

**Directive to Accommodate Processing of Electronically  
Transmitted Mail-in Ballot Applications and to Preserve  
Displaced Voters' Right to Vote**

Notwithstanding Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath, the State of New Jersey is committed to holding a fair, open, transparent, and accessible election on Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

In my capacity as the State's Chief Election Official, I am working with State, county, and local officials to address election-day polling issues that have arisen as a result of Hurricane Sandy. As part of those efforts, and in order to facilitate voter participation, we have expanded the ability of displaced voters to vote by email, facsimile, and mail-in ballots while fully protecting the integrity of the election.

The response to this expansion has been remarkable, reflecting the civic commitment of New Jersey voters to exercise their franchise even as they are displaced from their homes. The counties and the State are committing all available resources to quickly process email, fax, and mail-in ballot applications and to send qualified voters a ballot. Notwithstanding these efforts, it has become apparent that the County Clerks are receiving applications at a rate that outpaces their capacity to process them without an extension of the current schedule.

Given this extraordinary volume, if a displaced voter can vote by other means, they are urged to do so.

In order to facilitate voter participation in this general election and pursuant to the authorities vested in me by Executive Order 104, you are hereby directed as follows:

1. The deadline for submitting a mail-in ballot application by email or fax remains 5 p.m. on November 6, 2012.
2. County Clerks shall continue to process those applications until Friday, November 9, 2012, at 12 p.m.
3. The voter must follow all instructions provided with the ballot.
4. The voter must transmit the signed waiver of secrecy along with the voted ballot by fax or email for receipt by the appropriate county board of elections no later than Friday, November 9, 2012, at 8 p.m.

5. The County Board of Elections shall process the emailed/faxed ballot according to the procedures provided for provisional ballots. Specifically, the Board shall verify that (a) the voter did not cast a vote in a voting machine at his or her assigned polling place and, (b) the voter did not submit any other paper ballot.
6. This Directive shall take effect immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Guadagno". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lieutenant Governor  
Secretary of State