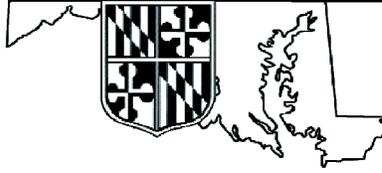MARYLAND

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IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION FOR THE SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   CONTACT: Nikki Baines Trella - 410.269.2843
                                                      Donna Duncan - 410.269.2851

Annapolis, Maryland (May 9, 2008) – The Special General Election for the 4th Congressional District will be held on **Tuesday, June 17, 2008**. Polling places in the 4th Congressional District will be open for voting from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Voters in line at 8:00 p.m. will be permitted to vote.

Who Can Vote?

To register to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a Maryland resident, 18 years or older by the next election*, not have been convicted of buying or selling votes, not be under the guardianship for a mental disability, and not have been convicted of a felony for which you are currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction.

Where may I apply to register to vote?

A voter registration application may be submitted to your local board of elections or the State Board of Elections at any time. However, an application must be postmarked by **Friday, May 30, 2008,** to vote in the Presidential General Election. If you submit a voter registration application during the period that registration is closed, your application will be held at the local board of elections and processed when registration reopens.
Voter registration applications are available at the following locations:

Local Board of Elections	Public institutions of higher education
Motor Vehicle Administration offices	Marriage license bureaus
State Department of Health offices	Post Offices
Local Dept. of Social Services offices	Public libraries
Offices on Aging	State Board of Elections
Division of Rehabilitation Services	www.elections.state.md.us

1-800-222-VOTE (8683) (request that an application be mailed)

An elderly voter or a voter with a disability who is assigned to an inaccessible polling place may request reassignment to an accessible polling place. This request must be submitted in writing by 9:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 30, 2008**. The form to request reassignment is available at www.elections.state.md.us (type "polling place reassignment" in the Search field). On receipt of a timely request, the local board of elections will review the request and determine whether there is an accessible polling place with the same ballot as the voter's home precinct and will notify the voter of the status of his or her request.

Where Do I Vote?

Voters should vote in the precinct to which they are assigned. A voter can find his or her assigned precinct by looking at the voter notification card he or she received from the local board of elections or by visiting www.elections.state.md.us and using the polling place locator (click "Where is your polling place?" on the right side of the homepage). If a voter has moved and did not update his or her address with the local board, the voter should contact the

local board of election to find out his or her assigned precinct for the new address. The voter should vote in the precinct for his or her new address, as voting in the wrong precinct may result in the voter's provisional ballot not being counted.

How Do I Vote?

All voters in Maryland use the same voting system. For polling place voting, voters use a touchscreen voting system. Instructions are available at polling places for voters to familiarize themselves with the ballot and how to vote. In addition, voters may log on to www.elections.state.md.us (click "Voting System" in the left column) for an online demonstration of a touchscreen voting system. Voters may also ask an election judge to explain how to vote on the voting system, but a voter must vote alone, unless a voter is unable to do so because of disability, inability to write, or inability to read the ballot.

For absentee and provisional voting, voters use a paper-based optical scan voting system. With this system, voters are issued a paper ballot and fill in the oval next to the candidate or ballot question response for which he or she wants to vote. At the local board of elections, the ballot is fed into a scanning unit, which reads and tabulates the selections made by voters. **All** provisional ballots and absentee ballots are considered in a public meeting after the election and counted or rejected according to State law and regulation.

How Can I Get an Absentee Ballot?

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail or by fax is **Tuesday, June 10, 2008**. Starting Wednesday, June 11th through election day, voters must request an absentee ballot *in person* at a local board of elections. The absentee ballot application is available at www.elections.state.md.us under "Absentee Voting" in the left column.

Voted absentee ballots may be delivered to the local board of elections by 8:00 p.m. on election day **or** mailed on or before election day and received by the local board by **Friday, June 27, 2008**. **All** absentee ballots are reviewed, regardless of whether or not the absentee ballots will make a difference in the outcome of an election.

What is a Provisional Ballot?

A provisional ballot is a safeguard to ensure that an individual who believes that he or she is registered and eligible to vote is able to vote. If a voter is required to vote by provisional ballot, the voter will be asked to complete a provisional ballot application and vote a paper-based optical scan ballot. It is important that the voter complete the entire provisional ballot application, as the information on the application is used to determine whether the provisional ballot will be counted.

All provisional ballot applications are reviewed, regardless of whether or not the provisional ballots will make a difference in the outcome of an election. A provisional ballot will only be counted after the local board of elections has reviewed the provisional ballot application and determined that the individual is in fact registered and eligible to vote. A provisional ballot is not an alternative to the electronic voting system. Additional information about provisional voting is available at www.elections.state.md.us under "Voting."

Additional election-related dates and information are available at www.elections.state.md.us under "Upcoming Elections." For more information, voters may contact the local boards of elections or the State Board of Elections at 1-800-222-VOTE (8683).

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