



Maryland

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

Provided by

VOTER
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FOUNDATION

Disclaimer: 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 this guide or the information linked to on the state site.

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Table of 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)?

According to the [Election Assistance Commission](#):

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 HAVA Complaint 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 HAVA Administrative Complaint form:
Email your complaint to info.SBE@maryland.gov or use our online [feedback form](#).

Who can I contact regarding an election related complaint?

State Board of Elections

Physical Address:

State Board of Elections
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

Email Address:

info.SBE@maryland.gov

Website:

<https://elections.maryland.gov/about/contact.html>