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Maryland State Administrator Addresses President Donald Trump's Executive Order

ANNAPOLIS (April 3, 2026) - The Maryland State Administrator of Elections Jared DeMarinis today addressed President Donald Trump's latest [executive order](#), reiterating his mission to uphold State and federal laws in the administration of the election and that Maryland's elections are safe, secure, and transparent.

On March 31, 2026, President Trump signed an Executive Order titled "Ensuring Citizenship Verification and Integrity in Federal Elections". This order outlined requirements for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to compile a State Citizenship List of individuals who are U.S. citizens, according to standards set forth by the executive branch using SAVE, will be 18 years of age or older at the time of an upcoming election and maintain a residence in the state. The order also requires The United States Postal Service (USPS) to begin rulemaking for mail-in ballots procedures by May 30, 2026 to include provisions such as the USPS must provide the state with a Mail-In and Absentee Participation List, the USPS will not transmit mail-in ballots from any individual not on the list, and other requirements for mail-in ballot processing.

Before any misinformation or disinformation takes hold, State Administrator, Jared DeMarinis, has released the following statement:

"I am disheartened by the threatening tone and bullying tactics of the executive order directed against me, as the State chief election official, for administering Maryland elections in accordance with State and federal laws. I will not be deterred or intimidated from protecting, ensuring, and advocating for voter's rights. The cavalier and irresponsible statement regarding the threat of arrest and prosecution has the end goal only to create fear in election officials, disenfranchise voters, sow the seeds of distrust in the election administration and cast unfounded doubt on the election results.

Neither the President nor the Secretary of the DHS has constitutional or statutory authority to take over Maryland's elections and electoral processes. As we have stated before, the United States Constitution is clear: the authority to administer elections predominately resides with the States. The States administer and conduct elections each according to their laws and regulations, subject to limited Congressional authority.

The official voter registration rolls in Maryland are the ones maintained and administered by the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE). The so-called "State Citizenship List" has no legal force

or authority. Furthermore, the executive order offers no clear or defined concept of citizenship in the context of elections. No one knows what standards are being used to make their determinations or findings. Maryland will not change the status or remove any individual voter from its official voter registration rolls based upon that list.

Additionally, the direction to the USPS not to transmit mail-in ballots unless the voter is on the preclear list provided by DHS is contrary to Maryland law. One may not delay the delivery of a ballot. Moreover, the President does not have direct control over the USPS. Any actions to delay, hinder, or prevent the delivery of the ballot will be met with litigation and referral for prosecution from my office.

As stated in previous statements but something that always bears repeating, the right to vote is a sacred right that has been expanded through the sacrifices of many before us. Remember voting is not an entitlement nor benefit program created or established by the government, but a constitutional right embedded in the principles of our nation's foundation, our Constitution and the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

I want to reassure all Marylanders that the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) and our local election officials are unwavering in their commitment to maintaining safe, open, secure, and trustworthy elections. Public trust in the electoral process and the election officials who enforce the processes is essential. It is the foundation of our democracy and for any elected government. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. It is a privilege and honor to safeguard the right to vote. Their voice will determine who will govern our State and the future of our nation.

We encourage voters to explore all available options to vote to mitigate any concerns such as using web delivery to receive their ballots and returning their ballot to a ballot drop box in their county. Please do not let this executive order deter you from exercising your fundamental right to vote. Make a plan for voting.”

Upcoming Dates and Electoral Information

The deadline to request a web delivery mail-in ballot is June 19. Visit SBE's mail-in voting [webpage](#) for more information on how to request a ballot. Ballot drop boxes are located throughout the State to ensure equal access for all voters. Each ballot drop box is routinely emptied, well lit, and under surveillance to ensure safety and prevent tampering. Mail-in voting will continue to be a safe, convenient and effective way for voters to exercise their right to vote.

For registered voters who do not want to cast a mail-in ballot, there are two other ways to vote in the upcoming election: vote early in-person or vote on Election Day.

Vote Early In-Person: Early voting begins Thursday, June 11 and runs through Thursday, June 18. Early voting centers are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Find the list of early voting centers [here](#).

Vote on Election Day: To find your Election Day polling place, visit SBE's Polling Place [Lookup](#). Election Day polling places will be open June 23 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Remember to rely on your State and local election officials as your trusted sources for election information. Visit SBE's website, follow SBE on social media, or contact your local elections office for accurate election information. Report any suspicious information to SBE's disinformation portal.

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