

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Board Seeks to Open 282 Voting Centers Statewide On Election Day

Annapolis, Maryland (August 7, 2020) -- The Maryland State Board of Elections voted unanimously today to request authorization from Governor Larry Hogan to open 282 vote centers on Election Day, November 3rd in Maryland. If approved by Governor Hogan, the Board's plan would authorize local boards of elections to use either the 282 public high schools statewide as Election Day voting centers or an equivalent number of alternative locations they deem more suitable. Voters could cast their vote at any vote center in their county of residence. Additionally, the Board expressed its intent to offer early voting at approximately 80 early voting centers starting October 29th through Election Day, November 3rd. The Board also intends to make 127 ballot drop boxes available statewide.

As previously announced, Maryland residents are encouraged to vote by mail during this year's election. The State Board of Elections will mail an application for a vote by mail ballot to all Maryland voters at the end of August, or residents may request a vote by mail ballot online by visiting elections.maryland.gov. The deadline to request a vote by mail ballot is October 20th.

The Board also encourages all interested citizens to apply to serve as election judges at elections.maryland.gov. Election judges earn a stipend of up to \$300 for their service answering democracy's call. Governor Hogan is allowing State employees to take 16 hours administrative leave to serve as election workers, and county governments are encouraged to do the same. The Board is implementing a comprehensive public health plan with social distancing guidelines and personal protective equipment to safeguard election workers and voters at in-person voting locations.

The Board will meet again Wednesday, August 12th at 2:00 pm and Friday, August 14th at 2:00 pm (if needed). The meetings can be viewed live at elections.maryland.gov.

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