unaffiliated, representing 22% of all registered voters.³

Closed Primary Elections in Maryland

20. In Maryland, each recognized political party is required to hold primary elections for the purpose of selecting that party’s candidate to run in a general election. *See* EL § 8-202(a).

¹ [See https://elections.maryland.gov/pdf/vrar/2012_02.pdf](https://elections.maryland.gov/pdf/vrar/2012_02.pdf)

² [See https://elections.maryland.gov/pdf/vrar/2022_02.pdf](https://elections.maryland.gov/pdf/vrar/2022_02.pdf)

³ [See https://elections.maryland.gov/pdf/vrar/2025_02.pdf](https://elections.maryland.gov/pdf/vrar/2025_02.pdf)

21. The Maryland State Board of Elections, with the support of State-funds, organizes and holds these statewide and local primary elections in every even-numbered year. *See* EL § 8-201(a)(1).

22. Primary elections in Maryland are State elections. They are conducted by State officials, on ballots provided by the State, at times designated by the State, and are paid for with State funds.

23. Defendant Jared DeMarinis was reported in a 2024 Baltimore Sun article as saying the cost of the 2025 special election in Prince George’s County—just one County election—was likely to be four (4) million dollars, with two (2) million of that for the primary and two (2) million for the general election.⁴

24. More and more primary elections are becoming determinative of the outcome of the general election. Examples include:

(a) Eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) Baltimore City Councilmembers ran unopposed in the 2024 City Council General Election.⁵

(b) In St. Mary’s County, the candidate for State Senate ran unopposed in the 2022 General Election. Four (4) of the five (5) County Commissioners won their General Election by over 60% points, while the fifth ran unopposed as did the County’s State’s Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk of the Orphan’s Court, Register of Wills, and the Treasurer in the same General Election.⁶

⁴ See Maryland's unaffiliated voters are left out of primary elections, but they still pay for them, Baltimore Sun (2024)

⁵ See Official 2024 Presidential General Election Results for Baltimore City, Maryland Board of Elections (https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2024/general_results/gen_results_2024_by_county_3.html).

⁶ See Official 2022 Gubernatorial General Election Results for St. Mary’s County, Maryland Board of Elections (https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2022/general_results/gen_results_2022_by_county_19.html)

(c) In Prince George’s County in 2022, every candidate for county-wide offices ran unopposed in the General Election, including the County Executive. Six (6) of the eight (8) State Senators won with over 90% of the vote with one candidate running unopposed and one winning with 87% of the vote. Every State Delegate ran unopposed while ten (10) of the eleven (11) County Council candidates ran unopposed while the one member with a challenger, won with 95% of the vote.⁷

25. As the above examples demonstrate, several Maryland jurisdictions have non-competitive General Elections. Accordingly, elected officials and candidates in these jurisdictions only need to appeal to an increasingly smaller group of hardcore party voters in their respective primary elections and so are not compelled to craft a message for a wider more diverse electorate. By broadening candidates’ appeal to a wider electorate—to include the 944,876 Maryland unaffiliated voters—voter participation in Primary Elections will likely increase.⁸

26. However, unaffiliated voters are prohibited from voting in State and local primary elections, thereby denying the rights of over a fifth of registered voters the ability to exercise their elective franchise to select their State and local leaders. As Judge Battaglia recognized (while seated in this Court) in reference to the Court’s duty, in *Szeliga, et al. v. Lamone, et al.*, Nos. C-02-CV-21-001816, C-02-CV-21-001773, 2022 Md. Cir. Ct. LEXIS 9, 53 (Mar. 25, 2022), quoting from *Kemp v. Owens*, 76 Md. 235, 241 (1892), “[t]he elective franchise is the highest right of the

⁷ See Official 2022 Gubernatorial General Election Results for Prince George’s County, Maryland Board of Elections (https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2022/general_results/gen_results_2022_by_county_17.html)

⁸ See *Effects of Open Primaries on Turnout and Representation*, Bipartisan Policy Center (2024) https://bipartisanpolicy.org/download/?file=/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BPC_Ferrer-Unite-America-Grant_R04.pdf and See *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, https://commons.clarku.edu/faculty_political_science/19/

citizen and the spirit of our institution requires that every opportunity should be afforded to its fair and free exercise.”

27. State funding and sponsorship of elections of officers to private entities that exclude twenty-two (22) percent of registered voters are neither fair nor free.

28. The recognized political parties in the State are private entities that operate according to their own bylaws and internal governing rules and policies. According to the rules of each party, unaffiliated voters are prohibited from voting in that party’s primary elections. See Democratic Central Committee of Maryland – Maryland Democratic Party ByLaws, Art. II Membership (“The right to vote in the Party’s primary elections shall be extended to all individuals who shall have registered to vote as Democrats, and will be eligible to vote in the general election for which that primary will select the Party’s nominees.”);⁹ Rules of the National Republican Party, Rule 15(d) (“Only persons eligible to vote who are deemed as a matter of public record to be Republicans ... shall participate in any primary election ...”);¹⁰ Constitution and Bylaws of the Maryland Green Party, Art. 1, Sec. 3.2 Rights of Members (Members of the Maryland Green Party are entitled to...[v]ote in any party run primary.”)¹¹

29. The Board of Elections, through its website and printed materials, also advises registered voters in the State that “unaffiliated” voters are not able to vote in the Statewide and local primary elections.¹²

⁹ <https://mddems.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Copy-of-Current-MDP-By-Laws-as-amended-12-11-2021.docx.pdf>

¹⁰ https://prod-static.gop.com/media/Rules_Of_The_Republican_Party.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.mdgreens.org/bylaws>

¹² https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html

30. These restrictions which exclude unaffiliated voters from voting in each party's primary elections were in effect for the primary elections held in previous election cycles, including, but not limited to, the 2022 and 2024 election cycles.

31. In addition, the State endorses and implements these rules which exclude unaffiliated voters from voting in primary elections – rules created by these private corporate entities – by conducting, organizing, holding, and funding Statewide and local primary elections in which unaffiliated voters are prohibited from voting.

32. As a result of the State-endorsed exclusion of unaffiliated voters from voting in primary elections, the Board of Elections conducts and holds Statewide and local primary elections that are “closed” to registered, unaffiliated voters.

33. This results in a situation where a segment of voters is not able to vote in a State election, but also in a situation where citizens' tax dollars are being used to fund and conduct an election in which they are prohibited from participating.

34. This process can be likened to taxpayers funding the selection of officers to private clubs or in this case to private entities.

Plaintiffs Were Prohibited from Voting In 2022 and 2024 Primary Elections

35. In 2022 and 2024, the Defendants conducted and held Statewide and local primary elections that were “closed” to registered, unaffiliated voters.

36. The Plaintiffs, all of whom were registered voters in Maryland and were otherwise qualified to vote in Statewide and local elections, were prohibited from voting in the 2022 and 2024 primary elections which were conducted and held by the Board of Elections, with the supervision and oversight of Defendant DeMarinis, Defendant Summers and, ultimately, Defendant Moore.

COUNT I
Violation of Maryland's Free Elections Clause
(Maryland Declaration of Rights, Article 7)

37. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate herein by reference each of the allegations set forth in each of the preceding paragraphs.

38. A Marylander's right to vote is guaranteed and protected by the Maryland Declaration of Rights. Article 7 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights states:

That the right of the People to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty and the foundation of all free Government; for this purpose, elections ought to be free and frequent; and every citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage.

39. This constitutional provision not only guarantees that every citizen who is qualified to vote shall have the right to suffrage, but it also expressly states that this right is guaranteed because the right of the citizenry to participate in the legislative branch of the government "is the best security of liberty and the foundation of all free Government." Md. Decl. R. Art. 7.

40. The Defendants, however, violated each Plaintiff's right to vote under Article 7 by conducting, organizing, and funding, or allocating State funds to support, Statewide and local primary elections in 2022 and 2024 in which the Plaintiffs, as "unaffiliated" voters, were prohibited from voting.

41. The State of Maryland's endorsed exclusion of "unaffiliated" voters from voting in the 2022 and 2024 primary elections violated the Plaintiffs' Article 7 fundamental right of suffrage.

42. Plaintiffs seek both declaratory and injunctive relief to enjoin Defendants from conducting, organizing or funding State primary elections in which “unaffiliated” voters are prohibited from voting.¹³

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Honorable Court:

- A. Declare Defendants’ act of conducting, organizing, and funding State primary elections in which “unaffiliated” voters are prohibited from voting is unconstitutional in that it violates the Plaintiffs’ rights to vote as guaranteed by Article 7 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights;
- B. Enforce this declaratory judgment by enjoining Defendants from conducting, organizing or funding State primary elections in which “unaffiliated” voters are prohibited from voting.
- C. Award Plaintiffs such other and further relief as the nature of this cause and the claims asserted may require.

COUNT II
Violation of Maryland Voting Rights
(Maryland Constitution. Art. I § 1)

43. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate herein by reference each of the allegations set forth in each of the preceding paragraphs.

44. In addition to the guarantees regarding the right of suffrage set forth in Article 7 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights, a Marylander’s right to vote in all State elections is guaranteed in Article I, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution.

¹³ To be clear, Plaintiffs are not seeking to enjoin any of the State-recognized political parties from conducting primary elections or issuing rules that limit who can vote in their primary election. Rather, Plaintiffs seek to enjoin Defendants from using State funds to conduct primary elections as long as unaffiliated voters are prohibited from voting in those elections.

45. Article 1, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution states:

All elections shall be by ballot. Except as provided in Section 2A or Section 3 of this article, every citizen of the United States, of the age of 18 years or upwards, who is a resident of the State as of the time for the closing of registration next preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which the citizen resides at all elections to be held in this State. A person once entitled to vote in any election district, shall be entitled to vote there until the person shall have acquired a residence in another election district or ward in this State.

46. This constitutional provision guarantees that every citizen who is a resident of the State and at least 18 years of age is entitled to vote “at all elections to be held in this State.”

47. Statewide and local primary elections, like the ones held in 2022 and 2024, were “elections to be held in this State,” within the meaning of Article 1, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution.

48. Thus, Plaintiffs, who were qualified under Article 1, Section 1 to vote as of the 2022 and 2024 primary elections, were entitled to vote in the 2022 and 2024 primary elections per Article 1, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution.

49. The Defendants, however, violated each of the Plaintiffs’ right to vote in all elections held in the State as guaranteed by Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution by conducting, organizing, and funding, or allocating State funds to support, Statewide and local primary elections in 2022 and 2024 in which the Plaintiffs, as “unaffiliated” voters, were prohibited from voting.

50. The State-endorsed exclusion of “unaffiliated” voters from voting in the 2022 and 2024 primary elections violated the Plaintiffs’ constitutionally protected right to vote in all elections held in the State.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Honorable Court:

A. Declare that Defendants’ act of conducting, organizing, and funding State primary

elections in which “unaffiliated” voters are prohibited from voting is unconstitutional in that it violates the Plaintiffs’ rights to vote in all elections held in the State as guaranteed by Article 1, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution;

- B. Enforce this declaratory judgment by enjoining Defendants from conducting, organizing or funding State primary elections in which “unaffiliated” voters are prohibited from voting.
- C. Award Plaintiffs such other and further relief as the nature of this cause and the claims asserted may require.

COUNT III
Violation of Equal Protection
(Maryland Declaration of Rights Art. 24)

51. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate herein by reference each of the allegations set forth in each of the preceding paragraphs.

52. Article 24 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights guarantees “[t]hat no man ought to be taken or imprisoned or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or, in any manner, destroyed, or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or by the Law of the land.”

53. The protections afforded by Article 24 include and embody the principles of equal protection, as that term is defined and applied under Maryland law

54. Whereas Article 24 does not contain the phrase, “equal protection,” the Maryland Court of Appeals has held that “equal protection” is embodied in it and “deem[ed] it settled that this concept of equal treatment is embodied in the due process requirement of Article 24 of the Declaration of Rights.” *Att’y Gen. of Md. v. Waldron*, 289 Md. 683 (1981); *Bd. Of Supervisors of Elections of Prince George’s Cnty v. Goodsell*, 284 Md. 279, 293 n.7 (1979).

55. Defendants' endorsement, support, and funding of closed partisan primaries has had the effect of treating Plaintiffs, as a class, differently than voters who are registered with a State-sanctioned political party in violation of the Maryland Constitution and the guarantees secured by the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

56. The Defendants violated each of the Plaintiffs' equal protection rights by conducting, organizing, and funding, or allocating State funds to support, Statewide and local primary elections in 2022 and 2024 in which the Plaintiffs, as "unaffiliated" voters, were prohibited from voting.

57. The State of Maryland has no legitimate or compelling interest in supporting an unconstitutionally discriminatory primary election regime that infringes upon these Plaintiffs' (and over 944,000 other Marylanders') fundamental right to vote, simply based on their status as "unaffiliated" voters.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Honorable Court:

- A. Declare that Defendants' act of conducting, organizing, and funding State primary elections in which "unaffiliated" voters are prohibited from voting is unconstitutional in that it violates the Plaintiffs' equal protection rights guaranteed by Article 24 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights;
- B. Enforce this declaratory judgment by enjoining Defendants from conducting, organizing or funding State primary elections in which "unaffiliated" voters are prohibited from voting.
- C. Award Plaintiffs such other and further relief as the nature of this cause and the claims asserted may require.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVIS, AGNOR, RAPAPORT &
SKALNY, LLC

/s/ Michael W. Davis

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs



DESIGN THE CARROLL COUNTY “I VOTED” STICKER!

WHO CAN ENTER:

Students currently enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade (or the equivalent for home schooled students) and adults. Must be a resident of Carroll County, Maryland. Four winners will be chosen: one from each of the elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult categories.

HOW TO ENTER:

To enter, students and adults must submit a hand-drawn or digitally created design on the Official Design Entry Form. Students under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian signature on the *Official Design Entry Form* and complete the *Submission Release Form*. All contest forms can be sent to ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov or by mailing in a physical copy to the Carroll County Board of Elections at PO Box 3191, Westminster, MD 21158. All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2025.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:

- The elementary school design must include the phrases “Future Voter” and “Carroll County, MD.” The middle school, high school, and adult design must include the phrases “I Voted” and “Carroll County, MD.” Designs must correspond with the theme of voting and elections.
- The dimensions of the design should fit on the rounded rectangular sticker 2"x1".
- Designs submitted digitally should be submitted as .pdf, .png, .jpg, or .jpeg. File size must be under 1 GB.

FINALIST SELECTION PROCESS:

Designs will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the following criteria:

- a. Creativity
- b. Originality
- c. Voting Message

There will be one round of judging to select the finalists. The judges will select three designs from each of the elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult categories. The judges will select a total of twelve finalists. Finalists will be announced on Friday, December 12, 2025.

ONLINE PUBLIC VOTING AND RESULTS:

The public voting period will begin on Friday, December 19, 2025 and end on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 11:59 pm. Members of the public may vote for their favorite sticker among the selected finalists on the Carroll County Board of Election website: elections.carrollcountymd.gov. The design that receives the most votes in each of the categories during the voting period will be the winners. The general public will be permitted to vote once. Winners will be contacted, and winning designs will be posted on the Carroll County Board of Elections website and social media. Final winners will be announced on Friday, January 23, 2026.

**If you have any questions, please call our office at (410) 386-2080
or email us at ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov.**



Carroll County Board of Elections "I Voted" Sticker Design Entry Form

Name:

School/Grade/Category:

Phone Number/Email Address:

IMPORTANT!

Your Design

- **Elementary School: Grades K - 5**
- Design must include the phrases "Future Voter" and "Carroll County, MD."

- **Middle School: Grades 6 - 8**
- **High School: Grades 9 - 12**
- **Adult: Ages 18+**
- Design must include the phrases "I Voted" and "Carroll County, MD."

Mail your hand-drawn entries to:
 PO Box 3191
 Westminster, MD 21158

Email your digital entries to:
ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov
 Format must be .pdf, .png, .jpg, or .jpeg
 File size must be under 1 GB

All entries must be received by
Monday, December 1, 2025.

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

By submitting a design entry, participants give the Carroll County Board of Elections the absolute right and permission to use the design in promotional materials and publicity efforts and understand that the design – the full and partial design – may be used in publications, print ads (including billboards and posters), direct mail pieces, electronic mail, electronic media, other forms of promotion, and media campaigns etc. Participants also release the Carroll County Board of Elections, employees, agents, and designees from liability for any violation of any personal proprietary right in connection with such use and understand that this authorization shall remain in effect, unless nullified by an acknowledged written request. All entries must consist entirely of the artist's original, non-copyright artwork and may not include photographs, trademarked or AI generated images. Designs should be non-partisan and not reference any candidate, political party, or political issue. Carroll County Board of Elections reserves the right to disqualify any design that contains inappropriate images, profanity, nudity, or violates the contest rules.



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“I Voted” Sticker Contest Submission Release Form

Thank you for submitting your design to the Carroll County Board of Elections “I Voted” Sticker Contest. All entries must include this signed release form to be considered. If the entrant is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign the form.

Entrants agree that:

By submitting a design entry, participants give the Carroll County Board of Elections the absolute right and permission to use the design in promotional materials and publicity efforts and understand that the design - the full and partial design - may be used in publications, print ads (including billboards and posters), direct mail pieces, electronic mail, electronic media, other forms of promotion, and media campaigns etc.

Participants also release the Carroll County Board of Elections, employees, agents, and designees from liability for any violation of any personal proprietary right in connection with such use and understand that this authorization shall remain in effect, unless nullified by an acknowledged written request. All entries must consist entirely of the artist’s original, non-copyright artwork and may not include photographs, trademarked, or AI generated images. Designs should be non-partisan and not reference any candidate, political party, or political issue. Carroll County Board of Elections reserves the right to disqualify any design that contains inappropriate images, profanity, nudity, or violates the contest rules.

Entrant Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

School (if applicable): _____

Current Grade Level: _____

Entrant Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Check here if entrant is under 18 years of age

Parent/Guardian Name (if student under 18)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Relationship to Entrant

Date Signed



Carroll County Board of Elections



300 S. Center Street, Room 212, Westminster, MD 21158

Phone: (410) 386-2080

Email: ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov

Mailing Address: PO Box 3191, Westminster, MD 21158

Website: elections.carrollcountymd.gov

Carroll County Board of Elections "I Voted" Sticker Contest Rules

By submitting an entry, you agree to be bound by the following "Official Rules" of the contest:

1. SPONSOR:

- a) The contest is sponsored by the Carroll County Board of Elections (hereinafter referred to as the "Sponsor")

2. ELIGIBILITY:

- a) Adult residents of Carroll County, Maryland
- b) Students currently enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade (or the equivalent for home schooled students) in Carroll County, Maryland.
- c) Immediate family members of the Sponsor or members of their household are not eligible to participate.

3. HOW TO ENTER:

- a) To enter, students and adults must submit a hand-drawn or digitally created design on the *Official Design Entry Form*. Students under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian signature on the *Official Design Entry Form* and complete the *Submission Release Form*. All contest forms can be sent to ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov or by mailing a physical copy to the Carroll County Board of Elections at PO Box 3191, Westminster, MD 21158. All entries must be received by 11:59 pm on Monday, December 1, 2025. Late entries will not be accepted. Multiple entries are not permitted. No entry fee is required to participate in the contest. Any questions can be directed to the Carroll County Board of Elections at (410) 386-2080.

4. DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:

- a) The elementary school design must include the phrases "Future Voter" and "Carroll County, MD." The middle school, high school, and adult design must include the phrases "I Voted" and "Carroll County, MD." Designs must correspond with the theme of voting and elections.
- b) The dimensions of the design should fit on the rounded rectangular sticker 2"x1".
- c) Designs submitted digitally should be submitted as .pdf, .png, .jpg, or .jpeg. File size must be under 1 GB. The Sponsor may require the original artwork of the finalists to be submitted for print quality purposes.

5. DESIGN GUIDELINES:

- a) All entries must consist entirely of the artist's original, non-copyright artwork and may not include photographs or trademarked images.
- b) Designs should be non-partisan and not reference any candidate, political party, or political issue.
- c) Design submissions cannot use any artificial intelligence (AI) generated artwork.
- d) Carroll County Board of Elections reserves the right to disqualify any design that contains inappropriate images, profanity, nudity, or violates the contest rules.

6. FINALIST SELECTION PROCESS:

- a) Designs will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the following criteria:
 - i) Creativity
 - ii) Originality
 - iii) Voting Message
- b) There will be one round of judging to select the finalists. The judges will select three designs from each category. The judges will select a total of twelve finalists. Finalists will be announced on Friday, December 12, 2025.

7. ONLINE PUBLIC VOTING:

- a) The public voting period will begin on Friday, December 19, 2025 and will end on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 11:59 pm. Members of the public may vote for their favorite sticker among the selected finalists on the Carroll County Board of Elections website: elections.carrollcountymd.gov. The design that receives the most votes in each of the elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult categories during the voting period will be the winners. The general public will be permitted to vote once. The judges overall scores when selecting finalists will be used to determine the winners if there is a tie.

8. ONLINE VOTING RULES:

- a) Finalists are encouraged to tell members of the public about the "I Voted" Sticker Contest and provide them with information on how to vote. Any voting activity that is deemed as unfair or deceitful is not permitted and may result in the removal of a design entry or disqualification of the finalist.

9. CONFIRMATION OF WINNERS AND FINALISTS:

- a) All potential winners and finalists are subject to verification by the Sponsor. Potential winners will be notified on Friday, January 23, 2026, using the contact information provided on the *Official Design Entry Form* or *Submission Release Form*. If the winners and runners-up cannot be verified, the Sponsor will fill the positions with the next highest votes from the public voting.

10. CONTEST WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP:

- a) The winner's designs will be used as the official "I Voted" Stickers of Carroll County, Maryland for the 2026 election year and will be offered to all voters who cast ballots during that year.
- b) The names and designs of the finalists may appear on media outlets such as television, radio, newspaper, social media etc.

11. OWNERSHIP OF ENTRIES:

- a) The Sponsor claims ownership to the contest entries. By completing the *Submission Release Form* and submitting a design, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to these Official Rules and to release liability.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2025

Carroll County Board of Elections Announces their "I Voted" Sticker Contest

The Carroll County Board of Elections encourages students and adults to participate in the "I Voted" Sticker Contest to involve them in the election process and show their creativity.

WESTMINSTER (July 1, 2025) The Carroll County Board of Elections, Maryland, is pleased to announce the 2026 "I Voted" Sticker Contest to get students and adults involved in the election process. The Board is sponsoring an "I Voted" Sticker Contest. To be eligible to enter the contest, you must be: an adult resident of Carroll County, Maryland or a student currently enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade (or the equivalent for home schooled students) in Carroll County, Maryland.

To enter, students and adults must submit their hand-drawn or digitally created design on the *Official Design Entry Form*. Students under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian signature on the *Official Design Entry Form* and complete the *Submission Release Form*. All contest forms can be sent to the Carroll County Board of Elections at ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov or by mailing a physical copy to PO Box 3191, Westminster, MD 21158. All entries must be received by 11:59 pm on Monday, December 1, 2025. There is no entry fee required to participate in the contest.

Three designs from each of the elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult categories will be selected as finalists around Friday, December 12, 2025. The public will vote for their favorite design from the selected finalists. Public voting will begin on Friday, December 19, 2025 and end on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 11:59 pm. The winners will be announced on Friday, January 23, 2026. Voters who cast a ballot in person during the 2026 Gubernatorial Elections will receive one of the three "I Voted" stickers.

Any questions can be directed to the Carroll County Board of Elections at 410-386-2080.

For detailed information and how to participate in the contest, go to the Carroll County Board of Elections website at <https://elections.carrollcountymd.gov>.