

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 357

(Delegate Palakovich Carr)

Government, Labor, and Elections

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Municipalities - Election Dates - Reporting Requirements

This bill requires each municipality that maintains a website to prominently display on its website a list of all upcoming regular and special elections in the municipality, including the election date, whether the election is a regular or special municipal election, and each office to be voted on. The bill also requires each municipality to include, when reporting municipal election results to the State Board of Elections (SBE) (pursuant to an existing requirement), the date of the next regular municipal election and each office to be voted on at the election. SBE must prominently display on its website a list of all upcoming regular municipal elections reported by municipalities, including election dates and offices to be voted on, as well as a list indicating which municipalities have not yet reported upcoming regular municipal elections.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

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 a requirement that municipalities submit their election results to SBE to publish on the SBE website. 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: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2026
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Analysis by: Arnold H. Adja

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