State of Maryland



SBE Policy 2023-02: Obituary Processing

Adopted: December 14, 2023

Annapolis, Maryland

Pursuant to Election Law Article §3-101(c)(3)(iii), the State Administrator issues this policy as instructions for the local boards of elections on removing from the statewide voter registration list information about a voter who is no longer eligible due to death.

An individual voter may be moved from active to inactive status on the statewide voter registration list if a local board of elections received an obituary identifying that individual voter. The only permissible sources to be used for an obituary are a newspaper, a newspaper website, and a funeral home website. All other source material regarding the death of a voter, for instance, ancestry.com or legacy.com may not be used for list maintenance purposes.

Upon receipt of a State Board approved obituary for a registered voter, a local board of elections may make that voter's record Inactive. This commences the verification process required for cancellation. All supporting documents must be scanned to the voter record.