

NEEDED EXPENDITURES:

1. Fix the 7-candidate limit on a page for the BMDs to allow 14 on a page, and on the second page list the office for which candidates are running.
2. Pay to rent (if necessary) a larger location for ballot canvasses to allow additional bipartisan teams to process more ballots. A few key things to keep in mind:
 - a. Only works when there is sufficient volume of ballots to canvass and internal capacity to support it.
 - b. Need additional election judges, especially Republicans and Unaffiliated Voters
 - c. Need additional staff for prep work for canvass
3. More staff for the preparation of those canvasses and to assist in “beeping in” ballots as “returned” to the Board.

NEEDED LEGISLATION (highest priority in green, medium priority in red, lower priority in blue)

4. Require voters making online requests for web-delivered Ballots to affirm their knowledge of each step involved (e.g., number of pages to print, address the envelope, pay for postage or use drop box, duplication onto ballot form by our staff required) before accepting the application.
 - a. For example, the system would not let you move to the next page until you confirm that you read and understood the requirements – as many websites do.
 - b. If a voter is submitting a request by mail, then the only option may be to ask them to sign acknowledging that they read and understood the requirements.
 - c. About 88% of web-delivered ballots in Montgomery County are requested online.
5. Send an email reminder to all voters on the permanent mail-in ballot list for web-delivered ballots, reiterating the information above about each step involved (e.g., number of pages to print, address the envelope, pay for postage or use drop box, duplication onto ballot form by our staff required), and giving a link to where the voter can change to a U.S. mail delivered ballot.
 - a. This could be done in conjunction with the currently required reminder in §9–311.1(g) of the Election Article to those on the permanent mail-in ballot list, or could be done separately, or both.
 - b. There are currently more than 13,700 voters on the permanent web-delivered mail-in ballot list in Montgomery County.
6. Require the State Board to contract for US mail ballots to be put in the US mail *within 2 business days* of receiving the request.
 - a. It frequently took *more than two weeks* for voters to receive mail-in ballots they requested online to be delivered by U.S. mail. Many different factors could be responsible (election officials, contractor, or Postal Service), but this attempts to make sure the standard for the contractor is to get the ballots into the mail promptly.
7. Certification deadline should be at least 21 days after Election Day. MoCo has never and can never be done by 10 days after the election, as provided in 11-308(a) of the Election Article, given the volume of ballots.
8. Open Early Voting Centers on Election Day in addition to having traditional Election Day polling places (allowing voters in those locations to vote any county ballot on the BMDs, and avoiding long lines and a huge number of provisional ballots cast at those locations)

9. Make it a crime to threaten or assault an election worker (see Colorado law) – at voting locations and at canvass
10. 5 business days to prepare for a recount, rather than the current requirement that the recount begin within two business days that is provided in COMAR §33.12.02.09.
 - a. Staff had to work until midnight on multiple days to prepare for the recount in 2022.
11. Take voters off the permanent mail-in list if they vote provisionally twice in a row (which may be an indication that they didn't receive, couldn't find, or were unhappy with voting by mail-in ballot).
 - a. This could be added to the current list in in §9–311.1(i) of the Election Article of reasons to remove someone from the permanent mail-in ballot list.
12. Allow an affidavit to prove residence to allow young voters to register to vote using SDR without a driver's license e.g., for 18-year-olds living with parents at home.
 - a. There were a few 18-year-old voters without driver's licenses who didn't have other evidence of their residence (presumably because they live with their parents)
13. Allow voters who vote the wrong party ballot in the primary to have their ballots accepted in part so that their votes for school board races are counted
 - a. Boards are currently required to reject such ballots in full
14. Eliminate the rejection of ballots for identifying marks under §16-206(a)(1) of the Election Article
 - a. Boards are currently required to reject ballots where voters sign their name, which usually has been voters explaining errors they made on their ballot. In MoCo, the Board decided to accept such ballots if the voter initials the change, but that would be subject to debate under the current statute.
15. Provide statutory authority for voters to deliver mail-in ballots to early voting and Election Day polling places. (State Board mandated it in 2022, but the statutory authority is ambiguous at best.)
16. Allow unaffiliated voters to vote for judges in the primary (assuming they continue to be elected), as they can for Board of Education.
17. Change ballot instructions to say "Please use black or blue ink"
 - a. Canvassers spent a lot of time having to use pen to remark ballots filled out in pencil.