

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the June 2 primary election will be held primarily by mail. Here are some commonly asked questions about a vote by mail election:

Q: How do I get my ballot?

A: The Maryland State Board of Elections (MSBE) mails all active, registered voters a ballot to the mailing address on file.

Q: What if I don't get a ballot?

A: Contact the MSBE and make sure your address is correct by visiting bit.ly/changeofadd. The deadline to update your information is Wednesday, May 27.

Q: How do I vote in a vote by mail election? Is it different?

A: The only difference is you vote at home rather than going into a polling place. Simply mark your ballot at home and put it in the enclosed envelope. You must sign the outside of the envelope for your vote to be counted. All ballots will be tallied just as if you voted in person.

Q: What do I do once I've voted and the ballot is in the envelope?

A: Simply drop it in the mail. You can also take it to a ballot drop-off location from May 21 – June 2. Each county has its own ballot drop-off locations, which you can find here bit.ly/maryland2020primary.

Q: Do I need to put a stamp on the envelope?

A: No. Postage is pre-paid for you.

Q: When do I have to get my ballot in the mail?

A: You can return your completed ballot as soon as you receive it. All ballots must be post-marked on or before the June 2, 2020 primary date. If you are worried about the mail service before or on that day, you can take advantage of dropping the ballot at one of the drop-off locations in your jurisdiction linked above. Such drop-off is not a violation of the state's current stay-at-home order.

Q: Can I vote in person at all?

A: Yes, but MSBE recommends that if you can vote by mail that you do so. The in-person voting options are for voters who need assistance or for whom voting by mail is not an option for other reasons. Each county may have between one and four in-person voting locations. You can find the available in-person voting center(s) in your jurisdiction here bit.ly/maryland2020primary.

Q: What if I haven't registered to vote yet?

A: You can register to vote by May 27, 2020 and MSBE will mail you your ballot. You can also register for the first time, update your party registration, or otherwise re-register and vote at an in-person voting location in your jurisdiction on June 2, 2020.

Q: If no one is outside handing out apple ballots, how do I know who the educator-recommended candidates are?

A: Great question! Go to www.MDAppleBallot.com to see who the educator-recommended candidates are in your district. Make sure you take an #Ivotedbymail selfie and share MDAppleBallot.com with your friends and family.

Q: How are the ballots counted?

A: The MSBE will count the ballots, like normal. The counting will be live-streamed online.

Q: Is this a fair and secure process?

A: Yes. More than half of all states allow for no-excuse absentee voting, and five states (Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) conduct their elections either entirely or mostly by mail. Especially this year, voting by mail helps protect public health and our democracy.