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Election Judge News

Volume III, Issue 4

April 15, 2022

We Have an Election!

After months of uncertainty over congressional and legislative maps, the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election is finally set to commence on Tuesday, July 19th, with Early Voting from Thursday, July 7th to Thursday, July 14th.

The original congressional map, approved by the Maryland General Assembly in a special session in December, immediately drew multiple challenges in court.

Meanwhile, the new legislative map created by the General Assembly during its 444th General Session also received multiple challenges in court.

Because of the pending court challenges to both maps, the Primary Election date was postponed from June 28th to July 19th.

On March 25th, an Anne Arundel County Circuit Court judge ruled that the congressional map was an “extreme partisan gerrymander,” and ordered the General Assembly to draw a new map.

The new map was redrawn and approved within a few days, and on April 4th, Governor Larry

Hogan signed the map into law. Congressional District 6, which includes all of Washington County, was redrawn to include all of Frederick County and less of Montgomery County (just the northern portion).

As for the legislative map, a special magistrate was assigned to hear arguments for and against.

On April 4th, Judge Alan Wilner recommended that the Maryland Court of Appeals dismiss all the legal challenges to the map.

On April 13th, the Court of Appeals held a hearing and, later that day, accepted Judge Wilner’s recommendation, approving the new legislative map.

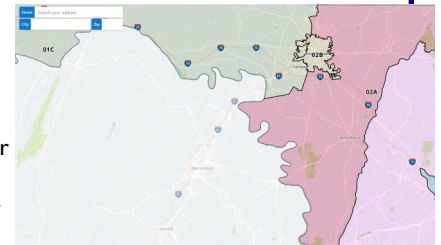
For our part, we just wanted the maps to be finalized, sooner rather than later. The court challenges put much of our preparation for the election on hold and put pressure on us to get months worth of work done in only weeks.

Now that both maps have been approved, the Election Board staff can begin the work of moving precincts into their proper legislative districts, creating new precincts as a result of redistricting, securing polling places for all of the precincts, and notifying the tens of thousands of voters affected by the new maps.

The areas of the county that were formerly in legislative district 2A and now in legislative district 1C are: Mougansville, Huyetts, and Halfway.

A small portion of Mougansville will remain in 2A, a small portion of Paramount (2A) will change to 1C, a small portion of election precinct 10-2 (2A), Towne Oak Village, will change to 1C, and a small portion of election precinct 2-0 (1C), St. James, will change to 2A.

Legislative district 2A also now crosses over into northern Frederick County and includes Thurmont and Emmitsburg.

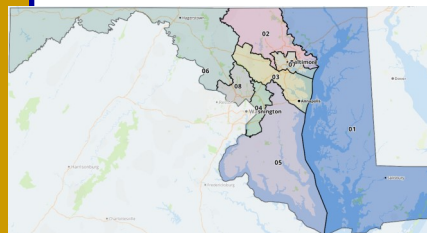


2022 Legislative Map of Washington County

Election-related Bills

The 444th General Session concluded on Monday, April 11th, and it was a brutal one for elections officials. Here’s a recap of election-related bills that passed and didn’t pass.

HB035/SB158—50/50 split for major purchases between state government and local governments. This is the legislation that also outlawed the use of vote centers and required the same number of polling places as in the 2018 election. This was a last minute amendment that took away the authority of local boards of elections (LBE) to determine the number of polling places required in their own jurisdictions.



2022 Congressional Map



Washington County, MD
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2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election

Early Voting:
June 16-23, 2022 7AM-8PM

Election Day:
June 28, 2022 7AM-8PM

2022 Gubernatorial General Election

Early Voting:
October 23-November 3
7AM-8PM

Election Day:
November 8, 2022 7AM-8PM

Election Judge News

Election-related Bills (cont.)

HB328/SB907—Removes restriction of having a polling place in an establishment that sells alcohol.

HB291/SB101—Candidate may not request a recount if they lose by more than 5%. This is an increase from 3%. Also increases the vote total margin from .1% to .25% in order for a candidate to not be liable for costs of a recount, meaning taxpayers would have to pay for it.

SB163—Allows for canvassing of mail-in ballots starting 8 business days before Early Voting.

HB862—If more than one ballot has been cast by a voter, count the first one received. Previous law was if a voter cast an absentee ballot and a provisional ballot, BOTH ballots were rejected.

Bills that did not pass:

HB113—Voter ID requirement to vote

HB160—Prohibition of holding elected office and party office (central committee).

HB327—Establishing a minimum daily stipend of \$200 for election judges.

Election Judge Training

Election judge training is underway! Many of you have completed your online training, while many of you still have not.

The training is broken down into 4 to 5 minute modules, expected to take a grand total of about two hours. You can take as many or as few modules at a time as you want, then come back and pick up where you left off.

The online training is interactive, with videos and progress checks throughout the modules.

In person training for check-in judges and voting judges begins on April 20th. All other election judge classes will begin shortly after that.

You must complete your online training before you can schedule your in person training. So if you have not completed your online training, please do so as soon as possible.

If you need any help accessing or getting through the training, please contact us.

The email we sent with instructions for accessing the online training has tips for getting through some of the hiccups you may encounter.

If you're having any issues, don't get frustrated or discouraged, because we had the same issues when we went through it.

Training Center

Since we are in the midst of our online and in person training, we will forgo the training center refreshers until further notice.

The new Election Judge Manual is published and will be given to you at your in person training.



Devil's Backbone



The Vietnam Memorial near City Park.

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Lesson 1 of 5
Chapter 1 Lesson #3: Rules and Policies for an Election Judge
Mary Ann Magowan

Learning Objectives

In this lesson you will review:

- General Rules for all Election Judges
- Election Judge Do's and Don't's
- Types of Election Judges
- Term and Removal from Service
- Voting Options

Click to play audio

In this lesson, you'll review the general rules for all election judges. You will learn the Do's and Don'ts of an election judge, the types of election judges, as well as the terms of office and how election judges may be removed from their role. Lastly, we'll discuss the options you have as an election judge to cast your ballot.

Online Election Judge Training Website