



Voting 101

General Election 2020

About Us

"The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages people to be informed participants in our Democracy. Non-partisan means that we do not support one political party or another, nor do we support one candidate over the other. We do take positions on voting rights, social justice issues, the environment, fiscal policy, and much more."



Photo Credit: Donna Connor Photography

You can find out more about the League of Women Voters here:

[LWV Morristown](http://www.lwvmorrisarea.org)
www.lwvmorrisarea.org

[LWV Somerset/Hunterdon](mailto:lwnjsomersethunterdon@outlook.com)
lwnjsomersethunterdon@outlook.com

[LWVUS Website](http://www.lwv.org)
www.lwv.org

[LWV New Jersey - Local Leagues](http://www.lwvnj.org/about/our-local-leagues)
www.lwvnj.org/about/our-local-leagues

[LWV Sussex Highlands](https://www.facebook.com/LWVSH)
www.facebook.com/LWVSH

[LWV Warren and West Morris](https://www.facebook.com/LWVWWMC)
www.facebook.com/LWVWWMC

JOIN US!

Additional Sources and County Voting Info

Where does this material come from?

- This presentation is a collaboration between The LWV of Warren and West Morris Counties and LWV Morristown Area. It began as an adaptation of the 2020 Primary Voting Advocate Toolkit from The LWV of Southern Monmouth County.
- The materials incorporate changes to the November 3rd, 2020 General Election defined in the Governor's Executive Order (#177) and taps resources available on the following county's websites:
 - [Morris County Election Info](#)
 - [Hunterdon County Election Info](#)
 - [Sussex County Election Info](#)
 - [Warren County Election Info](#)



Purpose:

“The purpose of this presentation is to educate voters on how to cast their ballots in the November 3, 2020 General Election.”

“The Covid-19 crisis threatens our elections and challenges us to safeguard voters, poll workers and the elections themselves.”

NJ GENERAL ELECTION COVID-19 RESPONSE

Understanding Governor Murphy's Executive Order #177 regarding the November 3rd General Election. Visit [LWVNJ.org](https://www.lwvnj.org) for updates!



AUTOMATIC VOTE-BY-MAIL

The election will be conducted primarily via vote-by-mail ballots, which will be sent to all active registered voters without the need for an application to receive a vote-by-mail ballot. All ballots will have prepaid postage.



ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

Online voter registration will be available on September 4, 2020. The deadline to register to vote is October 13th. Make sure to check your voter registration status by visiting nj.gov/state/elections.

POLLING LOCATIONS

Each municipality will be required to open at least one in-person polling site. 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 will do so using a provisional ballot.** All individuals with disabilities will have access to an ADA-conforming voting machine.

RETURNING VOTE- BY-MAIL BALLOTS

All ballots will be mailed from County Clerks by Monday, October 5th. Voters will be able to return ballots by mail, by depositing it in a secure drop box, or by handing it directly to a poll worker at a polling place on Election Day. All ballots being returned through the mail must be postmarked by November 3rd and received no later than 8 pm on November 10th. Ballots that lack postmarks due to postal error received by November 5th will be valid.



DROP BOX LOCATIONS

To the extent possible, each county will have at least 10 secure ballot drop boxes in locations that are readily accessible to the registered voters within the county.

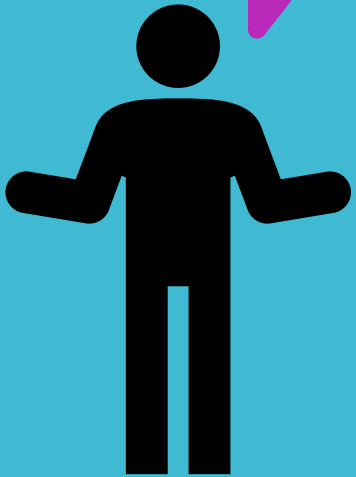


NO SAMPLE BALLOTS

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.

Where do I start?

VOTE 411 SM



Make a Plan to Vote!



Election Day is November 3rd and polls will close @ 8 pm!



Check your Voter Registration Status.



Learn about the candidates at:
www.vote411.org



Return your ballot ASAP!



Track your ballot.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?
ARE YOU REGISTERED AT THE RIGHT ADDRESS?
IS YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS ACTIVE?

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

VISIT LWVNJ.ORG TO LEARN MORE



NJ Division of Elections: Voter Search
www.voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check

OR

Call your Board of Elections Office.

OR

Call your County Clerk's Office.

NJ ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE



TO REGISTER ONLINE, VISIT:

www.voter.svrs.nj.gov/register

YOU WILL NEED!

- A current and valid **Driver's License** or a non-driver **Identification Card** (ID card) issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)

Your information will be provided to the MVC to validate identification, and to retrieve a copy of your digitized signature.

-or-

- A **Social Security number**

To use your social security number, you must have the ability to sign on-screen or upload your signature to complete the registration process. ****If you are unable to provide a digital signature, you CAN NOT register online. Download a county form and send it in.***

2020 Elections in New Jersey

VOTE 411 SM

Visit Vote411.org!

GENERAL ELECTION November 3, 2020

Voters decide:

- President and Vice President
- Congress—Senate and House
- Freeholder
- County Clerk and other county officials
- Local town/city officials



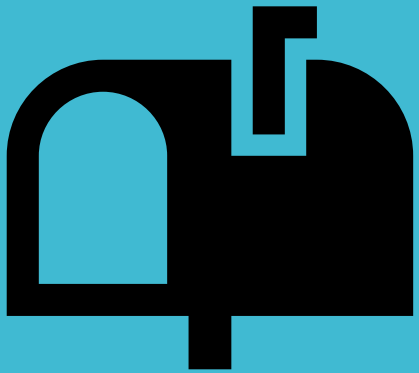
*Local elections have an impact. Don't forget about them! Find specifics on local elections by visiting your county clerk's website!



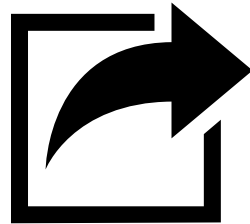
NJ Constitutional Amendments

1. Property Tax Deduction and Exemption for Peacetime Veterans
2. Legalize Marijuana
3. Delays the state legislative redistricting process and use of new districts if census data is received after February 15.

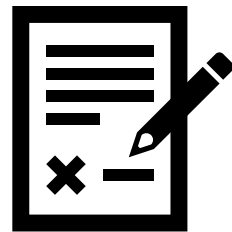
Who is getting a mail-in ballot?



Every active registered voter will automatically receive a mail-in ballot for the November 3rd Election. (** If you haven't received a ballot by October 12th call your clerk!*)



An “inactive” voter is one whose previous election mail has been returned to the board of elections as undeliverable. These voters **WILL NOT** automatically receive a VBM ballot.



To return to active status, a voter must request a VBM ballot by submitting a VBM application or vote at a polling location using a provisional ballot.

Ballots are being mailed now!



What if I haven't received a ballot by Oct. 12th?

**Check the trash or recycling then Contact your County Clerk's office!*



Hunterdon County Clerk: Mary H. Melfi

908-788-1214 or email: countyclerk@co.hunterdon.nj.us



Morris County Clerk: Ann F. Grossi

973-285-6715 or email: elections@co.morris.nj.us



Sussex County Clerk: Jeff M. Parrott

973-579-0900 or email: info@sussexcountyclerk.org

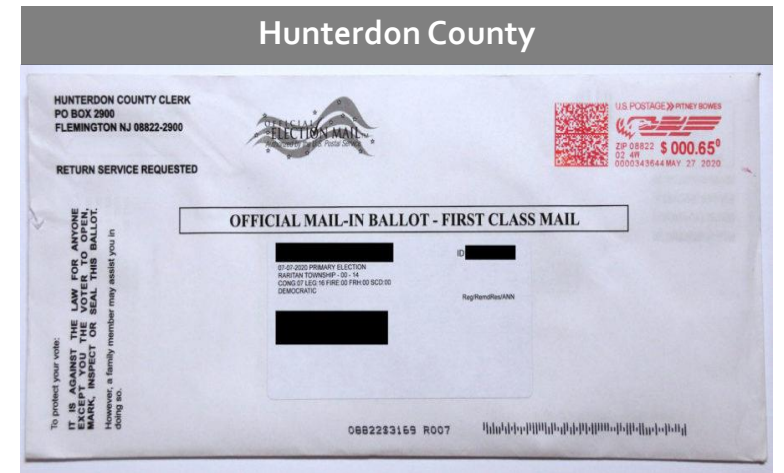
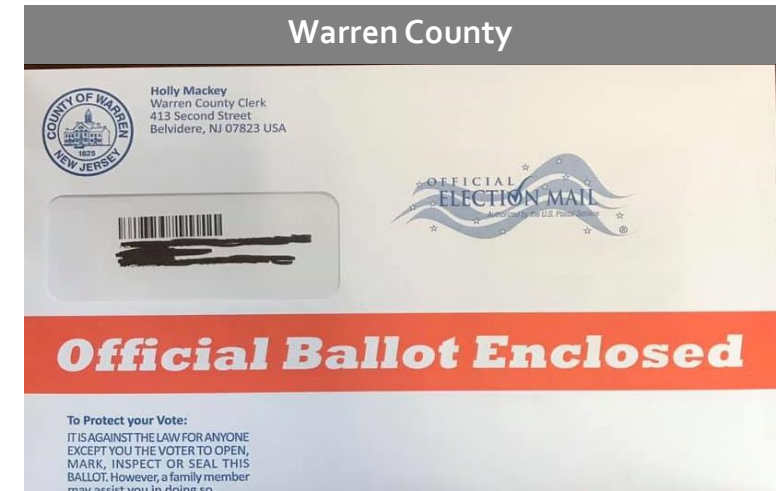
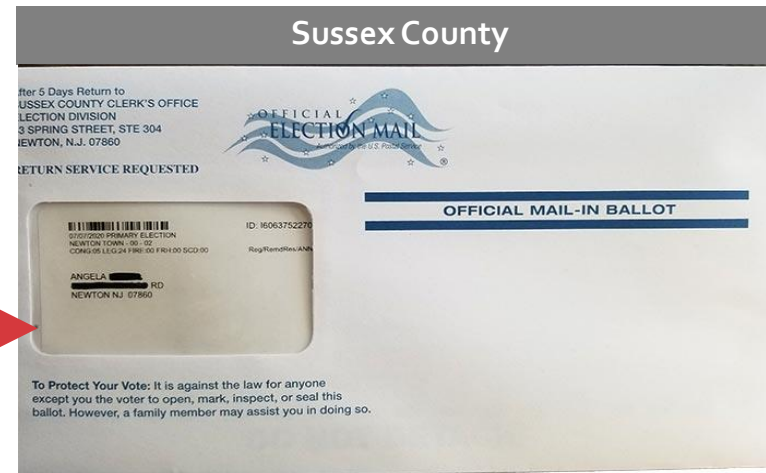


Warren County Clerk: Holly Mackey

908-475-6211 or email: hmackey@co.warren.nj.us

What will my mail-in ballot look like?

***You'll receive an envelope in the mail that might look like this. It contains your ballot, explanatory letter and two more envelopes.**



*** Practice good citizenship!** Prior to opening the large outer envelope, check to make sure that it is your name on the label as well as the correct address, municipality and Congressional District . If there are any errors do not open it and contact your County Clerk.

How do I fill out my Vote-by-Mail ballot?

***If you misplaced or incorrectly marked your ballot, you can request a replacement ballot from your County Clerk!**

THE OFFICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT IS AN EXACT COPY OF THE OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOT TO BE USED ON ELECTION DAY. THIS BALLOT CANNOT BE REUSED.

OFFICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION COUNTY OF OCEAN JULY 7, 2020
POLLS OPEN BETWEEN 6:00 A.M. AND 8:00 P.M.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

Please read the following before marking your ballot:

1. Use ONLY a pencil or ink pen. Do not use a ballpoint pen or marker. Do not use a pencil.
2. Completely fill in the circle to the right of each of your selections.
3. MARK BALLOT LINE FIRST
4. To vote for any person whose name is not printed on this ballot, go to the Municipal Clerk's Office and obtain the ballot by the voter's "ballot" for the office in which you wish to vote. If you wish to vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, you must go to the Municipal Clerk's Office and obtain the ballot by the voter's "ballot" for the office in which you wish to vote.
5. If you are unable to read or do not understand the instructions, you may ask for assistance from a family member or a friend. However, you are not permitted to vote for more than ONE Political Party in the Primary.

This is a PRIMARY ELECTION. Therefore you are not permitted to vote for more than ONE Political Party in the Primary.

IMPORTANT! ATTENTION VOTERS!

Familiarize yourself with this ballot and instructions. It will assist you in voting, and save time on Election Day. All voters who can, should vote early in the day and thus avoid the possibility of congestion and inconvenience to themselves and others near the close of the polls.

Additional voter information will be available in all jurisdictions at www.oceannj.gov
www.oceancounty.org
www.facebook.com/oceancountyorg

OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY BALLOT APPEARS ON THE OTHER SIDE

1 This is your ballot! (They vary by county.) Fill in the circles on the ballot to mark your choices. *Use a **blue or black pen**—not pencil or marker. The ballots are scanned by machine.*

DO NOT TEAR OFF THIS FLAP

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL-IN VOTER

I, _____, whose
(print your name clearly)

home address is _____,
(street address or P.O. number)

_____ DO HEREBY CERTIFY,
(municipality)

subject to the penalties for fraudulent voting, that I am the person who applied for the enclosed ballot. I MARKED AND SEALED THIS BALLOT AND CERTIFICATE IN SECRET. However, a family member may assist me in doing so.

Any person providing assistance shall complete the following:
I do hereby certify that I am the person who provided assistance to this voter and declare that I will maintain the secrecy of this ballot.

(signature of voter)

(signature of person providing assistance)

(printed name of person providing assistance)

(address of person providing assistance)

2 This is your certification envelope. **DO NOT DETACH** and don't forget to **sign!** Certificates also vary by county, read all instructions carefully!

The Certificate: A Closer Look



***Certificates vary by county! Read all instructions carefully!**

DO NOT DETACH!

DO NOT TEAR OFF THIS FLAP

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL-IN VOTER

I, , whose
(print your name clearly)

home address is
(street address or R.D. number)

..... , DO HEREBY CERTIFY,
(municipality)

subject to the penalties for fraudulent voting, that I am the person who applied for the enclosed ballot. I MARKED AND SEALED THIS
BALLOT AND CERTIFICATE IN SECRET. However, a family member may assist me in doing so.

Any person providing assistance shall complete the following:
(signature of voter)

I do hereby certify that I am the person who provided assistance to this voter and declare that I will maintain the secrecy of this ballot.

.....
(signature of person providing assistance)
(printed name of person providing assistance)

.....
(address of person providing assistance)

**Address where you are
registered to vote!**

**Signature must match the
signature on file or on mail-in
ballot application.**

Why is the certificate important?



Security and Anonymity

- The Certificate contains the voter's residency information, the voter's signature that is matched against their signature on file, and information if they received assistance.
- Once the Board of Elections receives this inner envelope and verifies those three things, they then tear it off and separate it from the envelope.
- Once the envelope is opened (without the attached Certificate flap) no identifying features are on the ballot itself keeping the vote completely anonymous.

FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT,
YOU MUST SEAL YOUR BALLOT IN THIS ENVELOPE AND
COMPLETE & SIGN THIS CERTIFICATE

PRIMARY ELECTION
DELAWARE TOWNSHIP - 02 - 01

ID [Redacted]

Registration Number [Redacted]

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL-IN VOTER

I, the undersigned, whose name, address and municipality appear on the certificate, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, subject to the penalties for fraudulent voting, that I am the person authorized for the enclosed ballot by the Primary Election. I MARKED AND SEALED THIS BALLOT AND CERTIFICATE IN SECRET. However, a family member may assist me in doing so.

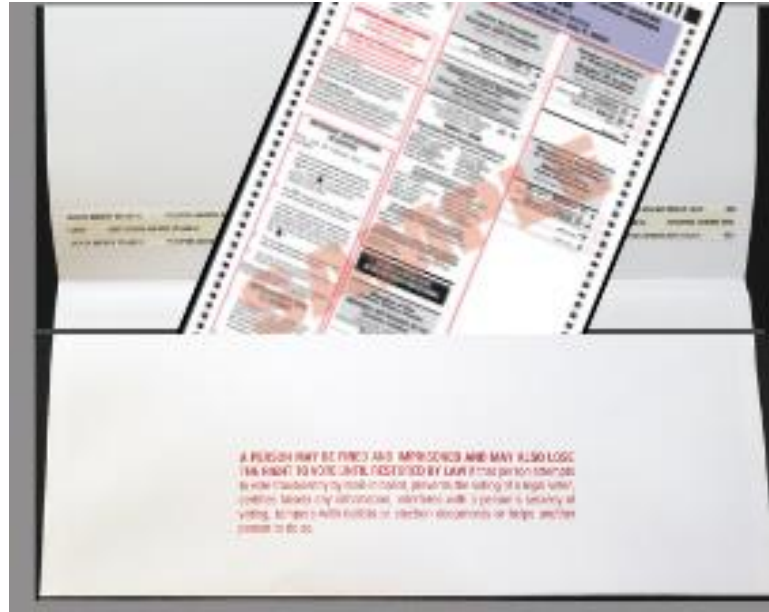
I marked this ballot for for the _____ Democrat _____ political party.

Sign Name Here
as it appears in the Poll Book **X** _____
(Signature of Voter)

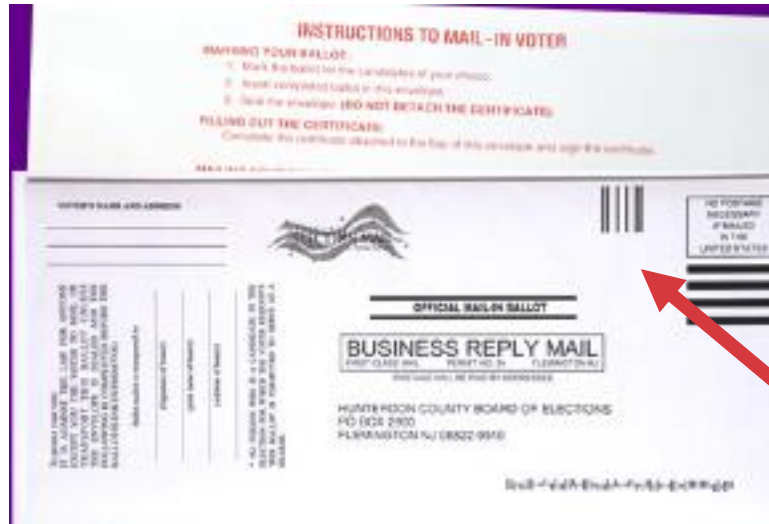
PRIMARY ELECTION
DELAWARE TOWNSHIP - 02 - 01

DO NOT DETACH Democrat

How do I complete the mail in ballot process?



3 Put the ballot in the smaller certification envelope and seal. ***Do not detach or damage the flap which attaches the certificate!***



4 Place the sealed certification envelope in the larger envelope and seal.
**It is self-addressed and stamped.*

**Scanned upon receipt!*

Avoid Rejection!



Check your certificate!



Don't forget to sign!

Sign with your official signature, not your "grocery store relaxed" signature!



Signatures can change over time!

Avoid rejection due to signature mismatch by updating your signature if it's been a long time since you've registered to vote.



The Ballot Cure Act

- Requires the county Board of Elections to notify the voters of their temporary rejection within 24 hours
- Allows voters up to 48 hours before the election is certified to provide a fix (or cure) to the mail-in ballot.

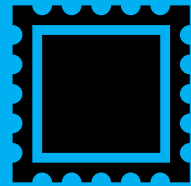
Avoid Rejection!



Be on time!



DON'T WAIT! Your election day is the day you receive your ballot!



POSTMARK:

Your ballot **must** be postmarked by November 3, 2020 if the Board of Elections receives it by November 10, 8pm.



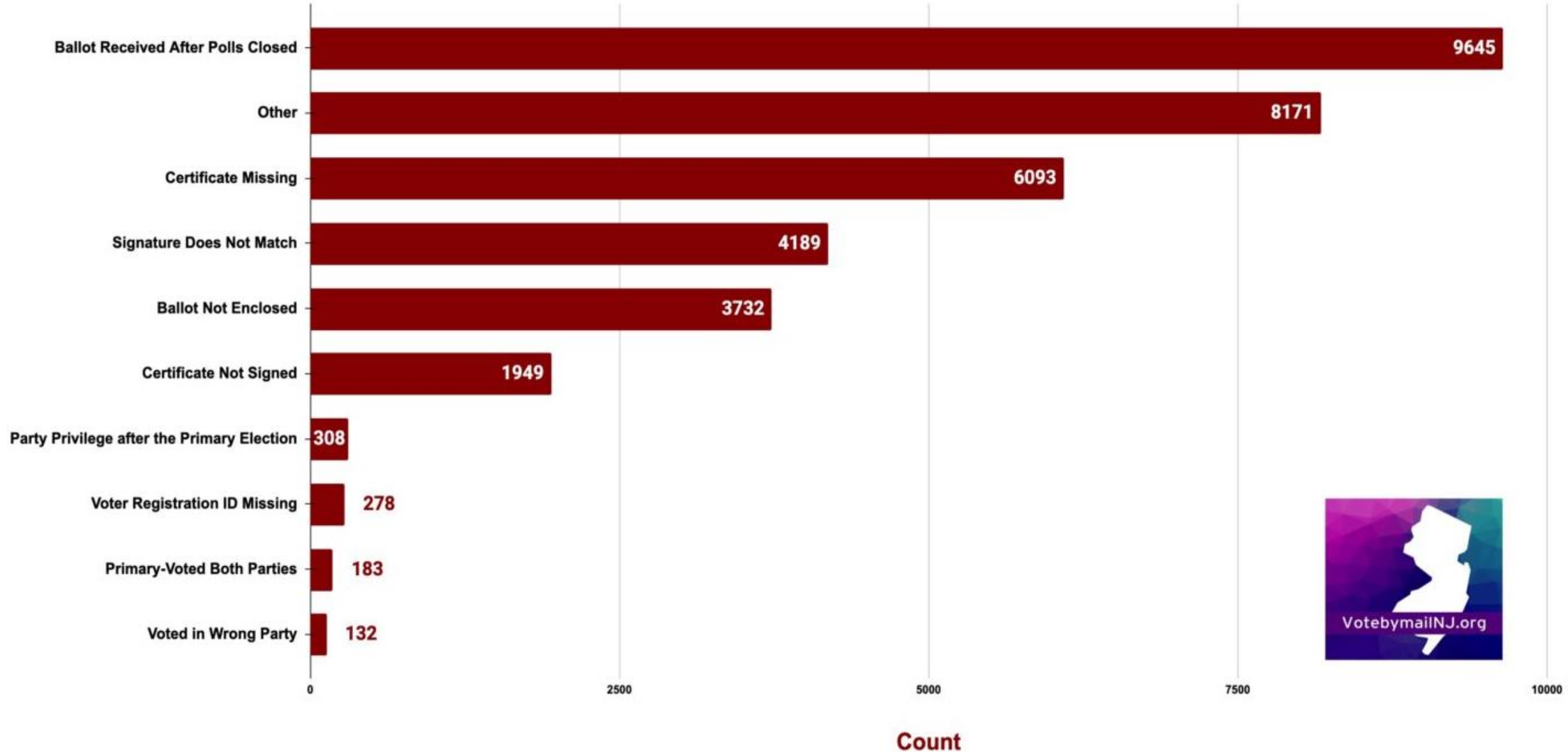
The "VBM Education Bill"

- Secretary of State provides voter education on Vote By Mail.
- Increases # of Messengers and Bearers from 3 to 5. *(If family and residing in the same household.)*
- Removes the requirement of having a postmark on the ballot if received in the mail within 48 hours of polls closed.

2020 Primary Election: Top 10 Rejected Reasons

Source: COMET(TM) using August 25, 2020 Dataset from NJ Division of Elections

Rejected Reason



How do I return my ballot?

***There are many ways to return your ballot. Chose what is best and easiest for you just GET IT IN!**

 **do social justice.**
NJISJ NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

 **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS***
OF NEW JERSEY



do social justice.
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



Mail VBM ballot via **U.S. Postal Service** ASAP – must be postmarked by **11/3/20** and will be counted if received by **11/10/20**.



Drop your VBM ballot in a **secure dropbox** by 8PM on 11/3/2020. Find locations here: bit.ly/NJBallotBoxes.



Bring your VBM ballot to your county **Board of Elections** up until 11/3/2020. Check in advance for their hours.



Bring your VBM ballot to your **polling place** on Election Day. Find your polling place here: voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search.



Vote in-person by provisional paper ballot that will be provided at your polling place on Election Day. Polls open from 6AM to 8PM. These ballots count!

***Voting machine available as an ADA accommodation for people with disabilities.**

How do I return my ballot?



In a Drop Box

- **The Ballot Drop Boxes Act** – requires a minimum of 10 secure ballot drop boxes per county. (Based on # of registered voters.)
- Each drop box will be under surveillance and emptied daily by two representatives from the board of elections which includes both democrats and republicans.
- If you touch someone else's ballot you are considered a "bearer" and must complete the bearer section. (You may only bear up to 3 ballots per election; however you may return **up to 5 household ballots** for this election.)
- Drop boxes will be locked @ 8 pm on election day!

How do I return my ballot?



In the Mail

- All ballots come with a prepaid postage marked envelope.
- The state is working with the postal service to ensure ballots are processed in a timely manner. As long as it is **postmarked on or before November 3rd and received by November 10th**, it will be counted after election day!
- Ballots received prior to election day may begin to be counted by October 24th!
- Don't wait until the last minute! If you do, ask the post office to postmark your ballot in person.
- It is safe, easy and cost effective for you!

How do I return my ballot?



*Each municipality will be required to open at least 1 in-person polling site!

At a Polling Location

- **NEW!** You can bring your mail in ballot to a polling location on election day!
- You will return it directly to a poll worker and must sign the poll book . **These ballots will not be counted until November 4th.*
- **NOTE!** Voters can only bring their personally voted ballot to their polling place; no one can be the bearer for someone else's ballot at the polls on Election Day.

OR

At Your Board of Elections

- Up until election day, 11/3/2020.
- Call to check their hours!

Can I vote in person?

***If you want to vote in person, you must do so using a provisional (paper) ballot.**

Polling Location Info

- Polling places may have longer lines making it harder to practice safe social distancing, it is safest and easiest to vote using your mail in ballot!
- If you still chose to vote using a provisional ballot you will need to fill out a paper ballot (which is identical to the ballot you received in the mail) **AND** verification paperwork.
- Provisional ballots will be counted last to verify you haven't already voted by mail. **At the earliest, November 11th!*
- All provisional ballots that have been investigated and deemed eligible, will be counted.
- If you have a disability and can't fill out a paper ballot, you can vote at a polling place on election day on an ADA accessible machine.

How can I track my ballot?

*If you have trouble online, call your local election officials, they are happy to assist voters!



ONLINE:

NJ Voter Public Access

<https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/auth/sign-in>



1.

If you have not already set up your account, click the **"Sign Up for Public Access"** link to set up your NJ Voter Information System account.

2.

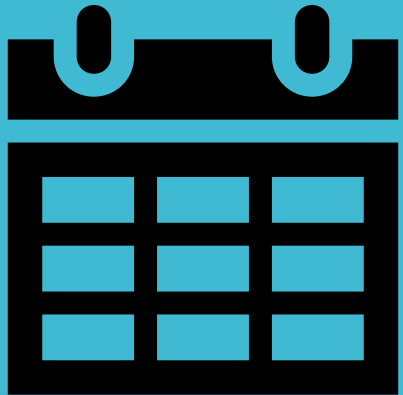
Enter your information as it's found in your Voter Registration file and your Voter ID (most successful) **OR DL# OR SSN.**

NOTE: Your Voter Id# is listed on both the outer mailing envelope that your ballot came in, and on the inner envelope used to return your voted ballot to the Board of Elections.

3.

Once you've successfully created an account, you'll be prompted to **log in**: *Click **"Mail-In Ballot History"** (current election is listed first), and find the column labeled **"Ballot Received Date"**.

IMPORTANT DATES: General Election 2020



October

5

Deadline for ballots to be mailed
by County Clerks.

October

13

Voter Registration Deadline For
November General Election

October

23

Deadline to apply (by mail) for a Vote-
By-Mail Ballot.

**If updating voting status from inactive to active!*

November

3

November General Election
**Postmarked on or before this date!*

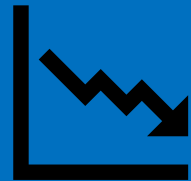
Important things to remember!



The highest reason for ballot rejection?
Ballots received after polls close!



Be pro-active! You can track your ballot and all votes are counted unless there is an error.



The national trend for vote by mail tampering is very low. Voting by mail is still safe and effective.

FIND OUT WHAT IS ON YOUR BALLOT AND MORE!

VOTE

411SM

www.vote411.org

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
EDUCATION FUND

DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS!



**CENSUS 2020
YOU COUNT
GET COUNTED**



Quick Links

About the League

[LWV Morristown](#) - Barbara.Advocate@gmail.com

[LWV Somerset/Hunterdon](#)

[LWV Sussex Highlands](#)

[LWV Warren and West Morris](#)

[LWVUS Website](#)

[LWV New Jersey - Local Leagues](#)

Contact Info

Hunterdon County Clerk: Mary H. Melfi

908-788-1214 or email: countyclerk@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Morris County Clerk: Ann F. Grossi

973-285-6715 or email: elections@co.morris.nj.us

Sussex County Clerk: Jeff M. Parrott

973-579-0900 or email: info@sussexcountyclerk.org

Warren County Clerk: Holly Mackey

908-475-6211 or email: hmackey@co.warren.nj.us

Sources

***Drop Box and Polling Locations are still being updated!
Check County Clerk Websites for up to date info.**

[Morris County Election Info](#)

[Hunterdon County Election Info](#)

[Sussex County Election Info](#)

[Warren County Election Info](#)

[NJ Voter Public Access](#)

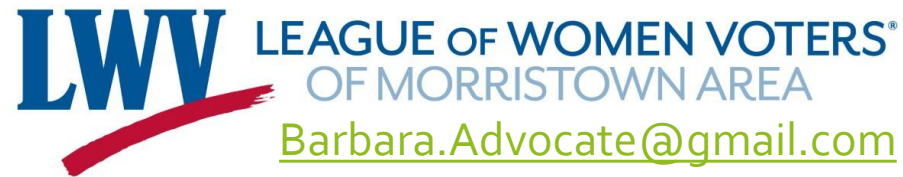
[NJ Division of Elections](#)

[LWV Southern Monmouth Voting Advocate Toolkit](#)

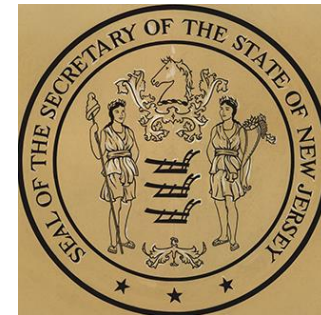
Additional Sources

Eagleton Institute Politics

<https://eagleton.rutgers.edu/event/vote-by-mail-protecting-the-ballot-during-covid-19/>



www.votebymailnj.org



www.nj.gov/state/elections/index.shtml

How to Register

- October 13th is the Voter Registration Deadline for General Election!

*You only need to declare a party affiliation for the primary.

*Check this box only if you would like to receive a mail in ballot for **ALL** future elections.

*Update signature here!
(Signatures change over time due to age, illness, or injury!)



New Jersey **Sample** Voter Registration Application

Please print clearly in ink. All information is required unless marked optional.

68

1 Check all boxes that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Party Affiliation <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signature Update <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vote By Mail						FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY Clerk _____ Registration # _____ Office Time Stamp _____ <input type="checkbox"/> by mail <input type="checkbox"/> in person Muni Code # _____ Party _____ Ward _____ District _____	
2 Are you a U.S. Citizen? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, DO NOT complete this form)		3 Are you at least 17 years of age? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If No, DO NOT complete this form)					
4 Last Name Smith		5 First Name Jane					
6 Date of Birth (MM / DD / YYYY) 03 / 11 / 1955		7 Gender (Optional) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male					
8 NJ Driver's License Number or MVC Non-driver ID Number Enter license here						If you DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License or MVC Non-Driver ID, provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> "I swear or affirm that I DO NOT have a NJ Driver's License, MVC Non-driver ID or a Social Security Number."							
9 Home Address (DO NOT use PO Box) 1414 Cedar Grove		Apt. _____		Municipality (City/Town) This Town		County Salem State NJ Zip Code 08079	
10 Mailing Address (If different from Home Address) My old address		Apt. _____		Municipality (City/Town) Other Town		County Salem State NJ Zip Code 08079	
11 Last Address Registered to Vote (DO NOT use PO Box) My old address		Apt. _____		Municipality (City/Town) Other Town		County Salem State NJ Zip Code 08079	
12 Former Name if Making Name Change _____						13 Day Phone Number (Optional) _____ E-Mail Address (Optional) _____	
14 Do you wish to declare a political party affiliation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, the party name is Sample [List the party you want to vote in] (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not wish to be affiliated with any political party.							
15 Request for Mail-In Ballot for all future elections (Optional) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a Mail-In Ballot for all future elections until I request otherwise in writing to the County Clerk's office. <input type="checkbox"/> Mail my ballot to the following address if different from Mailing Address above.							
Mailing Address if different from above _____						Apt. _____ Municipality (City/Town) _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	
Declaration - I swear or affirm that:							
• I am a U.S. Citizen • I live at the above home address • I am at least 17 years old, and understand that I may not vote until reaching the age of 18						• I will have resided in the State and county at least 30 days before the next election • I am not serving a sentence of incarceration as the result of a conviction of any indictable offense under the laws of this or another state or of the United States.	
• I understand that any false or fraudulent registration may subject me to a fine of up to \$15,000, imprisonment up to 5 years, or both pursuant to R.S. 19:34-1							
Signature of Registrant: Sign or mark and date on lines below Jane Smith						If applicant is unable to complete this form, print the name and address of individual who completed this form. Name _____ Date (MM / DD / YYYY) _____ / _____ / _____ Address _____	
Date 05 / 21 / 20 (MM / DD / YYYY)							