



Frederick County
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March 2, 2026

To the members of the Maryland General Assembly representing Frederick County,

The Frederick County Democratic Central Committee urges you to take swift and deliberate action in the Maryland General Assembly to ensure voter protections in the upcoming 2026 midterm elections. At the start of the year, the United States Postal Service (USPS) adopted a policy declaring that a postmark of the date received is no longer guaranteed to USPS customers. The Regional Transportation Optimization Plan (RTO), is, therefore, likely to disenfranchise voters attempting to drop off mail-in ballots on, or even before, November 3, the date of the midterm election. Mail that is 50 miles from a regional processing center will be delivered to a processing center before affixing a postmark; thus increasing the potential for voter disenfranchisement.

USPS appears to recognize that this situation will cause confusion and difficulties for customers. To avoid the resulting timing difference, USPS places the onus on its customers, including voters and boards of elections, to submit ballots early (without indication of whether it will take days or even weeks to receive a postmark) and Boards of Elections have the added burden of informing the public of this policy change.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, mail-in voting has become a popular, safe, and secure means for many voters to cast their ballot and engage in our democratic process. Many voters continue to rely on mail-in ballots for various reasons, such as:

- Limited access to polling locations, particularly in neighborhoods affected by polling place closures;
- Work schedules and caregiving responsibilities that make in-person voting difficult;
- Health concerns or vulnerabilities that make voting by mail the safest and easiest option.

Therefore, we implore the Maryland General Assembly to take all possible legal remedies available to the state to ensure as many options for voters as possible to cast their ballot. We respectfully urge you to:

1. Support legislation that protects and clarifies mail-in voting standards and ballot acceptance rules;
2. Ensure that all voters, especially those in historically marginalized communities, have equitable, barrier-free access to the ballot.
3. Increase access to ballot drop boxes across the state
4. Increase days and hours of early voting
5. Increase the number of early voting locations

Respectfully,

Mari Lee

Mari Lee, Chair