



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 18, 2025

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

HB945 - Information

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) is the professional membership organization representing local election officials and Election Boards across all 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. Our members are committed to ensuring the smooth and effective administration of elections and are deeply dedicated to making Maryland elections accessible, secure, and fair.

MAEO wishes to provide information on House Bill 945, which changes the date of Primary Elections in Gubernatorial Election years from the last Tuesday in June to the fourth Tuesday in June.

We appreciate the clarity this calendar change provides and we wish to describe some of the impacts this creates:

- This eliminates confusion for voters and election officials regarding which Tuesday the Gubernatorial Primary Election will fall. While not every Gubernatorial Primary Election would be impacted, it provides consistency and avoids some elections falling on the fourth Tuesday and others on the fifth Tuesday.
- Local boards of elections often rely on public facilities, mainly schools, for polling places. Having the Gubernatorial Primary Election consistently closer to the end of the school year enables better planning for both the local boards of elections and the facilities, considering the renovations and other summer sessions planned for these facilities.
- Recruiting election judges may be more successful if the Gubernatorial Primary Election is closer to the end of the school year and further away from the beginning of the summer vacation season.
- Having the Gubernatorial Primary Election consistently on the fourth Tuesday lessens the administrative burden of holding an Election Day so close to the end of a fiscal year.
- If the Gubernatorial Primary Election remains June 30th, early voting will occur over the Juneteenth holiday which could impact voter turnout and election judge participation.
- If the Gubernatorial Primary Election is changed to June 23rd, mandated deadlines, like the Mail-in Ballot 2 Canvass and the Certification deadline, would be scheduled to occur on Monday, July 6th pursuant to Election Law §1-301(b) instead of Friday, July 3rd.

MAEO thanks you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need further information.

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