

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Memorandum

To: State Board Members
From: Nikki Charlson
Date: January 5, 2023
Re: Final Adoption of Proposed Regulation Changes

At the January 19 meeting, I will present for final adoption proposed changes to COMAR 33.11.04.04. The proposed changes were approved for publication at the August 15, 2022, meeting.

The proposed changes remove the requirement that the local boards hold back ballots for the final canvass and means that the local boards count more ballots in the first canvass of mail-in ballots. With the large increase in the number of mail-in ballots, the secrecy of mail-in ballots is preserved due to the large increase in the number of mail-in ballots.

The proposed changes were published in the December 2, 2022, issue of the *Maryland Register* (Vol. 49, Issue 25). The public comment period closed on January 3, 2023, and no public comments were received. The same changes were adopted as emergency changes at the August 15 meeting and became effective September 21, 2022.

If you have any questions before the next meeting or would like the documents we provided before the meeting at which they were considered, please contact me.