

From: Secretary of State, Bill Gardner
To: All Election Officials
Date: May 14, 2020
Re: Form for changing political party affiliation

Please review the attached Emergency Order #43 issued today by the Governor.

It waives the requirement that a voter who wants to change party affiliation appear in person and make an oath to the clerk or the supervisors. The order establishes a new paper form for changing party affiliation.

That form is attached to this e-mail. It is a fillable PDF. A voter can fill it in on-line and then print. A voter may also print it and then fill it in with a pen. The form requires the voter to complete the form, print it, sign it, obtain a witness signature, and return it to the clerk's office.

The clerk must submit all completed and returned forms to the Supervisors for their June 2, 2020, session. The Supervisors must act on all submitted forms on June 2, 2020.

The Emergency Order also provides that if a voter attempts to submit the form on time, but it is not received or acted on, a voter may change party when filing for office by completing an affidavit. The affidavit language is specified in the order.

The Emergency Order also provides that if a voter attempts to submit the form on time, but it is not received or acted on, a voter may change party at the polling place on primary day, September 8, 2020, by completing an affidavit. The affidavit language is specified in the order.

We will provide additional guidance on this order and the June 2 session in the near future.