



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 6, 2020

Linda H. Lamone
State Administrator
State Board of Elections
151 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Administrator Lamone:


Ahead of the State Board of Elections' meeting tomorrow, I am writing to reiterate that I have no intention of interfering in your duty to conduct the upcoming general election. However, the Board must act with much greater urgency to fulfill its responsibility to conduct the election under state law:

- **Immediately mail out applications for voting by mail.** It is now more than four weeks since I directed the Board to promptly mail out ballot applications, and it still has not been done.
- **Immediately begin recruiting and training election judges.** As you know, my administration is actively recruiting election judges from within the ranks of state government. We are also encouraging college students to consider serving as judges as well. Local boards need to move aggressively to recruit and train judges to staff the polls, where state and CDC public health protocols will be in place.
- **Open early voting centers and offer robust Election Day voting options.** While existing law gives you the legal authority to make decisions regarding the consolidation of polling places in the case of an emergency, voters must have a sufficient number of polling places open in each jurisdiction during early voting and on Election Day. Proposals to close roughly 90% of polling places—particularly in minority communities—would result in voter suppression and risk violating the Voting Rights Act. You would also be increasing the potential for crowds of voters at the few open polling places, resulting in hours-long lines.

To reiterate: I have no plans to interfere in your conduct of the November election. Under existing state law, you have the authority and responsibility to manage and run a free and fair election. While you have emergency powers at your disposal to consolidate precincts and modify deadlines, I strongly advise against wholesale closures of polling places that could disenfranchise Marylanders.

The Board's continued delays and deflections are absolutely unacceptable. These are your decisions to make, and this is your responsibility to uphold. We cannot risk a repeat of the failures of the June primary.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor

cc: The Honorable Michael R. Cogan, Chairman, Maryland State Board of Elections