



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

FROM: Gloria G. Lawlah, Secretary, Department of Aging *Gloria Lawlah*
Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Department of Health and Mental Hygiene *Josh M. Sharfstein*

DATE: September 25, 2014

RE: Voter Registration and Absentee Voting

As you may know, §2-202 of Maryland's Election Law Article requires each local board of elections to administer voter registration and absentee voting in nursing homes and assisted living facilities according to the State approved procedures. Under the State approved procedures, a local board of elections must contact each nursing home and assisted living facility in its jurisdiction and offer voter registration and absentee voting to the residents of the facility. For all nursing homes and assisted living facilities with more than 50 residents, representatives of the local board of elections are available to visit the facility and offer in-person voter registration and absentee voting. For assisted living facilities with less than 50 residents, these services are offered through the mail.

To encourage residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to exercise their right to vote, we encourage you to cooperate with your local board of elections and assist them in their efforts to register voters and issue absentee ballots. If your local board of elections has not already contacted you, call your local board of elections and indicate your interest in participating in this important program. Contact information for the local boards of elections is available at www.elections.state.md.us/about/county_boards.html.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that the residents of your facility have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. To schedule a visit by the local board of elections, please contact your local board of elections. If you have any other questions about this program, you may contact Sarah Hilton of the State Board of Elections at 410-269-2843.

cc: Health Facilities Association of Maryland
LifeSpan
Alzheimer's Association
Ombudsman Program
Voices for Quality Care