VOTING GUIDE FOR THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

This is a simple guide to help you figure out the safest way to vote in the November election. It is very clear that the safest method is voting by mail, but there are things you need to know that help make it more effective. Other options, such as early in-person voting and election day voting, are not as safe but there are things you can do to mitigate the risk.

Voting by mail

Requesting a ballot –

- **Order your ballot NOW**. Do not wait to receive a ballot application in order to request your ballot, due to possible mail slowdowns. Click here to request a mail-in ballot and register to vote.

- Your ballot request must be received by October 20th

- You will need your driver's license number and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number in order to complete the application

- When you are asked how you want your mail-in ballot delivered, **ONLY SELECT BY MAIL. DO NOT SELECT EMAIL.** Your ballot will come with prepaid return postage.

- Electronic ballots that you print (those received by email) are NOT scannable, which means that your ballot selections will be transferred to a scannable ballot

- Ballots that come in the mail are scannable

- Mail in ballots will be printed in early September and will be mailed soon after that
- Click here to check the status of your ballot request.

The best way to receive your mail-in ballot –

- As mentioned above, ballots that are received via email and printed at home are not scannable. The State Board of Elections will not have the manpower to recreate scannable ballots from electronic ballots if everyone chooses to receive their ballot via email.

- Recreating scannable ballots from electronic ones is NOT fraudulent but it is time-consuming. Both a Democratic and a Republican are witnesses to the ballot recreation.

- **If you already requested a mail-in ballot to be delivered by email and you want to change to a ballot delivered by mail, resubmit your application and request delivery by mail. The new application will replace your old one.**

- If you don't get a ballot, or don't have time to return it by Election Day –
You can always vote in person, even if you have requested a mail-in ballot

If you do vote in person after requesting a mail-in ballot, you will only be able to vote with a provisional ballot. The reason for the provisional ballot is to avoid having people vote more than once

Important steps to make sure your ballot is counted –
- READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND SIGN THE OATH ON THE ENVELOPE! Your ballot is not considered authentic if you don't sign the envelope.
- Do not use a sloppy signature. Use the one you usually use because it will be compared to the one on your voter registration application. Look up your voter registration here https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/votersearch
- Fill in your full name the way it is on your voter registration application.
- If you make a mistake, make sure you make it clear which choice was your final one.

How to return your ballot –
- Because of the current issues with the Post Office, complete your mail-in ballot as soon as possible and put it in the State Board of Elections drop box near you by at least 8pm on November 3rd. There is at least one drop box for each county. You can find them here - https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/20_PP_Vote%20Centers_and_Drop%20off%20Locations.pdf If you need to mail your ballot, get it in the mail as soon as possible. Ballots must be POSTMARKED by November 3rd and must be received by the 13th.
- It may take two weeks or more for your ballot to arrive at the Board of Elections
- Mail-in ballots are tabulated after November 3rd
- To check to see if your ballot was counted, you can look here – https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch Enter your information, click Search and on the next page, click on Status of my Mailed-In or Provisional Ballot

Early voting
- Early voting starts October 26th and goes until November 3rd
- Hours are 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
- You can also register to vote and change your address on the same day as early voting
- **The polling locations for early voting may be updated as we get closer to October**, but this link should get you to the page with the voting locations - https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/early_voting.html
- Try to pick hours when you think lines will be shorter, but if you arrive and the lines are long, try to ask a poll worker when the lines usually get shorter
- Stand 6 feet apart and bring a mask to make sure you protect the people around you

Election Day voting
- Election Day is November 3rd
- Hours are 7:00 am to 8:00 pm
- **There will likely be 360 polling locations across the state and will mostly be High Schools. These will be updated on the State Board of Elections website** found here - https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/index.html. You will be able to vote at any polling location in the county you reside in.
- Stand 6 feet apart and bring a mask to make sure you protect the people around you