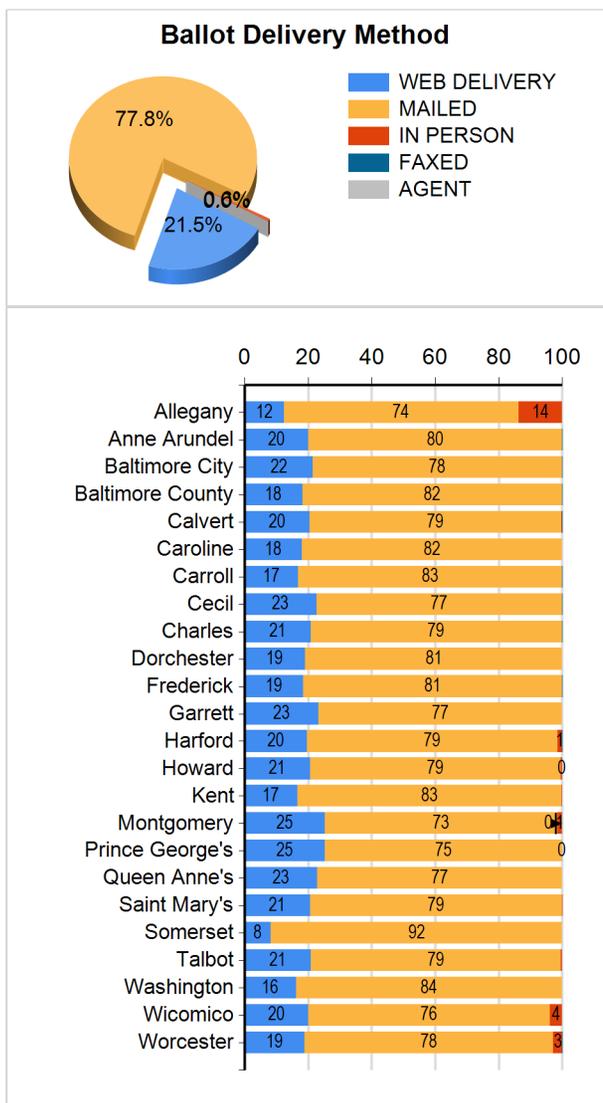


## Mail-in Ballot Requests by County

Election: 2020 Presidential General Election

As of: August 18, 2020

COUNTY	HOW THE BALLOTS WILL BE DELIVERED					TOTAL
	AGENT	FAXED	IN PERSON	MAILED	WEB DELIVERY	
Allegany	0	0	195	1,043	175	1,413
Anne Arundel	0	5	10	23,989	6,044	30,048
Baltimore City	0	9	9	14,441	3,966	18,425
Baltimore County	0	4	6	30,299	6,772	37,081
Calvert	0	1	9	2,655	684	3,349
Caroline	0	0	0	387	85	472
Carroll	0	3	1	5,160	1,053	6,217
Cecil	0	1	0	1,642	481	2,124
Charles	0	2	3	4,204	1,104	5,313
Dorchester	0	0	0	377	89	466
Frederick	0	1	0	10,182	2,314	12,497
Garrett	0	0	0	350	106	456
Harford	0	3	104	5,756	1,441	7,304
Howard	1	7	97	17,401	4,558	22,064
Kent	0	0	1	496	99	596
Montgomery	1	29	853	46,668	16,082	63,633
Prince George's	3	5	26	17,246	5,842	23,122
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	1,016	301	1,317
Saint Mary's	0	0	4	2,326	603	2,933
Somerset	0	0	0	365	33	398
Talbot	0	0	6	1,333	353	1,692
Washington	0	0	0	3,142	605	3,747
Wicomico	0	0	74	1,475	387	1,936
Worcester	0	1	45	1,297	311	1,654
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>193,250</b>	<b>53,488</b>	<b>248,257</b>





The Honorable Lawrence Hogan  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
August 10, 2020

Dear Governor Hogan:

In your August 6 letter to the State Board of Elections, you direct them to “Open early voting centers and offer robust Election Day voting options.” We share your desire to ensure that all Marylanders can vote safely and easily, and believe the SBE’s August 7 decision to establish a large number of Election Day vote centers is an excellent way to achieve that goal.

Election Day vote centers will serve as a scaled-up version of early voting, which has been successful and increasingly popular in Maryland in the decade since it began. Early voting center locations are carefully chosen to be convenient to as many residents as possible and accessible by public transportation as well as driving. Within each jurisdiction, any voter can visit any early voting center and be given the correct ballot for their home precinct.

No one knows how many people will be voting in person for the General Election, whether out of preference or necessity. Even though many state workers, college students, and other new volunteers have stepped forward to help, we know there will NOT be enough election judges to staff the normal complement of 1700 polling places. Look at what’s happening in professional baseball — if you can’t safely field a full team, you can’t hold the game.

The uncertainty about the pandemic has required a change of plans. The state and local Boards of Elections have recognized that it’s impossible to open all the usual locations. Therefore, they’re looking into designating Maryland’s 282 public high schools as vote centers on Election Day, in addition to the established locations used for early voting.

High schools are generally in familiar, accessible locations and have gyms or all-purpose rooms well-suited for safely distanced voting. They can accommodate a greater quantity of check-in stations, voting booths, and scanners, which translates to less crowding and fewer lines.

Opening more than 300 vote centers statewide will mean less stress and safer conditions for both voters and election workers. Voter confusion will be minimized and money will be saved on ballot printing, equipment, supplies (including PPE), and informational mailings. Technical challenges will be reduced and ballots can be counted faster.

We urge you to support the State Board of Elections plan so Maryland can join the 16 other states that allow jurisdictions to use vote centers on Election Day.

Sincerely,



Lois Hybl  
Co-President, LWVMD



Richard Willson  
Co-President, LWVMD

cc: Maryland State Board of Elections

Date: 2020-11-03		ELECTION DAY																								
LBE	Chief Judges				Provisional Judges				SDR Judges				Voting Operations Judges				Polling Places					Total Judges				Last Updated
	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Total Precincts	Confirmed	Dropouts	Consolidated	Co-located	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	
Allegheny	10	10		0	10	10		0	0	0		0	66	66		0	5		0	0	0	86	86	0	0	8/18/2020
Anne Arundel	42			0	42			0				0	588			0	28	28	0	0	0	672	0	0	0	8/18/2020
Baltimore City	60			0	0			0	0			0	400			0	25		0	0	0	460	0	0	0	8/17/2020
Baltimore County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Calvert	10			0	5			0				0	60			0	5	5	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	8/17/2020
Caroline	9	9		0	6	6		0	0	0		0	35	35		0	3	2	0	0	0	50	50	0	0	8/14/2020
Carrol	52			0				0	26			0	228			0	13	13	0	0	0	306	0	0	0	8/14/2020
Cecil	12	6	6	9	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	160	89	80	54	6	6	0	0	0	184	95	98	63	8/14/2020
Charles	16			0	8			0	8			0	316			0			0	0	0	348	0	0	0	8/18/2020
Dorchester	6	6		0	3	3		0	3	3		0	176	176		0	2	2	0	0	0	188	188	0	0	8/18/2020
Frederick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Garrett	12			0	3			0	0			0	24			0	3	2	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	8/18/2020
Harford	68			0	34			0	17			0	110			0	17		0	0	0	229	0	0	0	8/18/2020
Howard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Kent	16			0	8			0	0			0	32			0			0	0	0	56	0	0	0	8/17/2020
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Prince George's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
St. Mary's	8			0	4			0	4			0	96			0	4	1	0	0	0	112	0	0	0	8/17/2020
Somerset	6	6		0	6	6		0	6	6		0	22	22		0	3		0	0	0	40	40	0	0	8/18/2020
Talbot	6			0	6			0				0	57			0	3	3	0	0	0	69	0	0	0	8/14/2020
Washington	34	90		1	22	42		0				0	254	368		0	11	10	0	0	0	310	500	0	1	8/18/2020
Wicomico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Worcester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2624</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3224</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>#N/A</b>

Date: 2020-11-03		EARLY VOTING																								
LBE	Chief Judges				Provisional Judges				SDR Judges				Voting Operations Judges				Polling Places					Total Judges				Last Updated
	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	Total Precincts	Confirmed	Dropouts	Consolidated	Co-located	Required	Assigned	Vacant	Dropped Out	
Allegany	16	16		0	8	8		0	0	0		0	64	64		0	1	1	0	0	0	88	88	0	0	8/18/2020
Anne Arundel	28	13	15	0	28	24	4	0				0	375	152	223	3	7	7	0	0	0	431	189	242	3	8/14/2020
Baltimore City	98			0	0			0	0			0				0	7		0	0	0	98	0	0	0	8/17/2020
Baltimore County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Calvert	16			0	8			0				0	72			0	1	1	0	0	0	96	0	0	0	8/17/2020
Caroline	16	16		0	8	8		0	0	0		0	72	56	16	0	1	1	0	0	0	96	80	16	0	8/14/2020
Carroll				0				0				0				0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8/14/2020
Cecil	16	16	0	0	8	5	3	0	8	4	4	0	160	120	40	56	1	1	0	0	0	192	145	47	56	8/14/2020
Charles	32			0	16			0	16			0	70			0	2	2	0	0	0	134	0	0	0	8/18/2020
Dorchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Frederick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Garrett	56	7		0	16	0		0	0	0		0	100	30		0	2	2	0	0	0	172	37	0	0	8/18/2020
Harford	64	32	0	0	32	16	16	0	16	8	8	0				0	4	3	0	0	0	112	56	24	0	8/18/2020
Howard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Kent	20			0	16			0	0			0	48			0	1	1	0	0	0	84	0	0	0	8/17/2020
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Prince George's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Queen Anne's	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
St. Mary's	32	0	0	0	16	0		0	16	0		0	48	48		0	2	1	0	0	0	112	48	0	0	8/17/2020
Somerset	16	16		0	16	16		0	16	16		0	64	64		0	1		0	0	0	112	112	0	0	8/18/2020
Talbot	16			0	16			0				0	150			0	1	1	0	0	0	182	0	0	0	8/14/2020
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Wicomico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
Worcester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>#N/A</b>

ELECTION JUDGES					
Election Judge Type	Required	Assigned	Vacant	% Vacant	Dropped Out
Chief Judges	367	127	6	1.63%	10
Provisional Judges	163	67	6	3.68%	0
SDR Judges	70	9	6	8.57%	0
Voting Operations Judges	2624	756	80	3.05%	54
<b>Election Day Total Judges</b>	<b>3224</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>3.04%</b>	<b>64</b>
Chief Judges	426	116	15	3.52%	0
Provisional Judges	188	77	23	12.23%	0
SDR Judges	72	28	12	16.67%	0
Voting Operations Judges	1223	534	279	22.81%	59
<b>Early Voting Total Judges</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>17.23%</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5133</b>	<b>1714</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>8.32%</b>	<b>123</b>
POLLING PLACES					
	Total Precincts	Confirmed	Dropouts	Consolidated	Co-located
Election Day	128	72	0	0	0
Early Voting	33	23	0	0	0

Allegany County - Election Day Vote Centers

Flintstone Vol. Fire Department

21701 Flintstone Dr.

Flintstone, MD 21530

Previously used as polling place

Handicapped Accessible

Public transportation not available

Fort Hill High School

500 Greenway Ave.

Cumberland, MD 21502

Previously used as polling place

Handicapped Accessible

Accessible by Public Transportation

Mountain Ridge High School

100 Dr. Nancy Grasmick La.

Frostburg, MD 21532

Previously used as polling place

Handicapped Accessible

Accessible by Public Transportation

Westmar Middle School

16915 Lower George's Creek Rd.

Lonaconing, MD 21539

Previously used as polling place – different room

Handicapped Accessible

Accessible by Public Transportation

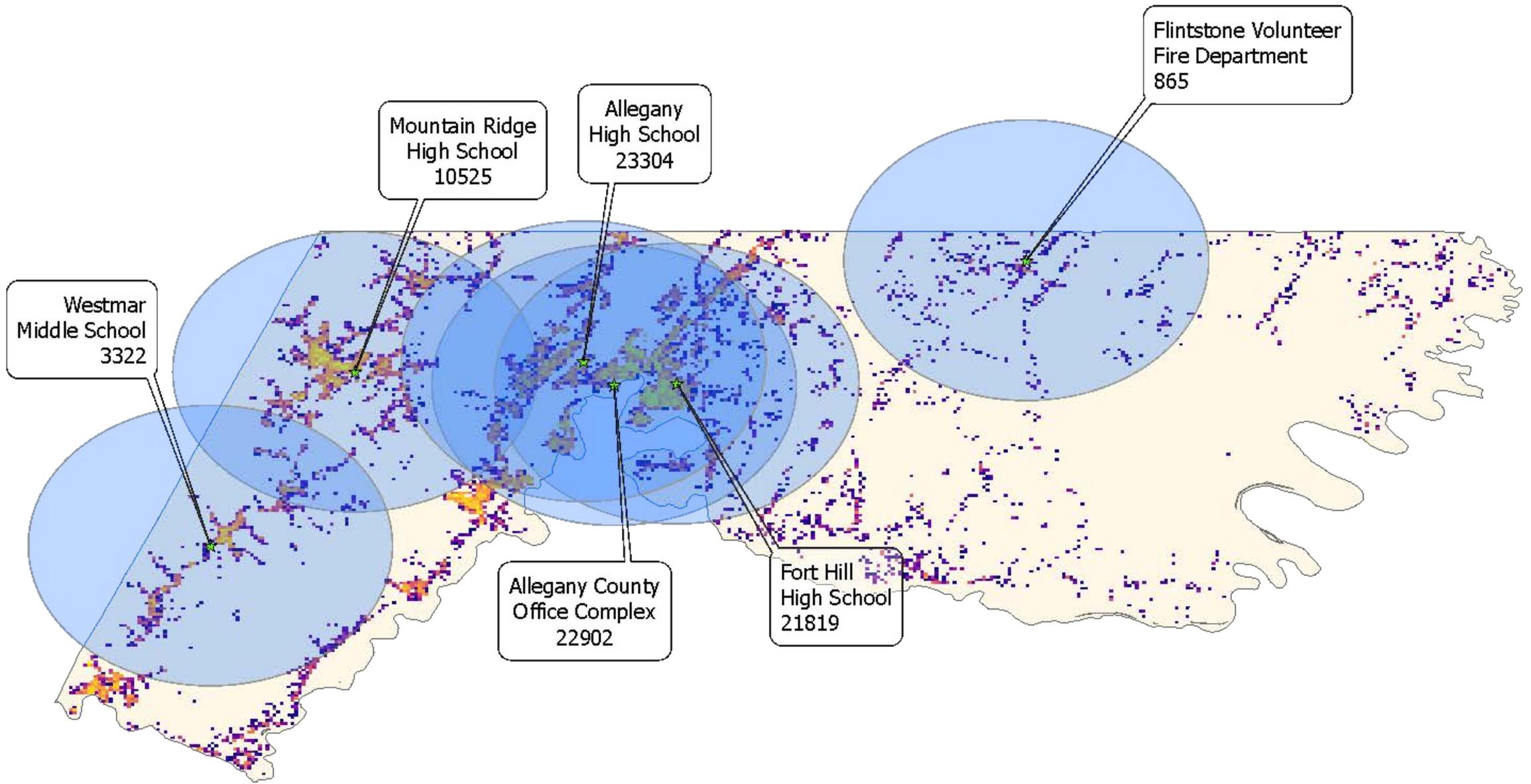
Allegany High School

900 Seton Dr.

Previously used as polling place – different room

Handicapped Accessible

Accessible by Public Transportation



# **Attorney General Frosh, Coalition of Attorneys General to File lawsuit over Trump Administration's Attempts to Undermine Postal Service**

## ***Severe Operational Cuts Could Hobble Postal Service Just Months Before National Election***

**BALTIMORE, MD (August 18, 2020)** – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that Maryland is joining a multistate coalition in filing a federal lawsuit challenging drastic operational changes at the U.S. Postal Service that threaten critical mail delivery and could undermine the national election in November.

The Postal Service cuts, including eliminating staff overtime, altering operations at state distribution centers, and removing critical mail sorting equipment, threaten the timely delivery of mail to individuals who rely on the Postal Service for everything from medical prescriptions to ballots.

“Trump attacks on the postal service are designed to disrupt the election. They strike at the core of our democracy,” said Attorney General Frosh. “That is bad enough, but Trump and DeJoy are also hurting innocent bystanders: Americans who are waiting for their medicine or their social security checks. This conduct is harmful, illegal and unconstitutional. We are filing suit to stop it.”

The states’ lawsuit will assert that the Postal Service implemented these drastic changes to mail service nationwide unlawfully, and seeks to stop the agency’s service reductions. The changes at the Postal Service come as President Donald Trump has continued to baselessly claim that widespread vote-by-mail will lead to a fraudulent election.

### **Postal Service changes:**

Recent changes at the Postal Service instituted by Trump-appointed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy have already resulted in mail delays, Congressional leaders argue. Those changes include eliminating staff overtime, changing the way mail is sorted and requiring late-arriving mail to be left for delivery the following day.

The Postal Service has also announced plans to stop processing outgoing mail at some state mail distribution centers. This would disproportionately impact rural communities, often significantly increasing the distance mail must travel. For example, mail sent from one address to another in the same town would have to travel all the way to one of the remaining distribution centers and back again before being delivered.

### **Vote-by-mail elections:**

Many states require that ballots received on or before Election Day to be counted. President Trump stated that the service cuts at the Postal Service has a partisan motive: “They need that money in order to make the Post Office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots. They don’t have the money to do the universal mail-in voting. So therefore, they can’t do it, I guess,” Trump said last week.

### **Impacts on seniors and veterans:**

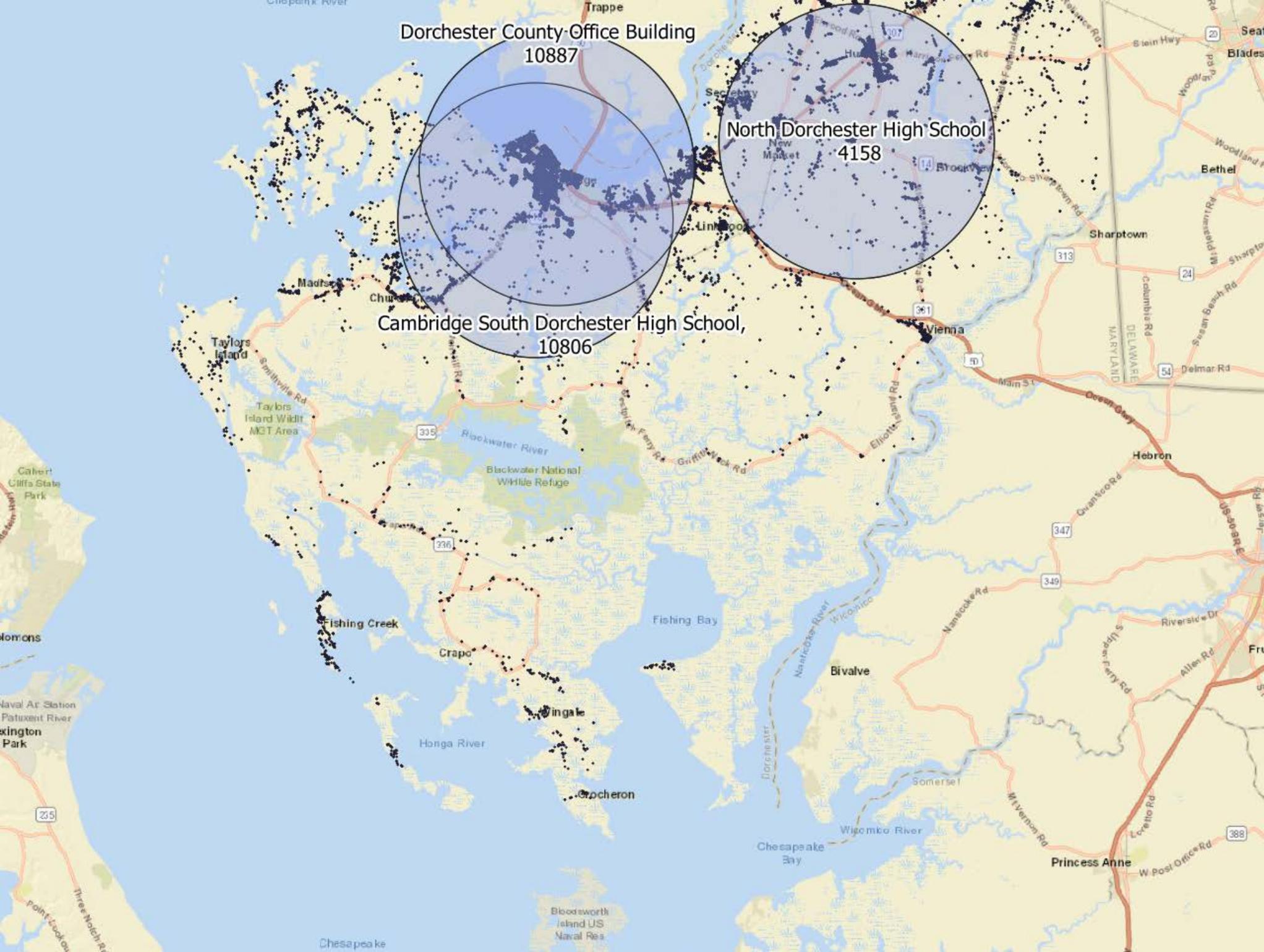
Postal Service cuts threaten timely mail deliveries for a range of important services, from prescriptions to utility bills. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many Americans, especially seniors and other high-risk individuals, to rely increasingly on mail delivery services while they stay at home for their health. In general, seniors rely heavily on the mail to receive essentials like medications, Social Security benefits and even groceries.

The policy changes have already impacted our country’s veterans, who are reporting much longer wait times to receive mail-order prescription drugs. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), which provides broad health care services to veterans nationwide, fills about 80 percent of veteran prescriptions by mail. The VA processes about 120 million mail-order prescriptions per year — 470,000 a day. The Postal Service makes daily prescription deliveries to 330,000 veterans across the country.

### **Legal claims:**

The attorneys general assert that the Postal Service has acted outside of its authority to implement changes to the postal system and did not follow the proper procedures under federal law. The law requires that changes at the U.S. Postal Service that cause a nationwide impact in mail service must be submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission. The commission then evaluates the proposal through a procedure that includes public notice and comment. The federal government’s failure to perform this mandatory duty deprived the states of their statutory right to notice and comment on USPS’ nationwide service changes.

The states’ lawsuit seeks to block the unlawful service reductions and operational changes at the Postal Service. In addition to Maryland, the suit was joined by the attorneys general of Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro today announced a complementary multistate lawsuit to be filed in Pennsylvania.



Dorchester County Office Building  
10887

North Dorchester High School  
4158

Cambridge South Dorchester High School,  
10806

## Dorchester County - Election Day Vote Centers

Cambridge South Dorchester High School

2475 Cambridge Beltway

Cambridge, MD 21613

100% accessible with 1 modification for a door to be left open due to weight

Accessible by public transportation

North Dorchester High School

5875 Cloverdale Rd.

Hurlock, MD 21643

100% accessible

Accessible by public transportation

72.4% of the registered voters in Dorchester County live within 5 miles of one of the three proposed election day voting centers



JUANITA C. GRANT FOUNDATION

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

The Juanita C. Grant Foundation is a Maryland registered 501 ( c ) 3 non-profit that serves over 200,000 50+ age Prince George's County residents. As President and CEO, I must bring to your attention that your order to discontinue the automatic mailout for the 2020 General Election is in effect voter suppression. Requiring the written application to receive the ballot is an impediment for many who are not computer savvy or have access to a computer to request the ballot.

Older adults, especially in communities of color are facing extraordinary challenges in overcoming fears of COVID-19 contagion. COVID-19 has exasperated the social isolation older adults experience with closures of senior community centers, churches, salons, barber shops and fear of taking public transportation. Many older adults that had circles of friends who could provide a ride have been broken. Older adults with underlying chronic conditions will be overburdened to find safe transport to the voting site. Standing in long socially distanced line with diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and arthritic disabilities constricts the avenues to participate in the hard won fight to vote.

As applied for the 2020 Primary Election, I am asking for your leadership in ordering the Maryland Boards of Election to automatically send ballots for the 2020 General Election to the registered voters by way of United States Postal Service. My recommendations are 1) for registered voters, automatically send the ballot; 2) ballots postage paid return; 3) ballots may be mailed back or be deposited in official drop boxes at designated polling places; 4) absentee ballots may be requested for those who may not be able to vote in-person. Polling places must comply with COVID-19 CDC standards for masks, plastic barriers, frequent disinfection of surfaces and social distances to protect the poll workers and voters.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to discontinue automatic provision of ballots by mail and act decisively to encourage participation in this fundamental right in a democracy. As an advocate for older adults, I believe there are systems in place to assure that fair elections are held in Maryland and deter voter suppression. We all need to be vigilant in preserving the sacred right to vote.

Sincerely,

S. Orlene Grant, RN, MSN, President and CEO

Cc: Lt. Governor Rutherford; Maryland Speaker of the House Jones; Secretary of State Wobensmith;  
Delegate Holmes; Administrator Maryland Board of Elections

Board of Elections Questions RE Absentee Ballot 8/9/2020

Sent EM on 8/9/2020 I also sent

To: **Email Address:** [election.judge@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:election.judge@baltimorecity.gov) and E-mail [info.sbe@maryland.gov](mailto:info.sbe@maryland.gov) and Cory

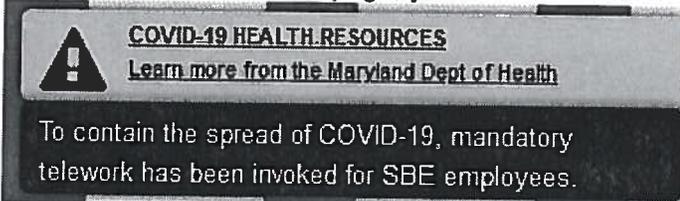
Dear Board of Election Staffer with cc to Senator Cory McCray,

On 8/9/2020, I have sent this information via email to both **Email Address:** [election.judge@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:election.judge@baltimorecity.gov) and E-mail [info.sbe@maryland.gov](mailto:info.sbe@maryland.gov) and Cory McCray and I have mailed this document to Maryland State Board of Elections, P.O. Box 6486, Annapolis, MD 21401-0486

The web page at <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> is very, very, very, very confusing.

Questions I have from trying to understand the above referenced web page.

1 On the Home web page, you will find the information:



On the Absentee Ballot web page ( <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> ) there are several instructions about picking up or dropping off or contacting by telephone "your local board of elections". There is no Covid 19 Information on this web page. The Local Board of Elections for the entire state are listed at [https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county\\_boards.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html) .

So which information is correct???

Are or will the Local Board of Elections to be open to the public before and during the Absentee Ballot Request period of time?

2 When can a Maryland resident request an Absentee Ballot? Or to ask the question in another way, What is the earliest date a resident of Maryland can request an Absentee Ballot?

3. I understand from <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> that if I request an absentee ballot via mail that I must return the completed ballot (in BLACK ink) and return it to:

- " Hand deliver your ballot. You must deliver it to your local board of elections by 8 pm on election day, or you may take it to an early voting center or a polling place by the time the polls close.
- Mail your ballot. If you mail your voted ballot, make sure that the envelope is postmarked on or before general election day (November 3, 2020). Your voted ballot must be received by your local board of elections by 10 am on November 13, 2020."

Question #1: What happens if the President's efforts to slow the mail down before and during the election succeeds in slowing the mail down? Will my vote be counted?

Question #2: On my local list serve "Next Door Neighbor" one person mentioned that the ballot takes two (2) stamps. I know you print up the ballots way ahead of time to have them ready when you need

them. If the above information is true, **will the post office deliver a ballot that has only one stamp?**

Question #3: Will I be notified that my vote has been counted, **IF** I decide to mail in my ballot? If so, how?

Question #4: What date is the EARLIEST DATE that I can request a mail in ballot? I understand from <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> that the deadline for making this request is "Your request [sic: for a mail in ballot] must be received (not just mailed) by Tuesday, October 20, 2020." I did not read anywhere online when is the earliest date I can request a ballot. I need this information so I can try and figure out how the deadlines will work with a VERY POSSIBLE slow mail system.

4 I understand from the web site <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> that "There are three ways you can request a mail-in ballot. . . ."

I understand from a poster on Next Door Neighbor that a news caster reported a couple of days ago, that ballots will be mailed AUTOMATICALLY to everyone.

So which is it? Do I have to request a ballot be mailed to me or will it automatically be mailed to me?

5 I understand from the web site <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> that I can drop off my mail in ballot to: "You must deliver it to your local board of elections by 8 pm on election day, or you may take it to an early voting center or a polling place by the time the polls close."

DOES THIS MEAN, that I can request a Mail-in paper ballot AND drop off my completed ballot (in black ink) on election day or at an Early Voting Center **and not have to stand in the voting line???** **I am in a high risk group and want to avoid standing in line.**

#### ONLINE ABSENTEE BALLOT QUESTIONS

5 If I decide to attempt to do online Absentee Ballot, what is the earliest date I can do this?

- 6
- If for any reason, I cannot complete the online ballot, what are my options?
  - Specifically, if I request an online ballot and do not for any reason complete or return the ballot, **will I be allowed to vote in person? OR is there a way for me to notify the Board of Elections that I will not be using the online ballot after all?**
  - IF I am allowed to vote in person after attempting and unsuccessfully completing the online ballot, **will my vote be counted or will my vote be a "provisional vote" -- that is a vot that is only counted if the election is close.**

These are my first set of questions. I look forward to your responses and I will be posting your answers on my 10,000+ person Next Door Neighbor web site. There has been a lively discussion on Next Door Neighbor about voting in the Presidential Election - with some contradictory information being circulated. **I need some clarifying answers because one thing is very clear to me -- Whatever choice I make about how I receive my ballot will lock me into a process that is SPECIFIC to the initial choice that I make.** So it is VITALLY IMPORTANT for me to understand how my initial choice will affect the process that I will be required of me to use AND how the initial choice I make will impact the stated deadlines at <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html> .

Sincerely,

Louise Harmony, 5105 Walther Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214 [harmonylouise3@gmail.com](mailto:harmonylouise3@gmail.com)

Number in code to protect my privacy during online communications: four1Zero 2Five 4 ZeroFourEightNine



MIKE MCKAY  
Legislative District 1C  
Allegany and Washington Counties

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Public Safety and Administration  
Capital Budget  
Personnel

Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness

*Vice Chair*

Washington County Delegation



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3321 · 301-858-3321  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3321  
Mike.McKay@house.state.md.us

*District Office*  
100 North Mechanic Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
240-362-7040

RECEIVED

AUG 07 2020

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

August 10, 2020

Ms. Linda Lamone, State Administrator  
Maryland State Election Board  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Lamone,

I have recently been contacted by a constituent with a suggestion for mail in voting. Since we are aware that almost 30% of mail ballots are disqualified for one reason or another, he has suggested that each voter be notified that their ballot was rejected and why. If this could be done in a timely manner, perhaps that voter would be able to correct the ballot or actually have the opportunity to vote in person.

I would be remiss if I did not agree with this suggestion. Have you considered this solution or is there some way that you could address the problem with mail in ballots? I am concerned for our citizens that think they are doing their due diligence by voting and not realizing their vote may not have been counted.

Thank you in advance for you attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

Delegate Mike McKay  
District 1C  
Allegany and Washington Counties

Telephone: 410-632-1320

Fax: 410-632-3031



MD RELAY SERVICE:

1-800-735-2258

Worcester County Board of Elections  
201 Belt Street, Suite C  
Snow Hill, Maryland 21863-1320

TO: Linda Lamone, State Board of Elections  
FROM: Patricia Jackson, Election Director  
DATE: August 17, 2020  
RE: Early Voting Center Site Selection

Enclosed please find the following paperwork regarding the early voting site for Worcester County.

As you may know, our County used Gull Creek Senior Living Community as our early voting center in the past, however, due to COVID-19, the facility is not open to the public. We searched numerous sites before determining the Roland E. Powell Convention Center as our location. We feel this location is well known by Worcester County residents, has more than enough adequate space to allow for social distancing, is 100% handicapped accessible and best suits the needs for our County.

Please feel free to contact me either by email ([patricia.jackson@maryland.gov](mailto:patricia.jackson@maryland.gov)) or on my cell phone (443-614-4438) if you have any questions regarding our selection. I look forward to hearing from you and receiving the State Board's approval.

CC: Worcester County Board of Elections Board Members

13219 Poppy Hill Court  
Brandywine, MD. 20613  
August 13, 2020

RECEIVED

AUG 17 2020

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

Please allow the Boards of Election in Maryland to automatically send ballots for the 2020 General Election to all registered voters via the United States Postal Service. This was done for the 2020 Primary Election and it will be the smart and safe thing to do for the General Election as well.

Your order to discontinue the automatic mailout for the 2020 General Election is a direct act of voter suppression and limits the ability for every citizen of the State of Maryland to exercise their right to vote.

To ensure all registered voters can exercise their right to vote please:

- Send a ballot to all registered voters in the State of Maryland
- Provide postage paid envelopes for voters to return ballots at no cost
- Allow ballots to be mailed or dropped off at designated secure locations or polling places
- Allow for Absentee ballots to be requested, as in the past, for those who know that they will not be able to vote in-person
- Expand the early voting window to begin 30 days prior to the general election
- Develop systems and use technology that will allow for electronic voting from a personal computer

In this day and age, technology is available to allow for safe and secure voting. We do our banking, register cars, renew our driver's licenses, and even complete the census electronically. Security measures can be implemented to protect against voter fraud. For in-person voting, polling places should be adequately staffed and in compliance with the Covid-19 health measures including providing masks, disinfection of surfaces, and social distancing to protect the poll workers and voters.

As a citizen of the State of Maryland, I am employing you to please reconsider your decision to discontinue automatic provision of ballots by mail. You have the executive power to encourage

participation in this fundamental right in a democracy, including sending out ballots to registered voters without their request for an application which is unnecessarily cumbersome for Marylanders who are already registered to vote.

Thank you for your leadership. We are proud of the way you have handled the pandemic efforts in Maryland.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wanda A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and "S".

Wanda A. Smith

Cc: Lt. Governor Rutherford; Maryland Speaker of the House Jones; Secretary of State Wobensmith; Delegate Marvin Holmes; Administrator, Maryland Board of Elections

August 12, 2020

RECEIVED  
AUG 17 2020  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

Please allow the Boards of Election in Maryland to automatically send ballots for the 2020 General Election to all registered voters via the United States Postal Service. This was done for the 2020 Primary Election and it will be the smart and safe thing to do for the General Election as well.

Your order to discontinue the automatic mail-out for the 2020 General Election is a direct act of voter suppression and limits the ability of every citizen of the State of Maryland to exercise their right to vote.

To ensure all registered voters can exercise their right to vote please:

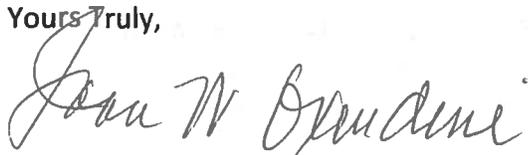
- Send a ballot to all registered voters in the State of Maryland
- Provide postage paid envelopes for the voters to return ballots at no cost
- Allow ballots to be mailed or dropped off at designated secure locations or polling places
- Allow for Absentee ballots to be requested, as in the past, for those who know that they will not be able to vote in-person
- Expand the early voting window to begin 30 days prior to the General Election

In this day of modern technology, voting should be made safe and secure. For those persons desiring to vote in-person, polling places should be available and made safe for both staff and voters.

I am 79 years old. My husband is 80 and is immune compromised. Please give this your utmost consideration. We have never missed the opportunity to vote. However, in the mist of this pandemic of the COVID 19 virus, exceptions should be made.

Thank you for your leadership. We are proud of the way you have handled the pandemic efforts in Maryland.

Yours Truly,



Cc: Lt. Governor Rutherford; Maryland Speaker of the House Jones; Secretary of State Wobensmith, Delegate Marvin Holmes; Administrator, Maryland Board of Elections Lamone.

RECEIVED

AUG 17 2020

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

August 13, 2020

Administrator  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Admin. Linda Lamone,

Please allow the Boards of Election in Maryland to automatically send ballots for the 2020 General Election to all registered voters via the United States Postal Service. This was done for the 2020 Primary Election and it will be the smart and safe thing to do for the General Election as well.

Your order to discontinue the automatic mailout for the 2020 General Election is a direct act of voter suppression and limits the ability for every citizen of the State of Maryland to exercise their right to vote.

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- Send a ballot to all registered voters in the State of Maryland
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- Expand the early voting window to begin 30 days prior to the general election
- Develop systems and use technology that will allow for electronic voting from a personal computer

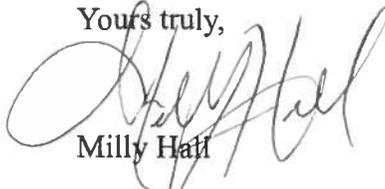
In this day and age, technology is available to allow for safe and secure voting. We do our banking, register cars, renew our driver's licenses, and even complete the census electronically. Security measures can be implemented to protect against voter fraud. For in-person voting, polling places should be adequately staffed and in compliance with the Covid-19 health measures

including providing masks, disinfection of surfaces, and social distancing to protect the poll workers and voters.

As a citizen of the State of Maryland, I am employing you to please reconsider your decision to discontinue automatic provision of ballots by mail. You have the executive power to encourage participation in this fundamental right in a democracy, including sending out ballots to registered voters without their request for an application which is unnecessarily cumbersome for Marylanders who are already registered to vote.

Thank you for your leadership. We are proud of the way you have handled the pandemic efforts in Maryland.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Milly Hall', written over the printed name.

Milly Hall

Bowie Maryland 20721

August 14, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

Please allow the Boards of Election in Maryland to automatically send ballots for the 2020 General Election to all registered voters via the United States Postal Service. This was done for the 2020 Primary Election and it will be the smart and safe thing to do for the General Election as well.

Your order to discontinue the automatic mailout for the 2020 General Election is a direct act of voter suppression and limits the ability for every citizen of the State of Maryland to exercise their right to vote.

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- ☐☐ Expand the early voting window to begin 30 days prior to the general election
- ☐☐ Develop systems and use technology that will allow for electronic voting from a personal computer

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including sending out ballots to registered voters without their request for an application which is unnecessarily cumbersome for Marylanders who are already registered to vote.

Thank you for your leadership. We are proud of the way you have handled the pandemic efforts in Maryland.

Yours truly,

Sonia McLain

Bowie, MD

Cc: Lt. Governor Rutherford; Maryland Speaker of the House Jones; Secretary of State Wobensmith; Delegate Marvin Holmes; Administrator, Maryland Board of Elections

Maryland Board of Elections

[info.sbe@maryland.gov](mailto:info.sbe@maryland.gov)

**Re: Suggestion for Alleviating COVID-19 Concerns During Election Day**

**Dear Members of the Board:**

As I am sure you are painfully aware, people are very concerned about the ability to vote in this election with a public health emergency in place. People are concerned with whether there will be a voting area available for walk-in voting. People may be nervous about volunteering to assist at polling areas. Others will be concerned about whether there will be long lines of people voting that may be able to spread COVID-19 to others without warning and potentially increase pandemic casualty numbers. Finally, everyone is concerned with whether the USPS will be able to deliver ballots to registered voters and then be able to turn those ballots around so that they can be counted in a timely manner. Everyone wants their vote to count. These are all legitimate concerns, and I am writing to allow the Board to consider an additional option – automotive drive-thru – voting.

An automobile can represent an additional option for getting individuals in and out of a voting/polling location quickly, easily, and with minimal contact with others. Here is how it can work:

1. A voter that already has a completed ballot and is concerned that the postal service not being able to get the ballots to the Board of Elections can drop their ballot off with an election volunteer that can scan the ballot and put it into the drop box.
2. A voter that has not received a mail-in ballot or regular ballot can pull up, give their identification information and then park their car in the parking lot. Their car becomes the voting booth. The election volunteer obtains their ballots, gives it to the voter in their car. The person completes the ballot in the car, and when ready to submit it, pulls out of the parking lot and provides the completed ballot to an election volunteer to scan and count.
3. Could provide drive-in only polling sites at libraries, thereby expanding voter access.

This should not replace walk-ins, but it should alleviate concerns about social distancing as it would likely decrease foot-traffic significantly. This would also cut down on lines, and potentially would result in less of a need for polling staff as the line of walk-throughs should become less dense, thereby mitigating COVID related concerns. No one has to get a babysitter, bring the kids with you in your car. Hit the Burger King after work, get your Whopper, and then eat your burger while you are voting (but don't spill on the ballot!).

As we trudge through this century, we as a society must evolve and innovate to adapt to the changes around us. I could see this model existing in the future, which will hopefully be pandemic free, for even regular elections. This could be another way to increase voter turn-out. The board does not need to do this everywhere, but use a couple of stations as models and see what happens as right now, with current events as they are, registered voters have everything to lose if we do not adapt to meet our circumstances.

Sincerely,

Maricruz Bonfante Slade

Mrsslade72@gmail.com



August 17, 2020

Mr. Michael Cogan  
Maryland State Board of Elections  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Cogan,

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) recognizes and appreciates the Board's efforts to ensure a safe and secure general election amid this unprecedented public health crisis.

As counties work to protect their residents, local businesses, and economies from the detrimental effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are making significant financial investments to address immediate public health and safety needs. At the same time, counties are experiencing massive and unparalleled declines in revenue as a result of the economic downturn.

While state statute mandates that counties pay half of the postage costs for mail-in ballots, Governor Hogan's directive for the Board to send all registered voters mail-in ballot applications — rather than mail-in ballots — will result in unforeseen and substantial costs for local boards of elections, whose operations are supported by county funding.

The Board estimates that it will cost up to \$5.6 million to prepare and mail ballot applications, with the return postage alone costing up to \$3 million. Without state resources to offset these large costs, the order represents a significant unfunded mandate on local governments.

MACo does not seek to revisit the process necessitating extra mailer. Our concerns are merely practical and cost-driven, at the implementation level. As such, MACo requests the Board to formally recommend that the State pay the total cost (printing, mailing, and return postage) for ballot applications.

Counties welcome your partnership during this crisis, and stand ready to collaborate on the responses needed to protect Marylanders across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kinnally', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kevin Kinnally  
Associate Director, MACo

CC: The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland  
The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President, MD State Senate  
The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee, MD State Senate  
The Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker, MD House of Delegates  
The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair, Appropriations Committee, MD House of Delegates  
The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chair, Ways and Means Committee, MD House of Delegates  
David Brinkley, Secretary, MD Department of Budget and Management  
Vice Chair Patrick J. Hogan, State Board of Elections  
Malcolm Funn, Member, State Board of Elections  
Kelley Howells, Member, State Board of Elections  
William Voelp, Member, State Board of Elections  
Linda Lamone, State Administrator, State Board of Elections  
Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator, State Board of Elections  
David Garreis, President, Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO)



August 17, 2020

Mr. Michael Cogan  
Maryland State Board of Elections  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Sincerely,

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Kevin Kinnally  
Associate Director, MACo

CC: The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland  
The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President, MD State Senate  
The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee, MD State Senate  
The Honorable Adrienne Jones, Speaker, MD House of Delegates  
The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair, Appropriations Committee, MD House of Delegates  
The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chair, Ways and Means Committee, MD House of Delegates  
David Brinkley, Secretary, MD Department of Budget and Management  
Vice Chair Patrick J. Hogan, State Board of Elections  
Malcolm Funn, Member, State Board of Elections  
Kelley Howells, Member, State Board of Elections  
William Voelp, Member, State Board of Elections  
Linda Lamone, State Administrator, State Board of Elections  
Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator, State Board of Elections  
David Garreis, President, Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO)

James F. Shalleck  
*President*  
Nahid Khozaimch  
*Vice President*  
David A. Naimon  
*Secretary*  
Diane Nash Dillon  
*Member*  
Elisse W. Barnes  
*Member*  
Jacqueline L. Phillips  
*Substitute Member*  
Alan Banov  
*Substitute Member*



**Montgomery County  
Board of Elections**  
Post Office Box 4333  
Rockville, Maryland 20849-4333

Margaret A. Jurgensen  
*Election Director*  
Alysoun McLaughlin  
*Deputy Election Director*  
Janet A. Ross  
*Information Technology  
Manager*  
Vacant  
*Voter Services Manager*  
Christine Rzeszut  
*Operations Manager*  
Kevin Karpinski  
*Counsel*

August 17, 2020

via email [donna.duncan@maryland.gov](mailto:donna.duncan@maryland.gov)

Michael R. Cogan, Chairman  
Patrick J. Hogan, Vice Chairman  
Malcolm L. Funn  
Kelley A. Howells  
William G. Voelp  
Maryland State Board of Elections  
151 West Street  
Suite 200  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

via email [linda.lamone@maryland.gov](mailto:linda.lamone@maryland.gov) only

Linda H. Lamone, Administrator  
Maryland State Board of Elections  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

via email [nikki.charlson@maryland.gov](mailto:nikki.charlson@maryland.gov) only

Nikki Charlson  
Deputy State Administrator  
State Board of Elections  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chairman Cogan, Honorable Vice Chairman Hogan,  
Honorable Boardmembers Funn, Howells and Voelp, Ms. Lamone & Ms.  
Charlson:

The Montgomery County Board of Elections met this afternoon and  
voted unanimously to support Senator Cheryl Kagan's proposal in her

---

18753 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 210 • Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879  
240-777-8500 • MD Relay 1-800-735-2258 • FAX 240-777-8505  
[elections@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:elections@montgomerycountymd.gov) • [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org)

Maryland State Board of Elections  
August 17, 2020  
Page 2

letter to you of August 14, 2020, that the State pay the total cost (printing, mailing, and return postage) of the mail-in ballot applications. As she pointed out, our county was unable to budget for this additional financial obligation and already has stretched its resources greatly to address the pandemic in many different ways.

Thank you for giving this proposal your serious consideration.

Sincerely,



James Shalleck, President on behalf of  
the Montgomery County Board of  
Elections

JS:dn

CHERYL C. KAGAN  
Legislative District 17  
Montgomery County

Vice Chair  
Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

Joint Audit Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3134 · 410-841-3134  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134  
Fax 301-858-3665 · 410-841-3665  
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

August 14, 2020

Mr. Michael Cogan, Chair  
Maryland State Board of Elections  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Cogan:

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring that our elections will run smoothly this November. With staffing shortages, extra mailings, and limited resources, you and your Board colleagues are attempting to craft the best policies in a challenging election year.

As a result of [new legislation](#), the cost of postage on mail-in ballots is split evenly between the respective County and the State. Legislators and county leaders could not have envisioned Governor Hogan's mandate to send ballot **applications** rather than mail-in **ballots** directly to every voter. SBE Administrator Linda Lamone estimated that preparing and mailing the application is likely to cost \$3.96-\$5.68 million. Return postage (NOT paid by the voters!) would total \$650,000- \$3,000,000, depending on the number of voters who mail the application.

Our 24 jurisdictions, which neither suggested nor supported this extra mailing, should not have to foot the bill to pay for it. The timing of the Governor's proclamation means that our counties were unable to budget for this additional financial obligation. To be clear, the pandemic has already stretched local resources; it is unreasonable to add another unexpected and unfunded mandate.

It is not clear that the Board has finalized a recommendation to clarify which entity/entities should bear the financial burden for this extra mailer. I am writing to request that SBE have a formal vote at its next meeting on Wednesday, August 19th to make it abundantly clear that the State will pay the total cost (printing, mailing, and return postage) of the ballot applications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Cheryl**

Cheryl C. Kagan  
Vice Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
District 17

[Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Letter to SBE Chair Cogan, page 2]

cc: Governor Larry Hogan  
Secretary David Brinkley, Department of Budget & Management  
Vice Chair Patrick J. Hogan, State Board of Elections  
Malcolm Funn, State Board of Elections  
Kelley Howells, State Board of Elections  
William Voelp, State Board of Elections

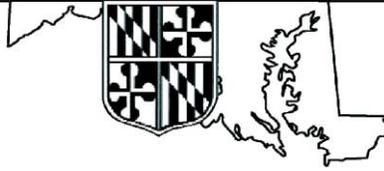
President Bill Ferguson, Senate President  
Speaker Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates  
Chair Paul Pinsky, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Chair Guy Guzzone, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
Chair Anne Kaiser, House Ways & Means Committee  
Chair Maggie McIntosh, House Appropriations Committee

Linda Lamone, State Board of Elections  
Nikki Charlson, State Board of Elections  
Jared DeMarinis, State Board of Elections  
David Garreis, Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO)  
Michael Sanderson, Maryland Association of Counties  
Kevin Kinnally, Maryland Association of Counties  
Scott Hancock, Maryland Municipal League

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

P.O. BOX 6486, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0486 PHONE (410) 269-2840

Michael R. Cogan, Chairman  
Patrick J. Hogan, Vice Chairman  
Malcolm L. Funn  
Kelley Howells  
William G. Voelp



Linda H. Lamone  
Administrator  
  
Nikki Charlson  
Deputy Administrator

August 17, 2020

**Via Electronic Mail Only**

The Honorable Mary Washington  
Senate of Maryland  
11 Bladen Street, Room 102  
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Senator Washington:

Thank you for your letter dated August 3, 2020 asking various questions about the upcoming election. As requested, your letter was provided to the members of the State Board of Elections before the August 5 meeting.

You divided your comments and questions into four topics, and each topic is addressed below.

1. Encouraging voters to request absentee ballots

The members of the State Board of Elections share your concerns about the impact of electronically delivered ballots on counting ballots. In response to that concern, the instructions accompanying the request form include the following language:

If you cannot receive a ballot in the mail or pick it up in person, we can also deliver your ballot over the internet. This process slows down the vote counting after the election and puts election workers at risk during the pandemic, so we ask that you not use internet delivery unless it is necessary.

The application itself already includes the following language:

Note: A fax or internet ballot you have printed yourself cannot be read by our scanners. Election workers will use the information on your ballot to mark an official ballot for you. The official ballot will be machine counted with other ballots.

The members also approved adding “(PREFERRED)” beside the “U.S. Mail” delivery method option.

The revised instructions and application are available on our [website](#). This is the same application that will be mailed to all eligible voters who have not already submitted a request for a mail-in ballot. The instructions accompanying the mailing are similar to

August 17, 2020

the instructions on the website, although the mailed instructions include information about voting in person.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have made several updates to our website to increase awareness about mail-in voting. These updates are:

- Creating a rotating slide on the home page about requesting a ballot. Clicking the slide takes the user to the online system to request a ballot
- Moved the link on the homepage to “Mail-In Voting” to the first listing under “Quick Links”
- Updated the “Mail-in Voting” page to reflect the new deadline to request a mail-in ballot (October 20)

We will continue to update our website with the latest information and make requesting a mail-in ballot a prominent message.

2. Ensuring the security and authenticity of electronic absentee ballots

I disagree with your assertion that it would be “relatively easy for hackers to falsify a huge number of Maryland votes from electronically delivered ballots.” We continuously monitor data submitted via the online systems and ballot request data and look for suspicious activity and data submissions. These efforts reduce the risk of a bad actor submitting a large number of requests for electronically delivered ballots.

Each ballot packet has a unique tracking number. If a local board receives multiple ballots with the same tracking number, the local board employee will be alerted that another ballot with that tracking number has already been received and follow established procedures for handling ballots with the ballot tracking number.

It is also a crime to vote another voter’s ballot or tamper with the election in any way.

3. Keeping all absentee ballots organized by precinct

We are creating a unique ballot for each precinct. When a voter appears to vote, an election judge will provide the voter the ballot associated with that voter’s precinct. When the voter scans the ballot, the results are associated with that voter’s precinct. This process eliminates the need to sort ballots or ballot envelopes or count ballots by precinct.

The process we are using for the November 3 election is the preferred method of providing precinct results, although it does require the election judges to issue the voter the correct ballot. Each election, the local boards of elections train election judges on the importance of issuing the correct ballot and have procedures to reduce the likelihood of this happening. These procedures are used at every early voting center for every election (early voting centers have all of the ballots for the county) and election day polling places for primary elections (the election judges must select the ballot associated with the voter’s party).

August 17, 2020

4. Counting all absentee ballots by December 14<sup>th</sup> regardless of format

We are planning for a statewide, multi-week voter education campaign, and one of the key messages will be to encourage voters to vote by mail. We are already seeing increased interest in voting by mail and expect the interest to increase once the application forms are mailed later this month. A daily report of processed requests for mail-in ballots is available on our online [Press Room](#) under “2020 General Election Reports.”

The members of the State Board of Elections have already indicated an interest in authorizing the local boards of elections to start counting ballots before election, and I expect them to approve this request at an upcoming meeting. Allowing the local boards of elections to start counting ballots (but embargoing the results) before election day means that fewer ballots will need to be counted after election day. The Maryland Association of Election Officials submitted a letter requesting the authority to start counting ballots on October 1, 2020. Many of the local boards hire election judges and other temporary staff to help with canvassing.

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your questions and provide more information about the upcoming election. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Linda H. Lamone  
State Administrator



## MARYLAND SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

August 14, 2020

Michael R. Cogan, Esq., Chairman  
Linda H. Lamone, Esq., State Administrator  
P.O. Box 6486  
151 West St., Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2019

Dear Chairman Cogan and Administrator Lamone:

The Senate Republican Caucus continues to closely follow plans for the 2020 General Election in November, and we are disappointed that we did not receive a response to our letter on June 25<sup>th</sup> raising our initial concerns.

Our hope is that Maryland can execute a free and fair election where voters can cast their ballot in person or by mail without encountering obstacles such as long lines, unreasonable travel time to polling locations and absentee applications and ballots not arriving or being sent to the wrong address in addition to the other issues that were encountered during the Primary Election earlier this year of which you are well aware. With the Board's actions and plans that they have adopted at this time, we are not confident that this goal is achievable.

Following the announcements over the past few days, we have significant concerns and reservations about the current proposal to have just 300 polling locations available statewide on Election Day. We appreciate the logistical challenges of planning for an election amidst a pandemic, but those challenges cannot be an excuse for disenfranchising voters who wish to vote in person.

Given the widespread coverage of U. S. Post Office inefficiencies, many voters may decide not to entrust their ballots to the mail this fall, but rather choose to vote in person in order to ensure that their votes will be counted. The more people who make this decision, the more people will show up at the polls on Election Day. This would suggest the need for more polling places, not fewer.

In addition, we share Governor Hogan's reservations about transitioning to fewer polling locations related to the pandemic. This will add more density at each polling location, which will create long lines and make social distancing and sanitization more challenging – conditions that do not follow best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Reducing the number of polling locations also creates an additional obstacle for rural voters who would have to travel a greater distance to vote and would then have to wait in a longer line than usual.

For example, if the proposal to use only public high schools as polling locations moves forward, voters in Dorchester County (covering 983 square miles) would only have two polling locations. The same would also be true for Talbot County, Garrett County and Queen Anne's County. All of Kent County would only have one polling location.

The Board of Elections has repeatedly pointed to the lack of Election Judges as the reason for reducing the number of polling locations, however the announcement of hosting eight days of Early Voting does not follow this logic. If Election Judges are in short supply, how does it make sense to have Early Voting for more than a week? How can polling locations be staffed sufficiently for this time with a shortage of Election Judges?

We are encouraged that our constituents have stepped-up and volunteered to be part of the solution to this problem by applying to be election judges. However, some of us have heard from constituents who applied weeks ago and still have not received a response from their local Elections Board. These personal accounts echo recent news reports that applicants are being told to call back later, or not receiving any communication at all. Why are the local boards turning away people who are willing to step-up and serve in November? This is unacceptable.

We would like a detailed report of how many election judge applications have been received and processed as well as the timeline for responding to applicants and scheduling them for training. Quickly implementing an efficient plan could reveal that our shortage might not be as dire as initially thought.

The recent actions of the Board of Elections point to a strategy of inhibiting the voting rights of those who choose to vote in person. Since the Board's initial proposal of a mail-in only election was denied, it seems as though every subsequent action has sought to discourage in-person voting as much as possible. The citizens of Maryland have the choice to vote in person or by mail-in, absentee ballot. Creating impediments and policies to discourage the voting method not preferred by the Board of Elections compromises everyone's right to a free and fair election.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Senate Minority Leader J.B. Jennings



Senate Minority Whip Steve Hershey



Senator Jack Bailey



Senator George Edwards



Senator Ed Reilly



Senator Mary Beth Carozza



Senator Jason Gallion



Senator Johnny Ray Salling



Senator Bob Cassilly



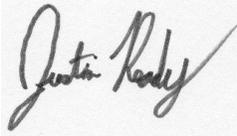
Senator Michael Hough



Senator Bryan Simonaire



Senator Addie Eckardt



Senator Justin Ready



Senator Chris West

Aug. 18, 2020

# Postmaster General Louis DeJoy Statement

WASHINGTON, DC — Postmaster General Louis DeJoy issued the following statement today:

“The United States Postal Service will play a critical role this year in delivering election mail for millions of voters across the country. There has been a lot of discussion recently about whether the Postal Service is ready, willing and able to meet this challenge.

I want to make a few things clear:

The Postal Service is ready today to handle whatever volume of election mail it receives this fall. Even with the challenges of keeping our employees and customers safe and healthy as they operate amid a pandemic, we will deliver the nation’s election mail on time and within our well-established service standards. The American public should know that this is our number one priority between now and election day. The 630,000 dedicated women and men of the Postal Service are committed, ready and proud to meet this sacred duty.

I am announcing today the expansion of our current leadership taskforce on election mail to enhance our ongoing work and partnership with state and local election officials in jurisdictions throughout the country. Leaders of our postal unions and management associations have committed to joining this taskforce to ensure strong coordination throughout our organization. Because of the unprecedented demands of the 2020 election, this taskforce will help ensure that election officials and voters are well informed and fully supported by the Postal Service.

I came to the Postal Service to make changes to secure the success of this organization and its long-term sustainability. I believe significant reforms are essential to that objective, and work toward those reforms will commence after the election. In the meantime, there are some longstanding operational initiatives — efforts that predate my arrival at the Postal Service — that have been raised as areas of concern as the nation prepares to hold an election in the midst of a devastating pandemic. To avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail, I am suspending these initiatives until after the election is concluded.

I want to assure all Americans of the following:

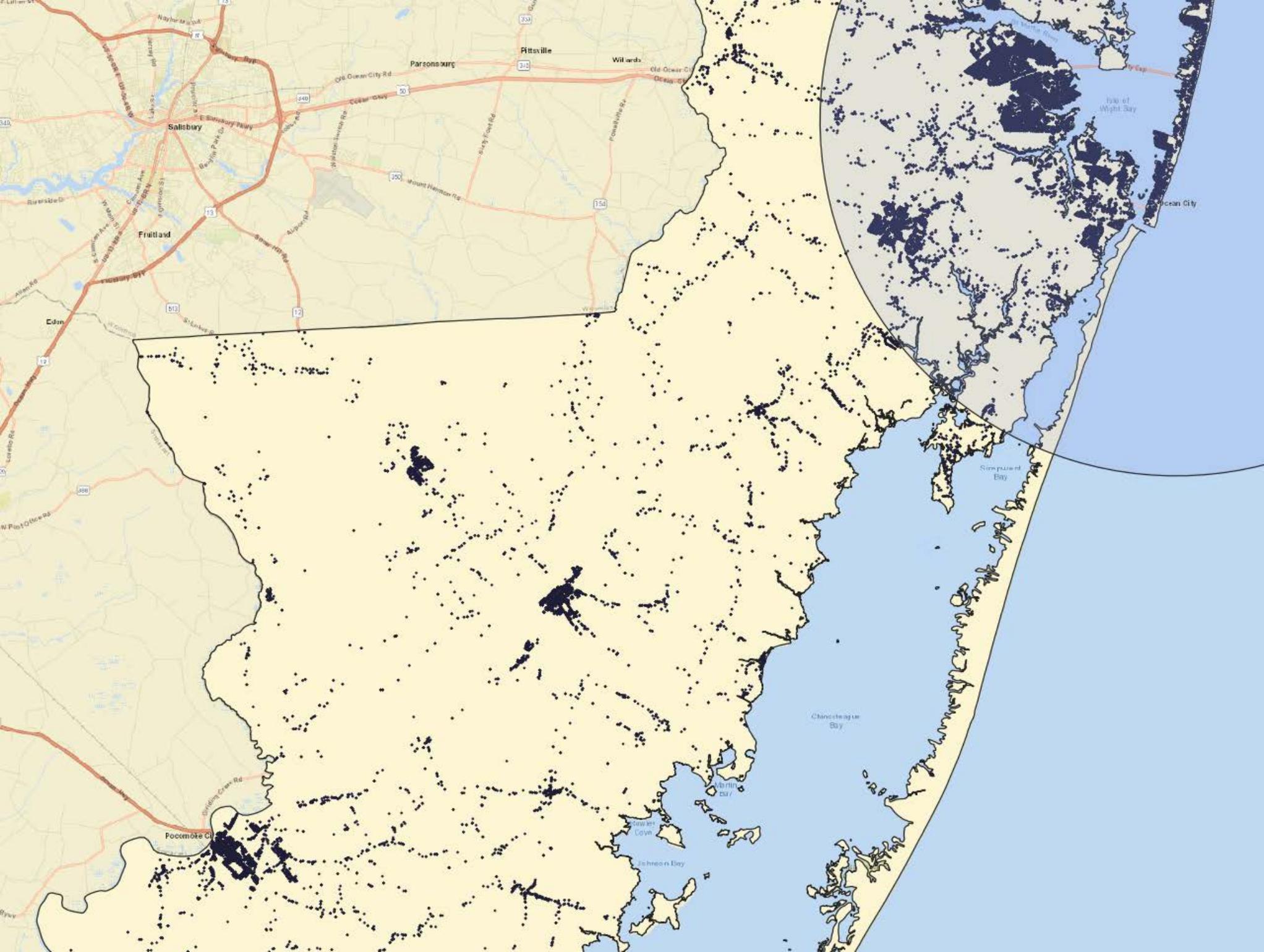
- Retail hours at Post Offices will not change.
- Mail processing equipment and blue collection boxes will remain where they are.
- No mail processing facilities will be closed.
- And we reassert that overtime has, and will continue to be, approved as needed.

In addition, effective Oct. 1, we will engage standby resources in all areas of our operations, including transportation, to satisfy any unforeseen demand.

I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of all the men and women of the Postal Service, and the trust they earn from the American public every day, especially as we continue to contend with the impacts of COVID-19. As we move forward, they will have the full support of our organization throughout the election.”

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For U.S. Postal Service media resources, including broadcast-quality video and audio and photo stills, visit the [USPS Newsroom](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Subscribe to the [USPS YouTube channel](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and enjoy our [Postal Posts blog](#). For more information about the Postal Service, visit [usps.com](#) and [facts.usps.com](#).



Worcester County – Early Voting Center

Roland Powell Convention Center

Used as an election day polling place for years

100% accessible

71.8% of the registered voters in Worcester County live within 10 miles of the proposed early voting center (OC Convention Center)

Available by public transportation