



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 26, 2020

David Garreis
President
Maryland Association of Election Officials
6740 Baymeadow Drive
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

Dear Mr. Garreis,

As of today, based mainly on our administration's aggressive recruiting efforts, **more than 11,000 Marylanders** have expressed interest in serving as election judges for the upcoming general election. However, there are increasing reports that local boards of election have failed to contact, or even turned away, interested election judges. This is unacceptable, and hurts our ability to safely conduct the November election.

While this is typically a task for local boards, our administration has stepped up to assist you in the recruitment of election judges from across the state:

- We sent out multiple requests urging our **approximately 65,000 state employees** to sign up and serve as election judges, doubling the incentive of previous elections by offering 16 hours of administrative leave for each day of service.
- We collaborated with our colleges and universities to **make 167,000 contacts** encouraging staff and students to serve as election judges.
- We continue to encourage all of our state agencies to regularly and actively promote the need for election judges on their homepages and social media platforms.

These efforts alone have already put the state on track to exceed the number of judges needed to staff the polls. In Baltimore City, for example, the number of individuals who have already expressed interest roughly doubles the number of judges needed.

It is absolutely critical to ensure that the November election is conducted safely and effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic. You must stress to local boards the importance of responding to and training election judges immediately. There is no time to waste.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan
Governor

cc: Michael Cogan, Chairman, Maryland State Board of Elections
Linda H. Lamone, Administrator of Elections, Maryland State Board of Elections
Local Boards of Election