

IMD Action Guide: *Mail-In / Dropbox Voting*



Why Vote by Mail or Dropbox?

This is the easiest, fastest, and most secure way to cast your vote!

Anyone registered to vote in Maryland can request a mail-in ballot. You can mail your completed ballot, or put it in any of the many drop boxes available across Maryland.

Here's a list of drop boxes:

https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/2026_Primary_Drop_Box_Locations.pdf

- The US Postal Service rules have changed! If you put your ballot in your local mailbox, it may not be postmarked in time for your vote to count. Drop boxes are a safe and secure way to make sure your voice is heard!

How to Request a Mail-in Ballot

You have three options:

1. The fastest way is through the **online portal** if you have a Maryland driver's license or an ID card issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration.

Start by following the instructions you'll find here:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinemailinrequest/InstructionsStep1>

2. If you prefer to do this on paper, you will need to complete and return a mail-in ballot request form. Here are links to download a printable pdf:

English mail-in ballot request form:

https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Mail_In_Ballot_Application-English.pdf

Spanish mail-in ballot request form:

https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Mail_In_Ballot_Application-Spanish.pdf

Once you've entered the required information, print and sign the form. You can return it to your local Board of Elections by mail, fax, or email or in person. If using email, attach a photo of the completed form.

3. You can also go to your local Board of Elections to obtain a mail-in ballot. Here's how to find the address:

https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html

When to Request a Mail-in Ballot

For the Primary Election:

- To receive your ballot by mail or fax, submit your request by **June 16, 2026**
- To receive your ballot as an emailed link, submit your request by **June 19, 2026**

For the General Election:

- To receive your ballot by mail or fax, submit your request by **October 27, 2026**
- To receive your ballot as an emailed link, submit your request by **October 30, 2026**

Filling Out a Mail-in Ballot

1. Read all the instructions before you start. If you can, fill it out the day you receive it.
2. Use a pen with black ink. Fill in the oval to the left of your choice. Don't vote for more candidates than the number allowed. You may vote for fewer candidates.
3. Vote all the way down each page of your ballot.
4. If you receive a secrecy envelope, put your ballot inside it. Then put the secrecy envelope inside the return envelope.
5. **Sign the oath on the return envelope.** Your vote will not count unless you have signed the oath. This is the most common mistake that mail-in voters make.

How to Return Your Mail-in Ballot

1. Return your ballot as soon as possible! Fill it out as soon as you receive it.
2. The fastest, most secure way to return your ballot is to take it to a drop box or your local board of elections by 8:00 pm on Election Day.
3. If you must mail your ballot, do it as early as possible!
 - a. USPS has changed the rules for mail-in ballots. Your ballot is no longer post-marked at your local post office but must go to a regional facility. This will delay your vote being counted.
 - b. If you cannot get to a drop box and must mail your ballot in the last week before election day, request a hand-postmark at your post office. This increases the chance it will be counted.
4. If you cannot get to a drop box, the Board of Elections, or the post office, another person may return your ballot for you. **We recommend using a drop box.**

Tip: Use the ballot sent to you, rather than ignoring it and going to your polling place. Because you signed up for mail-in voting, you will be given a **provisional ballot** (see Resources) at the polls. This lessens the chance of your vote being counted in a timely manner.

Thank you for being a voter!

Voting Resources

Local Boards of Elections:

https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html

At <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> you can:

- Find out where to vote
- View a sample ballot
- Check the status of your mail-in ballot

Drop Box Locations:

http://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/2026_Primary_Drop_Box_Locations.pdf

Find Your Polling Place:

<https://www.nass.org/can-i-vote/find-your-polling-place>

Maryland Board of Elections FAQ:

<https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>

Overseas and Military Voting Information:

https://elections.maryland.gov/overseas_voters/index.html

Instructions for Absentee Voting:

https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/2012_Absentee_Instructions_English.pdf

To OPT-OUT of mail-in voting:

<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinevoterupdate/InstructionsStep1>

If you decide to opt out of mail-in voting, please do so as soon as you can so your change in voting status can be processed.

What is a Provisional Ballot?

A provisional ballot allows someone who thinks he or she is an eligible voter to vote. If the [local board of elections](#) determines that the provisional voter is registered and eligible to vote in Maryland and vote a provisional ballot, the ballot will be counted. If the voter is not eligible to vote a provisional ballot, the ballot may be rejected.

If you are on a mail-in ballot list and you come to a poll to vote, your ballot will be provisional.

Mail-in voting is safe, secure and easy in Maryland, especially if you use a drop box!