

# CECIL COUNTY

## Election News

FALL 2025



The mission of the Cecil County Board of Elections is to provide all eligible citizens of Cecil County convenient access to voter registration; to provide all registered voters accessible locations in which they may exercise their right to vote; to ensure uniformity of election practices; to promote fair, secure, transparent, equitable and accurate elections; and to maintain registration records and other election-related data accurately and completely.

As part of this mission, the office performs voter outreach and education to help register voters, answer questions from the public and ensure transparency in our work.

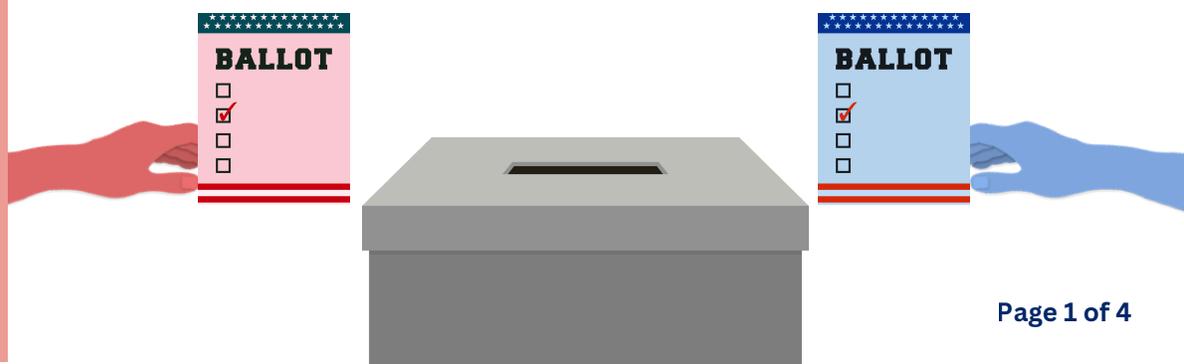
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### What does it mean that Maryland has a Closed Primary?

Primary elections are used by the major political parties to select who they want to run in the General Election. The Democratic and Republican Parties use this process to help them select the strongest candidate to run in the General Election with the hope of their winning candidate being elected to the particular office in question. This decision is made by the major political parties – not by the State or local election boards.

While the major parties in Maryland MAY open their primaries to allow voters not affiliated with their party to vote in their Primary, they generally do not do so. They want their own party members to select who they think will be strongest in the General Election. When the Primary is open only to voters affiliated with one of the major parties, this is called a “Closed Primary” and this is the model that the major parties in Maryland use. Registered Republicans may vote in the Republican Primary; registered Democrats may vote in the Democratic Primary. Voters who are not affiliated with either major party may not vote in the major primaries, and may only be able to vote for non-partisan offices that are elected in a primary election (i.e., school board). You do not need to be affiliated with either major party to vote in non-partisan races on the Primary ballot. (cont'd on page 2)



Having said that, a voter may change their party affiliation at any time EXCEPT for the final week leading up to Early Voting for the Primary. Next year, voters must lock in their major party affiliation by June 2, 2026 to be able to vote in the 2026 Gubernatorial Primary. This “blackout” period for party changes helps ensure that voter data can be reliably captured by Board of Elections poll books for when voters begin to show up at the polls for the 2026 Primary. Allowing party changes too close to the beginning of Primary voting would cause chaos and delays for voters showing up to vote in the major primaries. To change your party affiliation, use Maryland's Online Voter Registration System (OLVR) or submit a new voter registration application or a written request to the Cecil County Board of Elections (CCBOE).

It's worth noting that you do not have to affiliate with a political party if you do not wish to do so. If you do not select a political party on your voter registration application, you will be "Unaffiliated" with any political party. This means that you will generally not be able to vote in party Primary elections, but you will be able to vote in any nonpartisan Primary elections held in your jurisdiction, such as a Primary election to select nominees for the board of education. And any eligible voter is able to vote in the General Election – regardless of party affiliation. Feel free to reach out to our office if you have questions or need help to change your party affiliation.

### Election Judge Recruitment and Training...We Need You!

Every two years for the Presidential or Gubernatorial elections, the Cecil County Board of Elections (CCBOE) recruits, trains and employs approximately 350 Election Judges to help voters at more than 20 polling locations around Cecil County. Because our office has a very small staff, these Election Judges form the backbone of our efforts to serve voters for elections. We absolutely could not administer elections for the voters of Cecil County without these dedicated people. You can make some decent money working to help voters (at least \$250 for each day worked) -- and judges returning from the 2024 election even get a \$100 bonus for each full day they work! To learn more about being an Election Judge, [click here](#) or call our office at (410) 996-5310.



To prepare for the 2026 Gubernatorial Primary, we will begin training judges in April and May of next year. Judges are paid to take the training, and then paid for each day they work of Early Voting and/or the Primary and General Election. Be on the lookout for training date information in the first quarter of 2026. We'd love to have you on our team!

### Receive Community Service Credit. Help Voters. Support Democracy. Turn the Page!

To earn community service credit, young people age 14 to 15 are able to serve as Election Day Pages during the Primary and General Elections. Pages are student volunteers who assist Election Judges and voters at the polls on election day. The Election Day Page program was developed to encourage student involvement and understanding of the democratic process through participation in elections. All Pages must attend a mandatory three-hour training session before election day, and must work at least one four-hour shift on election day.

## Gearing Up for the 2026 Primary

Cecil Countians might be surprised to know how busy our office is even in the off-years between Presidential and Gubernatorial Elections. For a couple of months after each election, we are digging out from under paperwork that we are prohibited from processing while the election is in process. Even while we're clearing that paperwork backlog, we are re-organizing and storing our election equipment, taking note of suggestions for improvements and issues that were addressed at our polling places, and filing critical paperwork to ensure we are compliant with mandated records retention requirements. As we gear up for the next election in 2026, we have recently done comprehensive site visits at our two Early Voting sites, all 19 regular polling places, and at 19 emergency backup locations for the regular polling places. At each of those site visits, we confirmed measurements and layout of the voting area entrances and voting rooms, confirmed continued Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and worked to understand if any meaningful changes have occurred at those locations that might interfere with voter access, comfort or security during the election. We even count the electrical outlets inside, and the parking spaces outside!

## Gubernatorial Election 2026 - Key Dates

### June

Tuesday, 6/2/26 - Deadline for Voter Registration and Party Change  
Thursday - Thursday, 6/11 to 6/18 - Gubernatorial Primary Early Voting  
Tuesday, 6/16/26 - Deadline for Primary Mail-In Ballot Requests  
**Tuesday, 6/23/26 - Gubernatorial Primary Election Day**

### October

Tuesday, 10/13/26 - Deadline for Voter Registration  
Thursday - Thursday, 10/22 to 10/29 - Gubernatorial General Early Voting  
Tuesday, 10/27/26 - Deadline for Mail-In Ballot Requests

### November

**Tuesday, 11/3/26 - Gubernatorial General Election Day**

## "I Voted" Sticker Contest for County Students...Bring Some Creativity to Your Patriotism!



In an effort to get youth involved and excited about the election process, our office is organizing an "I Voted" sticker design contest for the current academic school year. The contest is open to all Cecil County students (public, private, parochial, homeschooled) Pre-K through Grade 12. The contest will be open October 1 to December 20, 2025. Entries will be accepted and judged in three categories: Elementary, Middle and High School. Winners will be selected in each age category in time for stickers to be printed for use beginning in the Gubernatorial Primary in June of 2026. Check out our website or social media channels for more information.

# SCENES FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We're proud to serve the people of Cecil County and enjoy being out in the community to answer questions and interact with voters.



 Cecil County Voter Count

**Cecil County - Active Voters (as of 9/10/2025)**

Democratic	Republican	Unaffiliated	All Other	Total
18,901	36,003	17,845	1,488	74,237



Feel free to contact us during our office hours:  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

*Cecil County Administration Building  
200 Chesapeake Blvd, Suite 1900  
Elkton MD 21921*

Phone: (410) 996-5310, Fax: (888) 979-8183

Email: [voting@cecilcountymd.gov](mailto:voting@cecilcountymd.gov) or [voting@ccgov.org](mailto:voting@ccgov.org)

Website: <https://www.ccgov.org/government/election-board>