

Candidates -Frequently Asked Questions

Question: I want to run for office. What do I need to do?

Answer: Read everything pertaining to candidacy on the following websites:

Prince George's County Board of Elections (PGCBOE)

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/969/Candidate-Filing>

Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE)

<https://elections.maryland.gov/candidacy/index.html>

Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System (MDCris)

<https://campaignfinance.maryland.gov/>

Open your campaign finance account on MDCris before you come in to file the rest of your paperwork. Be sure to read the *Summary Guide*.

Question: Where do I file for office?

Answer: Filing for local offices is done in person at the PGCBOE. Be sure to bring all your documents, ID and money. We accept cash, check and credit card. You must go to SBE to file for Federal and State Offices.

Question: Why do my electioneers have to remain a certain distance from the polling place?

Answer: In Accordance with State Law, electioneering is prohibited inside the 100ft perimeter of entrances to all polling places in Prince George's County. A person who is in violates this law is subject to fines and/or imprisonment.

Question: What are my Challengers and Watchers allowed to do?

Answer: Read the [Challengers and Watchers Manual](#). Have them keep their [Challenger and Watcher Certificate](#) on them and present to a Chief Judge upon arrival at polling places. They will be directed as to where they may be positioned and may stay to observe as long as they do not interfere with the voting process. Challengers and Watchers may not wear any campaign paraphernalia.

Question: My treasurer is resigning. What do I need to do?

Answer: You need to file a [Change of Officer Form](#). There is a section for the Treasurer or Chairperson that is resigning to fill out and sign as well as a portion for the incoming Treasurer/Chairperson to complete. The form is located on MDCris or on the State Board of Elections website. It can be submitted directly to MDCris, or if necessary, PGCBOE will forward to SBE on your behalf.

Question: I need to file my quarterly report. How do I do this?

Answer: Filing quarterly reports may also be done directly using MDCris. If you need further assistance, you should contact the SBE.

Question: When can I put my signs up and when do they have to come down?

Answer: Under MD. Election Law Code Ann. § 10-101, it states, "Campaign signs shall be allowed on the premises of the public building, at a minimum, from:

- A. 5 p.m. the day immediately preceding election day until 8 a.m. on the day immediately following election day; and
- B. 5 p.m. the day before an early voting period begins under §10-301.1 of this title until 8 a.m. the day after the early voting period ends."

You should also note the County Charter, Sec. 27-628 - Public interest events/campaign says signs must be: "at least 10 feet behind the street line, "and "at least 50 feet from the nearest corner of any street intersection. Additionally, it specifies that "Campaign signs may be erected forty-five (45) days prior to the election. The signs shall be removed within ten (10) days after the general election, or within 10 days after the primary election if the candidate is not successful."