

1 Make sure you're registered.

The best way to have your voice heard is to register and to vote!

Forms are available online* or at most post offices, public libraries, colleges, and the Board of Elections.* Fill one out and mail it in.

No faxes or photocopies — your original signature must be on the form.

The deadline to register is October 14, 2008.

Register right away! Elections offices are usually swamped as the election nears, and mistakes are made more easily by tired, overworked staff. Registering early will allow time to correct problems.

Warning: Registering at the Motor Vehicles Administration is not always reliable.

Make sure you're registered! Some would-be voters get a rude shock on election day. Make sure you are on the voting rolls by calling your county elections board or by checking your registration online.*

Check your registration* far enough before the election to correct any problems.

2 Know your polling location.

Polling place assignments can change. When you check your registration,* confirm the address where you will vote on election day.

You must vote at your assigned polling place. If you vote at a different location, your ballot may not be counted, or may be only partially counted.

3 Vote midday if possible.

High turnout is expected on November 4, and most voters will go to the polls before or after work. If you are able to vote midday, you will find the lines much shorter — and you will help relieve the congestion at peak voting times.

If you find long lines and you don't have time to wait to vote, call a voter hotline* right away. Don't leave without reporting it to someone — your vote matters!

*See VITAL INFO (on back page) for links.

4 Know how you want to vote.

Read your sample ballot when you receive it in the mail. Learn about the candidates and ballot questions from newspapers or other sources you trust.

5 Bring ID with you to the polls.

Maryland does not require all voters to show ID, but some categories of voters may need to verify their identity or address. Sometimes a utility bill with your name & address is OK.

Don't offer to show ID unless you are asked to, and politely ask why your ID is being requested. Ask to see the law or rule that requires you to show it.

If you feel you are being asked to show ID in violation of the law, be sure to report it to a voter hotline.*

6 Know your rights.

You have a right to vote! Even if you are not listed in the pollbook, no voter should leave the polling place without being offered a chance to vote a provisional ballot. Ask the polling place staff how to find out if your provisional ballot was counted.

If you are harassed or intimidated by anyone, inside or outside the polling place, call a voter hotline* immediately.

7 Report voting problems.

If you have any problems voting, no matter how small they may seem, call a voter hotline* and report it immediately. Your call may help prevent others from having the same problem, and can help elections officials improve the election process.

When reporting problems, please provide the polling place name, number, or address; the time of day the incident occurred; the name(s) of any individuals involved; what was done to resolve the issue; your name and phone number; and any important details.

8 Tips for absentee voting.

You may request an absentee ballot if you will not be able to get to your polling place during voting hours on election day.

Once you request an absentee ballot, you must vote absentee even if your plans change later. If you go to the polls on election day, you will have to cast a provisional ballot.

Absentee ballot application forms are available online,* or you may call your county elections office* and ask to have one mailed to you.

Request your ballot as early as possible to allow time for it to reach you and for you to return it on time. Ballots are usually ready a few weeks before the election.

You may request and vote your absentee ballot in person at your county Board of Elections office* if you prefer.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is October 28, 2008.

After the deadline, a Late Application for Absentee Ballot must be completed in person at the Board of Elections office* by November 4 at 8:00 p.m.

The ballot will be mailed to the address you specify on the request form, so be sure it is correct. Watch your mail for the ballot. Call* your Board of Elections if you don't receive it.

Follow the instructions carefully for marking and returning the ballot. Use the right marking tool and do not make any stray marks on the ballot.

You must sign everywhere a signature is required on the absentee ballot envelope or your ballot will not be counted.

To be counted, your voted ballot must be either received by the Board of Elections* by 8:00 p.m. on election day; or

Mailed on or before election day, bearing a postmark verifying that fact, and received from the postal service or private mail carrier by 10:00 a.m. on November 14, 2008.

Do not take your voted absentee ballot to the polls on election day. A voted absentee ballot turned in at the polls will NOT be counted. On election day, you must deliver your voted absentee ballot directly to the Board of Elections.*

*See VITAL INFO (on back page) for links.

1 Make sure you're registered.

2 Check your polling location.

3 Know how you want to vote.

4 Bring ID to the polls if you can.

5 Vote mid-day if possible.

6 Know your rights.

7 Report voting problems.

8 Tips for voting absentee.

VITAL INFO

Election Day is November 4, 2008

Polls are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
(unless a court orders longer hours)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

October 14, 2008

Download application at:

[www.elections.state.md.us/
voter_registration/application.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration/application.html)

Or from your county board of elections website

FIND OUT HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS

[www.elections.state.md.us/
about/county_boards.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/about/county_boards.html)

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION AND POLLING PLACE

[http://mdelections.umbc.edu/voter_registration/
v2/vote_prod.php](http://mdelections.umbc.edu/voter_registration/v2/vote_prod.php)

REPORT VOTING PROBLEMS TO
1-866-OUR-VOTE
OR
1-866-MY-VOTE1

SEE IF YOUR PROVISIONAL BALLOT WAS COUNTED

[http://mdelections.umbc.edu/voter_registration/
v2/provisional_vote.php](http://mdelections.umbc.edu/voter_registration/v2/provisional_vote.php)
or call **1-800-222-8683**

SAVEourVotes
SECURE • ACCESSIBLE • VERIFIABLE ELECTIONS FOR MARYLAND

www.saveourvotes.org

410•381•1811

8 TIPS for VOTING SMART

SAVEourVotes
SECURE • ACCESSIBLE • VERIFIABLE ELECTIONS FOR MARYLAND

www.saveourvotes.org