

Voting FAQ for the General Election of 2020

1. When can I register until and where can I register?

- The last day to register online, by mail, in person, or by mail is **Oct. 13th, 2020**. However, people can also register at early voting centers and on election day.
- You can get information for registering here:
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>
- You can also get registration information at the Vote411.org website (<https://www.vote411.org/maryland>) or at the local League of Women Voters website at <https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/>
- If you have moved or had other changes, check your registration here:
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>

2. How can I vote?

- You can either vote **in person or vote with an absentee (mail-in) ballot**.
- If you choose **to vote by absentee ballot**, we recommend **requesting your ballot early**.
 - i. There are a few ways to get your absentee ballot. You can either fill out the Absentee Application Form that you should have received in the mail. Or you can go to the Howard County Board of Elections to print out an application for a ballot here: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=RXuGc2sdCdk%3d&tabid=1136&portalid=0>. Or you can make the request online here (you will need to have your driver's license or ID along with the last four numbers of your SSN):
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>
 - ii. When filling out the ballot, make sure to use black pen and completely fill in each oval. Make sure to sign the envelope, and seal it closed. Also, be careful NOT to leave any other marks on your ballot when filling in your choices. It can be rejected for this. If you make a mistake on your ballot, call the Howard County Board of Elections and they will get you another one.
 - iii. Ballots will have prepaid postage.
 - iv. If you choose to have your ballot emailed to you, please note that someone from the BOE will have to transcribe it to a paper ballot, which may take more time.
 - v. The last day to request an absentee ballot is **October 20th, 2020**. It must be received by that date, not mailed.
 - vi. If you request an early ballot and don't receive it by **October 3rd**, please call the Board of Elections at 410-313-5820 and they will get one to you.
 - vii. The absentee ballot must either be in a drop box or postmarked by **November 3rd, 2020**. (It must be received by 10am on Nov. 13th)
 - viii. Absentee ballots can be tracked at <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>
 - ix. If you order an absentee ballot, then choose to vote in person, you can give your ballot to an election judge and they will make sure it gets counted.
 - x. We are currently recommending that you deliver your ballot into a ballot drop box instead of mailing it. If you decide to mail it, mail it as soon as you receive and complete it.

- xi. There will be 6 drop boxes placed around the county located in these voting centers/BOE beginning on **September 28th through Election Day**:
 1. Board of Elections (9770 Patuxent Woods Dr., Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21046)
 2. Meadowbrook Athletic Center
 3. Long Reach HS
 4. Wilde Lake HS
 5. Marriotts Ridge HS
 6. Reservoir HS
- xii. These 3 drop boxes will be available **October 15, 2020**:
 1. Elkridge Landing MS
 2. Laurel Woods ES
 3. Lisbon ES
- If you are **voting in person**, there will be 5 early voting centers* open **from October 26th - November 2nd, 2020**. The hours will be **7am -8pm**. The locations are:
 - i. Meadowbrook Athletic Center
 - ii. Long Reach HS
 - iii. Wilde Lake HS
 - iv. Marriotts Ridge HS
 - v. Reservoir HS
- On election day there will be 17 voting centers* (**November 3rd, 2020**) open from **7am -8pm**. The locations will be:
 - i. All 12 county high schools
 - ii. Elkridge Landing MS
 - iii. Patuxent Valley MS
 - iv. Meadowbrook Athletic Center
 - v. Laurel Woods ES
 - vi. Lisbon ES

***Please note: You can go to ANY early voting center or election day voting center to vote. You do NOT have to go to your usual designated voting place, which may no longer be available for voting.**

Other resources:

League of Women Voters Voter Guide (will be available mid-September): <https://hoco.lwvhowardmd.org/>

Vote 411 - <https://www.vote411.org/>