



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Voting Rights for Pretrial Detainees and Returning Citizens

Am I eligible to vote?

You may register to vote in Maryland if: (1) You are a US citizen; and (2) You are a Maryland resident; and (3) You are at least 16 years old.

[Read the Law: Md. Code, Election Law § 3-102](#)

How do I know if I'm disqualified from voting?

You cannot vote if: (1) you have ever been convicted of buying or selling votes; or (2) if you are in jail for a felony conviction; or (3) you are under guardianship for mental disability AND are found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote.

[Read the Law: Md. Code, Election Law § 3-102](#)

Can I vote if I am in jail awaiting trial?

Yes, if you are an eligible voter who has not been convicted of the charged crime(s) resulting in your pre-trial detention, you may vote.

Can I vote if I was convicted of a misdemeanor crime?

Yes, misdemeanor offenses do not disqualify you from voting. In Maryland, offenses that are not felonies are misdemeanors.

Can I vote if I was convicted of a felony?

If you were convicted of a felony (i.e. Murder, Rape, Homicide, Robbery, Weapons Offenses, Larceny, Arson, and Burglary) and have finished serving your court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, you are also eligible to register to vote. You must register or re-register to vote – you will not be automatically added to the voting rolls once you have finished serving your sentence. You may not however register to vote if you were convicted of buying or selling votes.

[Read the Law: Md. Code, Election Law § 3-102](#)

Can I vote if I am on parole or probation?

Maryland allows people with felony convictions to vote once they have been released from incarceration. If you are on parole or probation, or have completed your sentence, you are eligible to vote in the state of

Maryland unless you were convicted of buying or selling votes. You must register or re-register to vote – you will not be automatically added to the voting rolls once you have finished serving your sentence.

Can I vote if I've been charged with violating my parole or probation?

If you have been accused of violating the terms of your probation or parole and are currently incarcerated awaiting a parole or probation hearing to determine whether your parole or probation has been violated, you are eligible to register and vote.

How do I vote if I am currently in pre-trial detention?

If you are currently awaiting trial in jail, you are eligible to vote! The State Board of Elections will provide all detention centers with voter registration applications and mail-in ballot applications. Return envelopes are included and include pre-paid postage. If you need a form, please ask your warden and one will be provided to you.

A representative from the Department of Corrections is responsible for providing every eligible detainee a ballot in a timely manner. The Presidential Election is always held on the first Tuesday in November. This year the election is on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. If you have not received your ballot by Friday, October 16, 2020 contact your warden immediately for more information.

Can I have my voting rights restored?

Following a felony conviction and the completion of your court ordered sentence, you may register or re-register to vote. You can use [Maryland's Online Voter Registration System \(OLVR\)](#) or submit a [voter registration application](#) to your [local board of elections](#) or the [State Board of Elections](#) at any time. However, an application must be postmarked by October 13, 2020 for the Presidential General Election. If using [Maryland's Online Voter Registration System \(OLVR\)](#), you have until 9:00pm to submit your application.

Where can I go to determine whether I am registered to vote?

If you aren't sure if you are registered, or at what address, check your voter registration status by visiting <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch> or by calling 1-800-222-8683 and asking a State Board of Elections representative to check your registration.

Can I register to vote, if I am in pre-trial detention and not currently registered to vote?

How might one register to vote and get their ballot?

Yes, if you are an eligible voter in pre-trial detention you may register to vote. If you need to register to vote or update your information, you can do it online or submit a voter registration application. The deadline to register to vote and update your information for the 2020 General Election is October 13, 2020.