Safeguarding the Vote with the Carroll County Board of Elections

Join us for an informative session on election security and integrity. Learn how your votes are protected through cutting-edge technology, robust protocols, and unwavering transparency.

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2:00-3:30 PM | K 132

Introduction to Carroll County Board of Elections

The Carroll County Board of Elections is dedicated to ensuring fair and secure elections. We'll explore how we safeguard your vote using advanced technology, rigorous protocols, and complete transparency.

1 **Who We Are**

Both a state and county agency, committed to the administration of democracy.

2 **Our Purpose Today**

To provide insight into vote protection methods and systems.

3 **Today's Agenda**

We'll cover election technology, security protocols, and oversight measures.

Online Voter Registration System
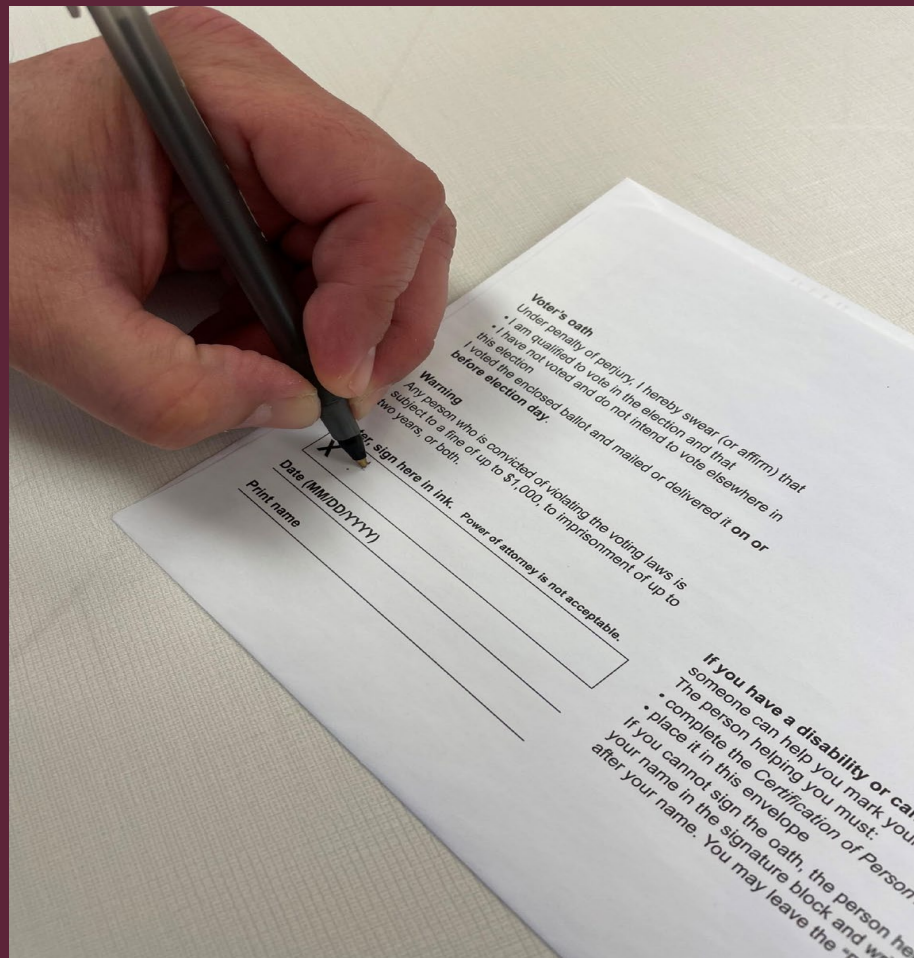
- The online voter registration system offers a secure and convenient way to register to vote, update your information, or request a mail-in ballot.

- Users must provide personal details, including a Maryland driver's license or ID card number, to complete the registration.

- All data is stored in an encrypted database and transferred each night to the statewide database.

- The system logs all transactions and uses automated reports to flag any unexpected events or patterns.

- Data is backed up frequently and scanned regularly by security software.

- You can access the Registration System from the Maryland State Board of Elections website:

https://elections.maryland.gov/

Statewide Voter Registration Database

Maryland's centralized voter registration database is maintained by the State Board of Elections (SBE) with local election boards providing data entry.

- The database is securely hosted by a professional web hosting company at two separate locations. Data is replicated in real time between both locations and backed up nightly.

- Access is limited to specific IP addresses and requires two levels of user authentication, ensuring only authorized users can access the system.

- All transactions are logged, and voter registration data is encrypted, protecting sensitive information.

Current Election Technology

All 24 jurisdictions in the State of Maryland are required by law to use the same voting system. In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly passed Chapter 548 of the 2007 Acts (House Bill 18) requiring a new voter-verifiable paper record voting (VVPR) system to replace a touchscreen voting system.

1 **Enhanced Security and Auditability**

VVPR systems provide a physical paper trail, protecting against tampering, enabling manual recounts, and supporting risk-limiting audits for election integrity.

2 **Increased Voter Confidence**

Voters can verify their vote with a physical record, improving trust in the system and ensuring transparency and reliability, even if electronic issues arise.

3 **Compliance and Cost -Effectiveness**

VVPR systems meet legal requirements, reduce long-term costs through easier auditing, and offer better protection against technical failures.

Election Equipment Security Protocols

We maintain a strict chain of custody for all ballots. Not even scrap paper is thrown away. Physical security is paramount at all polling locations.

🔒 No Internet Connection

- Scanners, marking devices, and election results are never connected to the Internet or transmitted over telephone lines.
- Data is encrypted and transferred securely, and election night results are not official.

🛡 Pre-Election Testing & Sealing

- All equipment is tested and sealed before every election.
- Contingency plans are in place if any piece of equipment fails.

📹 Post-Election Audits

Results are audited both digitally and manually by election officials.

Security Best Practices

Our team combats disinformation and implements strict voter fraud prevention measures.

1

Regular Security Training

All election officials receive ongoing security training.

2

Access Controls & Audits

Only authorized officials have access to systems, with background checks required for those with access to sensitive systems.

3

Continuous Monitoring

Regular audits are conducted on system logs and data entries, and automated alerts notify officials of any irregularities.

Transparency and Oversight

We believe in open, observable processes. The public can witness voting, counting, and auditing. Bipartisan boards oversee and certify all election results.

Public Observation

The election process is open to the public for observation at key stages.

Audit Procedures

Independent audits of digital ballot images and manual paper audits are conducted to ensure accuracy.

Bipartisan Certification

Official results are certified following a comprehensive review process.

Continuous Improvement

We constantly update our systems to meet new challenges. Collaboration with federal agencies strengthens our defenses. Community involvement is crucial for maintaining election integrity.

Updates & Innovations

Regular system upgrades ensure we stay ahead of potential threats.

Agency Collaboration

We work closely with our State Board, DHS, FBI, and the Election Assistance Commission.

Community Education

Voter awareness programs help safeguard the electoral process.

Questions & Answers

We welcome your questions about election security. Our experts are here to provide clear, informative answers to address your concerns.