



# Maryland

## *Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Guide*

*Provided by*

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# State Guide to Voter Registration & Voter List Maintenance Statutes

This is a guide to your state's laws relating to voter registration and voter list maintenance.

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.

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# Who can I contact with election related questions?

## [Link to Elections Official](#)

<b>Maryland State Board of Elections</b>	
<b>Physical Address:</b>	151 West Street, Suite 200 Annapolis, MD 21401
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	P.O. Box 6486 Annapolis, MD 21401-0486
<b>Phone Number:</b>	410-269-2840
<b>Fax Numbers:</b>	410-974-2019
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:info.sbe@maryland.gov">info.sbe@maryland.gov</a>
<b>Local Boards of Election:</b>	<a href="https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html">https://elections.maryland.gov/about/county_boards.html</a>

# How do I register to vote?

[Link to Register](#)  
[Link to Statutes](#)

## [§ 3-102. Qualifications for voter registration.](#)

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an individual may become registered to vote if the individual:

- (i) is a citizen of the United States;
- (ii) is at least 16 years old;
- (iii) is a resident of the State as of the day the individual seeks to register; and
- (iv) registers pursuant to this title.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, an individual under the age of 18 years:

- (i) may vote in a primary election in which candidates are nominated for a general or special election that will occur when the individual is at least 18 years old; and
- (ii) may not vote in any other election.

(b) An individual is not qualified to be a registered voter if the individual:

- (1) has been convicted of a felony and is currently serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction;
- (2) is under guardianship for mental disability and a court of competent jurisdiction has specifically found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process; or
- (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

# How do I cancel my voter registration?

[Link to Cancellation Form](#)  
[Link to Local Election Boards](#)

The easiest way to cancel your registration is online: [Maryland's Online Voter Registration System \(OLVR\)](#)

1. Enter your required information, and then select the green "Next" button.
2. Once you are on the Voter Information Page, select the blue "Cancel My Registration" option.
3. Finally, complete the signature, and press the green "Submit Cancellation" button.

Alternatively, you can notify the [local board of elections](#) where you currently live if you wish to cancel your voter registration with a signed written notice. You can also send a cancellation to the [State Board of Elections](#) using the [Voter Registration Cancellation Form \(PDF\)](#).

You can use your [Voter Lookup tool](#) or contact your [local board of elections](#) where you now live to ensure that your records are up-to-date and verify the cancellation.

# How is voter list maintenance handled?

## § 3-501. Removal of voters from registry.

An election director may remove a voter from the statewide voter registration list only:

- (1) at the request of the voter, provided the request is: (i) signed by the voter; (ii) authenticated by the election director; and (iii) in a format acceptable to the State Board or on a cancellation notice provided by the voter on a voter registration application;
- (2) upon determining, based on information provided pursuant to § 3-504 of this subtitle, that the voter is no longer eligible because: (i) the voter is not qualified to be a registered voter as provided in § 3-102(b) of this title; or (ii) the voter is deceased;
- (3) if the voter has moved outside the State, as determined by conducting the procedures established in § 3-502 of this subtitle; or
- (4) if, in accordance with the administrative complaint process under § 3-602 of this title, the State Administrator or the State Administrator's designee has determined that the voter is not qualified to be registered to vote.

## § 3-502. Change of address information; procedures.

(a)

(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Confirmation notice" means a notice, approved by the State Board, that is sent by forwardable mail with a return card.

(3) "Return card" means a postage prepaid and preaddressed card on which the voter may report the voter's current address.

(b) Upon receiving any information that a voter currently registered in the State has moved to a different address within the State, the appropriate election official shall change the voter's record and send the voter a confirmation notice.

(c) If it appears from information provided by the postal service or an agency specified in § 3-504(b) of this subtitle that a voter has moved to a different address outside the State, the election official in the county where the voter most recently resided in the State shall send the voter a confirmation notice informing the voter of his or her potential inactive status as described in § 3-503 of this subtitle.

(d) Upon receipt of a return card, the election director shall:

(1) make any needed corrections in the statewide voter registration list; and

(2) in accordance with State Board guidelines, retain original voter registration documents.

(e) The election director may not remove a voter from the statewide voter registration list on the grounds of a change of address unless:

(1) the voter confirms in writing that the voter has changed residence to a location outside the State; or

(2) (i) the voter has failed to respond to a confirmation notice under subsection (c) of this section; and (ii) the voter has not voted or appeared to vote (and, if necessary, corrected the record of the voter's address) in an election during the period beginning with the date of the notice through the next two general elections.

### **§ 3-503. Inactive list.**

- (a) If a voter fails to respond to a confirmation notice under § 3-502(c) of this subtitle, the voter's name shall be placed into inactive status on the statewide voter registration list.
- (b) A voter shall be restored to active status on the statewide voter registration list after completing and signing any of the following election documents:
- (1) a voter registration application;
  - (2) a petition governed by Title 6 of this article;
  - (3) a certificate of candidacy;
  - (4) an absentee ballot application; or
  - (5) a written affirmation of residence completed on election day to entitle the voter to vote either at the election district or precinct for the voter's current residence or the voter's previous residence, as determined by the State Board.
- (c) An inactive voter who fails to vote in an election in the period ending with the second general election shall be removed from the statewide voter registration list.
- (d) Registrants placed into inactive status may not be counted for official administrative purposes including establishing precincts and reporting official statistics.

### **§ 3-504. Information from other agencies; death verification and removal from statewide voter registration list.**

- (a) (1)
- (i) Information from the agencies specified in this paragraph shall be reported to the State Administrator in a format and at times prescribed by the State Board.
  - (ii) The Maryland Department of Health shall report the names and residence addresses (if known) of all individuals at least 16 years of age reported deceased within the State since the date of the last report.
  - (iii) The clerk of the circuit court for each county and the administrative clerk for each District Court shall report the names and addresses of all individuals convicted, in the respective court, of a felony since the date of the last report.
  - (iv) The clerk of the circuit court for each county shall report the former and present names and residence addresses (if known) of all individuals whose names have been changed by decree or order of the court since the date of the last report.
- (2) The State Administrator shall make arrangements with the clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland to receive reports of names and addresses, if available, of individuals convicted of a felony in that court.
- (3) The State Administrator shall make arrangements with the United States Social Security Administration or an entity that receives information from the Social Security Administration and is approved by the State Administrator to receive reports of names and addresses, if available, of all Maryland residents at least 16 years of age who are reported deceased.
- (b) (1) The State Administrator shall transmit to the appropriate local board information gathered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.
- (2) Every agency or instrumentality of any county which acquires or condemns or razes or causes to be condemned or razed any building used as a residence within the county shall promptly report this fact and the location of the building to the local board in the county or city.
  - (3) Registration cancellation information provided by an applicant on any voter registration application shall be provided to the appropriate local board by the State Administrator or another local board.
  - (4) A local board may:
    - (i) make arrangements to receive change of address information from an entity approved by the State Board; and
    - (ii) pay a reasonable fee to the entity for the information.

### § 3-504 (Cont.)

(c) (1)

(i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, whenever a local board becomes aware of an obituary or any other reliable report of the death of a registered voter, the election director shall mail a notice to the registered voter, as prescribed by the State Board, to verify whether the voter is in fact deceased.

(ii) On receipt of a verification of the death of a voter, provided in accordance with the notice mailed under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the election director may remove the voter from the statewide voter registration list under § 3-501 of this subtitle.

(2)

(i) Whenever a local board receives a report obtained by the State Administrator under subsection (a)(3) of this section that includes a registered voter, the election director shall mail to the address shown on the statewide voter registration list, by regular U.S. mail, a notice that:

1. states that the registered voter has been reported by the Social Security Administration to have died; and
2. notifies the registered voter or a person attending the affairs of a deceased voter that the voter will be removed from the statewide voter registration list unless, within 2 weeks after the date of the letter, the registered voter or a representative:
  - A. objects to the removal; and
  - B. shows cause why the removal should not proceed.

(ii) If the registered voter or a representative timely objects and shows cause why the removal should not proceed, the election director may:

1. terminate the removal process and retain the registered voter on the statewide voter registration list; or
2. refer the matter to the local board for a hearing to determine the registered voter's status.

(iii) If the registered voter or a representative fails to timely object and show cause why the removal should not proceed, the registration shall be canceled and the registered voter removed from the statewide voter registration list.

### § 3-601.1. Clerical error.

(a) In this section, "clerical error" means an inadvertent mistake in a voter registration record made by an election official or an automatic voter registration agency.

(b) The State Administrator or an election director shall make the determination whether an error in a voter registration record is a clerical error.

(c) If the State Administrator or election director determines that a clerical error has been made, the State Administrator or election director shall:

- (1) cause the error to be corrected; and
- (2) promptly notify the voter of the correction.

(d)

(1) On election day, if it is alleged that the name of a registered voter is missing from the precinct register because of a clerical error, the chief election judge shall contact the State Board or local board to determine whether a clerical error has been made.

(2) If the State Administrator or election director determines that the absence of the name from the precinct register is the result of a clerical error, the State Administrator or election director shall authorize the chief election judge to:

- (i) issue a blank voter authority card to the affected voter; and
- (ii) allow the affected voter to vote after the affected voter completes the voter authority card and provides any other documentation required by the State Board.

**§ 3-602. Administrative complaint.**

- (a) Under the procedures established by the State Board, an administrative complaint may be filed by:
- (1) a person who feels aggrieved by an action of a local board regarding voter registration; or
  - (2) a local board with reason to believe that a registration has been erroneously added to or omitted from the statewide voter registration list other than by clerical error.
- (b) In determining whether an individual is or is not a resident of an election district or precinct, the presumption shall be that an individual shown to have acquired a residence in one locality retains that residence until it is affirmatively shown that the individual has acquired a residence elsewhere.
- (c)
- (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a final determination issued under the administrative complaint procedures established by the State Board is not subject to judicial review.
  - (2) Any final determination regarding the eligibility of an individual to register to vote or remain registered to vote is subject to judicial review.
    - (i)
      1. A petition for judicial review shall be filed with the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.
      2. The petition may be brought at any time, except that it may not be later than the third Tuesday preceding the next succeeding election.
    - (ii)
      1. The court, on presentation of satisfactory evidence, may, in its discretion, dispose of the matter summarily or otherwise set the matter for hearing.
      2. On appropriate order of the court, the State Board shall make the required corrections.
- (d)
- (1) An appeal may be taken from any ruling of the circuit court to the Appellate Court of Maryland.
  - (2) The appeal shall be taken within 5 days from the date of the decision by the circuit court, and the appeal shall be heard and decided by the Appellate Court of Maryland as soon after the transmission of the record as practicable.



## [The National Voter Registration Act of 1993](#)

Congress enacted the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (also known as the “NVRA” and the “Motor Voter Act”), to enhance voting opportunities for every American. The Act has made it easier for all Americans to register to vote and to maintain their registration. Section 8 of the NVRA contains requirements with respect to the administration of voter registration by States and requires States to implement procedures to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists.

For more information about the NVRA, please visit the [Department of Justice website](#).

# List of voter registration statuses and their definitions

Registration Statuses	
<b>Active</b> - voter status after a completed and signed voter registration application is approved and voter is added to the statewide voter registration list.	<a href="#">§ 3-503</a>
<b>Inactive</b> - If a voter fails to respond to a confirmation notice under § 3-502(c) of this subtitle, the voter’s name shall be placed into inactive status on the statewide voter registration list.	<a href="#">§ 3-503</a>
<b>Canceled</b> - voter has been removed from the statewide voter registration list	<a href="#">§ 3-501</a>

# 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](mailto:info.SBE@maryland.gov) or use our online [feedback form](#).

# Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

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