

Maryland*Holding Power Accountable*

**This sample script can be used by Maryland HBCU campuses or student organization for outreach to voters. We recommend using this script prior to the Oct. 20th mail-in ballot request deadline. If you have questions, please email Joanne Antoine at jantoine@commoncause.org*

Sample Text Script

Hello [voter name]! I'm [student name] at [campus]! We're checking in with voters who received a mail-in ballot application. Have you sent in your request?

1. YES

- a. Great! We're a [student org/campus] and we're working to ensure young voters in MD make a plan to vote by Nov. 3rd. To learn more and to join our efforts, visit [link]
 - i. Suggested Tags: Registered Voter

2. NO

- a. No worries, you still have time! Requests must be received by October 20th. To make a request online, visit <https://bit.ly/2ZX1von>. If using the paper form, you can submit at a nearby secure drop box! Do you want help finding your county's drop box?
 - i. Suggested Tags: Registered Voter, Needs Follow Up

3. Wrong Number

- a. Sorry about that. If you're a Maryland voter, early voting begins on Oct. 26th. You can find early voting center locations in your county at <https://bit.ly/32MBIqn>
 - i. Suggested Tags: Wrong Number

4. Who are you?

- a. I'm a [student] at [school/campus org], ... [included information about school or organization]. Learn more about us at [link]

5. How did you get my number?

- a. When you registered to vote and put your number down on your registration, your number was added to a public voter file which is where we get our voter contact information.

6. Moved (Opt Out)

- a. Sorry about that, we'll take you off of our list. Check your voter registration status in your current state at <https://bit.ly/2G142GU>
 - i. Suggested Tags: Moved

7. I don't know where my drop box is.

- a. We got you covered! Here's a list of where each county's drop box is located <https://bit.ly/3iPRLUD>
 - i. Suggested Tags: Registered Voter, Needs Follow Up

8. I've decided that I'm not going to vote in the 2020 Presidential election!

- a. We respect your choice but keep in mind that your ballot has more candidates than the presidential ones. You still have until October 20th to request a mail-in ballot if you change your mind. In-person voting will also be available start on Oct. 26th at the locations here <https://bit.ly/3mzP1Nn>
 - i. Suggested Tags: Registered Voter, Non-Voter

9. I lost my absentee ballot.

- a. Don't worry, you can request a new mail-in ballot until October 20th. To get a replacement, contact your local board of election at <https://bit.ly/2ZXNRBr>
 - i. Suggested Tags: Registered Voter, Needs Follow Up

Additional Responses that may be helpful

1. Where do I go to vote?

There are numerous early vote centers available in your county. You can go to any of these locations from Oct. 26th through Nov. 2nd <https://bit.ly/2RNKxnY>

2. When do polls open/ How late are the polls open?

Early vote centers are open from 7am - 8pm.

3. Do I need identification to vote?

If you've voted in Maryland before, you don't need to provide ID to vote. If you're a first-time voter, we encourage you to bring identification with you.

4. I registered before the deadline, but my name isn't on the list!

No worries, Maryland allows same-day registration! You can go to a vote center during early voting and election day to register and vote. Bring a state ID, utility bill or bank statement with you to prove you live in MD

5. Do I HAVE to vote for the candidates on the ballot?

No. You have the right to enter any name in the "write-in" space provided for each race on the ballot.

6. Can I wear a shirt/button/hat/etc that exemplifies the party I'm voting for?

Maryland allows voters to wear clothing, buttons or stickers with political messages written on them when voting. Voters will just have to leave immediately after casting their votes.

7. What accommodations are provided for the disabled?

Maryland is committed to making voting accessible to all voters. All of the early voting centers in Maryland are accessible to voters with disabilities. To learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/2ZVNgAo>

8. Who's on the ballot?

Check out who's on your ballot at wvmd.org/2020_voters_guides

