



Frequently Asked Questions

New Jersey – General Election 2022

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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. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

The voter can register to vote online, in person, or by filling out a paper registration form 21 days before Election Day (October 18, 2022).

To register to vote in New Jersey, the voter must be¹:

- A United States citizen;
- At least 17 years old, though the voter may not vote until they have reached the age of 18;
- A resident of the county for 30 days before the election;
- Not incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction under state or federal law.

2. **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 (1-877-658-6837).

3. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person? What if I don't have access to a computer?

Eligible voters who wish to register must fill out their county's voter [registration form](#). Forms are available online at Elections.NJ.gov or they can be picked up at a voter registration agency or other public agency.²

The registration form can be submitted in a number of ways:³

- As of September 4, 2020, eligible voters may [register online](#).⁴
- 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, the voter 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.⁵

¹ N.J. Const. art. II, § 1, ¶ 3; N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:4-1, 19:31-5; Voter Registration Requirements, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.3.

³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6; Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

⁴ Voter Registration Application, <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6(i)

⁵ Voter Registration, <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/voterreg.htm>; see also N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:31-6(b), (c), (d), 19:31-6.3.

4. 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.⁶ 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.⁷ 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, paycheck, rent receipt, sample ballot, utility bill, government check, car registration, non-photo driver's license, or any other official document.⁸

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.⁹ 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, but voters who use a driver's license or other MVC identification do not need to include a digital signature.¹⁰

5. 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.¹¹ The registration deadline for the November 8, 2022 election is October 18, 2022.¹² Registration forms have to be either postmarked or delivered in person by this date.¹³ Online registration also has to be completed by October 18.¹⁴

6. SAME DAY: Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?

No. New Jersey does not have same-day registration. The registration deadline is October 18, 2022.

7. 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 district or moved to a new county.¹⁵ The chart below explains.

⁶ New Jersey Voter Registration Application, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/assets/pdf/forms-voter-registration/68-voter-registration-english.pdf>; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.4(a)(11).

⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.4(a)(11).

⁸ [New Jersey Voters' Bill of Rights](#); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.4(a)(11).

⁹ Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.

¹² Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml> (Voter Registration FAQs).

¹³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.3(b).

¹⁴ Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

¹⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:31-11(b), 19:53C-3(a)-(e).

Moved within the same district	Moved to a different district in the same county	Moved to a different district in a different county	Moved from a different state
The voter may cast a <u>regular ballot</u> upon completing a written affirmation at the polling place. ¹⁶	The voter may vote by <u>provisional ballot</u> in the district to which the voter has moved upon completing a written affirmation at the polling place. ¹⁷	If, <u>on or before the 31st day prior to the election</u> , a voter has moved into the county from another state or county and has not registered to vote, the voter is ineligible to vote. 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 eligible to vote in the county where they last resided and registered. ¹⁸	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. ¹⁹

8. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?

If the voter moved within the same district, the voter may cast a regular ballot upon completing a written affirmation at the polling place. If the voter moved to a different county within 30 days of the election, they are eligible to vote in the county where they last resided and registered. If the voter moved to a different district within the same county, the voter may vote by provisional ballot in the district to which the voter has moved upon completing a written affirmation at the polling place. See [Question 7](#).

9. 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).²⁰ The students must meet the generally applicable standards (i.e., must be at least 17 years old (though they cannot vote until they turn 18), a U.S. citizen, a resident in the district in which they intend to vote, a resident of the state or county for 30 days before the election, and not otherwise disqualified from voting).²¹ This is true regardless of whether the college student intends to reside permanently in New Jersey.²²

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

¹⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(a).

¹⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-3(b), (c).

¹⁸ In *Afran v. County of Somerset*, 244 N.J. Super. 229 (App. Div. 1990), the Appellate Division held that a voter, once duly registered in New Jersey, cannot be disenfranchised because of the 30-day durational residency requirement for voting in the destination county. See N.J. Const., art. II, § I, ¶ 3(a); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-5. Thus, 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 unless 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.

¹⁹ *Afran*, 244 N.J. Super. 229; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-5.

²⁰ Student Voter Registration & Voting, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-students.shtml>.

²¹ *Afran*, 244 N.J. Super. 229; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-5.

²² *Worden v. Mercer Cnty. Bd. of Elec.*, 61 N.J. 325, 348–49 (1972).

There are several ways in which eligible voters in the military and/or overseas may register to vote. Like other voters, they may fill out and mail a New Jersey [voter registration form](#), which must be postmarked by October 18, 2022, or they may [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 be received by October 18, 2022, whether returned by mail, email, or fax.²³

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, the voter must separately [apply for a vote-by-mail ballot](#) by November 1, 2022.²⁴

There are also several ways in which military and overseas voters may receive their ballots, including by air-mail, fax, or email.²⁵ Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before November 8, 2022.²⁶ Faxed or emailed ballots must be received by the appropriate county board of elections by 8:00 p.m. local time on November 8, 2022 (*i.e.*, the close of polls), **and** the voter must also mail the original ballot to the county board of election.²⁷

Voters who timely apply but do not receive their state mail-in ballot may also use a [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot](#).

To get a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, go to: <https://www.fvap.gov/>. The voter can email or fax their FWAB to their county board of election. If the voter faxes or emails the ballot, they must also sign and send the FWAB cover sheet.²⁸ This cover sheet constitutes a waiver of secrecy because the ballot is not being sent in a sealed envelope. Election officials are still legally prohibited from disclosing anyone's vote.

11. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to 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.²⁹ Once a person with a felony conviction is released from incarceration, the person must complete a new voter registration form and mail or hand-deliver it by the registration deadline of October 18 (21 days before the election).³⁰ Neither pretrial detainees nor persons with misdemeanor convictions (also called “disorderly persons offenses” in New Jersey) are disqualified from voting.³¹

12. INCARCERATED: I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to 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.³²

²³ 52 U.S.C. § 20302.

²⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(b).

²⁵ Military and Overseas Voting, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-military-and-overseas.shtml>.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Federal Voting Assistance Program, New Jersey, <https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/new-jersey>.

²⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:4-1(8).

³⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:31-17(c), 19:31-6; Voter Rights and Accessibility Information, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voter-rights.shtml>.

³¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:4-1(8).

³² *Id.*

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.³³ 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 [apply for a vote-by-mail ballot](#) by the application deadline, November 1, 2022.³⁴

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

13. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

The polls must be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day.³⁵ Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.³⁶

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

Voters can determine their proper polling place using the [Election Day Polling Place Search Tool](#).

If a voter has moved recently and has not updated their voter registration, refer to [Questions 7 and 8](#).

15. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?

The polls must be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day.³⁷ Stay in line. Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.³⁸

***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.

16. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote on Election Day?

Identification is required only in unusual circumstances, listed below.

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 machine.³⁹ 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

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ Vote-by-Mail, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml> (Vote-by-Mail FAQs).

³⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-2.

³⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

³⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-2.

³⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

³⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:15-17(b), 19:31-5.

address such as a bank statement, paycheck, rent receipt, sample ballot, utility bill, government check, car registration, or non-photo driver's license.⁴⁰ 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.⁴¹ 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.⁴²

- **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.⁴³ The forms of identification specified above will suffice so long as they include the full address and signature of the voter. The voter must also sign a book in which the board records all vote-by-mail ballots that are personally delivered.⁴⁴

17. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?

Typically, yes, *unless* the circumstances described in [Question 16](#) apply.

18. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?

Hotline volunteers should [verify that the voter is in the correct district](#) or redirect the voter to the correct district. In addition, if the voter is in the correct polling place, a poll worker should be able to double-check the district list.⁴⁵ New Jersey poll workers have lists only for their own election districts; they do not have master lists for the whole state.⁴⁶ If the voter does not appear on the district list, the voter 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.

If the poll worker says a voter is not eligible to vote, a voter who believes otherwise may vote by provisional ballot after completing the affirmation statement.⁴⁷ However, a provisional ballot will not be counted unless it is later determined that the voter is eligible to vote.⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹

19. PROVISIONAL BALLOT: If I don't have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?

⁴⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:15-17(b), 19:31-5.

⁴¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-17(b); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-1(b).

⁴² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-1(b), 19:53C-3(i).

⁴³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ See N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-18 (noting polling places have district lists); see also N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-35 (providing that polling places must use electronic poll books that give poll workers access to voters' registration information).

⁴⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-18.

⁴⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(g).

⁴⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-13.

⁴⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-17.

Provisional ballots are paper ballots that are used at the polling place on Election Day. A voter whose name is not on the rolls may request and complete a provisional ballot, but the ballot will be counted only if election officials conclude that the voter was qualified to vote.⁵⁰

The following individuals must vote by provisional ballot⁵¹:

- A registered voter who moved from one county in New Jersey to another within 30 days before the election must vote provisionally in the last district where the voter was registered;
- A registered voter who moved to a new election district within their county and did not notify the County Commissioner of Registration before Election Day of their new address must vote provisionally in the new district;
- A voter whose registration information is not complete in the poll book, for example their signature or address is missing, must vote provisionally;
- A voter who has not yet provided identification information must vote provisionally and must present identification to their county commissioner of registration within two days after the election; and
- A voter who applied for a vote-by-mail ballot but did not receive it or did not complete it must vote provisionally.⁵²

HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING **(in some states called “in-person absentee”)**

20. AVAILABILITY: Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in-person absentee voting)?

Yes. On March 30, 2021, New Jersey enacted a law allowing all registered voters to cast a ballot in person before Election Day.⁵³ During the 2022 General Election, early voting will be held from Saturday, October 29 through Sunday, November 6.⁵⁴ Early voting sites in each county will be open on Mondays through Saturdays at least from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday at least from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.⁵⁵

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

No. So long as the voter is registered to vote, there are no eligibility requirements for in-person early voting.⁵⁶

22. WHEN: When does early voting begin/end?

⁵⁰ N.J. State. Ann. §§ 19:53C-13, 19:53C-17.

⁵¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3; *Afran*, 244 N.J. Super. 229.

⁵² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-20(b).

⁵³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1.

⁵⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(a)(1); In-Person Early Voting in New Jersey is Here!, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>.

⁵⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(c); In-Person Early Voting in New Jersey is Here!, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>.

⁵⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(a).

See [Question 20](#). During the 2022 General Election, early voting will be held from Saturday, October 29, through Sunday, November 6.⁵⁷ Any registered voter in line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early voting site must be permitted to vote.⁵⁸

23. WHERE: *Where do I vote during early voting?*

Registered voters can vote at any early voting site in their county.⁵⁹ Early voting locations may vary from a voter’s polling location on Election Day.⁶⁰

Early voting locations will be posted here: <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>.

24. IDENTIFICATION: *What identification is required for early voting? What if I don’t have an ID?*

Identification is required only in unusual circumstances. See [Question 16](#).

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE/VOTE BY MAIL

25. ELIGIBILITY: *Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?*

New Jersey replaced the term “absentee” with “vote-by-mail” in 2009; there is no functional difference between absentee and vote-by-mail ballots.⁶¹ Every active registered voter is eligible to receive a vote-by-mail ballot by applying for one.⁶² The voter does not need any special reason to vote by mail.

26. REQUESTING A BALLOT: *Do I have to request an absentee/vote-by-mail ballot or will my state mail me one automatically? How do I request one?*

Every registered voter is eligible to receive a vote-by-mail ballot by applying for one.⁶³ When filling out the [vote-by-mail application](#), the voter can elect whether to be placed on the default vote-by-mail list going forward (i.e., they will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for all future elections) or instead to receive a vote-by-mail ballot only for an upcoming election.⁶⁴

⁵⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(a)(1); In-Person Early Voting in New Jersey is Here!, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>.

⁵⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(c).

⁵⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(b)(1).

⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(a); Vote-By-Mail, <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

⁶³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(a).

⁶⁴ *Id.*

A voter can check whether they are on the default vote-by-mail list by going to the [Track My Ballot site](#), creating or opening their personal voter account, and checking their mail-in ballot history. To create an account on this site, a voter will need their driver's license number, the last four digits of their Social Security number, or their Voter ID number. They can locate their Voter ID number by [checking their voter registration status online](#). Alternatively, the voter can call their [county clerk](#).

If a voter no longer wants to receive a vote-by-mail ballot automatically, the voter must notify the appropriate county clerk's office in writing.⁶⁵

A voter who wants a vote-by-mail ballot but does not automatically receive one, or who wants to receive one at an address different from the last mailing address on file with election officials, must complete an [application to vote by mail](#). Applications for vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail or in person to [the voter's county clerk](#).⁶⁶ For the November 8 election, the [postmark](#) deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot by mail is November 1,⁶⁷ and the [in-person](#) application deadline is November 7 by 3:00 p.m.⁶⁸ November 8 is the deadline to either drop off or postmark the actual vote-by-mail [ballot](#); if postmarked, the ballot must be received by the voter's county board of elections on or before November 14, 2022.⁶⁹ If the ballot is missing a postmark, it will still be counted if the Postal Service delivers it within 48 hours after the polls close on November 8.⁷⁰

27. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

- **By Mail – November 1:** To allow the county clerk sufficient time to mail out ballots to voters, vote-by-mail applications returned by mail must be received by November 1, 2022.⁷¹
- **In Person – November 7, 3:00 p.m.:** A voter may request a vote-by-mail application in person at the county clerk by November 7 at 3:00 p.m.⁷²

28. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

Generally, voters do not need to provide a copy of their ID in order to cast a vote-by-mail ballot. Some first-time voters must present identification, however, and so must voters who drop off their vote-by-mail ballots in person. See [Question 16](#).

29. EMERGENCY: Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

New Jersey has procedures for emergency ballots when voting machines fail to operate, but not for absentee voting.⁷³

⁶⁵ *Id.*; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3.1(a), (b).

⁶⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(b), (c), 19:63-5

⁶⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(b).

⁶⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(d).

⁶⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-22.

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(b), (c).

⁷² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(d).

⁷³ N.J. State. Ann. § 19:53B-3.

30. APPLICATION RETURN: Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

Applications for vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail or in person to [the voter's county clerk](#).⁷⁴

Voters are entitled to apply for and obtain a vote-by-mail ballot through an authorized messenger (a family member or a registered voter of the county in which the application is made).⁷⁵ The authorized messenger must sign the application and provide identification to the county clerk upon submission of the application.⁷⁶ An individual cannot serve as an authorized messenger for more than three people in an election, except that an authorized messenger may apply for vote-by-mail ballots for up to five members of the messenger's immediate family.⁷⁷

31. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?

A voter can track their ballot online by setting up a voter access account on the [Track My Ballot Portal](#). To set up an account, the voter will be asked to provide their driver's license number, the last four digits of their Social Security number, or their Voter ID number. The system compares that to their voter file to verify their account. If their file does not contain some of that information, they may have some trouble creating an account. The voter can locate their Voter ID number by [checking their voter registration status online](#). They can use their Voter ID number (or the other numbers mentioned) to create a voter access account to track their ballot.

Voters can also track their ballot by contacting their [county clerk](#) or by calling 1-877-NJ-VOTER (1-877-658-6837). If their ballot was not counted, they can find out why it was rejected.

32. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and 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.⁷⁸ They are then given an opportunity to cure the defective ballot. The voter will have up to 48 hours before the date for the final certification of election results to cure their ballot.⁷⁹

33. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the absentee ballot?

Voters should mark their choices on the ballot in blue or black ink by filling in the circles completely. Voters do not have to vote for every race if they 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 the voter's county board of elections.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(b), (c), 19:63-5.

⁷⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-4(a).

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-17(b)(1).

⁷⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-17(b)(2).

⁸⁰ See N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-12, -13, -16.

There are no identification requirements to complete a vote-by-mail ballot. However, the voter's signature on the certification will be compared to the signature the board of elections has on file for the voter. The voter must also sign the certification printed on the margin of the flap affixed to the inner envelope of the mail-in ballot.⁸¹ Again, do not detach this flap!

If a voter decides to drop their vote-by-mail ballot off in person at the county board of elections, see [Question 16](#) for identification requirements.

34. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT: Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

A family member may assist the voter in marking or inspecting the ballot.⁸²

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

Voters **cannot** bring their voted ballot to the polling place on Election Day or during early voting. However, there are multiple ways to return and cast vote-by-mail ballots prior to and on Election Day, including in-person delivery.

- **Postmarked on or before Election Day:** Voters who mail their vote-by-mail ballots must ensure that they are postmarked on or before November 8, 2022, and the ballot must be received by the voter's county Board of Elections on or before November 14, 2022, by 8:00 p.m.⁸³ If the ballot is missing a postmark, it will still be counted if the Postal Service delivers it within 48 hours after the polls close on November 8.⁸⁴ In some counties, vote-by-mail ballots come with prepaid return envelopes, but in others, voters must use a stamp.⁸⁵ A voter can [call their county clerk](#) to find out about their own county.
- **Drop boxes by 8:00 p.m., November 8:** Voters can drop the ballots in secure drop boxes before 8:00 p.m. on November 8.⁸⁶ Each county must provide at least 10 secure ballot drop boxes, and they must be available for at least 45 days prior to the election.⁸⁷
- **Hand delivery by 8:00 p.m., November 8:** 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 8. (For identification requirements, see [Question 16](#)).⁸⁸
- **Delivery by authorized messenger:** A person who transports a completed vote-by-mail ballot for someone else is considered a "bearer." Bearers are limited to three non-household ballots per election and up to five ballots per election if the voters are immediate family members residing in the same household as the bearer. 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. By signing, the bearer certifies that he or she received a mail-in ballot directly from the voter, and no other person, and is authorized to deliver the

⁸¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(a).

⁸² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-11(a), -16(c).

⁸³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-22.

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

⁸⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16.1(a).

⁸⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-16.1(b)(1), (c).

⁸⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

ballot to the appropriate board of elections on behalf of the voter.⁸⁹ The bearer may deliver another voter's ballot only to a county board of elections, a secure ballot drop box, or USPS mailbox – NOT to a polling location on Election Day. 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.⁹⁰

36. BALLOT DROP OF LOCATIONS: Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

Voters can drop off their ballot at a drop box or hand-deliver their ballot to their county board of elections:

- **Drop boxes by 8:00 p.m., November 8:** Voters can drop their mail-in ballots in secure drop boxes before 8:00 p.m. on November 8.⁹¹ Each county must provide at least 10 secure ballot drop boxes, and they must be available for at least 45 days prior to the election.⁹²
- **Hand delivery by 8:00 p.m., November 8:** 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 8. (For identification requirements, see [Question 16](#)).⁹³

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

Yes. A person who transports a voted vote-by-mail ballot for someone else is considered a “bearer.” Bearers are limited to three non-household ballots per election or up to five ballots per election if the voters are immediate family members residing in the same household as the bearer. 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. By signing, the bearer certifies that he or she received a mail-in ballot directly from the voter, and no other person, and is authorized to deliver the ballot to the appropriate board of elections on behalf of the voter.⁹⁴ The bearer may deliver another voter's ballot only to a county board of elections, a secure ballot drop box, or USPS mailbox – NOT to a polling location on Election Day. 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.⁹⁵

38. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee 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) request a replacement ballot from the county clerk's office,⁹⁶ or (2) cast a provisional ballot at their polling location on Election Day.⁹⁷

39. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

⁸⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(3).

⁹⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

⁹¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16.1(a).

⁹² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-16.1(b)(1), (c).

⁹³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

⁹⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(3).

⁹⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

⁹⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(b), (c), (d); Vote-By-Mail FAQs, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

⁹⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-20(b).

Counties will begin mailing absentee ballots to voters 45 days before an election (September 24, 2022), but some counties will begin before then.⁹⁸ 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,⁹⁹ or (2) cast a provisional ballot in person at their polling location on Election Day.¹⁰⁰

40. IN-PERSON ABSENTEE: Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

If a voter is registered to vote by mail but prefers to vote in person, the voter may opt out of receiving a vote-by-mail ballot.¹⁰¹ A voter can check whether they are on the default vote-by-mail list by going to the [Track My Ballot site](#), creating or opening their personal voter account, and checking their mail-in ballot history. To create an account on this site, a voter will need their driver's license number, the last four digits of their Social Security number, or their Voter ID number. They can locate their Voter ID number by [checking their voter registration status online](#). Alternatively, the voter can call their [county clerk](#). If a voter no longer wants to receive a vote-by-mail ballot automatically, the voter must notify the appropriate county clerk's office in writing.¹⁰²

Voters who are registered to vote by mail but opt out before the county clerk sends them a mail-in ballot can vote in person by machine either through early voting or on Election Day. Voters who do not opt out in time may cast a provisional paper ballot in person at an early voting location or on Election Day if they have not returned their mail-in ballot to their county board of elections.¹⁰³

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

The voter should refer to their county board of elections website or the [New Jersey Division of Elections polling place locator](#) to determine the operational polling place to which the voter is assigned. Voters should immediately call 866-OUR-VOTE to report a polling place that should be open but is not.

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

42. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place. What should 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.¹⁰⁴ Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.¹⁰⁵

⁹⁸ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

⁹⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(b), (c), (d); Vote-By-Mail FAQs, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

¹⁰⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-20(b).

¹⁰¹ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

¹⁰² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(a), 19:63-3.1(a), (b).

¹⁰³ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-3(j), 19:63-20(b).

¹⁰⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-2.

¹⁰⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

***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.

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

Voters should immediately notify poll workers if the voting equipment breaks down and call 866-OUR-VOTE to report issues.

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

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

Instructions on the proper operation of the voting machines must be posted and/or made available at the polling place.¹⁰⁶ Two members of the county board of elections of opposite political affiliations may assist a voter who is disabled or unable to read or write in marking the voter's choices or helping the voter to mark their choices on the ballot.¹⁰⁷ Alternatively, such a voter may designate someone of their own choice to assist them, except that the voter's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union may not provide assistance.¹⁰⁸

45. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

All polling places in New Jersey should be accessible to voters with disabilities.¹⁰⁹ 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. Voters can also call 866-OUR-VOTE to report accessibility issues.

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.

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.¹¹⁰

46. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** I am blind or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

A voter 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.¹¹¹ In addition, assistance can be provided by

¹⁰⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-2(b); N.J. Admin. Code § 15:10-6.9(a)(3).

¹⁰⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

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

¹⁰⁹ 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.

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

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

two members of the county board of elections of opposite political affiliations.¹¹² The person assisting a voter can enter the voting booth with the voter, if that is the voter's preference.¹¹³

Some counties are required under federal law to provide translations of all voting materials into one or more languages.¹¹⁴ The language requirements vary based on the county's population of eligible voters who have limited-proficiency in English. In New Jersey, the following counties are covered under this law: Bergen (Spanish, Korean), Camden (Spanish), Cumberland (Spanish), Essex (Spanish), Hudson (Spanish), Middlesex (Spanish, Asian Indian (including Sikh)), Passaic (Spanish), and Union (Spanish).¹¹⁵

***Notes to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that voting materials are not provided in the mandatory languages at any polling place in these counties, notify your hotline captain immediately. If a voter calls and only speaks Spanish or an Asian language, they should dial 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA or 1-888-API-VOTE to get someone on the line who can help the voter.

47. **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.¹¹⁶

48. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

New Jersey law allows candidates and political party officials to appoint challengers.¹¹⁷ Ordinarily, 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.¹¹⁸

Challengers may not challenge voters directly, as only election officials may ask the voter questions.¹¹⁹

Challengers are authorized to challenge the right of a voter to cast a ballot.¹²⁰ They have a right to be present while votes are counted and to challenge the qualification or rejection of any ballot.¹²¹

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.¹²²

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

¹¹² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

¹¹³ *Id.*

¹¹⁴ 52 U.S.C. § 10503(b), (c).

¹¹⁵ 86 Fed. Reg. 69,611, 69,615 (Dec. 8, 2021), <https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1460416/download>.

¹¹⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:34-6, 19:34-7, 19:34-15.

¹¹⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:7-1, 19:7-2.

¹¹⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:7-6.1, 19:7-6.

¹¹⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-22.

¹²⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:7-5.

¹²¹ *Id.*

¹²² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-18.

On-duty police may be present at the polls only at the request of election officials who seek their assistance, and poll workers may request police presence only to respond to a specific emergency, criminal conduct, or disturbance at the polls. Police may remain at a polling place only as long as such a response demands.¹²³

Members of the military should not be at a polling place unless they are there to vote.¹²⁴

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

50. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should 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 and sentenced to a term of incarceration; or 5) the voter died.¹²⁵

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 be restored to the statewide voter registration system.¹²⁶

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 the voter is registered to vote and the [polling place search](#) to make sure the voter is at the right polling location.
- Has the voter moved recently? Could the voter be registered at an old address? Check that address in the [registration lookup tool](#).
- Has the voter had a name change recently, or could the voter 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](#).
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

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

A provisional ballot is cast by a voter whose eligibility to vote cannot be confirmed at the polls on Election Day.¹²⁷ If, after the election, it is determined that the voter who cast the provisional ballot was eligible to vote, the ballot will be counted.¹²⁸ Just like vote-by-mail ballots, all valid provisional ballots will be counted.¹²⁹ The voter should be sure to follow carefully all the provisional ballot instructions when casting their ballot.

¹²³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:6-16(b); *see also* Guidance to All Law Enforcement Chief Executives and All County Prosecutors from Matthew J. Platkin, Acting Attorney General (Feb. 18, 2022), https://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/agguide/2022_Law-Enforcement-Guidance-for-Elections.pdf.

¹²⁴ 18 U.S.C. § 592.

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

¹²⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-19.

¹²⁷ *See* N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3.

¹²⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-13.

¹²⁹ *Id.*

To ensure that the voter is the person who cast the provisional ballot, the county board of elections will compare the voter’s signature on the affirmation statement to the signature in the voter’s file.¹³⁰ If the voter’s signature is missing or if it does not match the signature in their voter file, the county board of elections must undertake the following procedure:

If the voter’s ballot is tentatively rejected because of a signature issue, the county will mail the voter a Cure Letter within 24 hours of its review.¹³¹ The Cure Letter will include a “Cure Form,” allowing the voter to verify their ballot.¹³²

- The voter will have to verify their identity by providing their driver’s license number, the last four digits of their Social Security number, or a state-accepted ID—such as an official document that lists their name and address, a utility or telephone bill, or tax or rent receipt.¹³³
- The voter must sign and date the form. They will have until 48 hours before the election certification date to return the form to their county board of elections, either in person, by fax, by email, or by mail (mail must be received—not just postmarked—not later than 48 hours before the final certification date).¹³⁴

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

52. LANGUAGE ACCESS: I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

Some counties are required under federal law to provide translations of all voting materials into one or more languages.¹³⁵ The language requirements vary based on the county’s population of eligible voters who have limited-proficiency in English. In New Jersey, the following counties are covered under this law: Bergen (Spanish, Korean), Camden (Spanish), Cumberland (Spanish), Essex (Spanish), Hudson (Spanish), Middlesex (Spanish, Asian Indian (including Sikh)), Passaic (Spanish), and Union (Spanish).¹³⁶

***Notes to hotline volunteer:** If you learn that voting materials are not provided in the mandatory languages at any polling place in these counties, notify your hotline captain immediately. If a voter calls and only speaks Spanish or an Asian language, they should dial 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA or 1-888-API-VOTE to get someone on the line who can help the voter.

53. CURBSIDE VOTING: Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

New Jersey does not use curbside voting.

54. VOTER GUIDE: Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

¹³⁰ *Id.*

¹³¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-17(b).

¹³² *Id.*

¹³³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-17(b)(4).

¹³⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-17(b)(2).

¹³⁵ 52 U.S.C. § 10503(b), (c).

¹³⁶ 86 Fed. Reg. 69,611, 69,615 (Dec. 8, 2021), <https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1460416/download>.

Yes, voters may bring written material into the polling place for the voter's personal use in casting a vote.¹³⁷

QUESTIONS

55. **QUESTIONS:** Who 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 8, 2022, election. Contact information for all county election officials is available here: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/county-ee.shtml>.

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

¹³⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:12-7.1(a).