1.6 Million Eligible To Vote in Maryland

More than 1.6 million registered Maryland voters are eligible to go to the polls today to vote in the state's first presidential primary since 1964. The state legislature abolished the presidential primary for the 1968 election but then reinstated it for this year.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In the Democratic primary, attention is focused on the presidential race, where a total of 11 candidates are on the ballot. At stake are 53 delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

President Nixon and two other candidates are on the Republican ballot, and 16 convention delegates will be selected. Under Maryland law, there can be no "crossovers," as only registered Republicans and Democrats can vote for the presidential candidates and they, vote in their own party's primary.

In addition, all eight of the state congressional districts have primary contests for representatives in Congress, and Montgomery County has a primary for members of the board of education.