



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Facts Sheet - Local Board of Elections Transparency Act (HB 412)

Summary

The bill required local boards of elections and boards of canvassers to livestream their meetings and make the livestreams accessible to the public in an archive.

What are the current requirements for Local Boards of Election?

The current state code has **no transparency requirements** for how the local board of elections conducts their meetings beyond the basic Open Meetings Act. There are no specifications about the materials that must be provided to the public. There are also no requirements for live-streaming meetings. All local boards do provide information in some form whether through distributing agendas or livestreams, but it is not legally required.

Local State Boards:

Provide a livestream (10) : Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County, Kent County, Montgomery County, Talbot County

No livestream (11) – Provide Agenda and/or Meeting Minutes: Caroline County, Baltimore City, Allegany County, Charles County, Dorchester County, Garrett County, Prince George's County, Somerset County, Washington County, Wicomico County, Worcester County

No livestream, agenda, or minutes (2) – Host open meeting: St. Mary's County, Cecil County

No livestream, agenda, minutes, or open minutes (1) – Semi- Open Meetings (Must receive permission to attend meetings) – Queen Anne's County

What are the current requirements for Board of Canvassers?

Every board of canvassers must meet in **public sessions**. These sessions can be observed by approved observers and members of the general public.

Counties with Available 2024 election Board of Canvassers Live streams:

Baltimore County, Cecil County, and Montgomery County

What are the requirements for the State Board of Election?

The State Board of Elections must livestream their open meetings and provide the agenda, minutes, and any relevant documents prior to the meeting. All live streams are stored in an available archive containing over 5 years of material.