



**Brandon M. Scott**  
*President*  
Baltimore City Council

---

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 400 · Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
410-396-4804 · Fax: 410-539-0647  
e-mail: [councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov)

May 18, 2020

***Sent by email, fax and regular mail.***

Maryland State Board of Elections  
151 West Street, Suite 200  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
ATTN: Linda H. Lamone, State Administrator

Re: Baltimore City Ballot Issues

Dear Ms. Lamone:

Please accept this letter as a formal request that the Maryland State Board of Elections (“the Board”) hold an Emergency Informational hearing to explain to the citizens of Baltimore City the current status of their mail-in election ballots. It is imperative that the Board immediately schedule an open and public hearing to address the many issues surrounding the failure to timely deliver Baltimore City ballots. Even more importantly, the Board needs to explain to the public what actions it will be taking to guarantee that every voter is able to participate in this crucial primary election.

Many concerned citizens have been deeply troubled by the Board’s failure to properly handle the recent 7th District Special Primary. It appears that a substantial number of ballots for the aforesaid election were never delivered to Baltimore City voters. This irregularity is even more worrying because the Board has yet to fully explain this mishap. Moreover, the current mail-in debacle seems to be following a disturbingly similar pattern.

Pursuant to the Governor’s issuing of several proclamations, the Board was tasked to adopt a plan for the primary election scheduled for June 2, 2020. On April 2, 2020, the Board adopted a plan that in part provided for issuance of absentee ballots to all eligible voters. That Board stated that the ballots would be mailed to Baltimore City voters on *May 8<sup>th</sup>*. *Even though the Board had problems, as noted above, with the special election primary, Baltimore City voters’ ballots were scheduled to be the last to be mailed.*

We now know that the Board has failed to meet its own deadline for mailing and deliver of the ballots to Baltimore City voters. The Board in its recent press release states that the Postal Service did not even begin to mail ballots until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Frankly, the Board needs to be completely transparent and give a full and clear explanation as to why this late delivery was occurring. Nor, did it explain why Baltimore City is the only Maryland jurisdiction experiencing this delivery failure.



**Brandon M. Scott**  
*President*  
Baltimore City Council

---

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 400 · Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
410-396-4804 · Fax: 410-539-0647  
e-mail: [councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov)

Simply put, the Board need openly explain when each and every Baltimore City voter will receive their ballot.

It is an essential constitutional right that all Baltimore City voters have open and unfettered access to vote. The late delivery of the ballots will surely have serious consequences and may ultimately disenfranchise many Baltimore City voters. Pursuant to the Governor's proclamations the Board has wide discretion to rectify this situation. The first step in doing so is an immediate and public hearing to fully explain to the citizens of Baltimore City the current status of the delivery of their ballots.

Very truly yours,

*Brandon M. Scott*

Brandon M. Scott  
President, Baltimore City Council