

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 357  
(Delegate Palakovich Carr)  
Government, Labor, and Elections

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**Municipalities - Election Dates - Reporting Requirements**

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This bill requires a municipality to report the date of each municipal election to the State Board of Elections (SBE), at least six months before each regular municipal election and within five business days after a special election is scheduled. SBE, each local board of elections (with respect to municipal elections in the applicable county), and each municipality (that maintains a website) must prominently display a list of all upcoming regular and special municipal elections on their respective websites, including the name of the municipality (on SBE and local board websites), the election date, and the type of election (regular or special election). SBE must also display a list indicating which municipalities have not yet reported upcoming regular and special elections.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

**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 provisions that (1) require municipalities to submit their election results to SBE to publish on the SBE website and (2) allow a municipality to request that 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.

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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):** Maryland Municipal League; Town of Bel Air; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2026  
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