

Maryland

Provisional Ballot Survey

Provisional Ballots Cast: 48,936
Provisional Ballots Counted: 31,860
Percent Counted: 65.1%
Percent of Vote: 1.33%

DESIGN

1. Who designs the provisional ballot, the state or county?

The state designs the provisional ballot. Each local board shall use the provisional ballot application prescribed by the State Board.

2. Is the entity responsible for designing the provisional ballot designated by statute or rule?

The state is designated responsible by state law, 9-203, 9-205, 9-206.

3. Does Maryland have a provisional ballot that also serves as a voter registration application?

The voter registration application shall be incorporated into the provisional ballot application. The provisional ballot application shall be printed on an envelope that can be sealed.

4. Is Maryland's provisional ballot visually distinguishable from a regular ballot?

Yes, regular ballots are cast on electronic voting machines while provisional ballots are paper.

AVAILABILITY AND STANDARDS

1. Are there a required number of provisional ballots at polling places?

Yes, in single-ballot counties, polling locations are required to have enough provisional ballots for 1 percent of the registered voters plus the number of spoiled provisional ballots in the previous comparable election, in addition to the 20 provisional ballots reserved in case polling locations are mandated to stay open later. In multiple-ballot counties, the counties calculate the number of voters who have changed their address in the past four years, add 1 percent of the number of currently registered voters, and add the number of spoiled provisional ballots in the previous comparable election, in addition to the 20 provisional ballots reserved in case polling

locations are mandated to stay open later. The number of provisional ballot applications supplied to each polling place shall be at least equal to one percent of the number of active voters assigned to that polling place. The number of provisional ballot applications supplied to a polling place on or near a college campus shall be between two and five percent of the number of active registered voters assigned to that polling place.

2. What to do poll workers do if the polling place runs out of provisional ballots?

Election judges would call local election offices to have more provisional ballots delivered.

3. Are provisional ballots tracked through distribution to polling sites through counting?

Yes, provisional ballots are individually tracked from distribution to polling sites through counting.

COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

1. Who determines whether or not a provisional ballot is valid?

County officials on the Local Board of Canvassers, determine whether or not the provisional ballot is valid.

2. What is the time frame for counting provisional ballots?

Ballots must be counted by 10 AM on the Monday after Election Day.

3. What is the process for determining the eligibility of a provisional ballot?

Local election staff reviews the application to make sure information is correct, and then present the Board of Canvassers with the information.

4. Who can observe the process?

The Board of Canvassers meeting is open to the public.

5. Is a provisional ballot counted if it is cast in the wrong precinct?

A provisional ballot cast within the state, but in the wrong precinct or county, will be counted for all contests for which the voter is eligible to vote.

6. What information must voters provide on the provisional ballot?

The information requested is identical to the information requested on voter registration applications. In addition, the voter must complete the affidavit and indicate which election the provisional ballot is for.

7. May a voter remedy a provisional ballot that may be rejected?

It depends on why the voter received the provisional ballot. If, for example, the voter received a provisional ballot because he or she was not able to provide identification, the voter has until the start of the provisional ballot canvass to provide acceptable identification. If the voter provides it, his or her provisional ballot will be counted. A voter, however, who votes in the wrong precinct cannot remedy that once he or she has cast a provisional ballot.

8. If voters remedy a flawed provisional ballot, how are they notified of this opportunity?

An election judge (a.k.a. pollworker) explains to the voter why he or she is receiving a provisional ballot and what, if anything, the voter needs to do to ensure that his or her provisional ballot is counted. The election judge gives the voter the provisional ballot instructions, which also contains what, if any, information needs to be provided for the voter's provisional ballot to be counted.

9. What can voters do if they failed to bring ID to the polls?

The voter may provide ID before the close of the polls. If a voter who is required to show ID does not provide ID, the voter will be offered a provisional ballot (The voter can, of course, leave the polling place and return with ID, but this is not required). If the voter votes a provisional ballot, the voter has until the start of the provisional ballot canvass to provide acceptable ID. If acceptable ID is provided, the provisional ballot is counted; if not, the provisional ballot is rejected. If the provisional ballot is rejected, the local election official is required to request ID from each voter whose provisional ballot was rejected for failure to provide ID. The Election Director shall send a letter requesting identification from each voter whose application was rejected due to failure to provide required identification.

The Election Director shall send the appropriate letter to each voter whose application was rejected because the voter's registration status was pending because either their identification could not be verified or was not provided.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

1. What is the state's Free Notification System to inform voters whether their provisional ballot was counted?

Voters can check to see whether or nor their provisional ballot was counted by using a toll free number or by using the website.

2. Who administers the Free Notification System?

The state administers the notification system.

3. What is the timeline for posting information to the Free Notification System?

Results are posted 24 hours after the provisional ballot canvass has been completed.