

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 680  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Grammer, *et al.*)

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**Municipal Elections - Voter Registration - List and Qualifications**

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This bill requires each municipality to require voter registration for its elections. Additionally, the bill prohibits an individual from becoming registered to vote in a municipal election if the individual is not a citizen of the United States.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** State election law governs the administration of federal, State, county, and Baltimore City elections held during statewide elections every two years, and special elections, but generally does not govern municipal elections other than those in Baltimore City (which is considered a “county” for purposes of State law). Municipal elections are primarily governed by each municipality’s law and occur at various times throughout the year and in odd- and even-numbered years.

While State law governing elections generally does not apply to municipal elections, there are certain provisions of State law that address municipal elections, including those that (1) prohibit a municipality from requiring an individual to own or control an interest in property to participate in an election or hold office in the municipality; (2) allow a municipality to use the information in the statewide voter registration database to

administer voter registration for its elections; (3) allow a municipality to request that the State Board of Elections (SBE) include the offices and questions to be voted on in a municipal election on the statewide ballot (within the municipality) during a statewide election; (4) require municipalities to allow no-excuse absentee voting (mail-in voting) in municipal elections; (5) make State voting-related offenses (*e.g.*, voting more than once, voter intimidation) and associated criminal penalties applicable to municipal elections; and (6) require municipalities to submit their election results to SBE to publish on the SBE website.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** cities of Annapolis, Frederick, Hyattsville, and Takoma Park; Village of Chevy Chase, Section 3; Town of Bel Air; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2025  
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