

UPDATE OF MARYLAND ELECTION PROCESS STUDY - 2012

Introduction

The Maryland League last studied election administration in the state in 2000, and there have been many changes to our elections since that time. These include the adoption of no-excuse absentee balloting, the use of electronic poll books, the creation of a statewide voter registration database, early voting and the institution of limited online voter registration. The study committee attempts with this fact sheet to educate our members about these changes and to determine if our Election Process positions need updating to reflect the changes in our elections.

The scope of work for this study as adopted at the 2011 LWVMD Convention included a review of election positions such as rules for write-in candidates and qualifications for third parties; alternative voting methods; permanent list of absentee voters, action to insure compliance of the MVA with Motor Voter laws. Members of the study committee determined that alternative voting methods should be a single topic study, and we did not include that in our work. The committee expanded the scope of the study to include fourteen separate election administration topics, most of which will be included in the fact sheet, but several of which we suggest should continue to be studied in 2013-2014.

Absentee ballots: Part 1: Permanent Absentee list. A permanent absentee list, maintained by an election office, allows a voter to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all future elections. States that currently offer permanent absentee voting to **any** voter are: Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Montana, New Jersey and Utah. Seven states offer permanent absentee status to a limited number of voters who meet certain criteria, including for voters who live in a remote area (AK), military and overseas voters (DE), and voters with a permanent disability (DE, KS, MA, MN, MO and WV).

The Maryland General Assembly has considered bills establishing a permanent absentee list (voters can sign up to receive absentee ballots for all future elections without re-applying) and a subsequent absentee list (voters can sign up to receive absentee ballots for next subsequent primary and general elections, plus special elections in same timeframe). The legislation contained no limitations as to physical disability or other voter status. A voter who is removed from the roll of registered voters would automatically be removed from the subsequent absentee list. Similar legislation authorizing this list was introduced in 2011 and 2012, passing the House of Delegates each time, but not the Senate.

If the Maryland General Assembly passes subsequent or permanent Absentee List legislation, there would be costs incurred by the State Board of Elections relating to changes to the voter registration database. A permanent or subsequent absentee list may increase the number of absentee voters, and local Board of Elections would incur additional costs related to those ballots, but there might be less processing time and costs required in future elections.

Twenty-seven states (including Maryland) and the District of Columbia have no-excuse absentee voting. In the remaining states, absentee voting is limited to certain classes of voters, including disabled, out of town or those otherwise unable to vote at the polls. Of the 90 million voters who participated in elections nationwide in 2010, 16% voted domestic absentee ballots. (For 2012 General election in Maryland, 177,723 absentee ballots were requested and 155,066 were returned. Of those returned, 2.02% were rejected.) Of the states that do maintain a Permanent Absentee List, some have limitations on how long one can remain on the list and conditions for when one is removed from the list. For example, a voter could be removed from the Permanent Absentee List if he or she fails to vote in a specified number of consecutive elections.

Because of possible security issues involving the timely removal of deceased voters and the inadvertent or malicious removal or address change of voters' registration records, LWVMD does not recommend the use of a permanent absentee ballot list for all voters, for which absentee BALLOTS would automatically be issued to those voters on the permanent absentee ballot list. LWVMD does support a permanent absentee application list, for which absentee ballot APPLICATIONS would be mailed to those who register with their local election board as a permanent absentee voter. Currently, LWVMD "supports a permanent application list for absentee

voters who affirm that they have a permanent physical condition which necessitates absentee voting.” (2001) This position was adopted prior to the adoption of no-fault or no-excuse absentee voting in Maryland

Absentee ballots: Part 2 – Online absentee ballot delivery. Mail distribution to military personnel and overseas voters is notoriously slow, resulting in the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of voters who could not receive or return their absentee ballots in a timely manner. In 2009, the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) mandated states provide military voters, their spouses and dependents and voters who reside outside the United States with an electronically downloadable ballot. During the 2010 Primary and General elections, the Maryland State Board of Elections made this electronic delivery of absentee ballots available to all absentee voters, domestic and military and overseas voters. NOTE: The absentee ballot is delivered through a link on a secure website, and is required to be printed out and returned to the election board in the same manner as other absentee ballots. Ballots are not returned electronically.

In 2012, the Maryland Attorney General’s office told the State Board of Elections that it probably lacked the authority to issue absentee ballots to domestic voters electronically. In the 2012 general election, only military and overseas voters could use this method of ballot distribution. New to this system in 2012 is the ability to electronically mark the absentee ballot before it is printed and mailed. Previously, ballots delivered electronically to voters were mailed to election boards on plain paper from the voter’s printer, which could not be processed on optical scan tabulating machines. These plain paper ballot votes needed to be manually transferred by election officials onto regular ballots, a process that was time consuming and had the possibility of potential mistakes.

The new online ballot marking system creates and prints a bar code on the ballot the voter prints; the bar code includes the voter’s selection BUT no personal information about the voter. During canvassing, special software reads the bar codes and generates and prints a ballot with the voter’s selections. This ballot can be tabulated by the State’s optical scan voting units. The automated duplication is more efficient and accurate, and election officials validate the ballot printed during the canvass by comparing the ballot returned by the voter against the ballot generated from the bar code.

Some members of the public have expressed concern that electronic delivery of absentee ballots is vulnerable to attempts to intercept or fraudulently receive such ballots. In addition, they have said that voters’ personal computers may have security deficiencies that would allow a hacker to “see” how the voter was marking their ballot. The Board of Elections has maintained that they have sufficient security in place to prevent such occurrences.

Write-in candidates: Title 9 of the Maryland election code governs the provisions for write-in candidates, affording the opportunity in general elections for “write-in vote for as many positions as are to be filled in a contest.” The only exception is the continuance in office of appellate judges. A voter is also offered the write-in opportunity in a special election. A voter can request an election judge to provide information on write-in voting, and the judge shall assure that the voter is fully informed as to the procedure before voting. If the voter is unable to write, the voter may have assistance to complete the voter’s write-in choice.

The report of votes cast by the automatic voting system shall indicate the number of marks in write-in positions for each position. Local Election Boards shall manually tally and record all votes cast for write-in candidates following the requirements of the Maryland State Board of Elections. The official canvass of election results contains only votes for write-in candidates who filed a *timely* certificate of candidacy. If there is more than one candidate with the same last name for that office using only the last name is not a valid vote; the vote will not be counted. Any misspelling, abbreviation or minor variation shall be disregarded as long as the intended candidate can be determined. Writing only the last name of the candidate is a valid vote, unless there is more than one candidate with the same last name. This same rule applies for the use of only the first name or initials unless there is more than one candidate with the same first name or initials for that office. For a joint office like

President and Vice-President writing in one name of the candidates is sufficient to cast a vote for the joint office. (MD COMAR 33.08.0203 and 33.08.04 .06)

Write-in candidates file a certificate of candidacy by either 7 days after the expenditure of at least \$51 is made to promote the candidacy or 5 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the day of the election for which the certificate is filed. (Md. Code Election Law Title 5, Subtitle 3). Since this deadline occurred during the Early Voting period in recent elections, it requires special handling to transmit and post the identity of write-in candidates at early voting sites and Election Day precincts. Additionally, a candidacy filing deadline so close to Election Day makes it difficult for voters to learn about the qualifications of write-in candidates.

Third Parties and Third Party Candidates: In Maryland, party certifications are done for each gubernatorial election cycle (eg. 2010-2014). If the number of registered voters to a political party is less than 1%, then 10,000 petition signatures must be gathered for that party to be certified. A party can also be certified for a 2 year term if their "top of the ticket" candidate receives more than 1% of the vote.

Until the November 2012 election, the following parties were on the Maryland ballot: Americans Elect, Democrat, Green, Libertarian, and Republican. The Americans Elect party submitted 18,450 signatures of which 11,307 were accepted. Even though they were on the ballot in 29 states, they did not run any candidates this year and so were omitted from the voter registration forms after the election. The Libertarian Party was also successful in submitting signatures. Even though the Constitution Party was not on the Maryland ballot, they ran candidates for President and Vice President. Currently in Maryland, if a political party is de-certified, voters who are registered with that party are not required to be notified.

Most states require 1 or 2% signatures of registered voters for a candidate to get on the ballot. The exceptions are Colorado and Louisiana which charge \$500 or 5,000 signatures with 500 from each Congressional district. California requires signatures of 10% of registered voters to form a new political party.

Obstacles for third party candidates include the difficulty of getting news coverage; the view that third parties have no chance of winning and are therefore a wasted vote; the campaign costs of convincing voters they do have a chance to get elected and politically motivated gerrymandering of election districts by those in power, in order to reduce or eliminate political competition.

Arguments for restrictive ballot access include: allowing third party candidates on the ballot could split the vote of a majority and throw the race to a candidate that the majority dislike; allowing only two candidates on the ballot insures that at least the worst one is never elected; if voters could vote for one candidate in the primary election and also sign a petition for another candidate, this would violate the one person, once vote. Some states have sore loser laws, where a candidate who loses in a primary may not then run as an independent in the general election. Strict ballot access laws make it harder for extremists to get on the ballot, since few people would want to sign their petition.

Early Voting: The General Assembly passed legislation in 2007 that was ratified by voters as a constitutional amendment in 2008 granting the General Assembly the power to provide a process to allow for early voting during the two weeks preceding an election, on no more than 10 days. Subsequent successful legislation in 2009 clarified some technical aspects of early voting, and specified dates for early voting in the 2010 gubernatorial primary and general elections and the 2012 presidential primary and general elections.

For 2010, the law designated early voting between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM from the 2nd Friday through the Thursday before election. In 2012, early voting was delayed until the 2nd Saturday before the election and continued through the Thursday before the election, but Sunday hours from noon to 6:00 PM were added. Under emergency powers, the Governor changed these days and hours due to super-storm Sandy. The law is silent on what early voting dates will be after 2012.

Allocation of early voting sites: Each county shall have at least one. Counties with fewer than 150,000 registered voters shall have just one. Counties with 150,000-300,000 registered voters shall have three early voting locations (Howard County). Counties with more than 300,000 registered voters shall have five early voting locations (Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties).

As of voter registration deadline 2012, Harford County had 156,000 registered voters, so their allocation under present law would be three early voting sites. Frederic County had 148,000, which would put it close to gaining three sites. In 2012, 11.65 percent, over 430,000 voters participated in early voting, up from 6.3 per cent in 2010. Because Maryland voters have only had early voting opportunities for two complete election cycles, it is difficult to make judgments regarding the appropriateness of the current law. However, the increase between 2010 and 2012 indicates that Maryland voters have embraced the convenience of early voting

Current LWVMD position on early voting: *Support for early voting, but at a limited number of sites in order to assure ballot security.* This position was adopted prior to legislation which details aspects of early voting and prior to the adoption of electronic poll books in Maryland, which provides security against voters voting in more than one early voting location or voting during early voting and on Election Day.

Long lines at early voting sites during the 2012 presidential general election will result in potential legislation to increase the number of sites and possibly the number of days early voting is offered in Maryland. Republicans have complained that most jurisdictions with a high number of sites are heavily Democratic, but at least two Republican-leaning counties (Frederick and Harford) are on the verge of acquiring more early voting sites. If no legislation is passed during the upcoming General Assembly session, the State Board of Elections would select the number of days and which days on which early voting would be held. The number of locations would remain the same (1, 3 or 5, depending on population of registered voters.)

Voter Registration: Part 1 – Election Day Registration. Most states require voters to register to vote before an election, with various deadlines ranging from 15-30 days prior to an election. Only eight states and the District of Columbia have some form of Election Day Registration (EDR), while two states allow it only for presidential elections. Of the nine states (including DC) with EDR, seven ranked in the top ten states for voter turnout in the 2012 general election.

Proponents for short deadlines or EDR argue that less politically inclined citizens, especially young ones, aren't inspired to participate until high visibility campaign debates or frenzied last minute campaigning assaults them, and by then it is too late to join the process. Election officials in EDR states believe that registering to vote in person with qualified identification presented to a poll worker is less open to fraud than mail-in voter registration, which is allowed in every state. Opponents of short deadlines or EDR argue the possibility exists of fraudulent registration which can only be detected after the votes are counted.

One possibility to prevent fraud is to allow voters who are not registered, or who do not appear on the list of registered voters, to submit a voter registration application at the time they vote a provisional ballots. The voter could cast a provisional ballot on Election Day at the polling place, but the ballot would not be counted until the voter's registration is confirmed. Provisional ballots are usually counted 7-10 days after Election Day. Currently, a voter is not considered registered unless the registration is completed prior to the registration deadline. Current LWVMD position: *A registration deadline set as close as possible to primary and general elections, consistent with technology that provides ballot security and makes the administration of the deadline cost effective. (Ballot security assures ballot secrecy and prevents fraudulently cast ballots.)* This position was adopted before the creation of the Maryland Statewide Voter Registration database and before the use of electronic poll books. LWVUS supports EDR.

Voter Registration: Part 2 – Compliance with Motor-Voter Law. The Federal Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor-Voter Law) requires states to offer the opportunity to register to vote to people who transact business at the MVA and at public assistance agencies. Maryland got off to a bad start in fulfilling the requirements of the

Act, and was sued by the NAACP for lack of compliance in 1996, but an agreement was reached. Although the Act requires that the state's "chief election official" (in Maryland, the State Administrator of Elections) is responsible for implementation of the Act's requirements, it is in fact the employees of the Motor Vehicle Administration and public assistance agencies who perform the tasks required. In many of these agencies, the task of voter registration took a low priority against the delivery of services provided by the agencies (food stamps, health services, disability services, etc.) In Maryland, there is a task force of representatives of the various required voter registration agencies that meet regularly to assure compliance.

In 2011, it was reported that 25% of people who attempted to register to vote at the MVA during the previous 4 years were not registered (144,442) and over 120,000 who completed change of addresses at the MVA did not have their voter registration address updated. SBE and the MVA began working on improvements to the communication between their data sets, it was determined that going to a paperless, all electronic form of voter registration and address update system at the MVA would be an improvement. After successful legislation to allow greater cooperation between MVA and SBE, this was accomplished in early 2012 when an online voter registration system was instituted.

Presently, an individual who has a driver's license or ID card issued by the MVA can register to vote online and the address on file with the MVA is used to complete the voter registration of that individual. Security concerns have been raised about the ability to fraudulently register voters or change the address of registered voters because much of the information needed to perform an online registration is publicly available (name, address, date of birth and Soundex number). SBE has been asked to institute procedural safeguards to mitigate these security concerns. Overall, the online registration system and improved MVA voter registration systems have been quite successful. For example, during the month of September 2012 (the last full month of registration before the November 2012 general election) 10,111 people registered to vote by mail, 23,576 registered to vote at the MVA, 16,956 registered to vote through the online system, 584 registered at social services agencies and 174 registered at other designated state agencies.

LWVUS supports the use of an online voter registration for ALL voters, not just voters who have a state ID card or driver's license issued by MVA. LWVMD has encouraged SBE to adopt such a policy by allowing voters who register online to complete their registration at the polling place by providing their signature. However, current law states that a person is not a registered voter until the signature is provided, and since the registration deadline is weeks prior to an election, the registration is not complete.

Neutral Ballot Order: Everyone "knows" that the most desirable position on the ballot for any candidate is to be listed first. Studies show that if voters have not made choices before voting; if the ballot is long, or they feel rushed because of the line of people waiting to vote, they may choose the first name listed or skip voting for the office altogether. Some studies show that being listed first gives the candidate up to an extra 5 % of the votes. This boost is more likely for little known candidates in primary elections.

A variety of ways are used by states to set their ballot order. Maryland lists candidates by political parties, with candidates from the majority party being listed first, followed by candidates from the principal minority party, followed by other political parties in descending order based on the number of voters registered with the party, and finally by candidates not nominees of a political party. In the MD Code, "majority party" is defined as the political party to which the incumbent Governor belongs. Md. Election Law Code Ann. § 9-210.

Twelve states (AK, AR, CA, IA, KS, KY, MT, NE, NJ, NH, ND, OH) use rotation of candidates' names. Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and Ohio change the rotation in each precinct. Kansas and North Dakota change it in each county and Iowa changes the order in each Congressional District. Montana rotates by surname.

Seven states (AL, HI, LA, ME, NV, NC, VT) use alphabetical listing by last name. Ten states (CO, IL, NM, OK, OR, SC, SD, RI, VA, WV) use a lottery system which varies from pulling the names out of a hat to pulling out a letter of the alphabet and using that to determine which last name comes after the letter drawn.

“Beginning in the 1970’s a handful of state and federal courts became increasingly suspicious of various ballot order schemes, going so far as to strike some of them down. The trend has been that courts are more willing to strike down ballot order procedures that clearly favor one party or the incumbent, but a remarkably large number of states still allow these practices. Further, challenges have been levied against procedures that do not rotate candidate names across election districts, but these are generally less likely to succeed.” “Courts are split on whether allocating ballot order based on an alphabetical or lottery assignment, without rotation, is permissible. Most recently the New Hampshire Supreme Court held that alphabetical ordering violates the state constitution by impinging on every citizen’s equal right to be elected to office. Courts have been receptive to issues of cost in implementing schemes. If the names of candidates are rotated, multiple ballots must be printed. Additionally, if a state or local electoral district distributes sample ballots, then multiple ballots must be printed. Ballot counting would be slower and there is the problem of voter confusion.” (Election by Lottery: Ballot Order, Equal Protection, and the Irrational Voter, Laura Miller, NYU Law Review, 2010)

Voter Registrars: In Maryland, *persons* who wish to register others must be a registered voter themselves. There is no requirement for training for those who wish to register voters however local Boards of Elections will not just hand out large numbers of voter registration forms without providing training to either individuals or groups, such as the League and sororities. The training can take 15 to 30 minutes and includes a detailed review of the registration form, the need for neutrality regarding affiliation preference, and web sites for additional information. Those trained are asked to sign an affidavit. A copy of the affidavit is kept on file in the local office.

Training is provided on either a drop-in basis during regular business hours or at set times each week. Montgomery County offers classes in both English and Spanish. All said they could arrange additional time if a group of individuals needed training. A check of several counties indicated most will give out 50 voter registration forms although a couple restricted it to 25 forms or less. All indicated that under special circumstances more voter registration forms could be given out usually with the approval of the Election Director.

Candidate Filing Fees: The method for calculating filing fees varies from state to state. There are generally three methods: one is an arbitrary sum that is generally below \$500. Maryland is an example of this method, along with Alaska, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Wyoming.

Candidate filing fees are established by Maryland state law and are required to be paid when an individual files a certificate of candidacy. A candidate can file a waiver of the filing fee if the candidate establishes inability to pay the fee. This is done by the completion of a form and a sworn statement. The appropriate Election Board shall determine that the candidate is unable to pay.

In Maryland, fees are specified for 16 elected offices. There is no fee for filing as a candidate for President and Vice President of the United States. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor fees are \$290 each. This same fee applies to the Comptroller, the Attorney General and United States Senator. The fee for a Representative of Congress is \$100. General Assembly member fee is \$50. The Mayor, Comptroller of Baltimore City and President of the City Council fees are \$150. Any other public office the fee is \$25. A member of a party central committee fee is \$10.

Another method is filing fees or a petition with signatures in lieu of a filing fee. Texas provides an example of this method. The filing fee for US Senator is \$5,000 or 5,000 signatures, US Representative filing fee \$3,125 or 500 signatures, State Senator \$1,250 or 500 signatures, Chief Justice Court of Appeals \$2,500 or 500 signatures. The Minnesota filing fees are \$300 for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, representative in Congress, and judges. Fees for US Senator are \$400. A senator or representative in the State legislature are \$100 and for county office \$50. A Minnesota candidate can present petitions in place of a filing fee and the number of required signatures range from 2,000 for a state office voted on Statewide, 1,000 signatures for a congressional office, 500 for a county or legislative office or district judge and any other office requires the lesser of 500 signatures or 5% of the total number of votes cast in the municipality at the

preceding general election. California, New Hampshire, Oregon and Louisiana also have the option of filing fees or petitions.

A third method is fees based on a percentage of the annual salary of the office. North Carolina's filing fee is 1%. In 2010, the fees for US Senator were \$1,740, House of Representatives \$1,740, State Senate and State Representative \$207, judges ranged from \$1,094 to \$1,315 and all County Officials were one percent of annual salary. Nebraska has a similar filing schedule although their State Legislature fee is \$120 and State Board of Education is \$25. The Virginia filing fee is 2% of one year's minimum salary attached to the office. If there is no salary attached to the office, the fee is \$5. Washington State has a 1% of annual salary filing fee.

South Carolina is one of the most expensive states to become a candidate because the fee is 1% of the annual salary multiplied by the years for the term of office. For example the filing fee for the US Senate is \$10,440. Utah is another state that bases its fees on a percentage of total salary income. Florida charges a candidate 6% of its first year salary a US Senator fee is \$10,440.

A number of states (New York, Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, Vermont, New Mexico, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine, North Dakota, Tennessee, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Arizona) require no filing fee for any candidate placed on the official ballot for any election or primary. Although these states do not require a filing fee, they do require petitions with various requirements of signatures.

Polling Places: Maryland election law states that a local board of elections, as it deems it expedient for the convenience of voters, may create and alter the boundaries for precincts in the county, designate the location for polling places in any election district, ward, or precinct in the county and combine or abolish precincts. The Maryland code also states local boards shall establish a separate precinct on campus or within one-half mile of the campus to specifically serve a public or private institution of higher education if the local board determines that at least 500 students, faculty and staff who attend or work at the institution are registered voters in the precinct in which the institution is located. If the institution receives state funds that institution shall provide without charge a facility for use as a polling place that meets all applicable requirements. A local board may create a new or change a polling location if the local board determines that an emergency exists. Notice to voters affected is mailed within at least 30 days after the change.

Polling places need to be accessible to people with disabilities and have voting aids for disabled and elderly voters according to the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984.

The State Board of Elections approves the local precincts. Polling locations do not have specific rules as to size, but important criteria for a site include accessibility, parking availability, manageability of the site, and space for voter privacy, as well as the availability of election judges. Generally, about ten square feet around each voting booth can assure privacy. The costs, if any, of a polling location are borne by the local jurisdiction. MD Election Code Ann, 2-303(2011); COMAR Title 33 Subtitle 15.

Voters per Poll Statistics

Based on the June 2012 Maryland State Board of Elections Voter Registration Activity Report of total Active Registered Voters, the 7 jurisdictions having the largest number of voters have the following average number of voters per poll location:

Montgomery	585,409 voters	238 polling locations	= average 2,459
Prince George's	543,643 voters	222 polling locations	= average 2,449
Baltimore	494,892 voters	226 polling locations	= average 2,190
Baltimore City	373,136 voters	294 polling locations	=average 1,269
Anne Arundel	339,336 voters	155 polling locations	=average 2,189
Howard	183,196 voters	106 polling locations	=average 1,728
Harford	154,074 voters	68 polling locations	=average 2,266

The 7 jurisdictions having the smallest number of voters have the following average number of voters per polling location:

Worcester	35,243 voters	18 polling locations=average 1,958
Queen Anne's	31,337 voters	16 polling locations=average 1,959
Talbot	24,548 voters	11 polling locations=average 2,232
Dorchester	19,430 voters	21 polling locations=average 925
Garrett	18,395 voters	16 polling locations=average 1,150
Caroline	17,698 voters	8 polling locations=average 2,212
Kent	12,295 voters	10 polling locations=average 1,230

Continuation of Study. At the May 2013 LWVMD convention, the Study Committee will request authorization to continue studying the following issues in Election Administration:

- Advisability of requiring signature verification on absentee ballots, methods of signature verification, cost of training and implementing a program of signature verification.
- Referendum and ballot question petitions, including the number of petition signatures required, the method in which signatures can be obtained (online and in-person), and requirements for signature verification.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS:

1. Should Maryland have a Permanent Absentee Ballot list or Subsequent Absentee Ballot list? If so,
 - A. Should there be any restrictions on who can be on the list or conditions for remaining on the list?
 - B. Should voters on the list receive absentee ballots or absentee ballot applications?
2. If security issues can be adequately addressed, should LWVMD support the online delivery of absentee ballots to all voters or should the online delivery of absentee ballots be limited to those eligible by federal law (currently, military and overseas voters per MOVE Act of 2009)?
3. Should LWVMD support setting a deadline for write-in candidates to file a certificate of candidacy that occurs before early voting begins?
4. Should the current LWVMD position be changed from "Support for Early Voting but at a limited number of sites in order to assure ballot security" to "Support for Early Voting"?
5.
 - A. Should LWVMD support early voting dates set by State law or by the State Board of Elections in consultation with local boards of election?
 - B. Should State law specify a minimum number of early voting days?
 - C. Should State law specify that a Saturday and Sunday should be included in early voting days?
6. Should LWVMD support a change in Maryland law that would give the State Board the authority to authorize additional early voting sites when such sites are requested and funded by a local election board?
7. Should LWVMD support a change in Maryland law that would allow any eligible individual to register to vote online and complete the registration process at the polling place?
8. Should LWVMD support a change in Maryland law that would allow a more neutral system for determining ballot order than is specified currently?