

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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**Maryland State Board of Elections Update for Upcoming Elections**

*Board Urges Marylanders to Vote Safe, Vote by Mail*

Annapolis, MD (April 10, 2020) - The Maryland State Board of Elections issued the following statement today in response to Governor Larry Hogan’s renewed proclamation governing election procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proclamation ratifies plans for the June 2nd primary and requests additional information regarding the April 28th 7th Congressional District special election.

“We thank Governor Hogan for ratifying plans for the June 2nd primary,” said Linda Lamone, State Administrator of Elections. “We share his commitment to safeguarding voting rights in upcoming elections while also protecting public health during Maryland’s state of emergency. The State Board is studying the Governor’s proclamation and will act swiftly to respond to his request for information related to the 7th Congressional District Special Election.

“I join Governor Hogan in urging all eligible active voters in Maryland to vote by mail. The Board is mailing all eligible active voters absentee ballots along with return envelopes and prepaid postage. To vote safely, vote by mail.”

The State Board will hold its next meeting at 10:00 am on Monday, April 13th. The Board’s meeting can be viewed in real-time at [www.elections.maryland.gov](http://www.elections.maryland.gov).

**Background:**

On March 17 Governor Hogan ordered that the April 28th 7th Congressional District Special Election be conducted by mail, and directed the Board to work with the Maryland Department of Health in preparing for the upcoming elections. Consistent with that proclamation, and based in part on the advice of Maryland Department of Health officials, the State Board of Elections voted on March 25 that the special election take place solely by mail. In early April, the Board mailed ballots to all eligible active voters in the 7th Congressional District with return envelopes and prepaid postage.

On April 10 the Governor renewed the order by stating that the State Board may solely utilize, as an alternate voting system, voting by mail for the 7th District Special Election, after issuing and transmitting to the Governor a written determination substantiating the findings that it is not possible to utilize voting centers in a manner that mitigates and reduces a substantial threat to public safety or health posed by COVID-19; and that conducting the Special General Election without voting centers will comply with the constitutions of Maryland and the United States, and any other federal law.

For the latest information related to 2020 elections in Maryland, visit [www.elections.maryland.gov](http://www.elections.maryland.gov).