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Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter's contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. STATUS: Am I registered to vote?

Voters can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the New Jersey Division of Elections' website and clicking on the "[Am I Registered](#)" tab.

Alternatively, they can call 1-877-NJ-VOTER.

2. HOW: How do I register to vote? What if I don't have access to a computer and/or printer?

Eligible voters who wish to register must fill out their county's voter [registration form](#). The registration form can be submitted in a number of ways:¹

- As of September 4, 2020, eligible voters may [register to vote online](#).
- The registration form can also be returned by mail or delivered in person to the voter's [County Commissioner of Registration or Superintendent of Elections](#). If the eligible voter does not have access to a computer and/or printer, they may fill out a registration form in person at the office of the County Commissioner of Registration or Municipal Clerk.
- Eligible voters may also register to vote in person when applying for a driver's license or identification at a Motor Vehicle Commission ("MVC") agency, or while applying for services or assistance administered by certain public agencies.

3. IDENTIFICATION: What ID is required to register to vote?

The New Jersey voter registration form asks all registrants to provide a driver's license number, non-driver identification number, or the last four digits of a Social Security number, or to swear or affirm that they do not have any such number. Individuals who register by mail and who cannot provide one of the requested numbers must present a copy of an acceptable form of identification at the time of registration or at any time before voting. Acceptable identification includes either a current and valid photo identification (e.g., New Jersey driver's license, military or other government identification, student or job identification, store membership card, U.S. Passport), or any current document with the voter's name and address such as a bank statement, pay check, rent receipt, sample ballot, utility bill, government check, car registration, non-photo driver's license or any other official document.

Online registration requires one of the following forms of identification: New Jersey driver's license number, Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) non-driver identification number, or Social Security number. If an eligible voter does not have any of these forms of identification, the voter will need to register by mail or in person using the process described above. Voters who use a Social Security number as identification must be able to sign the application on-screen or upload a digital signature to register online. Voters who use a driver's license or other MVC identification do not need to include a digital signature.

4. DEADLINES: When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in person, online or on Election Day?

The registration deadline is 21 days before Election Day.² The registration deadline for the November 3, 2020 General election was October 13.³ [Registration forms](#) had to be either postmarked or delivered in person by that date.⁴ Online registration also had to be completed by October 13.

5. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration (i.e. I can register to vote the same day I vote)? If so, what is the process?

No. New Jersey does not have same-day registration. See [Question #4](#) for registration deadlines.

6. PERMANENT MOVE: I have moved permanently and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

For a voter who has made a permanent move, eligibility to vote will depend on whether the voter moved within the same county/election jurisdiction or moved to a new county.

Voters who appear at a polling place on Election Day will not vote on a voting machine but instead will vote by provisional paper ballot, with certain exceptions made for individuals with disabilities. The below chart explains the circumstances under which the provisional ballot will be counted.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different election jurisdiction (typically a different county)	Moved from a different state
The voter may cast a ballot in the same manner as other voters (on November 3, that is <u>by provisional paper ballot</u>) upon completing a written affirmation at the polling place. ⁵	The voter may vote by <u>provisional paper ballot</u> in the district to which they have moved upon completing a written affirmation at the polling place. ⁶	If, <u>on or before the 31st day prior to the election</u> , a voter has moved into the county from another county or state and has not registered to vote, they are ineligible to vote. ⁷ However, if <u>within 30 days of the election</u> , the voter has moved to the county from another county in New Jersey, they are ineligible to vote in the new county but may be eligible to vote in the election district where the voter resided before moving. ⁸	A voter who moves to New Jersey from out-of-state must register and reside at the new address for 30 days before the election in order to vote. ⁹

7. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily due to COVID-19 or some other reason. Where can I vote?

Under a new law enacted to establish procedures for the 2020 election, every active voter should have automatically received a vote-by-mail ballot without having to submit an application to vote by mail.¹⁰ The ballots should have been mailed to the address on file with county election officials no later than October 5.¹¹

- Election mail is not forwardable.
- A voter who received a vote-by-mail ballot can cast that ballot by: (1) returning it by mail, postmarked by Election Day, (2) delivering it to a secure ballot drop box, (3) delivering it to the county clerk in the county where the voter is registered on or before Election Day, or (4) handing it directly to a poll worker at the voter's designated polling place on Election Day.
- The deadline to apply *by mail* for a vote-by-mail ballot was October 23.¹² A voter who wanted a ballot mailed to a temporary address must have [applied](#) by October 23 and requested at Question 4 in the application form that the ballot be sent to the temporary address.
- A voter may also apply for and pick up a vote-by-mail ballot at the county clerk's office at any time up to and including Election Day and then deliver the ballot by any of the methods in the second bullet point, above.
- If the voter did not receive a vote-by-mail ballot but is able to appear in person at the designated polling place, the voter can vote by provisional ballot.

8. STUDENT: I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

College students may register to vote from either their college address or their primary residence (e.g., their parents' home).¹³ Students who have already registered to vote will automatically receive vote-by-mail ballots at their address of record. If the student is taking classes remotely at their registered address, they should follow the standard procedure to vote via vote-by-mail ballot or by provisional paper ballot at their polling location. If the student is taking classes remotely and is located somewhere other than their registered address, see [Question #7](#).

9. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or am serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

There are several ways in which eligible voters in the military and/or overseas may register to vote and request and obtain a ballot. To register, they may fill out and mail a New Jersey [voter registration form](#), which must be postmarked by October 13, 2020, or [register to vote online by that date](#) if they have the appropriate identification. They can also fill out a [Federal Post Card Application](#), which must have been *received* by October 13, 2020, whether returned by mail, email, or fax.

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The [Federal Post Card Application](#) allows eligible military or overseas voters to simultaneously register and request their absentee ballot. However, if an eligible voter registers with a state voter registration form, they must separately have [applied for a vote-by-mail ballot](#) by October 23, 2020.

Military and overseas voters may request to receive their ballot by air-mail, fax, or email. Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020. Faxed or emailed ballots must be received by the appropriate county board of elections by 8:00 p.m. local time on November 3, 2020 (*i.e.*, the close of polls).¹⁴

10. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

Only convictions for *felonies* (also called “indictable offenses” in New Jersey) result in loss of the right to vote and only while the person is incarcerated.¹⁵ Once a person with a felony conviction has completed their period of incarceration, the person must complete a new voter registration form and mail or hand-deliver it 21 days before the election.¹⁶ Persons with *misdemeanor* convictions (also called “disorderly persons offenses” in New Jersey) are *not* disqualified from voting.

11. INCARCERATED: I am currently in jail. Can I vote?

A voter who is currently incarcerated after being convicted of a felony (also called an “indictable offense” in New Jersey) is not permitted to vote.¹⁷

Pretrial detainees who have not yet been convicted and persons with *misdemeanor* convictions (also called “disorderly persons offenses” in New Jersey) are *not* disqualified from voting. Like all other qualified voters, those serving jail time in pretrial detention or on misdemeanor convictions may apply for and cast a vote-by-mail ballot. They must have [applied for a vote-by-mail ballot](#) by October 23, 2020.

12. NOT ON ROLLS AT POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place and am not on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

Voters who appear at a polling place on November 3, 2020 will not vote on a voting machine but instead will vote by [provisional paper ballot](#) (exceptions will be made for voters with disabilities). If, after the election, administrators determine that the voter who cast the provisional ballot was eligible to vote, the ballot will be counted as a regular ballot.

First, check to make sure the voter is in fact at the [correct polling place](#), as up to 50% of polling places may be closed in each county. A notice should have been mailed to all active registered voters by October 23, 2020 informing them of their polling place.¹⁸

If the voter is in the correct polling place, ordinarily, a poll worker at the polling place should be able to double check the district list.¹⁹ New Jersey poll workers have lists only for their own election districts; they do not have master lists. If the voter does not appear on the district list, they should ask the poll worker to check the “street list” to see if the voter’s address falls within a different election district in the county. Hotline volunteers may also [verify that the voter is in the correct district](#) or redirect the voter to the correct district.

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If the poll worker says the voter is not eligible to vote, a voter who thinks they are eligible may vote by provisional ballot after completing the affirmation statement.²⁰ However, a provisional ballot will not be counted unless it is later determined that the voter is eligible to vote.²¹ If the provisional ballot is cast in a district where the voter is not registered, only the votes for those offices and questions for which the voter is qualified to vote will be counted.²²

13. THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED: My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. Could it have been removed? What do I do?

Names can be removed from the list of registered voters only for the following reasons: 1) the voter confirmed in writing that the voter moved out of state; 2) the voter failed to respond to a mailed confirmation notice from the relevant elections official and then did not vote or attempt to vote in two consecutive federal general elections following that failure to respond; 3) the voter was registered in another county at the same time; 4) the voter was convicted of a felony; or 5) the voter died.²³

Any voter whose name was removed from the voter registration list on the basis of a determination of ineligibility who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system.²⁴

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter's name is not appearing on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right polling place. (See [Question #1.](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Questions #1](#) and [#6.](#))
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #1.](#))
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING

14. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in-person absentee voting)? When is it?

Early in-person voting is not explicitly allowed in New Jersey, but the law permits a voter to apply for and pick up a vote-by-mail ballot at the county clerk's office and then hand-deliver the ballot to the board of elections. In most counties, the clerk's office is near the board, making this in-person early voting option more feasible.

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Vote-by-mail ballots should have been mailed to all “active” registered voters on or before October 5, 2020. There are multiple ways to return and cast vote-by-mail ballots prior to Election Day, including in-person delivery.

- **Postmarked by November 3:** Voters who mail their vote-by-mail ballots must ensure that they are postmarked on or before November 3, 2020, and the ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on November 10, 2020. Statutory deadlines that conflict with this schedule are suspended under the statute governing the upcoming election.²⁵ Vote-by-mail ballots came with prepaid return envelopes.
- **Drop boxes by 8:00 p.m., November 3:** Voters can drop the ballots in [secure drop boxes](#) prior to 8:00 p.m. on November 3 (every county must provide at least ten secure ballot drop boxes in locations that are readily accessible to the registered voters in the county).²⁶ Secure drop boxes were set up for ballot drop-off at least 45 days prior to the election (September 19, 2020) and will remain available through the close of polls on November 3, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.²⁷
- **In-person voting by 8:00 p.m., November 3:** A voter may hand-deliver a vote-by-mail ballot to the county board of elections on any day up to and including Election Day so long as it is received by 8:00 p.m. on November 3. The voter may also hand-deliver *only their own ballot* at their assigned polling location by 8:00 p.m. on November 3. (For identification and certification requirements, see [Question #18](#).)

15. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote early?

No. See [Question #14](#).

16. WHEN: When do the polls open/close during early voting?

New Jersey polling places do not open for early voting. See [Question #14](#).

17. WHERE: Where do I vote during early voting?

See [Question # 14](#).

18. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? Can I vote without providing identification?

Voters do not need to provide identification when returning ballots by mail or dropping them off in secure [ballot drop box locations](#).

- *Exception for first time voters:* A person voting by vote-by-mail ballot who did not provide personal identification information when registering to vote and who is voting for the first time in his or her current county of residence should include copies of the required identification information with the vote-by-mail ballot. Failure to include such information with the vote-by-mail ballot will result in its rejection.

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If a voter hand-delivers a completed vote-by-mail ballot to the county board, that voter must provide proof of his/her identity in the form of a New Jersey driver's license, or another form of identification issued or recognized as official by the federal government, the State, or any of its subdivisions, provided that the identification carries the full address and signature of the voter. Additionally, the voter must sign a record kept by the county listing all personally delivered vote-by-mail ballots.

Voters who hand-deliver their own completed ballot to their assigned polling location will *not* be asked for identification but will be required to complete a certification attesting to their name and address and swearing that the ballot is their own.²⁸

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE AND/OR VOTE BY MAIL

19. AUTOMATIC: Do I have to request an absentee/vote-by-mail ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?

The November 3 General Election will be conducted primarily by mail. Vote-by-mail ballots should have been automatically sent to all "active" registered voters on or before October 5, 2020. (An "active" voter is one whose registration is current and accurate.) "Active" voters should *not* have needed to fill out an application for a vote-by-mail ballot.²⁹

An eligible voter who did not automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot, or who wished to receive it at an address different from the one on record with election officials, had several ways to submit an application for a vote-by-mail ballot:

- **By Mail:** A voter who mailed in a [vote-by-mail application](#) must have done so in time for the county clerk to *receive* it on or before October 23, 2020.³⁰
- **In Person:** the voter may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot at the office of the county clerk on any day up to and including Election Day, November 3.³¹
 - Upon receiving a complete and valid application, the clerk will provide the voter with a vote-by-mail ballot. The voter may then fill out the ballot and either: return it by mail, or return it to the board of elections, a secure ballot box, or a designated polling place before 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020.
 - *NOTE:* A voter who plans to return their application for, and pick up and drop off, a vote-by-mail ballot on Election Day should leave enough time to travel from the county clerk's office to the drop-off location before 8:00 p.m.

20. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting my absentee/vote-by-mail ballot?

- **October 23:** To allow the county clerks sufficient time to mail out ballots to voters, [vote-by-mail applications](#) returned by mail must have been *received* by the county clerk by October 23, 2020.³²
- **November 3:** A voter may return a vote-by-mail application *in person* to the county clerk on any day up to and including Election Day, November 3.³³

21. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and/or how can I return my absentee/vote-by-mail ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Vote-by-mail ballot applications may be returned to the county clerk by mail or in person. See [Questions #19](#) and [#20](#). Exceptions exist only for [military and overseas voters](#). See [Question #9](#).

Voters may appoint an “authorized messenger” (a family member or another registered voter in the same county as the voter) on their vote-by-mail ballot application. The authorized messenger must present the application in person at the county clerk’s office, show photo identification, and sign an affirmation on the application in the presence of the clerk certifying that the authorized messenger will deliver the vote-by-mail ballot directly to the voter. No person may serve as an authorized messenger for more than three qualified voters in an election.³⁴

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If a voter is **unable to go the polls at the last minute**, whether because of illness or for any other reason, the law provides a workaround. A messenger may deliver the voter’s vote-by-mail application (available [here](#), scroll to bottom of page) and pick up a blank ballot – at any time up to and including Election Day – and then deliver the blank ballot to the voter. The voter may then complete the blank ballot and cast it by any of the means available to all voters (see [Question #30](#)), including by sending a “bearer” to deliver the ballot (see [Question #32](#)).

22. DIDN’T REQUEST IN TIME: What if I have not requested absentee/vote-by-mail ballot by the deadline?

If the voter missed the October 23, 2020 deadline for mailing in the [application for vote-by-mail ballot](#), the voter can still apply *in person* at the office of the county clerk at any time up to and including Election Day. If an eligible voter does not request or receive a vote-by-mail ballot, the only option is to vote by provisional paper ballot at his/her polling place on Election Day.

23. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a specific reason for requesting to vote by absentee ballot?

No, New Jersey does not require voters to have a specific reason for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot.

24. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my application and/or vote-by-mail ballot?

Voters can [sign up](#) to track the status of their vote-by-mail ballot applications, vote-by-mail ballots, or provisional ballots on the Division of Election’s website. Voters can also call 1-877-658-6837 during normal working hours.

The New Jersey ballot tracker will show whether ballots have been “received.” If the ballot was mailed in the last couple of weeks, the county [may not yet have marked it “received.”](#)

If the ballot was mailed more than two weeks ago and is still not marked “received,” the voter may ask whether he or she should go to the polls to vote. Voting more than once is a crime in New Jersey.³⁵ If the voter chooses to go to the polls, consider advising the voter to let a poll worker know that the voter’s vote-by-mail ballot was sent more than two weeks ago but has not been logged as “received.” The voter can then ask the poll worker for advice on next steps.

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If a voter's vote-by-mail ballot did not arrive, the voter may go to the county clerk's office to get a replacement ballot, or the voter may vote in person by provisional ballot at the voter's designated polling place on Election Day.

25. APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my vote-by-mail ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

New Jersey's Ballot Cure Act, signed into law on August 28, 2020, requires voters to be notified if there is an issue with the signature on their submitted vote-by-mail ballot. They are then given an opportunity to cure the defective signature.

The Act requires each county board of elections to abide by the following procedures and requirements concerning the acceptance or rejection of each vote-by-mail ballot³⁶:

- a. Record in the statewide voter registration system and the free-access system the acceptance or rejection of the voter's ballot. Where the voter's ballot is rejected, a code will be input and displayed showing the reason;
- b. If rejecting a voter's ballot, notify the voter within 72 hours of the receipt of the ballot or, if the voter voted by provisional ballot, within 48 hours of the closing of the polls, by email, mail, or phone with the reason for rejection. The voter will have up to 5 days after the close of the polls on Election Day to cure their ballot. The county board of elections will explain the options for the voter to cure their rejected ballot. To the extent the county board of elections cannot provide such explanation and give the voter sufficient and reasonable time to cure their ballot within the legal deadline for counting ballots, the county board of elections will seek an order from a judge of the Superior Court to reasonably extend the deadline consistent with this State's liberal interpretation of election law statutes so as to prevent voter disenfranchisement;
- c. In cases of rejected ballots, retain the voter's outer envelope, inner envelope, self-certification certificate, and vote-by-mail ballot in a bundle unique to each voter for a period of two years; and
- d. Where the rejection is due to signature mismatch, missing signature, or otherwise related to the inability to verify the voter's ballot by way of signature, the county board of elections will allow and accept other methods from the voter to confirm their vote.

26. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete absentee/vote-by-mail ballot? Are there any identification requirements?

Mark your choices on the ballot in pencil or blue or black ink by filling in the circles completely. You do not have to vote for every race if you don't want to. Fill in only one circle for each race or question. Put the ballot inside the ballot envelope. **Do not detach the affirmation on the flap!** Seal the ballot envelope and complete and sign the affirmation. Put the ballot envelope inside the envelope addressed to your county board of elections.

There are no identification requirements to complete a vote-by-mail ballot. However, your signature on the certification will be compared to the signature the board of elections has on file for you. You must also sign the certification affixed to the margin of the flap on the inner envelope of the mail-in ballot, whether or not you applied for the ballot.³⁷

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If you decide to drop your vote-by-mail ballot off in person at the county board of elections or at your polling place, see [Question #18](#) for identification or certification requirements.

27. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee/vote-by-mail ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

If a voter loses or spoils his/her vote-by-mail ballot, or receives an incorrect ballot, the voter may either: (1) go to the county clerk's office to get a replacement ballot, or (2) vote by provisional ballot at the designated in-person polling location on Election Day.

28. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee/vote-by-mail ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

If a vote-by-mail ballot did not arrive, the voter may either: (1) go to the county clerk's office to get a replacement ballot, or (2) vote by provisional ballot at an in-person polling location in the voter's county on Election Day.

29. IN-PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee/vote-by-mail ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Voters who requested or received a vote-by-mail ballot may vote in person at their designated polling location by provisional paper ballot on Election Day so long as they did not complete and return their vote-by-mail ballot. If you already returned your ballot, you are legally prohibited from voting in person as this would be considered attempting to vote two times.³⁸ If your vote-by-mail ballot was sent more than two weeks ago but is not marked as "received" in the ballot tracker, see [Question #24](#).

30. BALLOT DEADLINES: What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

Postmarked November 3: Vote-by-mail ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020 and received by the voter's county board of elections by 8:00 p.m. on November 10, 2020.

Hand-delivered by 8 p.m. November 3: Ballots may also be dropped off by 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2020 at: (1) a secure ballot drop box location in the voter's county of residence, (2) the county board of elections, or (3) the voter's designated polling place (note that only the voter may drop off his/her ballot at the polls).

31. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS: What are the locations for dropping off a completed ballot (instead of mailing it)?

Voters have a number of ways to drop off their completed ballots by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

- Voters may drop off ballots at [secure drop box locations](#).
- Voters may hand-deliver their own ballots to poll workers at their designated polling place and sign a certification attesting to their name and address and swearing that the ballot is their own.
- Voters may hand-deliver ballots to their county board of elections and provide identification to verify that they are the person who completed the ballot. [See Question #18](#).

32. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: Can someone drop off my completed ballot for me?

If a ballot is being returned *to a designated polling place*, *no*. Only the voter who cast the vote-by-mail ballot may return it to their designated polling place.³⁹

Otherwise, 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 Ballot that exceeds this limit will 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 identification and sign the Bearer Book at the county board of elections.⁴⁰

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If a voter is **unable to go the polls at the last minute**, whether because of illness or for any other reason, the law provides a workaround. A messenger may deliver the voter’s vote-by-mail application (available [here](#), scroll to bottom of page) and pick up a blank ballot – at any time up to and including Election Day – and then deliver the blank ballot to the voter (see [Question #21](#)). The voter may then complete the blank ballot and cast it by any of the means available to all voters (see [Question #30](#)), including by sending a “bearer” to deliver the ballot.

33. IN-PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee?

Early in-person voting is not explicitly allowed in New Jersey, but the law permits a voter to apply for and pick up a vote-by-mail ballot at the county clerk’s office and then hand-deliver the ballot to the board of elections.

Voters who requested or received, but did not complete and return, a vote-by-mail ballot may choose to vote in person at their polling location by provisional paper ballot on Election Day.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

34. HOURS: When do the polls open and close on Election Day? What if the polls are closing but I’m in line?

The polls must be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day.⁴¹ Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.⁴²

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place prohibits those who were in line at 8 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

35. POLLING LOCATION: Where do I vote on Election Day?

Voters can determine their proper polling place [here](#). Also, a notice should have been mailed to all “active” registered voters by October 23, 2020 informing them of their polling place.⁴³

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated his/her voter registration, refer to [Questions #6](#) and [7](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many polling places have been moved or consolidated. Voters should be advised to check the polling place listed on the Voter Notification Card they received from their local election authority or you can check at the [Division of Elections’ website](#).

36. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote on Election Day? Can I vote without providing identification?

Identification is required in only unusual circumstances, listed below. However, all voters who cast their ballots at the polls, other than those with disabilities who need access to ADA-certified machines, will vote by *provisional ballot*. New Jersey’s provisional ballot includes a section asking the voter to provide (1) a driver’s license number or non-driver identification number, (2) the last four digits of a Social Security number, or (3) a signed affirmation that the voter does not have these numbers. The voter will be asked to complete the full ballot, including this section, but if the voter does not recall the numbers, elections officials will take additional steps to confirm the voter’s registration during the count, meaning that a completed provisional ballot will count so long as the voter is registered.

Voters who hand-deliver a completed *vote-by-mail ballot* to their designated polling place will *not* be required to present identification but will be asked to sign a certification attesting to their name and address and swearing that the ballot is their own.

New Jersey voters will need to produce and show identification only in the following circumstances:

First, a first-time voter who registered by mail and did not provide an accurate driver’s license number, non-driver identification number, the last four digits of a Social Security number, or acceptable identification at that time must present identification at the polling place on Election Day in order to vote by provisional paper ballot. Acceptable identification includes either a current and valid photo identification (e.g., New Jersey driver’s license, student or job identification card, store membership card, U.S. passport, military identification), or any current document with the voter’s name and address such as a bank statement, pay check, rent receipt, sample ballot, utility bill, government check, car registration, or non-photo driver’s license.⁴⁴ First-time voters who do not have the requisite identification may still cast a provisional ballot and must complete the written affirmation on the provisional ballot. For the ballot to count, the first-time voter must provide proper identification to the county commissioner of registration by the close of business on the second day after the election.⁴⁵

Second, voters who personally deliver their vote-by-mail ballots to their county boards of elections will be asked for identification to verify that they are the voter who cast the ballot. [See Question #18](#).

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

37. POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN: The polling place is not open. What do I do?

Refer to your county board of elections website or the [New Jersey Division of Elections website](#) to determine the operational polling place to which the voter is assigned. Each county is required to open at least one polling place per municipality, and a minimum of 50 percent of its regularly used polling places.⁴⁶

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If a polling place that should be open is not, notify your hotline captain immediately.

38. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What do I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

The polls must be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day.⁴⁷ *Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.*⁴⁸

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that a polling place closes its doors to voters who were in line at 8 p.m., advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

39. EQUIPMENT FAILURE: What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

On November 3, 2020, almost all voters who wish to vote in person at their polling location will vote by provisional paper ballot. Voters with disabilities will be permitted to vote on ADA-accessible voting machines. Voters should immediately notify poll workers if the voting equipment breaks down.

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

40. NO PPE/COVID: What if my polling place is not enforcing COVID-19 precautions or has run out of supplies?

Each polling place is required to abide by certain requirements related to preventing the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to:

- Limiting occupancy to ensure that social distancing is maintained at all times
- Ensuring appropriate distance through demarcation of six-foot intervals on voter lines and at poll worker stations
- Providing sanitization materials to poll workers, voters, and those accompanying voters
- Requiring poll workers and appointed challengers to adhere to CDC guidelines, including wearing a face covering inside the polling place unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health, and strongly encouraging voters and those accompanying them to do the same

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

However, a voter or person accompanying a voter may *not* be denied entry to the polling location if they refuse to comply with CDC guidelines.⁴⁹

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If these guidelines are not being enforced or sanitization supplies have run out, contact your hotline captain immediately.

41. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE: I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

On November 3, 2020, almost all voters who wish to vote in person at their polling location will vote by provisional paper ballot. Voters with disabilities will be permitted to vote on ADA-accessible voting machines. Instructions on the proper operation of the voting machines must be posted and/or made available at the polling place.⁵⁰ A person who needs assistance because he or she is disabled or is unable to read or write may designate someone of their own choice to provide such assistance.⁵¹ Two members of the county board of elections of opposite political affiliations may also provide assistance.⁵²

42. PHYSICAL DISABILITY: I have a physical disability and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

All polling places in New Jersey should be accessible to voters with disabilities.⁵³ If there is an accessibility issue at a particular polling location, voters with disabilities can [contact their county election officials](#) for a referral to a nearby accessible location with a common ballot.

The electronic voting machines that most New Jersey counties normally use can be re-positioned so that voters seated in wheelchairs can use them. For those who are visually impaired, the machines have an audio function available upon request. Also, if a voter is blind, disabled, or cannot read the ballot, the voter may have someone of their choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, assist them in the voting booth, or two members of the county board of elections of opposite political affiliations may help the voter.⁵⁴

43. READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. Anyone who has a disability or cannot read or write is entitled to have a person of their choice, other than the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, mark the voter's choices or assist the voter in marking their choices on the ballot.⁵⁵ In addition, assistance can be provided by two members of the county board of elections of opposite political affiliations.⁵⁶

44. CURBSIDE VOTING: When can I request curbside voting?

New Jersey is not using curbside voting.

45. CAMPAIGNING: What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?

New Jersey prohibits electioneering, otherwise trying to influence voters, or distributing materials within the polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.⁵⁷

46. CHALLENGES: Someone is formally challenging my vote. What do I do?

New Jersey law allows candidates and political party officials to appoint challengers.⁵⁸ Only one challenger for any party, candidate, or public question may be present in the polls at a time, and all challengers must wear a badge identifying the person or party for which the challenger is acting.⁵⁹ Challengers may not challenge voters directly, as only election officials may ask the voter questions.⁶⁰ Challengers are authorized to challenge the right of a voter to cast a ballot.⁶¹ They have a right to be present while votes are counted and to challenge the qualification or rejection of any ballot.⁶² Challengers may not challenge votes on the basis of the voter's race, color, national origin, place of residence, expected manner of casting a vote or residence in a particular ward, housing complex or section of a municipality or county, except to challenge whether the voter lives in that particular election district at all.⁶³

47. POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE: There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What do I do?

On-duty police may be present at the polls only at the request of election officials who seek their assistance to keep the peace. The New Jersey Attorney General has issued [comprehensive guidance](#) for law enforcement activities on Election Day.

Members of the military should not be at a polling place unless they are there to vote.⁶⁴

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

48. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Because New Jersey's November 3, 2020 general election is being conducted primarily via vote-by-mail, *nearly everyone* who chooses to vote in person at a polling location will be required to vote by provisional paper ballot. Exceptions will be made only for voters with physical disabilities, who will be allowed to vote on an ADA-accessible voting machine. Voters with disabilities may receive assistance with voting either from a person of their own choice or from two members of the county board of elections of opposite political affiliations.

*** Note to hotline volunteer:** Remind the voter to complete the written affirmation on the provisional ballot completely.

QUESTIONS

49. Whom should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

Voters and volunteers should contact the voter’s county board of elections with questions about the November 3, 2020 election. Contact information for all county election officials is available here: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml>.

In addition, voters can call 1-877-NJ-VOTER (1-877-658-6837).

¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6; <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>.

² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.

³ 2020 General Election Timeline, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/chrons/2020-chron-general-election-0828a.pdf>.

⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.3(b).

⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(a).

⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-3(b), (c).

⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(d) sets the time at 21 days before the election, but in *Afran v. County of Somerset*, 244 N.J. Super. 229 (App. Div. 1990), the Appellate Division held that a voter cannot be disenfranchised because of the 30-day durational residency requirement for voting in the destination county. See N.J. Const., art. II, ¶ 3(a); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-5. Thus, the effective period is 30 days. A voter who moves from one county in the state to another within 30 days of the election can vote provisionally in the last district where the voter was registered; a voter who moves from one county to another within the state 31 days or more before the election and fails to register may not vote until duly registered at the new address. A voter who moves to New Jersey from out-of-state must register and reside at the new address for 30 days before the election in order to vote.

⁸ *Supra* note 7.

⁹ *Supra* note 7.

¹⁰ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(a) (amending N.J.S.A. 19:63-31).

¹¹ P.L. 2020, C. 72(2)(j).

¹² P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(k)(4).

¹³ <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-college-students.shtml>.

¹⁴ <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-military-and-overseas.shtml>.

¹⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:4-1(8).

¹⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:4-1(8), 19:31-17(c); 19:31-6.

¹⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:4-1(8).

¹⁸ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(c).

¹⁹ Under P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(f), the “Secretary of State may modify the requirements concerning the use of poll books and the information contained therein.” At the time of the preparation of these FAQs, no modifications have been issued.

²⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(g).

²¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-13.

²² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-17.

²³ 52 U.S.C. § 20507(d)(2)(A); N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:31-6.5(4), 19:31-15(c), 19:31-16(a), 19:31-17.

²⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-19.

²⁵ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(m).

²⁶ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(z).

²⁷ <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/reopening-guidance-and-restrictions/how-can-i-vote-this-november-how-have-elections-moved-or-changed-in-new-jersey-because-of-covid-19>.

²⁸ See generally P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(h).

²⁹ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(a), (j).

³⁰ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(k)(4).

³¹ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(k)(5).

³² P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(k)(4).

³³ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(k)(5) suspends the deadline for submitting an application in person to the county clerk, which is normally 3:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

³⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-4.

³⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:34-11 to -12.

³⁶ <https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/1234587>; P.L.2020, c.70. See also P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(o).

³⁷ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(aa).

³⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:34-11 to -12.

³⁹ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(h).

⁴⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d).

⁴¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:15-2, 19:23-40.

⁴² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

⁴³ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(c).

⁴⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:15-17(b), 19:31-5.

⁴⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-1(b), 19:53C-3(i).

⁴⁶ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(e).

⁴⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:15-2, 19:23-40.

⁴⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

⁴⁹ P.L. 2020 C. 72(2)(e).

⁵⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-2(b); N.J. Admin. Code § 15:10-6.9(a)(3).

⁵¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

⁵² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

⁵³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:8-3.1. This statute permits the Attorney General to declare a state of emergency or grant temporary waivers to allow the use of inaccessible polling places. See also N.J. Admin. Code § 15:10-6.8.

⁵⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

⁵⁵ 52 U.S.C. § 10508; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

⁵⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

⁵⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:34-6, 19:34-7, 19:34-15.

⁵⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:7-1, 19:7-2.

⁵⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:7-6, 19:7-6.1.

⁶⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-22.

⁶¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:7-5.

⁶² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:7-5.

⁶³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-18.

⁶⁴ 18 U.S.C. § 592.