



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 – John M. Colmers, Secretary

TRANSMITTAL

TO: To all Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities

FROM: Secretary Gloria G. Lawlah, Department of Aging
Secretary John M. Colmers, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

RE: Voter Registration & Absentee Voting

DATE: December 28, 2007

As you may know, House Bill 1368 of the 2006 Legislative Session 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. While this program of the State Board of Elections was initially adopted in 1998, it is now a statutory requirement.

Under the State approved procedures, a local board 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. The contact for the list local boards is available at http://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. If you have any questions about this program, you may contact your local board of elections or Nikki Trella 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

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH • TTY for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us