



Frequently Asked Questions

New Jersey – General Election 2023

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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 17, 2023).

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

- 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.¹

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?](#)

Primaries are semi-closed under New Jersey law. To vote in a primary election, a voter must be registered as either a Democrat or a Republican and may vote only in their party's primary. A voter may either declare a party affiliation on the voter registration form or by filing a political party affiliation declaration form with the municipal clerk or the county commissioner of registration.²

A registered voter who has never voted in a primary and never declared a party affiliation may do so by completing a political party affiliation declaration form at a polling place during early primary voting or on Primary Election Day. A voter who has previously declared a party affiliation or voted in a primary may not, however, change their affiliation during the primary election. To switch party affiliation, a voter must complete a new political party affiliation declaration form and file it with the municipal clerk or the county commissioner of registration at least 55 days before the primary election.³

A voter who has affiliated with a party and is on the default vote-by-mail list, meaning that the voter generally receives a vote-by-mail ballot for all elections (see [Question 31](#)), will receive their party's primary ballot by mail. If the voter is unaffiliated with a political party, however, the voter will not receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the primary election even if the voter is on the default vote-by-mail list. Instead, county officials are required to send unaffiliated voters on the default list a party affiliation declaration form and information on how to vote in person in the primary.⁴ The law does not specify how or when the voter is to receive any personal communication, however. The only specific notice provision requires county commissioners of registration to publish in newspapers in each municipality in their counties that unaffiliated default vote-by-mail voters will need to vote in person at the primary. This notice-by-publication must take place 69 days (about 10 weeks) before the primary to give voters time to declare a party affiliation in advance of the deadline 55 days before the election.⁵

To confirm a voter's party affiliation for the purpose of primary voting, a poll worker may ask a voter about their affiliation, but a poll worker may not attempt to discover how a voter voted on a ballot, threaten, or intimidate a voter, or obstruct or interfere with a voter's ability to vote.⁶

3. **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).

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. § 19:23-45.

³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:23-45; Frequently Asked Questions, *Do I Have to Vote for the Party I Am Registered With?*, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-faq.shtml>.

⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:23-45.

⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:23-45.1.

⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:34-13, 19:34-28, 19:34-29.

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

Eligible voters who wish to register must fill out their county's voter [registration form](#). Forms are available [online](#) or they can be picked up at a voter registration agency or other public agency.⁷

The registration form can be submitted in a number of ways:⁸

- As of September 4, 2020, eligible voters may [register online](#).⁹ To register online, the voter may need to provide a digital signature, depending on the type of identification provided (see Question 5). A voter does not need a printer to register online.
- A 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 get a registration form in person at the office of the county commissioner of registration or municipal clerk.¹⁰
- Eligible voters may also register to vote in person when applying for a driver's license or identification at a Motor Vehicle Commission agency, or while applying for services or assistance administered by certain public agencies.¹¹

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

The New Jersey voter registration form asks all registrants to provide a New Jersey driver's license number, Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) 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.¹² 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.¹³ 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.¹⁴

Online registration requires one of the following forms of identification: New Jersey driver's license number, MVC non-driver identification number, or Social Security number.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.3.

⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6; Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

⁹ Voter Registration Application, <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6(i)

¹⁰ Frequently Asked Questions, *How Do I Register to Vote?*, <https://www.nj.gov/faqs/elect/>.

¹¹ MVC, 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.

¹² N.J. Voter Registration Application, ; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.4(a)(11).

¹³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.4(a)(11).

¹⁴ Off. of the Att'y Gen., N.J. Voters' Bill of Rights—Part 1, <https://www.trentonnj.org/DocumentCenter/View/444/New-Jersey-Voters-Bill-of-Rights---Part-I-English-PDF?bidId=>; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.4(a)(11).

¹⁵ Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

6. **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.¹⁷ The registration deadline for the election on November 7, 2023, is October 17, 2023.¹⁸ Registration forms have to be either postmarked or delivered in person by this date.¹⁹ Online registration also has to be completed by October 17, 2023.²⁰

7. **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 17, 2023.

8. **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.²¹ The chart below explains.

Moved within the same district	Moved to a different district in the same municipality or to a different municipality 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. ²²	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. ²³	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	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. ²⁶

¹⁷ *Id.*; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.

¹⁸ Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

¹⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-6.3(b).

²⁰ Register to Vote!, <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>.

²¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:31-11, 19:53C-3(a)–(e).

²² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(a).

²³ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-3(b), (c).

²⁶ *Afran*, 244 N.J. Super. 229; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-5.

		registered. ²⁴ If the voter is still in the poll book in their former county of residence, they can vote by regular ballot. ²⁵	
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9. TEMPORARY MOVE: I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?

If the voter is living in a place where they have no intention of remaining, intending instead to return shortly to a permanent residence in New Jersey, the voter need not re-register and may vote as usual at their place of permanent residence.²⁷

If the voter moved temporarily and wants to vote in the temporary location, the voter may do so if they actually live there, are interested in and concerned with that local community, and assert in good faith that they plan to vote there and no place else.²⁸ In that case, their right to vote will be in accordance with the table in [Question 8](#).

10. 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).²⁹ This is true regardless of whether the college student intends to reside permanently in New Jersey.³⁰ 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 county for 30 days before the election, and not otherwise disqualified from voting).³¹

11. LIVING ABROAD: I am living abroad and/or 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. Like other voters, they may fill out and mail a New Jersey [voter registration form](#), which must be postmarked by October 17, 2023, or they may [register to vote online](#) by that date if they have the appropriate

²⁴ 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 to another within 30 days of the election can vote 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.

²⁵ The *Afran* decision notes that the New Jersey Legislature “may require a special absentee ballot for the 30-day inter-county voter,” 244 N.J. Super. at 237, but the Legislature has not designated a special ballot for *Afran* voters. They can therefore vote by regular ballot so long as they remain in the poll books in their former county of residence. If they are no longer in the poll books, they will be asked to vote by provisional ballot, and it is not clear what steps will be necessary to ensure the ballot is counted. *Afran* voters who are asked to cast provisional ballots should call the county to explain the situation.

²⁷ See generally *Worden v. Mercer Cnty. Bd. of Elections.*, 61 N.J. 325, 346–49 (1972).

²⁸ *Worden*, 61 N.J. at 346.

²⁹ Student Voter Registration & Voting, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-students.shtml>.

³⁰ *Worden*, 61 N.J. at 348–49.

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

identification. They can also fill out a [Federal Post Card Application](#), which must be received by October 17, 2023, whether returned by mail, email, or fax.³²

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 October 31, 2023.³³

There are also several ways in which military and overseas voters may receive their ballots, including by air-mail, fax, or email.³⁴ When returning a completed ballot by mail, a military or overseas voter must ensure that it is postmarked on or before November 7, 2023.³⁵ A mailed ballot must be received by the county board of elections within six days or 144 hours after the polls close on Election Day.³⁶ Because international mail can be slower than that, it may be safer for a military or overseas voter to fax or email a completed ballot, in which case it must be received by the appropriate county board of elections by 8:00 p.m. local time (Eastern Standard Time for U.S. & Canada) on November 7, 2023 (*i.e.*, the close of polls), and the voter must also mail the original ballot to the county board of election.³⁷

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

To get a FWAB, 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.³⁸ 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.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: [I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?](#)

Note to Volunteers: Always check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

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.³⁹ 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 17, 2023 (21 days before the election).⁴⁰ Neither pretrial detainees nor persons with misdemeanor convictions (also called “disorderly persons offenses” in New Jersey) are disqualified from voting.⁴¹

13. INCARCERATED: [I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?](#)

³² 52 U.S.C. § 20302.

³³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(b).

³⁴ Military and Overseas Voting, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-military-and-overseas.shtml>.

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-22(a).

³⁷ Military and Overseas Voting, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-military-and-overseas.shtml>.

³⁸ U.S. Dep’t of Defense, Federal Voting Assistance Program, New Jersey, <https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/new-jersey>.

³⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:4-1(8).

⁴⁰ 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>.

⁴¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:4-1(8).

Note to Volunteers: Always check the resources at Campaign Legal [Restore Your Vote](#) for latest information.

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.⁴²

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.⁴³ 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, October 31, 2023.⁴⁴

14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** [My registration has been challenged, what should I do?](#)

New Jersey law allows candidates and political party officials to appoint challengers.⁴⁵ 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.⁴⁶

Challengers may not challenge voters directly, as only election officials may ask the voter questions.⁴⁷

Challengers are authorized to challenge the right of a voter to cast a ballot.⁴⁸ They have a right to be present while votes are counted and to challenge the qualification or rejection of any ballot.⁴⁹

Challengers may not challenge votes on the basis of the voter’s race, color, national origin, expected manner of casting a vote, or place of residence, except to challenge whether the voter lives in that particular election district at all.⁵⁰

If a voter’s right to vote is challenged, the poll workers may ask the voter to provide identification and sign an affidavit that the voter is qualified to vote. The voter is entitled to establish their right to vote by (i) signing an affidavit (on a form the poll workers should have) stating the voter’s qualifications to vote and (ii) presenting their identification (e.g., a valid NJ driver’s license, sample ballot with voter’s name and address, official government document with the voter’s name and address, a recently dated utility or telephone bill or tax or rent receipt, or a piece of mail postmarked on or after the 60th day before Election Day (September 8, 2023)).⁵¹

If the board votes to reject the challenge or there is a tie on the vote to challenge, the voter may vote by regular ballot. If the board votes to uphold the challenge, the voter cannot vote but has the right to go

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ Vote-by-Mail FAQs, How do I receive my vote-by-mail ballot?, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

⁴⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:7-1, 19:7-2.

⁴⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:7-6.1, 19:7-6.

⁴⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-22.

⁴⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:7-5.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-18.

⁵¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-18.1; Off. of the Att’y Gen., N.J. Voters’ Bill of Rights—Part 2, <https://www.trentonnj.org/DocumentCenter/View/442/New-Jersey-Voters-Bill-of-Rights---Part-II-English-PDF>.

before a Superior Court judge to request a court order to vote. The poll workers must tell the voter where to go to see the judge. The voter does not need to file any papers in advance but should take to the courthouse: (i) a copy of the affidavit they signed at the polling place when challenged, (ii) a copy of their identification, and (iii) a copy of the challenger's affidavit. The voter may appear on their own or with counsel and will testify under oath about their qualifications to vote. If the judge finds facts demonstrating the voter is qualified to vote, the judge will grant the application and provide the voter with written authorization to vote on that day.⁵² The voter can then take this court order back to the polling place and vote.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. **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.⁵³ Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.⁵⁴

***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. **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 [Question 8](#) and [Question 9](#).

17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?

No, an employer is not required to give an employee time off to vote, but polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., which should give most voters a chance to get to the polls before or after work. Early voting, including on weekends, is also available. See [Question 27](#).

18. **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.⁵⁵ Stay in line. Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.⁵⁶

***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.

⁵² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-18.3; Off. of the Att’y Gen., N.J. Voters’ Bill of Rights—Part 2, <https://www.trentonnj.org/DocumentCenter/View/442/New-Jersey-Voters-Bill-of-Rights---Part-II-English-PDF>.

⁵³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-2.

⁵⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

⁵⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-2.

⁵⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

19. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?

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 regular ballot.⁵⁷ 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, paycheck, rent receipt, sample ballot, utility bill, government check, car registration, or non-photo driver's license.⁵⁸ 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.⁵⁹ For the provisional 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.⁶⁰

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.⁶¹ 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.⁶²

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

Typically, yes, *unless* the circumstances described in [Question 19](#) apply.

21. 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.⁶³ New Jersey poll workers have lists only for their own election districts; they do not have master lists for the whole state.⁶⁴ 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.⁶⁵ However, a provisional ballot will not be

⁵⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:15-17(b), 19:31-5.

⁵⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:15-17(b), 19:31-5.

⁵⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-17(b); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-1(b).

⁶⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-1(b), 19:53C-3(i).

⁶¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ 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).

⁶⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-18.

⁶⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(g).

counted unless it is later determined that the voter is eligible to vote.⁶⁶ 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.⁶⁷

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

Provisional ballots are paper ballots that are used at the polling place on Election Day. Poll workers should use provisional ballots only when there is some legitimate question about the voter’s eligibility to vote at the polling place (or the voter has moved; see [Question 8](#) and [Question 9](#)). When a voter casts a provisional ballot, they can participate in the election, deferring the eligibility concerns to be addressed later. If, after the election, election officials determine that the voter is eligible to vote, the provisional ballot will be counted.⁶⁸

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can’t vote, can I vote provisionally?

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.⁶⁹

The following individuals must vote by provisional ballot:

- 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 district⁷⁰;
- A voter whose registration information is not complete in the poll book, for example their signature or address is missing, must vote provisionally⁷¹;
- A first-time voter who did not provide proper identification information when they registered must vote provisionally and must present identification to their county commissioner of registration within two days after the election⁷²; and
- A voter who applied for a vote-by-mail ballot but did not receive it or did not complete it must vote provisionally.⁷³

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

Provisional ballots are counted before the first Monday after the election. The voter can call 1-877-NJVOTER (1-877-658-6837) to check the status of their provisional ballot. The voter can also track their ballot [online](#).

If a first-time voter voted provisionally because they could not present proper identification at the polls, the voter must provide proper identification to the county commissioner of registration by the close of business on the second day after the election. See [Question 19](#).

⁶⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-13.

⁶⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-17.

⁶⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-13, 19:53C-17.

⁶⁹ N.J. State. Ann. §§ 19:53C-13, 19:53C-17.

⁷⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:31-11(b), 19:53C-3(b), (c).

⁷¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(g).

⁷² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-1(b), 19:53C-3(i).

⁷³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-20(b).

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state defined as: casting a ballot in person during a designated voting period before Election Day)

25. **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.⁷⁴ During the 2023 General Election, early voting will be held from Saturday, October 28 through Sunday, November 5.⁷⁵ Early voting sites in each county will be open on Mondays through Saturdays from at least 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday from at least 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.⁷⁶

26. **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.⁷⁷

27. **WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?

During the 2023 General Election, early voting will be held from Saturday, October 28, through Sunday, November 5.⁷⁸ Any registered voter in line at the time scheduled for the closing of an early voting site must be permitted to vote.⁷⁹

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

Registered voters can vote at any early voting site in their county.⁸⁰ Early voting locations may vary from a voter's polling location on Election Day.⁸¹

Early voting locations will be posted [here](#).

⁷⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1.

⁷⁵ 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>.

⁷⁶ 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>.

⁷⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(a).

⁷⁸ 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>.

⁷⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(c).

⁸⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15A-1(b)(1).

⁸¹ *Id.*

29. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?

Identification is required only in unusual circumstances. Registered voters typically do not need to provide an ID when they vote, with certain exceptions (i.e., first-time voters or voters who personally deliver their vote-by-mail ballot to the county). See [Question 19](#).

30. ASSISTANCE: What if I need assistance voting early in person?

For information on assistance with voting, see Questions [76](#), [77](#), and [78](#).

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL **(in this state defined as applying for and casting a vote-by-mail ballot)**

31. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT: Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?

Every active registered voter is eligible to receive a vote-by-mail ballot by applying for one.⁸² 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.⁸³

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 find 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.⁸⁴

Voters on the default vote-by-mail list who fail to vote by mail for four consecutive years are removed from the list after being notified in writing of the change.⁸⁵

32. ELIGIBILITY: Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?

A voter does not need any special reason to vote by mail. Anyone can apply.⁸⁶ Applications are available [online](#) to download and print.

⁸² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(a); Vote-By-Mail, <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

⁸³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(a).

⁸⁴ *Id.*; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3.1(a), (b).

⁸⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(a).

⁸⁶ *Id.*

33. APPLICATION DEADLINE: What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?

By Mail – October 31: A voter who mails a vote-by-mail application to the county clerk must do so in time for the clerk to receive the application by October 31, 2023.⁸⁷ This gives the county clerk time to mail the ballot to the voter before the election a week later.

In Person – November 6, 3:00 p.m.: A voter may request, complete, and return a vote-by-mail application in person at the county clerk by November 6, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.⁸⁸

34. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE: Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

While no New Jersey law expressly permits a voter to receive assistance in completing a vote-by-mail application, such assistance appears not to be prohibited. The law expressly permits a voter to receive the assistance of a family member to open, mark, inspect, and seal a vote-by-mail ballot.⁸⁹ A person who votes at a polling location is also entitled to assistance. See [Question 76](#). It is reasonable to infer, therefore, that a voter completing a vote-by-mail application may also receive assistance.

35. APPLICATION RETURN: How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

A voter can return a vote-by-mail application by mail or in person to [the voter’s county clerk](#).⁹⁰ For the November 7, 2023, election, a voter must mail the application in time for the county clerk to receive it by October 31.⁹¹ A voter may also deliver the application and pick up a vote-by-mail ballot in person at the county clerk’s office by November 6 at 3:00 p.m.⁹²

The law permits a voter to use an authorized messenger or “bearer” to deliver a completed vote-by-mail application. A voter who uses a messenger/bearer must print that person’s name and address where shown on the application form. The messenger/bearer must be a family member or a registered voter of the county where the application is made and must show identification, sign the application upon delivering it to the county clerk, and swear to deliver the ballot to the voter. A messenger/bearer may not deliver applications and pick up ballots for more than three qualified voters in an election, except that a messenger/bearer may deliver applications for up to five qualified voters in an election if those voters are immediate family members who live in the same household as the messenger/bearer.⁹³

36. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

⁸⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(b), (c).

⁸⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(d).

⁸⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-11(a), -16(c).

⁹⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(b), (d), 19:63-5.

⁹¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(b).

⁹² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(d).

⁹³ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(f), 19:63-4.

Only “active” and duly registered voters can vote by mail.⁹⁴ Vote-by-mail applications for “inactive” voters and voters with incomplete registration will be rejected. Therefore, if a voter has “inactive” status, usually because of questions about their address, see [Question 83](#), the voter will need to correct that before applying to vote by mail. Similarly, if the voter’s registration is incomplete—including in instances where a first-time voter has not yet presented proper identification, see [Question 19](#)—the voter will need to correct that before applying to vote by mail.

Voters who are permitted to vote by mail do not need to provide a copy of their ID to cast their vote-by-mail ballots. Voters who drop off their vote-by-mail ballots in person, however, will need to show identification. See [Question 19](#).

37. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT: Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don’t have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

A voter can have their mail-in ballot sent to a secondary address, i.e., an address different from the one where they are registered to vote.⁹⁵ The secondary address may be a PO Box.⁹⁶

If the voter has no home address, see [Question 84](#).

38. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE: What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

A voter may request a vote-by-mail application in person at their county clerk’s office by 3:00 p.m. on November 6, 2023.⁹⁷ Otherwise, a voter can vote in person on November 7 at their designated polling place.

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

A voter can track their ballot online by setting up a voter access account on the . To set up an account, the voter must provide their driver’s license number, the last four digits of their Social Security number, or their Voter ID number. The voter can find their Voter ID number by [checking their voter registration status online](#). Once the voter has an account, they can click “Mail-in Ballot History” 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.

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

⁹⁴ Vote-by-Mail FAQs, How do I receive my vote-by-mail ballot?, <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

⁹⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(b)(1).

⁹⁶ See Part 4 of Application for Vote-by-Mail Ballot, <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml#applications>.

⁹⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-3(d).

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.⁹⁸ 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.⁹⁹

41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?

The voter can see step-by-step instructions [online](#). Voters do not have to vote for every election contest or race if they don't want to. Here are basic instructions:

- Fill in only one circle for each race or question.
- Use blue or black ink and fill in the circles completely.
- 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 county board of elections.¹⁰⁰

For voters who mail their ballots, some counties require the voter to add postage, and some do not. A voter will need to check with their [county clerk](#).

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.¹⁰¹ 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 19](#) for identification requirements

42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?

A family member may assist the voter to open, mark, inspect, and seal a vote-by-mail ballot. The family member must print and sign their name in the space provided on the ballot to certify that they assisted and that they will maintain the secrecy of the ballot. A candidate (even one who is a family member) may not assist a voter, and a person may not campaign or electioneer on behalf of any voter while providing assistance.¹⁰²

43. **DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop 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.

⁹⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-17(b)(1).

⁹⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-17(b)(2).

¹⁰⁰ See N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-12, -13, -16.

¹⁰¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(a).

¹⁰² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-11(a), -16(c).

- **Postmarked on or before Election Day:** Voters who mail their vote-by-mail ballots must ensure that they are postmarked on or before November 7, 2023, and the ballot must be received by the voter’s county Board of Elections on or before November 13, 2023, by 8:00 p.m.¹⁰³ 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 7.¹⁰⁴ In some counties, vote-by-mail ballots come with prepaid return envelopes, but in others, voters must use a stamp.¹⁰⁵ A voter can [call their county clerk](#) to find out about their own county.
- **Drop boxes by 8:00 p.m., November 7:** Voters can drop the ballots in secure drop boxes before 8:00 p.m. on November 7.¹⁰⁶ 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.¹⁰⁷
- **Hand delivery by 8:00 p.m., November 7:** 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 7. (For identification requirements, see [Question 19](#)).¹⁰⁸
- **Delivery by authorized messenger/bearer:** A person who transports a completed vote-by-mail ballot for someone else is considered a “bearer.” Bearers are limited to three ballots per election for non-members of the household and up to five ballots per election for family members who live 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.¹⁰⁹ 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.¹¹⁰

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

Voters can find their county clerk’s office [here](#). The locations of ballot drop boxes will be listed [here](#).

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

Yes. See [Question 43](#).

46. LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT: What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

¹⁰³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-22(a).

¹⁰⁴ *Id.*

¹⁰⁵ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, Do I have to include a stamp on my ballot return envelope?, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

¹⁰⁶ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16.1(a).

¹⁰⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-16.1(b)(1), (c).

¹⁰⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

¹⁰⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(3).

¹¹⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-16(d)(2).

If a voter loses or spoils their vote-by-mail ballot, or receives an incorrect ballot, the voter may either: (1) request a replacement ballot from the county clerk's office,¹¹¹ or (2) cast a provisional ballot at their polling location on Election Day.¹¹²

47. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT: What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

Counties will begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots to voters 45 days before an election (September 23, 2023), but some counties will begin before then.¹¹³ 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,¹¹⁴ or (2) cast a provisional ballot in person at their polling location on Election Day.¹¹⁵

48. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

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.¹¹⁶ 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.¹¹⁷

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.¹¹⁸

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE **(in this state defined as the same as vote-by-mail)**

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

¹¹¹ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, What should I do if I make a mistake, damage, or lose my vote-by-mail ballot?, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

¹¹² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-3(j), 19:63-20(b).

¹¹³ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, When will ballots be mailed?, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

¹¹⁴ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, What should I do if I make a mistake, damage, or lose my vote-by-mail ballot?, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

¹¹⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-3(j), 19:63-20(b).

¹¹⁶ Vote-By-Mail FAQs, What if I always vote-by-mail, but now want to vote early, in person, instead?; How do I stop receiving a vote-by-mail ballot for future elections?, <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>.

¹¹⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:63-3(a), 19:63-3.1(a), (b).

¹¹⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53C-3(j), 19:63-20(b).

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

51. IDENTIFICATION: Are there any identification requirements?

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

A voter may pick up, complete, and deliver a vote-by-mail application, and receive a vote-by-mail ballot, at their county clerk's office at any time up to 3 p.m. on November 6, 2023. See [Question 33](#). New Jersey has no established system for voters to obtain a vote-by-mail ballot on an emergency basis after that time.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

55. 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?

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

61. LOST OR SPOILED: What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

63. IN PERSON OPTION: What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

Refer to Vote-by-Mail section, above.

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

Refer to In-Person Early Voting section, above.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

65. 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.

66. 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.¹¹⁹ Any voter who is in line by 8:00 p.m. is entitled to cast a ballot.¹²⁰

***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.

67. 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.

¹¹⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-2.

¹²⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:15-9.

If the equipment at a polling place is not functioning, poll workers should not turn voters away. Instead, they should give voters emergency ballots, which are paper ballots supplied to all polling places for this purpose.¹²¹ Note that emergency ballots are different from provisional ballots, which should be used only when the voter’s qualifications are in question. See [Question 22](#).

***Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately. Similarly, if any polling place is turning voters away or using provisional ballots in place of emergency ballots, notify your hotline captain immediately.

68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?

New Jersey prohibits electioneering, otherwise trying to influence voters, or distributing materials within the polling place, within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place, or within 100 feet of a ballot drop box in use during an election.¹²²

Electioneering or campaigning include any written or verbal communication that could be interpreted as trying to sway a voter’s opinion in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate, campaign, party, or public question on a ballot.¹²³ Among other things, a person may violate the law by wearing campaign hats, t-shirts, masks, or buttons; displaying campaign signs or bumper stickers; distributing campaign materials; or conducting signature or petition drives in a protected zone.¹²⁴

If voters encounter electioneering/campaigning within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place or drop box, they should notify poll workers and call 866-OUR-VOTE.

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

A voter may not (i) tamper, deface, or interfere with any polling booth or polling place, (ii) obstruct the entrance of any polling booth or polling place, (iii) obstruct or interfere with any other voter, (iv) loiter in or near the polling place, or (v) spend too long in a polling booth for the purpose of obstructing others from voting.¹²⁵

While there is no New Jersey law that specifically prohibits voters from taking photographs near or inside a polling place, state election officials have publicly stated that they have instructed poll workers to caution voters not to take photos on the ground that picture-taking disrupts the voting process.¹²⁶

A voter may not electioneer or campaign at a polling place. See [Question 68](#). A voter may wear a mask to vote so long as the mask displays no words or symbols supporting or opposing candidates, parties, or public questions.

¹²¹ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:53B-1, 19:53B-3.

¹²² N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:34-6, 19:34-7, 19:34-15.

¹²³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:34-15.

¹²⁴ See, e.g., N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:34-19.

¹²⁵ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:34-6.

¹²⁶ See Kaitlyn Kanzler & Dustin Racioppi, *Tempted to Take That Ballot Selfie? Don’t – They’re Illegal in NJ*, USA Today: North Jersey (Nov. 6, 2018), <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/politics/elections/2018/11/06/ballot-selfies-illegal-nj-dont-take-picture-voting-booth/1902237002/>.

70. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Poll workers are expected to maintain a neutral, non-partisan, and courteous environment within the polling place to ensure fairness and integrity during the voting process. They should avoid expressing personal opinions or political biases while performing their duties, and they should not accept gifts from candidates or parties during an election.¹²⁷ Like voters and everyone else, poll workers are prohibited from engaging in any form of campaigning or electioneering within a polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place and therefore may not wear or display any clothing, accessories, signs, or materials that endorse or oppose a candidate, political party, or public question. See [Question 68](#).

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

There are many prohibitions against intimidating conduct in and around polling places.¹²⁸ For example, it is a crime for any person, including an election official or law enforcement officer, to intimidate, threaten, or coerce—or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce—another person for the purpose of influencing or interfering with that person’s or anyone else’s exercise of the right to vote.¹²⁹ The use of force, violence, or restraints to interfere with voting rights is also a crime.¹³⁰

These laws apply at all times and locations, including, among others, polling places, ballot drop boxes, and the immediate surroundings of both.

New Jersey’s Department of Law & Public Safety provides the following examples of prohibited voter intimidation tactics:¹³¹

- Individuals or groups waiting outside polling places and trying to scare people out of the voting line;
- Individuals standing in unauthorized areas near voting booths and video recording or photographing voters in the polling place;
- Individuals following or harassing voters in the polling place;
- Individuals threatening violence or harm inside or outside of a polling place.

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

See [Question 14](#).

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

¹²⁷ See State of N.J., *District Board Member Training Manual* at 3–4, 11 (Oct. 10, 2018), <https://nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/publications/boardworkers-manual-2018-1010.pdf>.

¹²⁸ See generally Memo from Matthew J. Platkin, Att’y Gen., to Dir., Div. of Crim. Just., All County Prosecutors & All Law Enforcement Chief Executives (Oct. 27, 2022), https://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/agguide/2022_Law-Enforcement-Guidance-for-Elections.pdf.

¹²⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:34-1.1; see also 18 U.S.C. § 594.

¹³⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:34-28.

¹³¹ N.J. Off. of the Att’y Gen., Dep’t of L. & Pub. Safety, Voting Rights FAQs, Is Voter Intimidation Illegal?, <https://www.njoag.gov/resources/electionprotection/>.

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.¹³² Police may remain at a polling place only as long as such a response demands.¹³³ Indeed, whether on- or off-duty or in or out of uniform, a police officer may not remain at a polling place or within 100 feet of a polling place except to vote, offer specific assistance at the request of election officials, or travel to or from home if they live within 100 feet of the polls.¹³⁴

Members of the military should not be at a polling place unless they are there to vote.¹³⁵

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

74. **THOUGHT I 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: (i) the voter confirmed in writing that the voter moved out of state; (ii) the voter failed to respond to a mailed confirmation notice from the relevant election official and then did not vote or attempt to vote in two consecutive federal general elections following that failure to respond; (iii) the voter was registered in another county at the same time; (iv) the voter was convicted of a felony and sentenced to a term of incarceration; or (v) the voter died.¹³⁶

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.¹³⁷

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?

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

To assist a voter with provisional ballot questions, see Questions [22](#), [23](#), [24](#).

¹³² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:6-16(b).

¹³³ *Id.*; see also Memo from Matthew J. Platkin, Att'y Gen., to Dir., Div. of Crim. Just., All County Prosecutors, & All Law Enforcement Chief Executives (Oct. 27, 2022), https://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/agguide/2022_Law-Enforcement-Guidance-for-Elections.pdf.

¹³⁴ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:6-15.1(b); N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63:16.1(b)(2)(f) (same for ballot drop boxes).

¹³⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 592.

¹³⁶ 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).

¹³⁷ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:31-19.

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

76. **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.¹³⁸ 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.¹³⁹ 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.¹⁴⁰

77. **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 and all voting systems in New Jersey must be accessible to voters with disabilities.¹⁴¹ If there is a problem with accessibility, the voter can [contact their county election officials](#) for a referral to a nearby accessible location, [report the problem to the state](#), and/or call 866-OUR-VOTE. [Disability Rights New Jersey](#) also runs a hotline to assist voters with disabilities. Voters can call 866-493-0023 or email voterhotline@disabilityrightsnj.org.

78. **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?

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.¹⁴² In addition, assistance can be provided by two members of the county board of elections of opposite political affiliations.¹⁴³ The person assisting a voter can enter the voting booth with the voter, if that is the voter's preference.¹⁴⁴

Some counties are required under federal law to provide translations of all voting materials into one or more languages.¹⁴⁵ "Voting materials" include registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots.¹⁴⁶ 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),

¹³⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-2(b); N.J. Admin. Code § 15:10-6.9(a)(3).

¹³⁹ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

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

¹⁴¹ 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. Federal law requires accessible voting systems. 5 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(3).

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

¹⁴³ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:50-3.

¹⁴⁴ *Id.*

¹⁴⁵ 52 U.S.C. § 10503(b), (c).

¹⁴⁶ 52 U.S.C. § 10503(b).

Cumberland (Spanish), Essex (Spanish), Hudson (Spanish), Middlesex (Spanish, Asian Indian (including Sikh)), Passaic (Spanish), and Union (Spanish).¹⁴⁷

***Note 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.

79. 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?

For language access issues, see [Question 78](#).

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

New Jersey does not use curbside voting.

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

Yes, voters may bring written material into the polling place for the voter’s personal use in casting a vote.¹⁴⁸

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. MAIL-IN BALLOT NOT IN TRACKER: When I track the vote-by-mail ballot I returned, the ballot-tracking site says N/A. What does this mean? What should I do? Should I go to the polls to vote in person?

When the ballot tracker says “N/A” for your ballot, that means the county board of elections has not received it.¹⁴⁹

There may be a delay in ballot status updates in the tracking system. Voters can call their [county board of elections](#) to see if a county election official can provide an update on the status of their ballot. If the voter mailed back a completed vote-by-mail ballot, voting in person carries the risk that both votes will be invalidated on the ground that the voter voted twice. Double-voting is a crime.¹⁵⁰ A voter who chooses to try voting in person after sending in a completed but apparently missing vote-by-mail ballot should inform the poll workers of the situation before voting and follow their advice.

83. VOTERS WITH “INACTIVE” STATUS: My status on the voter registration lookup is “inactive”? What does this mean? What should I do? Can I still vote?

¹⁴⁷ 86 Fed. Reg. 69,611, 69,615 (Dec. 8, 2021), <https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1460416/download>; see also U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Civil Rts. Div., *About Language Minority Voting Rights*, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-language-minority-voting-rights#coveredjuris>.

¹⁴⁸ N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:12-7.1(a).

¹⁴⁹ N.J. Voter Information Portal, Track My Ballot, <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml>.

¹⁵⁰ N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 19:34-11, 19:34-12; see also N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:63-20(a).

An inactive voter is one whose address has come into question. This usually happens when the post office returns a sample ballot as undeliverable or indicates that the voter has moved. Election officials will then send the voter a confirmation notice informing them that they have until the second federal general election after the date of the notice to update their voting record or appear to vote and complete the necessary form or they will be removed from the voting rolls.¹⁵¹ Until they are removed from the voting rolls, an “inactive” voter can still vote.¹⁵² If the voter completes a form at the polls to update or confirm their registration, the voter will be restored to active status.

Inactive voters do not get sample ballots and cannot receive a vote-by-mail ballot until they reactivate their status by updating their registration. To update their registration, voters can use [online voter registration](#) or a [paper registration form](#).¹⁵³

84. VOTERS WITH NO FIXED HOME ADDRESS: Can a voter who is homeless vote in New Jersey?

In 1991, the New Jersey Attorney General issued a formal opinion requiring election officials to register people who have no fixed home address so long as they meet the state constitutional requirements to vote. See [Question 1](#). The opinion instructs that “homeless individuals can be registered, so long as they provide one or more contact points by which their continued presence in the county can be verified and where they can be sent sample ballots.”¹⁵⁴ Such points of contact may include shelters, places of worship, and other locations where the person may reside from time to time. The Opinion instructs election officials to tailor specific statutory requirements for registration on a case-by-case basis to avoid disenfranchising people without homes.¹⁵⁵

85. 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 7, 2023, 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).

¹⁵¹ N.J. Div. of Elecs., FAQs–November 3rd, 2020 General Election, What is considered an “Inactive” voter?, <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/publications/njvotes-faq-2020-0923.pdf>.

¹⁵² N.J. Stat. Ann. § 19:53C-3(f).

¹⁵³ N.J. Div. of Elecs., FAQs–November 3rd, 2020 General Election, What is considered an “Inactive” voter?, <https://www.nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/publications/njvotes-faq-2020-0923.pdf>.

¹⁵⁴ N.J. Off. of the Att’y Gen., Dep’t of Law and Pub. Safety, Formal Op. No. 2, at 3 (Apr. 17, 1991), <https://www.nj.gov/oag/oag/ag%20opinion%201991-2.pdf>.

¹⁵⁵ *Id.* at 1. 5.