



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

July 7, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor
State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

We are writing to express concerns about the possibility of conducting a traditional, in-person election for the November 3, 2020, Presidential General Election. If such an election were conducted, the Prince George's County Board of Elections (PGCBOE) would be faced with untenable challenges.

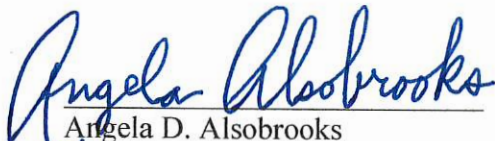
One concern would be securing polling places to conduct the in-person election. Many owners of the private facilities that have historically served as polling places have withdrawn from participating in the upcoming election because they are not prepared to host an election during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the venues that have withdrawn include churches, senior centers, and private halls.


Another significant issue is recruiting and training viable Election Judges that are willing to manage the enormous task of working during a pandemic with a lack of resources and personnel. According to many news reports, recent primary elections in other states that offered regular, in-person voting were significantly flawed because their Boards of Elections had insufficient numbers of Election Judges, last-minute precinct changes, and consolidations. Many polls opened late or not at all because there was no one to staff them. Additionally, it would be impossible for PGCBOE to conduct in-person training for the over 3500 Election Judges needed to staff 245 polling places while properly following social distancing guidelines.

Although we acknowledge that the Vote by Mail with limited vote centers conducted during the June 2, 2020, Presidential Primary Election cycle had its challenges, we firmly believe that if the issues from the primary election are remedied, it would be in the best interest of the voters to continue voting by mail with increased in-person voting. This methodology would be, to a great extent, like the vote by mail election that you authorized during the primary election. It would require that every registered voter be mailed a ballot to the address listed in the voter registration database. We suggest that there should be more in-person vote centers and additional drop boxes than were utilized in the primary election. In addition, we also propose that vote centers open from Thursday, October 29, 2020, through Election Day, November 3, 2020, for early voting to accommodate voters who may not receive a mailed ballot and individuals with disabilities who would prefer to vote independently.

For the above reasons, we respectfully urge you to continue your support for a Vote by Mail election with increased in-person voting to ensure that every eligible voter in Maryland can exercise his/her right fairly and ethically in the 2020 Presidential General Election.

Sincerely,


Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive


Todd M. Turner
County Council Chair

cc: The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President, Maryland State Senate
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House, Maryland House of Delegates
Mr. J.B. Jennings, Senate Minority Leader
Mr. Steve Hershey, Senate Minority Whip
Mr. Nicholas Kipke, House Minority Leader
Mrs. Kathy Szeliga, House Minority Whip
Ms. Linda H. Lamone, Esq., Administrator, Maryland State Board of Elections
Mr. Michael Cogan, Chairman, Maryland State Board of Elections
Ms. Alisha L. Alexander, Director, Prince George's County Board of Elections
Mrs. Terry L. Bell, Liaison, Prince George's County Council
Members, Prince George's County Council