

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1448 (Delegate Tomlinson)
Government, Labor, and Elections

Municipal Elections - Information on Candidates and Voting Procedures and Locations

This bill requires a municipality to submit to the State Board of Elections (SBE) (1) at least six months before the candidate filing deadline for a municipal election, the qualifications to be a candidate for each office on the municipal ballot and (2) within one week after the candidate filing deadline, a list of each qualified candidate for each office on the municipal ballot and information on how to vote and where to vote in the municipal election. SBE must publish the information on the SBE website immediately after the information is submitted by the municipality. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State election law governs the administration of federal, State, county, and Baltimore City elections held during statewide elections every two years, and special elections, but generally does not govern municipal elections other than those in Baltimore City (which is considered a “county” for purposes of State law). Municipal elections are primarily governed by each municipality’s law and occur at various times throughout the year and in odd- and even-numbered years.

While State law governing elections generally does not apply to municipal elections, there are certain provisions of State law that address municipal elections, including those that (1) allow a municipality to use the information in the statewide voter registration database to administer voter registration for its elections; (2) allow a municipality to request that SBE include the offices and questions to be voted on in a municipal election on the statewide ballot (within the municipality) during a statewide election; (3) require municipalities to allow no-excuse absentee voting (mail-in voting) in municipal elections; and (4) require municipalities to submit their election results to SBE to publish on the SBE website.

Publication of Municipal Election Results

A municipality must, within 30 days after the results of a municipal election are certified, submit to SBE an electronic copy of the election results for each office or question voted on at the election, including:

- vote totals for each office or question, reported separately by each of the following voting methods, if applicable: (1) in-person early voting; (2) mail-in voting or vote-by-mail; (3) provisional voting; and (4) in-person election day voting; and
- the party affiliation of each candidate if the municipality conducts partisan elections.

Immediately after a municipality submits its election results, SBE must publish the election results on the SBE website. The election results published by SBE must be organized by election year and the name of the municipality.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 848 (Senator Gallion) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Maryland Municipal League; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Arnold H. Adja

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510