

2020 GENERAL ELECTION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GIVEN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES WITH COVID-19, HOW CAN I VOTE SAFELY?

You can vote-by-mail. Voting by mail is easy, safe, and secure. You can also vote at your polling place using a provisional ballot. Polling places are required to limit occupancy, maintain 6 feet distance between voters and poll workers, and implement infection control practices.

HOW CAN I GET A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT?

All active registered voters will be automatically sent a vote-by-mail ballot without needing to apply. These ballots will be sent to the address where you are registered to vote. If you will be away and need your ballot sent elsewhere, please contact your County Clerk. Ballots will be mailed by Monday, October 5th.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM CLASSIFIED AS AN ACTIVE OR INACTIVE VOTER?

You can check online using the “Am I Registered” tool on the New Jersey Division of Elections website. An inactive voter is a voter whose address has come into question. If a piece of election mail, such as a sample ballot, is returned as undeliverable or indicates the voter has moved, that voter is put into an “Inactive” status. 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. If your status is “inactive” contact your Commissioner of Registration office to update your voter registration.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3, 2020

WHAT DO I DO IF I DON'T RECEIVE MY VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT?

If you do not receive your vote-by-mail ballot or if you need a replacement ballot, you should contact your County Clerk. If you need to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot, you can apply through the mail or in-person. To receive your ballot by mail, the applications must be received by your County Clerk by October 23. You can apply in-person to your County Clerk prior to 8 pm, November 3rd (Election Day).

HOW CAN I RETURN MY VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT?

Voters will be able to return ballots by mail, using a ballot drop box, in-person at their County Board of Elections, or at their polling place on Election Day. All ballots returned through the mail must be postmarked by November 3rd and received no later than 8 pm, November 10th. Ballots that lack postmarks due to postal error received by November 5th will be valid. Ballots returned in-person or in drop boxes must be returned by 8 pm on Election Day, November 3rd. All ballots will include a return envelope with first class prepaid postage.

HOW DO I FIND A DROP BOX?

Each county will have at least 10 secure ballot drop boxes. Locations will be posted at LWVNJ.org.

HOW DO I TRACK MY VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT?

Track your ballot by using the “Track My Ballot” tool on the New Jersey Division of Elections website. You will be able to see when your ballot has been received and accepted.

WHAT IF MY BALLOT GETS REJECTED?

Ballots tentatively rejected due to a signature issue, either the signature does not match or the signature is missing, can be corrected. This is also known as “curing” a ballot. When the ballot is tentatively rejected, the voter will be sent a notice in the mail. This notice will include a form that the voter must complete and return in-person, by fax, email, or mail by the stated deadline to cure the ballot.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE AND WHAT IS THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

You can register to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 17 years old (with the understanding you may not vote before your 18th birthday), have been a resident of your NJ county 30 days before the elections, and you are not currently serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony conviction. Individuals on probation or parole are eligible to register to vote. The deadline to register to vote is October 13, 2020.

Voters can register to vote using a voter registration form or register to vote online at the New Jersey Division of Elections website.

You need to re-register to vote if you change your name, address, signature, or complete your sentence of incarceration. To re-register to vote, fill out a new voter registration form and update your information.

If you are not sure if you are already registered to vote or if your registration is current, you can check online using the "Am I Registered" tool on the New Jersey Division of Elections website.

IF I AM A COLLEGE STUDENT, CAN I REGISTER AND VOTE AT MY SCHOOL ADDRESS?

College students have the option to register to vote and request a vote-by-mail ballot at their college address or their home residency. Depending on a student's situation, how they vote can vary widely. Students attending a college in New Jersey from out of state should check the voter registration and vote-by-mail application laws in their home state. Students may want to consider registering to vote and preparing to cast their ballot in New Jersey.

If you have moved around since registering to vote, we highly encourage you to check where you are registered to vote and update that information if necessary. Any student confused about what their options are can reach out to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, and we can help you figure out the best voting plan for you!

WILL I RECEIVE A SAMPLE BALLOT?

Counties are not required to send out sample ballots for this election. However, voters will receive notification about their polling place location, secure ballot drop box locations, and information about how to obtain or view a sample ballot. This notification will be mailed by October 23rd.

WHAT IS A BEARER?

A bearer is someone who transports and casts a completed ballot for someone else either through the mail, drop box, or in-person. Individuals can not serve as a bearer for more than three voters in an election or if they are a candidate running in the election. Bearers who hand deliver a ballot must show ID. Bearers must complete the "bearer portion" before the ballot is taken from the voter for the ballot to be accepted.

CAN I VOTE IN-PERSON?

Each municipality will be required to open at least one polling place. All counties must ensure that at least 50% of their total polling places are open. Any voter who chooses to cast their vote in-person at their polling place will do so using a provisional ballot. Individuals with disabilities will have access to an ADA-conforming voting machine. Polling places will be open from 6 am to 8 pm.

HOW CAN I FIND MY POLLING PLACE?

Not all polling places will be available. You should receive notification in the mail of your polling place. You can also find your polling place at the New Jersey Division of Elections website.

WHAT IS A PROVISIONAL BALLOT?

A provisional ballot is a paper ballot that you vote on, sign, and seal. All provisional paper ballots that are properly cast are canvassed and counted, after all of the mail-in ballots are counted.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Visit Vote411.org to see what will be on your ballot, learn more about candidates' positions, find your polling place, and more! You can also visit LWVNJ.org for the most up to date election information.