

Top Ten Reasons to Vote in the Primary

1. Primaries often decide who gets into office

- Because most seats in Maryland are “safe seats,” due to gerrymandering, it’s the primary that determines who we elect. Essentially, the election is over after the primary because the general election outcome is often predictable.

2. The Governor decides Maryland’s program and priorities – *you* decide the Governor

- Other state offices are on the ballot in 2026, including Attorney General, Comptroller, State Senators and Delegates – all of whom make the laws and regulations you live under in Maryland.

3. You can influence the direction of your party

- Unlike November general elections, Maryland’s “closed” primary means only those registered as Democrats may vote in the Democratic primary and only those registered as Republicans may vote in the Republican primary. So, if you often find yourself not liking the choices in November, vote the primary.

4. It’s your chance to support new leaders

- Too many legislators run unopposed, so primary elections are often the only stage where emerging candidates, newcomers or innovators have a real shot. When you choose to re-elect a sitting legislator or choose someone new, you decide term limits. But only if you vote in the primary. November is too late.

5. Local offices impact everyday life

- School boards, sheriffs, judges, city and county officials make decisions that affect you every day. Make sure the people you want in office end up on the November ballot.

6. Politicians listen to primary voters

- Officials pay attention to the people who elect them – and because of “safe seats,” it’s primary voters. Legislators who have been in office a long time may not be listening closely anymore. When you vote in the primary, you make yourself heard – and force them to be responsive and accountable.

7. You can vote on your schedule

- Maryland offers mail-in voting and Early Voting, so if voting on Election Day is not convenient, you have lots of options. See the details on the back.

8. You have the tools to be an informed voter with Vote411

- Learn what the candidates stand for by going to www.vote411.org for non-partisan information from the League of Women Voters.

9. Democracy works best when more voices are heard

- In Maryland only a tiny share of voters turn out for primaries (about a quarter of registered voters in 2024). Sadly, this means that three-quarters of eligible voters stayed home. A few are deciding for many. That’s not democracy. Don’t give up your right to make your voice heard.

10. Because you matter

- Your voice is important -- as important as any other citizen.

Don’t let others choose for you. Vote the Primary.



How to Vote in the Primary

Although you are not required to affiliate with any particular political party, you must be registered either as a Democrat or Republican by June 2, 2025 in order to vote in either of these party primaries.*

1. Register to Vote

- **On-line:** Go to the website for the Maryland State Board of Elections:
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>
- **In person:** You may complete a voter registration application in person at any time in any number of state offices, including your local board of elections, your local Department of Health Office, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) offices, all public institutions of higher education and recruitment offices of the US Armed Forces. For a complete list, see the above MSBE website above.
- **Deadline to Register is June 2, 2026**
But, there's always same-day registration on any Early Voting date or Election Day, except your ballot would be considered "provisional" and will not be counted until after it's determined that you are an eligible voter.
- **Confirm your registration:** If you are already registered, you can confirm or update your existing registration on the above website:
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>

2. Vote by Mail, if you'd like to vote at home:

- **Request your mail-in ballot** any of three ways:
 - by mail (request must be received by Tuesday, June 16),
 - by internet (deadline is 11:59pm Friday, June 19)
 - by hand (at your local board of elections, by Tuesday, June 23)
 - for details on how to request your mail in ballot, go to:
<https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineMailinRequest/InstructionsStep1>
- **Submit your mail-in ballot:** Once you cast your vote on your mail-in ballot, follow the directions to seal the envelope, and then submit it any number of ways:
 - drop it off in one of the designated drop boxes
 - mail it in (must be postmarked no later than June 23, 2025), or
 - take it to any polling place on any Early Voting date or on Election Day

3. Vote in Person:

- **Early Voting: June 11 through June 18**, from 7am to 8pm, you may go to any Early Voting location and cast your ballot in person. Check your Sample Ballot for the location nearest you.
- **Election Day: Tuesday, June 23**, from 7am to 8pm, go to your assigned precinct to cast your ballot. *Note: if you are unable to go to your assigned precinct, you may still vote at any precinct in the State of Maryland. Your ballot will be considered provisional until it is verified that you are an eligible voter.*

*** If there are non-partisan offices that are elected in the primary election (i.e., school board), any voter can vote for these offices. Contact your local board of elections.**