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Challenging A Ballot Remotely

The public can challenge any ballot that is taken through the canvassing process. Although uncommon, the Board of Elections recognizes the need to still have this process available despite the remote nature of this canvass.

The public will have visual/audio confirmation of the canvassing process as well as all discussions and the voting results of the Board on any ballot. The public may challenge a Board decision during the board decisions on ballots. The intent to challenge must be made at the time the ballot or provisional ballot application is presented for acceptance or rejection. An observer can indicate an intention to file a challenge verbally or via chat, text, or email. A completed challenge form must be submitted within 1 hour of indicating an intent to challenge. The challenger will then scan a signed copy of the Canvass Challenge Form (see next page) and email it to tracy.dickerson@maryland.gov in PDF format. (Note: All ballots that are given an "Accepted" disposition by the Board will be placed into batches that will not be run through scanners until the end of each day to account for any lag in video or audio or reception of a challenge.)

Once the Challenge Form has been received, the Board will immediately take action on the ballot that has been challenged. The Challenge review will take place with the ballot on video and the review on audio. The Board's decision will be conveyed both on the audio and in a reply email to the challenger.

State of Maryland

Canvass Challenge Form

Instructions: State regulations permit an individual to challenge an action of a local board of canvassers. If you wish to challenge a decision to accept or reject a vote by mail or provisional ballot, notify the election director or his or her designee, complete this form, and return it to the election director or his or her designee. You may only challenge a decision during the canvass at which the ballot was accepted or rejected.

Once you submit this completed form, the ballot(s) being challenged and related documents (oath and envelope if an absentee ballot or provisional ballot application if a provisional ballot) will be put aside for consideration by the local board of canvassers. The local board will review the information on this form to decide whether to change its decision to accept or reject the ballot(s) in question. All challenged ballots will be separated from other ballots. If the local board affirms its acceptance of the ballot(s), the ballot(s) will be counted on a separate memory card.

Date _____

Part 1 – Completed by challenger

☐ Challenge of vote by mail ballot(s)

☐ Challenge of provisional ballot(s)

Name of Organization (if applicable) _____

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email address _____

Number or description of ballots being challenged: _____

Reason for Challenge _____

Signature _____

Part 2 – Completed by election director or designee

Challenge # _____

Number of challenged ballots _____

Number of challenged ballots accepted _____ Number of challenged ballots rejected _____

Comments _____