



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 10, 2020

Michael R. Cogan  
Chairman  
State Board of Elections  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Cogan:

After months of delay and indecision, the State Board of Elections has now reversed its position of July 2 and reached a consensus on the November general election. As I have previously stated, I do not intend to interfere in the Board's sole responsibility to conduct the election under the law.

As requested, I have issued a proclamation granting the State Board of Elections the authority it is seeking to create voting centers for use during early voting and on Election Day, at the sole discretion of the Board.

My only direction to you, under existing law, was to expand and encourage voting by mail by immediately mailing absentee ballot requests to every voter. The Board's recent decisions make this more important than ever.

I remain very concerned that the Board's decision to close nearly 80% of the polls will have the potential of creating long lines and unsafe conditions, with crowds of people being forced into too few polling places.

Expediently mailing the ballot applications, encouraging voting by mail, and protecting early voting options will be critically important steps needed to lessen the problems caused by your decision to close the vast majority of the polls.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Hogan".

Larry Hogan  
Governor

cc: Linda H. Lamone, Administrator of Elections, Maryland State Board of Elections