
By: **Prince George's County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2002
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County - Specimen Ballots**
3 **PG 405-02**

4 FOR the purpose of expanding certain requirements for the distribution of specimen
5 ballots in Prince George's County by requiring the mailing of a specimen ballot
6 to the household of each registered voter in the County before a primary election
7 and to each registered voter in the County before the general election; and
8 generally relating to specimen ballots in Prince George's County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article 33 - Election Code
11 Section 8-102
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article 33 - Election Code**

17 8-102.

18 (a) Except as required under subsection (d) of this section, a local board shall
19 provide notice of each election in its county to the registered voters of the county by
20 either:

21 (1) Specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before the election; or

22 (2) Publication or dissemination by mass communication during the
23 calendar week preceding the election.

24 (b) The notice shall include:

25 (1) The time and place of the election; and

1 (2) The offices, candidate names, and questions contained on the ballot.

2 (c) (1) If a local board provides notice by mailing specimen ballots, a
3 specimen ballot shall be mailed to all registered voters in the county who are eligible
4 to vote in the election.

5 (2) The specimen ballot shall be a facsimile of the ballot that the voter is
6 entitled to vote in the election.

7 (d) (1) In Prince George's County for BOTH THE PRIMARY AND the general
8 election, the Board shall[:

9 (i) Provide] PROVIDE notice by mailing specimen ballots[; and].

10 (ii) (2) [Mail] FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, THE BOARD SHALL
11 MAIL A SPECIMEN BALLOT TO EACH REGISTERED VOTER IN THE COUNTY.

12 (3) FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, THE BOARD SHALL MAIL a specimen
13 ballot to the household of each registered voter in the County.

14 [(2)] (4) The costs for mailing specimen ballots in Prince George's
15 County shall be included in the County's annual budget appropriation to the local
16 board.

17 (e) (1) Unless a local board mails a specimen ballot to its registered voters in
18 accordance with subsection (c) or (d) of this section, the local board shall give notice of
19 the election by newspaper publication or other means of mass communication.

20 (2) The notice of election under this subsection shall be arranged, if
21 practicable, in the same order and form as the ballot.

22 (3) (i) If newspaper publication is used in a county, the notice shall be
23 advertised in at least two newspapers of general circulation that are published in the
24 county.

25 (ii) In a county in which only one newspaper is published, the
26 notice shall be published in that newspaper.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2002.