



## Frequently Asked Questions - November 3rd, 2020 General Election

### Voter Registration

#### **Q. What is the Voter Registration Deadline?**

**A.** October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### **Q. How can I register to vote?**

**A.** Voters can register to vote on online [here](#) or by filling out a paper registration form, which can be found [here](#).

#### **Q. What is considered an "Inactive" voter?**

**A.** An Inactive voter is a voter whose address has come into question. The main way the counties receive this information is via the sample ballots that are sent prior to each election. If a sample ballot is returned as undeliverable or indicates the voter has moved, that voter is put into an "Inactive" status and is sent a confirmation notice informing them that they have until the second federal general election after the date of the notice to update their voting record or appear to vote and complete the necessary form or they will be removed from the voting rolls.

Inactive voters do not get sample ballots and are not eligible to receive a vote by mail ballot until they are put back into an Active status. To update your record to active status through the [online voter registration](#) or using a [paper registration form](#).

#### **Q. How can I check my voter registration status?**

**A.** Voters can check their voter registration status on the ["Am I Registered?"](#) page on the [2020 New Jersey Voter Information Portal](#).



## **Q. How do I receive my vote by mail ballot?**

**A.** Every Active registered voter will receive a ballot at the address the voter is registered. You can check your registration status [here](#). If you are not registered to vote, the registration deadline for this general election is October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. New Jersey now offers online voter registration [here](#).

If you don't receive your ballot and you are registered, please contact your county clerk to determine the status of your ballot and next steps. If you did not receive your ballot and would like to receive your ballot by mail you must request your ballot by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Otherwise you must get your vote by mail ballot in-person from your county clerk. If you pick up a vote by mail ballot on Election Day, in person, you have until 8 pm to return it to the Board of Elections, or your polling place, or deposit it in one of your county's secure authorized ballot drop boxes.

You can find your County Clerk contact information [here](#).

## **Q. Deadline to apply for a vote by mail ballot by mail?**

**A.** All active registered voters will automatically receive a vote by mail ballot. If you haven't received your ballot in a timely matter, you can check the status online [here](#) or contact your county clerk [here](#). If you haven't received your ballot, you may apply for a vote by mail ballot by mail by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Information on how to apply can be found [here](#). Thereafter, you must get your vote by mail ballot in-person from your county clerk. If you pick up a vote by mail ballot on Election Day, you have until 8 pm to return it to the county Board of Elections or your polling place, or deposit it in one of your county's secure ballot drop boxes.



## **Q. When will ballots be mailed?**

**A.** Ballots will be mailed to voters no later than October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, but some counties will begin before then.

Ballots for U.S. citizens who are active members of the Uniformed Services, the Merchant Marine, and the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, their eligible family members, and U.S. citizens residing outside the United States will be sent by September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Q. How do I know if my vote by mail ballot has been mailed?**

**A.** You can check on the status of your vote by mail ballot online [here](#) or you can contact your County Clerk. That contact information is [here](#).

## **Q. Can I track my vote by mail ballot?**

**A.** Yes, voters can track their vote by mail ballot through the [Track My Ballot Portal](#). First time users have to create an account and will need either a Driver's License Number, Last 4 digits of SSN, or Voter ID Number to validate voter registration status. (If you don't know your Voter ID number, you can obtain it by going to ["Am I Registered?"](#) or contact your [Superintendent of Elections or Commissioner of Registration](#))

## **Q. If I am voting by mail, when must the county Board of Elections receive my ballot?**

**A.** Vote by mail ballots that are sent through the mail must be postmarked by Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, and received by the county Board of Elections on or before November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Vote by mail ballots that are placed in the county's secure ballot drop box, delivered in-person to the county Board of Elections, or your designated polling place must be delivered by 8pm on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**Q. How can I return my ballot?**

**A.** Either return your ballot by mail, bring your completed and sealed ballot in-person to your designated polling location or your county’s Board of Elections office, or place it in a secure “ballot drop box” located throughout your county.

**Q. What is the deadline by which election officials must receive a mailed ballot?**

**A.** Every vote by mail ballot that is postmarked on or before November 3, 2020, and that is received by November 10, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. shall be considered valid and shall be canvassed, assuming the ballot meets all other statutory requirements. Additionally, every ballot without a postmark, and ballots mismarked and confirmed by the post office that those ballots were received by the post office on or before November 3, 2020, that is received by the county Boards of Elections from the United States Postal Service within forty-eight (48) hours of the closing of polls on November 3, 2020, shall be considered valid and shall be canvassed, assuming the ballot meets all other statutory requirements.

**Q. Do I have to include a stamp on my ballot return envelope?**

**A.** No, all vote by mail return envelopes have prepaid First-Class postage in order to facilitate the proper delivery of all cast vote by mail ballots.

**Q. Do vote by mail ballots require a witness or notary?**

**A.** No, vote by mail ballots do not require a witness or notary. **They do require the voter’s signature.**

**Q. Do voters casting a ballot by mail need to include a copy of ID?**

**A.** Voters do not need to provide a copy of their ID in order to cast a vote by mail ballot except under certain circumstances for first time voters. These voters will receive a notice with their vote by mail ballot.



**Q. What should I do if I make a mistake, damage, or lose my vote by mail ballot?**

**A.** If you have not already returned your ballot, you may request a replacement vote by mail ballot from your county clerk [here](#). If you go to your polling location on Election Day, you will have to vote using a paper provisional ballot.

**Q. What is the difference between absentee and vote by mail ballot in New Jersey?**

**A.** The term “absentee ballot” was changed in July 2009 and was replaced by the vote by mail ballot law that allowed a voter to request a ballot by mail for any reason.

**Q. Will my other votes be counted if I choose not to vote for a candidate or question?**

**A.** Yes, if you choose to leave a race or question blank, your other votes will still be counted.

**Q. Is my Party Affiliation listed on the Outside Return Envelope?**

**A.** No, the 2020 General Election return envelope will not indicate Party Affiliation.

**Q. Do I have to vote for the Party I am registered with?**

**A.** No, this is a General Election and you may vote for the candidate(s) of your choice. You may only vote for the number of candidate(s) permitted for the office that you are casting a vote for. Example – Office of President-Vote for One- you may only vote for one. Voting for more than one creates an “Over Vote” which disqualifies the vote cast for that office. Please remember to check the back and any additional pages of your ballot to ensure that you have reviewed all offices up for election and any State, Local or School questions that may be on the ballot.



**Q. Will my vote by mail ballot be counted? I heard that vote by mail ballots might not be counted.**

**A.** Every valid vote by mail ballot is counted. Be sure to complete and sign the certificate attached to the inner envelope when you return your vote by mail ballot. Be sure to leave the certificate attached to the inner envelope. Do not put it inside the inner envelope. If you are going to mail your ballot, it must be postmarked ON or BEFORE Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 and received by your county Board of Elections by 8 pm November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you are not sure if your ballot will arrive in time, you can drop it off in person at the county Board of Elections, your designated polling place, or one of the county's secure authorized ballot drop boxes, or at your polling place on Election Day. Contact your Board of Elections for drop-off locations. If you are dropping your ballot off in-person, you must do-so by 8 pm on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

**Q. When does the County Board of Elections begin counting ballots?**

**A.** Ballots are processed as soon as they arrive at the Boards of Elections. The Boards of Elections may start counting ballots 10 days before the election. The counting of ballots will continue until after the deadline for receipt of timely mailed postmarked mail-in ballots, on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

**Ballot Drop Boxes**

**Q. What is a "Ballot Drop Box"**

**A.** A ballot drop box is a secure, locked structure operated by election officials where voters may deliver their ballots from the time they receive them in the mail up to the time polls close on at 8 pm on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be at least 10 drop boxes located throughout each county, which will be available 24 hours a day. Drop boxes will be under surveillance by security cameras and collected daily by county election officials.



**Q. Where can I find the locations of the ballot drop boxes?**

**A.** You can find that information [here](#) on the 2020 New Jersey Voter Information Portal.

**“Bearers”**

**Q. Can I deliver more than 1 vote by mail ballot to the Board of Elections office or place it in the ballot drop box?**

**A.** A person who transports a cast (completed) vote by mail ballot for someone else is considered a "Bearer". Bearers are limited to THREE (3) ballots per Election. Any Bearer Ballots that exceeds the three limit must be REJECTED. The Bearer MUST SIGN the "Bearer Portion" of the outer envelope of the ballot in the presence of the voter when taking custody of the ballot. If the Bearer is hand-delivering the ballot to the county Board of Elections, then he/she MUST SHOW ID AND SIGN the Bearer Book. It is against the law for anyone except you, the voter, to mail or transport your ballot unless the outer envelope is sealed and the "Bearer Portion" is completed.

**Q. Can I deliver more than 1 vote by mail ballot to my polling location?**

**A.** Only you, the voter, can bring your ballot to your polling place on Election Day. If another person will be mailing your ballot, bringing it to a secure ballot drop box, or delivering it to the county Board of Elections, make certain that person completes the "Bearer Portion" on the envelope addressed to the Board of Elections before the ballot is taken from you. No person who is a candidate in this election is permitted to serve as a bearer. No person is permitted to serve as a bearer for more than three qualified voters in an election. It is against the law for anyone except you, the voter, to mail or transport your ballot unless the outer envelope is sealed and the "Bearer Portion" is completed.



## **Voting In-Person/Provisional Ballots**

### **Q. Can I vote in-person at my polling location?**

**A.** Yes, but only by paper provisional ballot. If you go to a polling location to vote on Election Day, you will be provided with a paper provisional ballot. If you have a disability that prevents you from voting on a paper ballot, you will be provided access to an accessible voting device. Also, a voter may drop off their vote by mail ballot at their polling place.

The November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 General Election is being conducted primarily by vote by mail. If you haven't received your vote by mail ballot, please contact your county clerk [here](#).

### **Q. What is a provisional ballot?**

**A.** Normally a provisional ballot is cast by a voter whose eligibility to vote cannot be confirmed at the polls on Election Day. For the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election all voters, except those with a disability, are required to vote using a paper provisional ballot. If, after the election, it is determined that the voter who cast the provisional ballot was eligible to vote, the ballot will be counted.

### **Q. Will voters casting a provisional ballot in-person be required to wear a mask?**

**A.** All voters are asked to wear a face covering and observe appropriate social distancing.

### **Q. Is there an early voting period in New Jersey?**

**A.** There is not an in-person (polling place/vote center) early voting period. However, voters will be able to return their vote by mail ballots early to a secure ballot drop box, by mail, or in person to their Board of Elections office. Dropbox locations can be found [here](#) on the 2020 New Jersey Voter Information Portal.





## **Signature Verification/Matching**

**Q. Are ballots subject to signature matching? If a voter submits a ballot that lacks a signature or the signature is determined not to match the signature in the voter's voting record, will that voter be notified?**

**A.** Yes, if your vote by mail ballot or provisional ballot was missing your signature or the county Board of Elections has determined that your signature does not match the signature in your voting record, your county Board of Elections will provide you an opportunity to certify that you did, in fact, cast that ballot.

**Q. Why am I receiving a letter, call, and/or email saying that my vote by mail ballot or provisional ballot was missing a signature, or that the signature did not match, and asking for additional information?**

**A.** If your vote by mail ballot or provisional ballot was missing your signature or the county Board of Elections has determined that your signature does not match the signature in your voting record, your county Board of Elections will provide you an opportunity to certify that you did, in fact, cast that ballot.

**Q. When does the Board of Elections start verifying the ballot signatures?**

**A.** The County Boards of Elections shall meet at least four (4) days per week starting October 13, 2020 to begin verifying the signatures on the vote by mail ballots. Voters whose ballots are rejected for a missing or a mismatching signature, will be contacted and given the opportunity to cure the signature defect.



## **Poll Worker**

### **Q. How can I be a poll worker on Election Day?**

**A.** Submit an [application](#) to be a poll worker for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. Citizens of all ages, including college and high school students, are encouraged to apply. Training is required and will be provided.

### **Q. What if I believe an election crime or voter fraud has been committed?**

**A.** If you would like to report a potential election crime or incident of voter fraud, please call **1-877-NJ-VOTER**.