



National Center for the Study of Elections

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Contact: Anne Roland
410-455-8457; anne@umbc.edu

Maryland Voter Information Clearinghouse Shows Strong Start

The voter registration page on the new Maryland Voter Information Clearinghouse Web site (mdelections.umbc.edu) has had over 40,000 visits since the site's debut on August 15, according to the National Center for the Study of Elections (NCSE) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Users can go to the site to verify their voter registration, identify their voting districts, find out where to vote, and see a sample ballot. The site is a joint project of the Maryland State Board of Elections and NCSE.

Visitors to the site also looked up information on candidates running for state and federal offices, and searched the state's campaign finance database. There were 18,800 visits to the candidate search site, where candidates can post information about themselves and users can locate candidates by name, office sought, party, and district. The campaign finance database has had nearly 17,000 visits. Visitors can use the campaign finance database to find out who is giving money to candidates and where that money is being spent.

"We are pleased that people are making use of these voter resources," said Dr. Donald F. Norris, NCSE director and professor of public policy. "We are continuing to look for feedback from users on ways to improve the site." Voters and candidates with questions or comments should e-mail mdelections@umbc.edu.

Note: Statistics are from August 15 to November 1, 2006. A visit is the period during which a user looks at one or more pages and then leaves the site.

The National Center for the Study of Elections is a center within the Maryland Institute for Policy Analysis & Research (MIPAR), in partnership with UMBC's Department of Public Policy, Department of Information Systems, Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, and the Maryland State Board of Elections. For more information, visit www.umbc.edu/mipar/ncse.

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