

OFFICES FOR 2008 ELECTIONS

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

This is a four-year term.

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

This is a four-year term.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Each congressional term is for two years. All of Washington County is located in the Sixth Congressional District. There is no limit to the number of terms.

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

SCHOOL BOARD:

There will be four vacancies on the seven member school board. Their terms are for four years.

DELEGATES TO THE PARTY CONVENTIONS:

Delegates to the Democratic Convention
Delegates to the Republican Convention

By learning as much as possible about all the candidates competing for offices in these elections, you will have a sound basis for making choices on Election Day.



2007-2008 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

HANCOCK TOWN ELECTION

If you reside within the town of Hancock and will be 18 by January 29, 2007, you may register and vote in that election.

General - January 29, 2007

WILLIAMSPORT TOWN ELECTION

If you reside within the town of Williamsport and will be 18 by March 5, 2007, you may register and vote in that election.

General - March 5, 2007

BOONSBORO TOWN ELECTION

If you reside within the town of Boonsboro and will be 18 by May 12, 2008, you may register and vote in that election.

General - May 12, 2008

FUNKSTOWN TOWN ELECTION

If you reside within the town of Funkstown and will be 18 by May 5, 2008, you may register and vote in that election.

General - May 5, 2008

KEEDYSVILLE TOWN ELECTION

If you reside within the town of Keedysville and will be 18 by May 3, 2008, you may register and vote in that election.

General - May 3, 2008

SHARPSBURG TOWN ELECTION

If you reside within the town of Sharpsburg and will be 18 by November 18, 2008, you may register and vote in that election.

General - November 18, 2008

SMITHSBURG TOWN ELECTION

If you reside within the town of Smithsburg and will be 18 by May 13, 2008, you may register and vote in that election.

Primary - April 28, 2008

General - May 13, 2008

GUIDE FOR 1ST TIME VOTERS



WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

35 W. Washington St. Rm. 101
Hagerstown Maryland 21740-4833
240-313-2050
Fax - 240-313-2051

www.washco-md.net/election/elect1.html

www.elections.state.md.us

2007—2008

VOTING FACTS

WHO MAY REGISTER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY?

You must have all of these qualifications:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Washington County
- At least 18 years old by November 4, 2008
- Have not been convicted of buying or selling votes; have not been convicted more than once of a crime of violence; have not been convicted of an infamous crime (unless you have been pardoned or, for a first conviction, you have completed your sentence, or, for a second or later conviction, 3 years have passed since you completed a sentence).
- Not under guardianship for mental disability.

WHEN MAY I REGISTER?

Year around except when the books are closed. They close 21 days prior to any election, and 11 days after every election.

WHERE AND HOW?

- By mail or in person at the Board of Elections Office, 35 W. Washington St. Rm. 101 Hagerstown, any weekday from 8:00 till 4:30, or call for application to be mailed - 240-313-2050 for 24 hour service.
- Pick up an application at any post office, library, State agencies in Washington County, register in high school, non-governmental agencies, or on the Internet - www.elections.state.md.us.
- Motor Vehicle Association, when you apply for a driver's license or apply for an identification card, you are given a chance to register to vote.

HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I AM REGISTERED?

You will receive a Voters Notification Card in the mail about 1 week after applying. This card is your proof of registration. It will show your personal information, your party affiliation and polling place, it has a punch out wallet size ID card, for convenience.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I MOVE OR CHANGE MY NAME?

You must notify the Election Office, of any change within 21 days of any election. It must include your signature. Failure to notify us of a change could place you on an inactive list of voters but allows you to vote in the next 2 Federal Elections. Failure to vote or change address in the next 2 Federal Elections may result in your name being removed from the voter rolls.

MUST I REGISTER FOR EACH ELECTION?

Registration is permanent unless a voter moves out of the State of Maryland.

HOW MAY I CHOOSE AN AFFILIATION?

Maryland has a closed primary. That means that only voters registered with a major party may vote in that party's primary election. There are two major parties at this time in Maryland. You may decline to affiliate. If you decline, you may still vote in the Board of Education primary if there is one. The lack of an affiliation has no bearing on a citizens vote in a general election.

WHAT MUST I DO IF I WANT TO CHANGE MY AFFILIATION?

Voters may change their party affiliation at any time except when the books are closed or 12 weeks before the Primary Election. It must be with the voter's signature since no changes are made without your authorization.

MAY I GO TO ANY POLLING PLACE TO VOTE?

No. You should go to the polling place location listed on your Voter Notification Card sent to you, when you first registered. The hours are 7 AM to 8 PM.

HOW CAN I VOTE IF I AM AWAY FROM HOME?

Absentee Voting is accomplished by applying for an absentee ballot and returning it in time to be counted. You must apply for an absentee ballot no later than 7 days before an election, for the ballot to be mailed to you. You may request a ballot for both elections on the same application. In order to have timely receipt of your ballot, you should request one about 2 months before an election, specially for overseas citizens and military personnel. Call the election office for details. Also, there is the possibility of receiving a blank ballot by Fax or e-mail, **but you cannot return a voted ballot by Fax or e-mail.**

WHAT IF I HAVE AN EMERGENCY DURING THOSE SEVEN DAYS?

If you qualify, you may use an agent to deliver your ballot to you, but the person being the agent must be registered and be able to return the voted ballot to the election office in person. **The agent process can be used any time throughout the absentee voting period.**

I PLAN ON ENTERING THE MILITARY OR HAVE PLANS TO GO OVERSEAS, HOW DO I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You must obtain a FPCA (Federal Post Card Application) to request an absentee ballot and mail or fax it to our office. The forms may be obtained from our office, a US Embassy, Consulate Office or your Military Unit Voting Assistance Officer. The FPCA deadline to be in our office is 7 days before the election. However, waiting too long may make it impossible for you to receive your ballot and return it in time. Call 240-313-2050 for further information.

WHEN IS THE NEXT ELECTION?

The next countywide election will be held in 2008 for some Federal, State, County and Party Offices.

The Primary Election - February 12, 2008

The General Election - November 4, 2008

2008 ELECTION CALENDAR

Deadline to change party affiliation -

November 19, 2007

Last day to register prior to Primary - **January 22, 2008**

Last day to apply for Absentee Ballot for it to be mailed to the Voter - **February 5, 2008**

PRIMARY ELECTION - February 12, 2008

Deadline for receipt Absentee Ballot - **8:00pm February 12, 2008**

Registration Books re-open - **February 25, 2008**

Last day to register prior to General - **October 14, 2008**

Last day to apply for Absentee Ballot for it to be mailed to the Voter - **October 28, 2008**

GENERAL ELECTION - November 4, 2008

Deadline for receipt Absentee Ballot - **8:00pm November 4, 2008**

Registration Books re-open - **November 17, 2008**

ATTENTION 17 YEAR OLDS

**WE ARE NOW ALLOWED TO USE
17 YEAR OLDS AS ELECTION
WORKERS TO WORK AT THE POLLS
ON ELECTION DAY.**

If you are technically inclined and interested in working the polls on Election Day, contact the Washington County Board of Elections.

Recruiting will be in June 2007, and training of Election Workers will begin in January 2008.

STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING HOURS -

may be earned while serving as Election Workers. There is monetary payment for training and working during both elections, **but not while earning your Student Service Learning hours.** You do not have to be a registered voter to work as an election worker. This experience will be very educational in the electoral process.

***HISTORY HAS SHOWN
THAT ONE VOTE DOES
MAKE A DIFFERENCE***