

- If anyone challenges your eligibility to vote even though you are on the list of registered voters, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if you sign a form attesting to your identity. (Md. Election Code § 10-312)
- If you need help in the voting booth because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker. You have a right to have anyone you choose help you in the voting booth, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union. (Md. Election Code § 10-310)

WHAT CAN I DO TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY?

- Vote early in the day to avoid the last minute rush.
- Bring some form of identification even though it's not required.
- Ask for help if you need it.
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time in the voting booth. There is no time limit.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

State Board of Elections: (800) 222-8683
 US Department of Justice: (800) 253-3931

ACLU National Voting Rights Project: (877) 523-2792

ACLU of Maryland: (410) 889-8555

Produced by the American Civil Liberties Union.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- You must submit a voter registration application in order to register.
- You can get an application in person at your local Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections. Voter registration applications are also available throughout Maryland at State agencies, such as the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Social Services, the Motor Vehicle Administration, Offices on Aging, and all public institutions of higher education. You can also request a form online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec> or by calling 1-800-222-VOTE.
- You should re-register every time your name or address changes.
- The deadline for registering to vote in the November election is Tuesday, October 12, 2004.

WHEN DO I VOTE?

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2004.
- Polling places will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You have the right to vote if you are in line when the polls close. (Md. Election Code, § 10-301)
- You may also be eligible to vote by absentee ballot if you won't be able to vote at the polls on Election Day. Contact your county elections office as soon as possible for application and deadline information. Absentee ballot applications are also available online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>. The deadline for applying to vote by absentee ballot in the November election is Tuesday, October 26, 2004, at 4:30 p.m. (or midnight by fax).

WHERE DO I VOTE?

- Your polling place will be printed on the voter notification card that you will receive by mail when you register. You can also call your county Board of Elections for polling

2004 MARYLAND

Voter Empowerment Card

WHO CAN VOTE?

- You must be registered in order to vote.
- You can register if you meet all of the following qualifications: (1) you are a citizen of the United States; (2) you are a legal resident of Maryland; (3) you will be at least 18 years old on Election Day; (4) you are not under a legal guardianship for a mental disability; (5) you have not been convicted of buying or selling votes; (6) you have not been convicted more than once of a crime of violence.

- If you have one prior conviction for a felony or infamous crime (any crime involving deceit, fraud or corruption), you can register to vote only if you have completed all the requirements of your court-imposed sentence (including parole, probation, community service, restitution, and fines). If you have been convicted more than once of a felony or other infamous crime, you will have to complete all requirements of each court-imposed sentence and then complete a three-year waiting period without additional disqualifying convictions.
- If you have questions about whether you are qualified to vote because of previous convictions, contact the Office of the Attorney General at 410-576-6327.

PROTECT YOUR VOTING RIGHTS!

BRING THIS CARD WITH YOU TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY.



place information. You can find the phone number in the government pages of your phone book or online at <http://www.aclu.org/vec>.

IS IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED IN ORDER TO VOTE?

- No. Federal law requires poll workers to ask for it only if you are a first-time voter who registered by mail and did not submit the required identification before Election Day, but you have the right to vote by provisional ballot even if you don't have identification with you at the polls. (HAVA § 303(b); Md. Election Code § 9-404)
- Accepted forms of identification include a current and valid photo identification card, a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or pay check, and any other government document that shows your name and current address.

HOW DO I HANDLE THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS?

- If your work schedule would prevent you from voting while the polls are open, ask your employer for time off to vote. You have the right to up to two hours off, with pay, if you would not otherwise be able to vote. (Md. Election Code § 10-315)
- If a poll worker tells you that you can't vote because you don't have proper identification, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to vote on a provisional ballot even if you don't have identification with you at the polls. (Md. Election Code § 9-404)
- If a poll worker tells you that you are not on the list of registered voters, first ask him or her to check the list again and to confirm that you are at the right polling place. If that fails, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name is not on the voter list. (Md. Election Code § 9-404)

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