



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2012.26

Executive Order Regarding Hurricane Sandy and Absentee Ballots

- WHEREAS, A State of Emergency has been declared throughout the State of Maryland in recognition of the danger posed by Hurricane Sandy and related weather systems;
- WHEREAS, The current State of Emergency has interfered with the early voting process; caused the closure of State and local government buildings, public roads, and bridges; suspended and delayed the delivery of mail; caused the activation of the National Guard, the deployment of first responders throughout the Northeast region of the United States, and the displacement and evacuation of other Maryland residents due to power outages and other causes; and otherwise interfered with preparations for the 2012 General Election;
- WHEREAS, Delays in the mail delivery system may cause applications for an absentee ballot to be received by election boards after the extended deadline on Wednesday, October 31, 2012;
- WHEREAS, Registered voters in the State of Maryland, including members of the National Guard who have been called to active duty to assist in recovery efforts, who anticipated voting early or on Election Day may not have the opportunity to vote in the 2012 General Election;
- WHEREAS, The State Board of Elections currently delivers ballots electronically to military and overseas civilian voters that must be returned by mail and postmarked by Election Day;
- WHEREAS, Registered voters are currently authorized to make a late application for an absentee ballot at local election boards through 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, but voters who are not in their county of residence due to Hurricane Sandy do not have a means to make a late application for an absentee ballot;

WHEREAS,

It is in the interests of the State of Maryland and the electoral process to ensure that absentee ballots may be delivered electronically to registered voters who request them before 5:00 p.m. on the day preceding the election provided that they attest that they are out of their county of residence due to Hurricane Sandy; and

WHEREAS,

In order to implement the emergency powers of the Governor, an executive order of the Governor is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 8, SECTION 103 OF THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE AND TITLE 14, SECTION 107 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

- A. All registered voters whose application for an absentee ballot is received by mail by a local board by 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2012 shall be considered timely.
- B. Registered voters who are out of their county of residence due to Hurricane Sandy are authorized to apply for an absentee ballot up to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2012. The State Board of Elections is authorized to electronically deliver absentee ballots to such voters. Completed ballots must be mailed on or before Election Day and received by the local board of elections no later than November 16, 2012.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Maryland in the City of Annapolis, this 1st
day of November, 2012.



Martin O'Malley
Governor

ATTEST:

John McDonough
Secretary of State