

CHERYL C. KAGAN
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3134 · 410-841-3134
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134
Fax 301-858-3665 · 410-841-3665
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

Vice Chair
Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Joint Audit Committee
Joint Committee on Federal Relations

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

August 14, 2020

Mr. Michael Cogan, Chair
Maryland State Board of Elections
151 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Cogan:

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring that our elections will run smoothly this November. With staffing shortages, extra mailings, and limited resources, you and your Board colleagues are attempting to craft the best policies in a challenging election year.

As a result of [new legislation](#), the cost of postage on mail-in ballots is split evenly between the respective County and the State. Legislators and county leaders could not have envisioned Governor Hogan's mandate to send ballot **applications** rather than mail-in **ballots** directly to every voter. SBE Administrator Linda Lamone estimated that preparing and mailing the application is likely to cost \$3.96-\$5.68 million. Return postage (NOT paid by the voters!) would total \$650,000- \$3,000,000, depending on the number of voters who mail the application.

Our 24 jurisdictions, which neither suggested nor supported this extra mailing, should not have to foot the bill to pay for it. The timing of the Governor's proclamation means that our counties were unable to budget for this additional financial obligation. To be clear, the pandemic has already stretched local resources; it is unreasonable to add another unexpected and unfunded mandate.

It is not clear that the Board has finalized a recommendation to clarify which entity/entities should bear the financial burden for this extra mailer. I am writing to request that SBE have a formal vote at its next meeting on Wednesday, August 19th to make it abundantly clear that the State will pay the total cost (printing, mailing, and return postage) of the ballot applications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cheryl

Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State Senate
District 17

[Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Letter to SBE Chair Cogan, page 2]

cc: Governor Larry Hogan
Secretary David Brinkley, Department of Budget & Management
Vice Chair Patrick J. Hogan, State Board of Elections
Malcolm Funn, State Board of Elections
Kelley Howells, State Board of Elections
William Voelp, State Board of Elections

President Bill Ferguson, Senate President
Speaker Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates
Chair Paul Pinsky, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Chair Guy Guzzone, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Chair Anne Kaiser, House Ways & Means Committee
Chair Maggie McIntosh, House Appropriations Committee

Linda Lamone, State Board of Elections
Nikki Charlson, State Board of Elections
Jared DeMarinis, State Board of Elections
David Garreis, Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO)
Michael Sanderson, Maryland Association of Counties
Kevin Kinnally, Maryland Association of Counties
Scott Hancock, Maryland Municipal League