



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 18: Election Law – Early Voting Number of Days

Good afternoon, Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of EEE, Senate Bill 18, proposes reducing Maryland's early voting period from eight to five days.

As you know, Maryland implemented early voting in **2010** to provide greater flexibility for voters who may not be able to cast their ballots on Election Day. The goal was to increase participation by offering additional opportunities to vote, recognizing that rigid Election Day-only voting could be a barrier for some. Since then, Maryland has expanded early voting and, more recently, introduced **no-excuse mail-in voting**, which has significantly changed voter behavior.

As of 2024, Maryland operated **87 early voting centers statewide**, with **11 in Prince George's County**. Running these sites requires a significant financial commitment. Election judges, mandated by **Maryland Code, Election Law § 10-205**, receive the following compensation:

- **Chief Judges:** \$250 per day
- **Election Judges:** \$200 per day
- **Training Compensation:** \$50 per required session

With multiple judges per site, combined with costs for equipment, security, and administrative support, the state spends **millions annually** on early voting operations. Each additional day of early voting increases these costs.

Shifting Voter Trends: The Growth of Mail-In Ballots

The expansion of mail-in voting has fundamentally changed how Marylanders vote. Data from recent elections shows a clear trend toward **increased mail-in voting**, while early voting participation has remained steady or declined in comparison.

Maryland Voter Turnout by Voting Method

Year	Early Voting	Election Day	Mail-In Ballots
2024	989,923	1,149,987	752,589
2022	731,272	1,074,677	345,081
2020	977,951	350,765	1,541,273
2012	430,573	1,719,123	78,748

- In 2020, mail-in ballots **surpassed early voting** for the first time, driven by **pandemic**-related expansions.
- In 2022, even with fewer COVID-related restrictions, **mail-in ballots still doubled** from 2018 levels.
- In 2024, mail-in ballots remained a popular option, with 752,589 votes cast this way.

This trend confirms that many voters are opting for mail-in ballots as a convenient alternative to in-person early voting. While Election Day remains the most common method of voting, early voting and mail-in ballots are nearly equal in usage.

Why Should Maryland Reduce Early Voting Days

Given this shift toward mail-in ballots, Maryland has an opportunity to reduce costs while maintaining voting accessibility. Reducing early voting from eight to five days would:

1. **Generate Cost Savings** – By reducing the number of operational days, Maryland would save millions in election judge pay, site rental costs, security, and staffing.
2. **Reflect Voter Preferences** – With mail-in ballots now an established and widely used option, fewer voters rely solely on early voting.
3. **Maintain Accessibility** – Reducing early voting by three days still leaves **five days** of early voting, along with mail-in and Election Day options, ensuring no voter is disenfranchised.

Senate Bill 18 aligns Maryland's voting system with voter behavior while promoting fiscal responsibility. The increase in mail-in voting has reduced the need for an extended early voting period. A five-day early voting window, combined with mail-in and Election Day voting, preserves accessibility while cutting unnecessary expenses.

SB 18 would allow Maryland the ability to adapt its election policies to balance voter convenience with cost efficiency. Reducing early voting by three days is a logical, data-driven step that allows the state to save taxpayer money while ensuring every voter has ample opportunities to participate.

Therefore, I respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 18, which will make Maryland's election system more cost-effective while continuing to encourage voter participation.

Maryland State Board of Elections

Early Voting Centers – 2024 General Election

There are locations in each county where you can vote before election day. To vote early in the 2024 General Election, go to a location in your county Thursday, October 24th through Thursday, October 31st **between 7 am and 8 pm**. If you vote early, you **cannot** vote on election day or by mail-in ballot.

Allegany County (1 center)

Allegany County Office Complex
701 Kelly Road, Room 100
Cumberland, MD 21502

Anne Arundel County (10 centers)

Anne Arundel County Board of Elections
6740 Baymeadow Drive
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Bowie Elks Lodge 2309
1506 Defense Highway
Gambrills, MD 21054

Broadneck Library
1275 Green Holly Drive
Annapolis, MD 21409

Deale Elks Lodge
6022 Drum Point Road
Deale, MD 20751

Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company #12
161 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park, MD 21146

Odenton Library
1325 Annapolis Road
Odenton, MD 21113

Riviera Beach Library
1130 Duvall Highway
Pasadena, MD 21122

Roger “Pip” Moyer Recreation Center
273 Hilltop Lane
Annapolis, MD 21403

Severn Center
1160 Reece Road
Severn, MD 21144

South County Senior Activity Center
27 Stepneys Lane
Edgewater, MD 21037

Baltimore City (8 centers)

BCCC South Pavilion
2600 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Farring-Baybrook Recreation Center
4501 Farring Court
Baltimore, MD 21225

James McHenry Recreation Center
911 Hollins Street
Baltimore, MD 21224

The League for People with Disabilities
1111 E. Coldspring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21239

Mount Pleasant Church & Ministries
6000 Radecke Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21206

Public Safety Training Center
3500 W. Northern Parkway (Enter on Manhattan Ave)
Baltimore, MD 21215

Southeast Anchor Library
3601 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224

Westside Skill Center
4501 Edmondson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229

Baltimore County (11 centers)

Arbutus Recreation Center
865 Sulphur Spring Road
Halethorpe, MD 21227

Baltimore County Board of Elections
5 Crossing Way
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Honeygo Run Community Center
9033 Honeygo Boulevard
Perry Hall, MD 21128

Jacksonville Recreation Center at Sweet Air Park
3605 B Sweet Air Road
Phoenix, MD 21131

Maryland State Fairgrounds - Mosner Miller Building
2200 York Road
Timonium, MD 21093

Randallstown Community Center
3505 Resource Drive
Randallstown, MD 21133

Reisterstown Senior Center – Hannah More Campus
12035 Reisterstown Road
Reisterstown, MD 21136

Towson University South Campus Pavilion
1 Auburn Drive
Towson, Maryland 21204

Victory Villa Community Center
404 Compass Road E.
Middle River, MD 21220

Watersedge Community Center - Gym
7894 Dundalk Avenue
Dundalk, MD 21222

Woodlawn Community Center
2120 Gwynn Oak Avenue
Woodlawn, MD 21207

Calvert County (3 centers)

Community Resources Building
30 Duke Street – Lower Level
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Southern Community Center
20 Appeal Lane
Lusby, MD 20657

Ward Farm Vote Center
10455 Ward Road,
Dunkirk, MD 20754

Caroline County (1 center)

Health and Public Services Building
403 S. Seventh Street, Room 112
Denton, MD 21629

Carroll County (3 centers)

Coppermine Pantherplex
1400 Panther Drive
Hampstead, MD 21074

South Carroll Senior Center
5928 Mineral Hill Road
Sykesville, MD 21784

Westminster Senior Activities Center
125 Stoner Avenue
Westminster, MD 21157

Cecil County (2 centers)

Cecil County Administration Building – Elk Room
200 Chesapeake Boulevard
Elkton, MD 21921

Church of Nazarene
2626 Jacob Memorial Highway
Colora, MD 21917

Charles County (3 centers)

Charles County Fairgrounds and Event Center
8440 Fairground Road
La Plata, MD 20646

St. Joseph Church Hall
4605 St. Joseph's Way
Pomfret, MD 20675

Waldorf Jaycees
3090 Crain Highway
Waldorf, MD 20601

Dorchester County (1 center)

Dorchester Election Office
1000 Goodwill Avenue
Cambridge, MD 21613

Frederick County (4 centers)

Frederick Prospect Center
585 Himes Avenue
Frederick, MD 21703

Middletown VFD Activities Building
1 Fireman's Lane
Middletown, MD 21769

Thurmont Regional Library
76 E. Moser Road
Thurmont, MD 21788

Urbana Regional Library
9020 Amelung Street
Frederick, MD 21704

Garrett County (2 centers)

Grantsville Volunteer Fire Department
178 Springs Road
Grantsville, MD 21536

Oakland Community Center (The Armory)
14 N. 8th Street
Oakland, MD 21550

Harford County (4 centers)

Edgewood Recreation Center
1980 Brookside Drive
Edgewood, MD 21040

Havre de Grace Activity Center
351 Lewis Lane
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Jarrettsville Fire Hall
3825 Federal Hill Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084

McFaul Activity Center
525 W. MacPhail Road
Bel Air, MD 21014

Howard County (5 centers)

Bain 50+ Center
5470 Ruth Keeton Way
Columbia, 21044

Gary J Arthur Center
2400 Route 97
Cooksville, 21723

Meadowbrook Athletic Complex
5001 Meadowbrook Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

North Laurel Community Center
9411 Whiskey Bottom Road
Laurel, MD 20723

St. John Baptist Church
9055 Tamar Drive
Columbia, MD 21045

Kent County (1 center)

Kent County Public Library
408 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

Montgomery County (14 centers)

Activity Center at Bohrer Park
506 S. Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center
14625 Bauer Drive
Rockville, MD 20853

Damascus Community Recreation Center
25520 Oak Drive
Damascus, MD 20872

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Germantown Community Recreation Center
18905 Kingsview Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center
4301 Willow Lane
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center
14906 Old Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Mid-County Community Recreation Center
2004 Queensguard Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community
Recreation Center
13850 Travilah Road
Rockville, MD 20850

Potomac Community Recreation Center
11315 Falls Road
Potomac, MD 20854

Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department
17921 Brooke Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza
One Veterans Place
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Wheaton Library & Community Recreation Center
11701 Georgia Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902

White Oak Community Recreation Center
1700 April Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Prince George's County (11 centers)

Bowie Gymnasium
4100 Northview Drive
Bowie, MD 20716

College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20785

Laurel – Beltsville Senior Activity Center
7120 Contee Road
Laurel, MD 20707

Life Covenant Christian Ministries
15522 Livingston Road
Accokeek, MD 20607

Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road
Chillum, MD 20782

Southern Area Aquatic and Recreation Complex
13601 Missouri Avenue
Brandywine, MD 20613

Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Suitland Community Park School Center
5600 Regency Lane
Forestville, MD 20747

Upper Marlboro Community Center
5400 Marlboro Race Track Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road
Landover, MD 20785

Queen Anne's County (2 centers)

County Office Building, Conference Room
110 Vincit Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Kent Island Fire Department
1610 Main Street
Chester, MD 21619

Saint Mary's County (3 centers)

Bay District Fire House
46900 South Shangri-La Drive
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Hollywood Firehouse Main Building
24801 Three Notch Road
Hollywood, MD 20636

Mechanicsville Firehouse
28165 Hills Club Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Somerset County (1 center)

Somerset County Technical High School
7994 Tawes Campus Drive
Westover, MD 21871

Talbot County (1 center)

Easton Fire Hall
315 Aurora Park Drive
Easton, MD 21601

Washington County (3 centers)

Boonsboro American Legion
710 N Main Street
Boonsboro, MD 21713

Smithsburg Branch Library
66 W. Water Street
Smithsburg, MD 21783

Washington County Election Center
17718 Virginia Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Wicomico County (2 centers)

First Baptist Church – Family Life and Cultural Center
528 Booth Street
Salisbury MD 21801

Wicomico Youth and Civic Center
500 Glen Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21804

Worcester County (1 center)

Roland E. Powell Convention Center
4001 Coastal Hwy
Ocean City, MD 21842

2024 Primary and General Elections Determination of Early Voting Centers

	Number of Registered Voters ¹	Number of Early Voting Centers ²	Number of Optional Early Voting Centers ³	Total Number of Early Voting Centers
ALLEGANY	43,762	1	0	1
ANNE ARUNDEL	411,927	9	1	10
BALTIMORE CITY	393,864	7	1	8
BALTIMORE COUNTY	567,395	11	0	11
CALVERT	68,385	2	1	3
CAROLINE	21,840	1	0	1
CARROLL	128,429	3	0	3
CECIL	71,477	2	0	2
CHARLES	122,082	3	0	3
DORCHESTER	23,043	1	0	1
FREDERICK	198,165	3	1	4
GARRETT	20,615	1	1	2
HARFORD	191,177	3	1	4
HOWARD	232,343	5	0	5
KENT	13,929	1	0	1
MONTGOMERY	676,661	13	1	14
PRINCE GEORGE'S	597,880	11	0	11
QUEEN ANNE'S	40,044	1	1	2
SAINT MARY'S	74,902	2	1	3
SOMERSET	14,173	1	0	1
TALBOT	28,700	1	0	1
WASHINGTON	99,396	2	1	2
WICOMICO	65,666	2	0	2
WORCESTER	42,577	1	0	1
STATEWIDE	4,147,432	87	10	97

¹ As of September 12, 2023. See Regulation 33.17.02.01A of Code of Maryland Regulations.

² Election Law Article, § 10-301.1(b), Annotated Code of Maryland specifies the number of early voting centers for each county. A county with fewer than 50,000 registered voters shall have 1 early voting center. A county with at least 50,000 registered voters but fewer than 100,000 registered voters shall have 2 early voting centers. A county with at least 100,000 registered voters but fewer than 200,000 registered voters shall have 3 early voting centers. A county with at least 200,000 registered voters but fewer than 300,000 registered voters shall have 5 early voting centers. A county with at least 300,000 registered voters but fewer than 400,000 registered voters shall have 7 early voting centers. A county with at least 400,000 registered voters but fewer than 500,000 registered voters shall have 9 early voting centers. A county with at least 500,000 registered voters but fewer than 600,000 registered voters shall have 11 early voting centers. A county with at least 600,000 registered voters shall have 13 early voting centers.

³ In addition to the early voting centers required by Election Law Article, §10-301.1(b), each county may establish one additional early voting center if, first, the local board and governing body of the county agree to establish an additional early voting center; and then the State Board approves of the establishment of an additional early voting center.