

# Mail-In voting – FAQs, What Ifs (and much more)

## General Questions:

### 1. What is Mail-In voting?

Mail-in voting is one of three ways to vote in Maryland.

- You may vote by mail or
- vote in-person at any Early Voting Center during Early Voting or
- vote in-person on Election Day at your assigned polling place.

### 2. What is the difference between a Mail-In ballot and an Absentee ballot?

The law requires the State Board of Elections and each local board of elections to refer to absentee ballots as "mail-in ballots" and absentee voting as "mail-in voting." Please note that this change in terminology does NOT change the process that was previously called absentee voting.

### 3. Who may vote by mail in Maryland?

Any Maryland registered voter may request and vote by mail-in ballot. You don't need a reason to vote by mail-in ballot.

### 4. When are Mail-In ballots counted?

For the 2024 Election Cycle:

**2024 Presidential Primary Election:** Mail-In Ballot Canvass or Early Processing of Mail-In Ballots start on April 22, 2024, and end on May 24, 2024, unless the volume requires an extension.

**2024 Presidential General Election:** Mail-In Ballot Canvass or Early Processing of Mail-In Ballots start on October 14, 2024, and end on November 15, 2024, unless the volume requires an extension.

### 5. Is every voter going to receive a Mail-In ballot for 2024 election?

No; voters must apply to receive a mail-in ballot. However, every registered voter will receive an application to apply for a mail-in ballot.

**6. Is every voter going to receive an application to request a Mail-In ballot for 2024 elections?**

Yes, voters who do not have an existing application on file will receive an application from the State Board of Elections for the 2024 Election Cycle.

**7. I have a disability and find it difficult to vote by mail. What are my options?**

Maryland is committed to making voting accessible to all voters.

**In-Person Voting**

All Early Voting Centers and Election Day Polling Places in Montgomery County are accessible to voters with disabilities. If you would like to vote at a different polling place, please contact Mindy Williams at 240 777-8585 or at [Mindy.Williams@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Mindy.Williams@montgomerycountymd.gov). The deadline to request this change is 21 days before any election.

**By mail-in ballot**

You may request a mail-in ballot to be mailed to you or you may request to receive it via internet to print it at home. If you have a disability and cannot mark your ballot independently you can have someone assist you in marking your ballot, there is a Voter Assistance Form that needs to be filled out in your ballot packet that will be mailed to you. If you have your ballot sent via internet, we offer an online tool to help you mark your ballot. With this tool, most voters with disabilities can make selections without help. If you would like to use this online tool, request a mail-in ballot, and check the box saying Email a link to print my ballot(s).

For more information about assistance to voters with disabilities, please visit [Voting Assistance](#) or Please visit the State Board of Elections' website for more information: [Access by Voters with Disabilities](#)

**8. How can I learn more about Mail-In voting in Maryland?**

Please visit the State Board of Elections website: [mail-in Voting \(maryland.gov\)](http://mail-in.Voting(maryland.gov))

**Requesting a Mail-In ballot:**

**9. How can I request a Mail-In ballot?**

There are three ways you can request a mail-in ballot.

- [Online if you have a Maryland's driver's license or MVA-issued ID card.](#)

- Complete and return one of the forms below. Read the instructions, enter the required information, print the form, sign it, and return it to your local board of elections. You can return it by mail, fax, or email (scanned as an attachment).
  - [Mail-in ballot application for 2024 elections \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Solicitud de Papeleta de Votante Ausente para las Elecciones del 2024 \(PDF\)](#)
- You can also request a ballot in person by coming to our office at 18753 N Frederick Ave suite 210 Gaithersburg MD 20879.

If you want to get a mail-in ballot for all future elections, you can sign up to be on the permanent mail-in ballot list when you request a mail-in ballot. Once you are on this list, we will send you your mail-in ballot for each future election you are eligible to vote in. You won't have to submit a request for each election.

If you are not able to return a mail-in ballot application and pick up your mail-in ballot you may designate someone to do this for you. You and your agent must complete, sign and submit a Designation of Agent form along with your completed and signed Mail-in Ballot Application to your local board of elections:

- [Designation of Agent Form Mail-In Ballot English](#)
- [Formulario para Designar un representante Español](#)

#### **10. Are paper applications for Mail-In ballots available to print and share with voters who do not have Internet access?**

You may use these forms:

- [Mail-in ballot application for 2024 elections \(PDF\)](#)
- [Solicitud de Papeleta de Votante Ausente para las Elecciones del 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

#### **11. What are the deadlines to request a Mail-In ballot?**

##### **2024 Primary Presidential Election**

Deadline for a registered voter to request a mailed or faxed mail-in ballot:

- Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 8:00 PM (by mail/in-person) or 11:59 PM (email/fax/online)

Deadline for a registered voter to request a mail-in ballot delivered via internet:

- Friday, May 10, 2024, at 5:00 PM (by mail/in-person) or 11:59 PM (email/fax/online)

Deadline for a registered voter or voter's agent to come in-person to request a mail-in ballot at your local board office is:

- Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 8:00 PM

### **2024 General Presidential Election**

Deadline for a registered voter to request a mailed or faxed mail-in ballot:

- Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 8:00 PM (by mail/in-person) or 11:59 PM (email/fax/online)

Deadline for a registered voter to request an electronic mail-in ballot is:

- Friday, November 1, 2024, at 5:00 PM (by mail/in-person) or 11:59 PM (email/fax/online)

Deadline for a registered voter or voter's agent to come in-person to request a mail-in ballot at your local board office is:

- Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 8:00 PM

## **12. How do voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting act submit an application for a Mail-In ballot?**

You may submit your application by mail to:

Montgomery County Board of Elections

P.O. Box 10159

Rockville, MD 20849-0159

**-or-**

Registered voters may choose to email or fax their applications to:

Fax: 240-777-8560

E-Mail: [UOCAVA.Voters@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:UOCAVA.Voters@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**-or-**

Contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to apply online.

**-or-**

If you are local, you can deposit it in one of our drop boxes available throughout the county.

## Permanent Mail-In Ballot:

### 13. What is a permanent Mail-In ballot?

If you **always** want to receive and vote a mail-in ballot, you can sign up for the permanent mail-in ballot list. Once you are on this list, we will send you your mail-in ballot for each future election you are eligible to vote in. You won't have to submit a request for each election.

**If you want to vote during early voting or on election day, please don't request mail-in ballot nor sign up to be on the permanent mail-in ballot list. If you do, you will have to vote a Provisional Ballot when you visit an Early Voting Center or your designated Polling Place on Election Day.**

If you have already requested mail in ballot but you would like to vote in person, you can cancel your mail in ballot request – Please see more information under question: How do I cancel a permanent Mail-In ballot?

### 14. How do I request a permanent Mail-In ballot?

You may complete a request online at [Mail In Ballot Request](#) or you can print, complete, sign and return to us one of the following forms:

- [Mail-in ballot application for 2024 elections \(PDF\)](#)
- [Solicitud de Papeleta de Votante Ausente para las Elecciones del 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

### 15. How do I cancel a permanent Mail-In ballot?

Please send a written request for cancellation of your permanent status to:

Montgomery County Board of Elections

P.O. Box 10159

Rockville MD 20849-0159

Please include your name, as registered, date of birth, address, and handwritten signature.

You can also scan and email the cancellation request to [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**16. What happens to my permanent Mail-In ballot if I changed my residential address (if I moved)?**

If you move outside State of Maryland, please cancel your Maryland voter registration which will automatically cancel your mail-in ballot request. You may download or print the [Voter Registration Cancellation Form](#) or [Solicitud para cancelar el registro de votantes](#), complete it, sign it and return it to us via mail or email at [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov). If you move within the State of Maryland, you will need to update your voter registration while your Mail-in Ballot application remains valid and will be updated to reflect your new address. However, if you wish to change your ballot delivery method, please submit a [new application](#).

**17. Am I going to be notified about my permanent Mail-In ballot?**

Yes. The State Board of Elections will notify you prior to the upcoming election.

**18. In what situation will Board of Elections remove me from the permanent Mail-In Ballot list?**

A voter who has requested a permanent mail-in ballot shall be removed from the permanent mail-in ballot list if:

- the voter requests to be removed from the list;
- the voter is removed from the statewide voter registration list;
- the voter fails to return a mail-in ballot for two consecutive statewide general elections; or
- any mail sent to the voter by the State Board, or a local board is returned undeliverable.

**Receiving a requested Mail-In ballot:**

**19. How can I receive a Mail-In ballot?**

Maryland registered voters may receive mail-in ballots by mail, by web delivery (email), or by fax. They also can visit Board of Elections and be issued one in person.

**20. When will I receive my ballot?**

The State Board of Elections begins transmitting and mailing out ballots 45 days prior to an election.

## 21. Can I have someone pick up my Mail-In ballot for me?

If you are not able to return a mail-in ballot application and pick up your mail-in ballot you may designate someone to do this for you. You and your agent must complete, sign, and submit a Designation of Agent form to your Local Board of Elections:

- [Designation of Agent Form Mail-In Ballot English](#)
- [Formulario para Designar un representante Español](#)

## Returning a voted Mail-In ballot:

### 22. What are important steps when returning a voted Mail-In ballot?

- Use a pen with black ink to mark your ballot.
- Follow instructions and make indicated number of selections - Do not overvote. If you mark more candidates than instructed, that race will not be counted while the rest of the ballot will be counted.
- Fill-in the bubbles next to the candidates of your choice.
- Sign and date the oath on your return envelope. (The Spanish version of the oath is in your ballot packet, once signed insert it into the envelope with your ballot).
- Seal your return envelope.

You may place your voted ballot into one of Board of Elections official Drop Boxes prior to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Locations of official Board of Elections Drip Boxes can be found at this link [Montgomery County Elections Drop Boxes](#)

-or-

Mail your ballot in its return envelope by 8 pm on Election Day to our office at P.O. Box 10369, Rockville, MD 20849-0369 and be sure you have signed the envelope and that it is postmarked by Election Day.

-or-

You may deliver your voted ballot to our office located at: 18753 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 210, Gaithersburg MD 20879 during normal business hours but prior to 8 p.m. on Election Day

### 23. What should I use to fill out my Mail-In ballot?

Please mark your ballot with a pen that uses black ink.

### 24. How do I return my voted Mail-In ballot?

- Mail-in ballots for the 2024 **Primary Presidential Election** must be postmarked and mailed or deposited in any election drop box by **8 PM Tuesday, May 14, 2024**.
- Mail-in ballots for the **2024 General Presidential Election** must be postmarked mailed or deposited in any election drop box by **8 PM Tuesday, November 5, 2024**.

**-or-**

You may deliver your voted ballot to our office located at: 18753 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 210, Gaithersburg MD 20879 during normal business hours but prior to 8 p.m. on Election Day

Locations of official Board of Elections Drip Boxes can be found at this link [Montgomery County Elections Drop Boxes](#)

### 25. Where can I find a USPS collection box or Post Office, or Official Mail-In ballot drop box?

Please visit [Find USPS Locations](#) or contact your local Post Office for USPS collection box sites.

You may find Official Mail-in Ballot Drop Box locations at: [Montgomery County Elections Drop Boxes](#)

### 26. What is the deadline to return my voted Mail-In ballot?

- Mail-in ballots for the 2024 **Primary Presidential Election** must be postmarked and mailed or deposited in any election drop box by **8 PM Tuesday, May 14, 2024**.
- Mail-in ballots for the 2024 **General Presidential Election** must be mailed or deposited in any election drop box by **8 PM Tuesday, November 5, 2024**.

Locations of official Board of Elections Drip Boxes can be found at this link [Montgomery County Elections Drop Boxes](#)



All mailed voted ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by:

**For the 2024 Primary Election**, Ballots must be received by Friday, **May 24, 2024**, 10 a.m.

**For the 2024 General Election**, Ballots must be received by Friday, **November 15, 2024**, 10 a.m.

**27. May I return my voted Mail-In ballot to a Polling Place during Early Voting or on Election Day?**

Yes. Please notify Election Workers at the Polling Place who will accommodate the process.

**28. If I get my Mail-In ballot by internet / email, may I e-mail it back to Board of Elections?**

**No.** You must either deliver it in-person; place it in an Official Drop Box or mail it (postmarked) prior to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Locations of official Board of Elections Drop Boxes can be found at this link [Montgomery County Elections Drop Boxes](#)

**29. Can I ask someone to return, on my behalf, my voted, signed, and sealed Mail-In ballot to the Board of Elections, USPS mailbox or Official Mail-In drop box?**

Yes.

**Tracking your Mail-In ballot:**

**30. How can I track my Mail-In ballot in the postal system?**

Visit the [Track Your Ballot](#) to verify we have received your request for a ballot and the status of your mail-in ballot. If you have more questions, please contact us at 240-777-8550 or email us at [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov).

**31. I already requested a Mail-In ballot, but I did not receive it.**

**a. How do I find out if my Mail-In ballot was mailed to me?**

Visit the [Track Your Ballot](#) to verify if we received your request, call 240-777-8550 or email [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov) for the status of your mail-in ballot.

**b. Can I request another Mail-In ballot?**

Yes. If your ballot did not arrive, if it was damaged, or if you made a mistake - please contact us at 240-777-8550 or by email at [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov).

**c. What if I receive two Mail-In ballots?**

Please destroy the first ballot you received and vote the second ballot. Do not vote and return both mail-in ballots. Please call 240 777-8550 or email [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov) to report it.

**d. How do you make sure that only one Mail-In ballot is counted?**

The tracking number associated with your name (printed on your return envelope) is input into the Statewide data base when your ballot is received. The system allows only one tracking number to be entered and therefore only one ballot can be received.

**32. How can I find out whether you received my voted Mail-In ballot?**

Visit the [voter look-up website](#) to verify if we received your request for a ballot and the status of your mail-in ballot (call 240-777-8550 or email [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov) for more information).

**What If:**

**33. I already received my Mail-In ballot, but I made a mistake or damaged it.**

**a. Can I request a replacement Mail-In ballot?**

Yes. Contact us at 240-777-8550 or by email at [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov).

**b. Can I vote in-person during Early Voting or on Election Day?**

Yes – but you will have to vote a Provisional Ballot which will require you to complete a separate application and follow the process designed for Provisional Ballots. If you plan to vote a Provisional Ballot, please allow for more time to complete the process during Early Voting or on the Election Day.

**34. I requested a Mail-In ballot but changed my mind. Can I still vote in person?**

Yes – but you will have to vote a Provisional Ballot which will require you to complete a separate application and follow the process designed for Provisional Ballots. If you plan to vote a Provisional Ballot, please allow for more time to complete the process during Early Voting or on the Election Day.

**35. I am going away to school, can I still request and vote a Mail-In ballot?**

Yes. Please indicate the correct residential Maryland address and mailing address where you would like to receive your Mail-in ballot.

**36. I am a former college student, who voted by Mail-In Ballot at my school address before, but now I am back home in Montgomery County. How can I vote?**

**In-Person Voting**

You can vote in person during early voting at any early voting center OR at your assigned polling place on Election Day.

**By mail-in ballot**

Please note that if you previously requested a permanent Mail-in ballot OR already requested Mail-In ballot for 2024 elections to be delivered to your school address, you will need to update your mail-in ballot request.

**Request a mail-in ballot. There are three ways you can request a mail-in ballot.**

- [Online if you have a Maryland's driver's license or MVA-issued ID card.](#)
- Complete and return one of the forms below. Read the instructions, enter the required information, print the form, sign it, and return it to your local board of elections. You can return it by mail, fax, or email (scanned as an attachment).
  - [Mail-in ballot application for 2024 elections \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Solicitud de Papeleta de Votante Ausente para las Elecciones del 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

You may come to our office located at 18753 North Frederick Ave, Suite 210, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 during normal business hours to fill out the Form and turn it in.

**37. I will be on a business trip / conference out of the state. How can I vote?**

Apply for a Mail-in Ballot. There are three ways you can request a mail-in ballot.

- [Online if you have a Maryland's driver's license or MVA-issued ID card.](#)
- Complete and return one of the forms below. Read the instructions, enter the required information, print the form, sign it, and return it to your local board of elections. You can return it by mail, fax, or email (scanned as an attachment).

- [Mail-in ballot application for 2024 elections \(PDF\)](#)
- [Solicitud de Papeleta de Votante Ausente para las Elecciones del 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

You may come to our office located at 18753 North Frederick Ave, Suite 210, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 during normal business hours to fill out the Form and turn it in.

### **38. My family will be on a vacation overseas. How can we vote?**

Apply for a Mail-in Ballot. There are three ways you can request a mail-in ballot.

- [Online if you have a Maryland's driver's license or MVA-issued ID card.](#)
- Complete and return the form below. Read the instructions, enter the required information, print the form, sign it, and return it to your local board of elections. You can return it by mail, fax, or email (scanned as an attachment).
  - [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#)
- You may obtain a Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request - Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) by contacting Montgomery County Board of Elections or by coming to our office located at 18753 North Frederick Ave, Suite 210, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 to fill out your application and turn in the form.

If you are not currently a registered voter in Maryland, you must register by submitting your Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request - Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) hard copy by mail as your original signature is required for registration purposes.

Please visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for more information.