



**VOTERS' GUIDE**  
to the  
**2020 Special General Election**  
**Congressional District 7**

**About this Voters' Guide**

The League of Women Voters offers this *Voters' Guide* to assist citizens as they prepare to vote in the special general election. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.**

All candidates were asked to respond to a nonpartisan questionnaire. Responses from candidates who will appear on the General Election ballot are printed as submitted. Thus, some misspelling and typing errors may appear. All responses were limited to 400 characters and were truncated thereafter.

**If candidates did not respond by February 27, 2020, "No response received by deadline" is printed. Please check [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for their questions and answers.**

Additional information on the candidates is available at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

If the candidate submitted a campaign website or social media site, it is listed under her/his name.

The League assumes no responsibility for errors and/or omissions.

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# Voting Information

The winner of this election will fill the seat left vacant by the death last fall of Congressman Elijah Cummings. The term will end on January 3, 2021.

Ballots are being mailed to all active voters in Congressional District 7, which includes parts of Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County. On election day, April 28, there will be limited in-person voting at one voting center in each of these areas. There will be no in-person early voting.

Because of the risk of transmitting the Covid-19 virus wherever large numbers of people are gathered, voters are strongly encouraged to vote by mail. You should use in-person voting only if it is not possible for you to vote by mail.

## **Voting by Mail**

Most voters will cast their ballots by mail. Ballots and prepaid postage envelopes for returning them were mailed to voters on the active voter registration list. The mailing includes instructions for marking and returning ballots to the Board of Elections. **Follow the instructions carefully** – you must sign an oath that accompanies the ballot. Failure to complete these materials correctly may result in your ballot not being counted.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than 8:00 pm April 28 in order to be counted, but voters are encouraged to return them earlier if possible. The Board of Elections website includes a [form](#) where you can check to see if your ballot was received.

In addition to returning ballots by mail, voters may also choose to return their ballots using secure drop boxes. Check the State Board of Elections [website](#) as well as local Board of Elections websites for dates and times that drop boxes will be available for receiving ballots.

**Protect your ballot** -- Do not give your ballot to anyone who offers to collect ballots. Put it directly in the U.S. Mail or a Board of Elections drop box.

## **Limited In-Person Voting**

Voters who need to use a ballot marking device, those registering to vote for the first time, and those who did not receive ballots but believe they are registered, will be able to vote in person on April 28, from 7 am to 8 pm at voting centers in each county. Locations will be announced on the local Board of Elections websites. Website and contact information for each county's local Board of Elections is available on the State Board of Elections [website](#).

## **Messages to Voters Who Have Moved or Missed an Election**

Ballots were mailed only to **active** voters, using the address on file with the Board of Elections. If a mailing from the Board of Elections was returned because you had moved or were temporarily at another address and you have missed voting in the past 4 years, you may have been placed on the inactive voter list. You will not be sent a ballot unless you notify the Board of Elections of your current address.

1. You can verify your voter registration on the State Board of Elections [website](#).
2. Use the same website to update your address if it is not correct.
3. If you are temporarily staying at another location and would like your ballot sent there, you should request an absentee ballot – you can do this on the State Board of Elections [website](#).
4. If you do not receive your ballot when other voters do, you should apply for an absentee ballot on the State Board of Elections [website](#).

### **Messages to College Students**

If you registered to vote where you attended college and have since returned home, you may use the State Board of Elections website to:

1. [Update](#) your voting address to your home OR
2. [Request](#) an absentee ballot.

If you had **already** applied for an absentee ballot to be mailed to your college address, contact your local Board of Elections to ask how to cancel your absentee ballot application. If you are unable to change your absentee ballot delivery, you may be able to vote a provisional ballot on June 2 at a voting center in the county where you are registered.

If you do not make these changes, your ballot will be mailed to your college address and may not be forwarded – you risk losing your right to vote.

### **Voters with Disabilities**

Each voting center will have ballot marking devices for use by voters who would have difficulty reading and marking a paper ballot. Maryland also offers the option of internet delivery of a ballot, with an online ballot marking tool that is compatible with adaptive technology to enable those with disabilities to access the internet. To request internet delivery of your ballot, apply for an [absentee ballot](#) on the State Board of Elections website. You will need access to a printer and postage to use this option as the ballot cannot be returned via the internet.

### **Voters in Jail or Prison**

A person convicted of a felony cannot vote while they are in prison. Persons in jail or prison for a misdemeanor or who are waiting for their trial can still register and vote. Visitation at correctional facilities may be limited due to the coronavirus, so you will need to work with correctional supervisors to provide an inmate with a [voter registration](#) application and an application for an [absentee ballot](#) from the State Board of Elections website.

## **Contact Your Board of Elections**

### **Baltimore City Board of Elections**

Charles L. Benton Building  
417 E. Fayette Street, Room 129  
Baltimore MD 21202-3432  
410-396-5550

### **Baltimore County Board of Elections**

11112 Gilroy Road, Suite 104  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031  
410-887-5700

### **Howard County Board of Elections**

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200  
Columbia MD 21046  
410-313-5820

# U.S. Representative District 7

**DUTIES:** Representatives make laws along with the members of the Senate and may conduct investigations on issues of national importance. Laws that impose taxes always begin in the House of Representatives. Representatives can recommend that the Senate remove from office a public official accused of a crime.

**TERM:** The Special General Election on April 28, 2020 is the final step in selecting a candidate to complete the term of the late Elijah Cummings, which ends on January 3, 2021.

**BASE SALARY:** \$174,000

**HOW ELECTED:** Elected by voters in each congressional district. Maryland has eight of the 435 Representatives, based on the state's population in the 2010 Census.

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.house.gov>

## QUESTIONS

**GOALS:** Why are you running for this office?

**IMMIGRATION:** What, if anything, would you change regarding immigration policy?

**HEALTH CARE:** Would you vote to continue the Affordable Care Act as it is, expand it, or eliminate it? Please explain.

**ENVIRONMENT:** What should be the federal government's role in addressing national and global environmental concerns?

**GUN SAFETY:** What policies do you propose to reduce gun violence?

**DISCRIMINATION:** What initiatives would you propose to address bias based on race, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, or disability?

**STUDENT LOANS:** What actions would you support to reduce burdensome student loan debt?

## Candidates

Vote for 1

**Kimberly Klacik**  
Republican Party

**Campaign Website:** <http://KimKForCongress>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://Facebook.com/KimberlyKlacik>

No response received by deadline.

**Kweisi Mfume**  
**Democratic Party**

**Campaign Website:** <http://www.mfumeforcongress.com>

**Campaign Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/@mfumeforcongress>

**Campaign Twitter:** [twitter.com/mfume4congress](https://twitter.com/mfume4congress)

**Campaign Instagram:** [mfumeforcongress](https://www.instagram.com/mfumeforcongress)

**GOALS:** I believe the 7th Congressional District and our country face crucial crossroads ahead. I also believe it is important to always replace leadership with leadership. We cannot miss the opportunity to send the strongest representation to Congress now. Having served in this position for 10 years, I am the only candidate who is proven, tested, and ready to go to work on day one with seniority.

**IMMIGRATION:** Immigration built America and it continues to be the heartbeat of the American economy. I will fight to require humane immigration policies at our borders so that we will not have to relive the tragedies of the last few years, e.g., policies that put people in cages or permanently divided children from their parents. In addition, I will work to create a sensible pathway to citizenship.

**HEALTH CARE:** Healthcare is a right. I will vote to expand the Affordable Care Act (ACA), beginning with restoring the protections stripped from the ACA by this Administration. My healthcare vision includes expanded healthcare access for low-income Americans, a public health insurance model like Medicare, enhanced private and/or employer-sponsored insurance options, and a tax credit to offset premium costs.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The federal government should be the chief architect and chief enforcer of existing and forward-looking environmental policies. It should implement environmental policies that incentivize responsible personal choices, motivate corporations to make better choices (by carrot, by stick or both), steer us towards an increasingly green economy, and establish America as a global environmental leader.

**GUN SAFETY:** Reinstating an assault weapons ban and adopting a national background check system focused on psychological competency are two key gun safety policies I will pursue in Congress. In 1994, I helped pass an assault weapons ban that lasted 10 years. Congress has not had the will to reinstate the ban once it was lifted. I will fight to change that if I earn the honor of serving the People in Congress.

**ECONOMY:** I will work to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour today, with that figure indexed to inflation. I will also work to revisit the most recent tax cuts for the highest earning Americans so that we can invest that money into educating our children and expanding skills training opportunities. The policy focus is investing in opportunities that prepare people to earn more money.

**DISCRIMINATION:** It sometimes appears as if our society faces more biases today than we did just a few years ago. The federal government must ensure existing anti-discrimination laws are fully enforced by the people and institutions created to do so. Next, our nation must acknowledge one form of bigotry is just as harmful as any other form of bigotry so our laws must align to reflect that truth.

**STUDENT LOANS:** The student loan crisis may cripple our future economy. We must act now to ensure a financially stable future workforce. I support allowing students to lower their student loan rates through refinancing, loan forgiveness programs for graduates working in certain public interest fields with incomes below a certain level, and in the most extreme cases debt forgiveness.