



## Help Increase Participation in Primary Elections

This legislation would allow registered voters who have not registered with a party, to affiliate with a party during early voting or on election day (once election day registration is in place) and then vote a regular ballot. Currently, more than 700,000 registered voters in Maryland are not affiliated with a party and therefore may only vote for Board of Education or non-partisan municipal elections on election day. There are many reasons why people don't affiliate including:

not knowing which party they prefer at the time they register to vote, being disenchanted with both major parties, but then, as the election draws nearer having a strong preference for a candidate or candidates that are running on one of the major party tickets, or not knowing that Maryland is a closed primary state and assuming that they could vote in the primary like they had in other states without being affiliated with a party

When you call or email your representatives in the General Assembly, you can simply say "**Please support [HB 530](#) or [SB 489](#) Ballot Access - Voter Registration - Affiliating With a Party. This legislation would provide nearly 1/4 of Maryland citizens who are currently shut out of voting for most candidates in the primary the opportunity to participate in democracy. "**

Don't know who represents you in the General Assembly or how to contact them? Go to [mdelect.net](http://mdelect.net) and enter your address.