



MARYLAND HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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Minority Leader

Delegate Nicholas R. Kipke, District 31B

Minority Whip

Delegate Kathy Szeliga, District 7

June 11, 2020

Sent Via Electronic Communication

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

A fair, transparent election process is vital to our democracy. We know you share this value, and we write to alert you to some serious problems our constituents encountered during the 2020 Presidential Primary.

We have been contacted by numerous constituents reporting a wide variety of troubling problems with the vote-by-mail system. These include:

- A family who received a ballot for a son who had not lived at home in 13 years and had re-registered in another state.
- A family with four registered voters, but only two received ballots. The other two adult children's ballots were sent to their college addresses even though they moved home and had voted here in the previous election.
- Many in-person voting sites across the state saw long lines with voters waiting hours to cast their ballots. For example, the Honeygo Community Center in Baltimore County had a line of people voting until almost 11 PM on Election Day.
- The ballots in Baltimore City's 1st council district had a printing error.
- The state mailed out millions of ballots that were labeled with the wrong election date.
- A family whose adult children moved away in 1999 and 2004 but still received ballots even after notifying the Board of Elections of their moves more than once.
- A family who received ballots for the previous owner of their home who had moved to North Carolina in 2009.
- A number of people simply never received a ballot.
- The most egregious example is the family who received a ballot for their parent who had died in 2012 and had never lived at their address.

These problems appear to be widespread across the state. While we appreciate that the State Board of Elections was operating under unprecedented circumstances, they failed in their duty to provide a secure and accessible election for the citizens of Maryland utilizing a vote-by-mail system. Based on the Election Administrator's tepid response to the myriad of issues, we have no faith that the necessary improvements will be made in time by the

General Election in November. We support your call for the General Assembly to hold investigative hearings on the wide variety of problems encountered in the Primary Election.

It is imperative that we take any and all steps necessary to safeguard the free and fair elections that are paramount to our democracy. **We are adamantly opposed to the use of vote-by-mail system in the General Election in November.** Through Maryland's Early Voting and no-excuse absentee balloting, along with voting on Election Day, there will be plenty of opportunities for Marylanders to cast their votes in a secure and accessible manner that still addresses any COVID-19 concerns that may be present in November.

We know you stand with all Marylanders in support of elections that are accessible but also secure. Every voter should feel confident that our election system is trustworthy and accurate. Thank you for providing the leadership we need to solve these problems.

Sincerely,



Nic Kipke
Minority Leader



Kathy Szeliga
Minority Whip