
Maryland

*Help America Vote Act
(HAVA) Complaint
Process Guide*

Provided by

VOTER
REFERENCE 
FOUNDATION

State Guide to HAVA & Election Complaint Process

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and other election related complaints.

The statutes/codes cited in this guide may not be the most recent version. States may have more current or accurate information. We make no warranties or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in the individual state guides or the information linked to on the state site.

This guide was last updated on 03/06/2024.

CONTENTS:

[What is the Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)?](#)

[How do I file a HAVA complaint?](#)

[How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?](#)

[Who do I contact regarding election-related complaints?](#)

What is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)?

[Link to HAVA Statute](#)

[Link to Election Assistance Commission](#)

According to the EAC.gov website:

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 was passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. HAVA addresses improvements to voting systems and voter access that were identified following the 2000 election. HAVA mandates that EAC test and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form and administer a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections.

HAVA creates new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration. The law provides funding to help states meet these new standards, replace voting systems and improve election administration. HAVA also established the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to assist the states regarding HAVA compliance and to distribute HAVA funds to the states. EAC is also charged with creating voting system guidelines and operating the federal government's first voting system certification program. EAC is also responsible for maintaining the National Voter Registration form, conducting research, and administering a national clearinghouse on elections that includes shared practices, information for voters and other resources to improve elections. HAVA requires that the states implement the following new programs and procedures:

- Provisional Voting
- Voting Information
- Updated and Upgraded Voting Equipment
- Statewide Voter Registration Databases
- Voter Identification Procedures
- Administrative Complaint Procedures

How do I file a HAVA complaint?

[Link to HAVA Complaint Process](#)

[Link to Form](#)

Any person who believes that there is a violation of any provision of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, 42 U.S.C. §§ 15481-15485, including a violation that has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur, or feels aggrieved by an action of a local board of elections under the Election Law Article relating voter registration, may file a complaint. A list of the Title III violations is on the complaint form.

A complaint must be in writing, signed and sworn by the person filing the complaint (the complainant), and notarized. The complainant may use the Administrative Complaint Form provided by the State Board of Elections or any other form, as long as it is signed and sworn by the complainant and notarized.

How do I file a non-HAVA election complaint?

According to the Maryland Attorney General [Voting FAQ page](#):

Voters should report any issues (polling location, voter fraud, voter intimidation, etc.) to the State Board of Elections at 1-800-222-8683.

According to instructions on the Administrative Complaint form:

If the reason for your complaint is not listed, you can't use this form, but you can still file a complaint. Email your complaint to info.SBE@maryland.gov or use our online [feedback form](#).

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

Maryland State Board of Elections	
Physical Address:	151 West Street, Suite 200 Annapolis, MD 21401
Mailing Address:	State Board of Elections P.O. Box 6486 Annapolis, MD 21401-0486
Phone Number:	410-269-2840
Fax Number:	410-974-2019
E-mail:	info.SBE@maryland.gov
Webform:	https://elections.maryland.gov/about/feedback.html
Local Boards of Election:	https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html