



September 21, 2020

Katie Brown
Election Director
Baltimore County Board of Elections
11112 Gilroy Road, Suite 104
Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Dear Katie:

Thank you for all you do day in and day out, and in every election to ensure Marylanders can vote. None of us have navigated an election during a worldwide pandemic or statewide public health emergency such as the one we currently face. Please know that the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM) stands as an active resource in your work to ensure people can vote in the upcoming General Election.

We are aware and deeply appreciate that several local jurisdictions have reached out to skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers and assisted living campuses in their areas to share information on deadlines and procedures for absentee voting. Again, thank you. This week we will be reaching out to long-term and post-acute centers statewide to inform them of critical deadlines and to provide your contact information.

In our pre-COVID-19 world, it was challenging, critical, and professionally rewarding to ensure that residents and patients in long-term and post-acute care settings were able to vote. Most often your office worked with activities coordinators or administrators to ensure people were registered and were able to vote via absentee ballot or at the polls. This year, the process is more challenging as we fight COVID-19, and with the potential for a fall resurgence of COVID-19 during the traditional flu season in the community-at-large and our sector.

Many patients, residents, and staff in our settings fought overseas or were part of social justice movements at home to ensure that everyone can vote. Again, HFAM stands as an active resource to both your office and our members to make that happen, even with the complications of COVID-19.

We will be sharing deadlines and details with our sector this week, and often:

- Register to vote by October 13, 2020.
- Request a mail-in ballot by October 20, 2020.
- Information on early voting timeframe and locations.
- Information on election-day voting and polling places.
- Information on ballot drop-off locations and mail-in deadlines.

Let me end by sharing a bit of personal background and thanking you for all you do. There is a job that does not appear on my resume, and for which I will always be proud.



In the 1980s as a young college student, I was a political patronage employee with the Elections Office of the City and County of Honolulu. In the age of early email and fax machines, I had two jobs: register people to vote and mail ballots to members of the US Armed Forces serving abroad whose last US port of departure was Honolulu. It was rewarding, challenging, and invigorating work.

I share this because I know the importance of and have done normal election work; I can only begin to imagine the additional challenges you face this year, and most importantly because I am fully confident in your success.

Please consider HFAM a partner and a readily available resource to assist in any way we can. You can reach out via email to me at jdemattos@hfam.org or Hope Morris at hmorris@hfam.org. Thank you again.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe DeMattos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a smaller "e" at the end.

Joe DeMattos
President and CEO