



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TRENTON, NJ 08625

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

LT. GOVERNOR KIM GUADAGNO
Secretary of State

November 1, 2012

County Board of Elections
County Clerks
County Superintendents of Elections

Directive Easing Restrictions on Voters In the Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

Notwithstanding Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath, the State of New Jersey is committed to holding a fair, open, and transparent election on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, as established by federal law, 3 U.S.C. § 1, et seq.

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. Voters throughout the State are encouraged to take advantage of early voting options as made available by County Elections Officials.

In recognition of the difficulties and disruptions caused by Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath, and pursuant to the authorities vested in me by Executive Order 104, you are hereby directed as follows:

- 1. County Clerks:** You shall deem timely any mailed application for a mail-in ballot that is received in your office by the close of business tomorrow, Friday, November 2, 2012, and process that application as expeditiously as possible;
- 2. County Clerks and All Election Offices:** Your offices are to remain open, at a minimum, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on:

Friday, November 2
Saturday, November 3
Sunday, November 4
Monday, November 5
- 3. County Clerks and All Election Offices:** You shall take all reasonable measures to notify the voters of your county of the extended office hours;

4. **County Boards of Election:** You shall make all reasonable efforts to immediately ascertain, but in no event later than Friday, November 2, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. noon, which polling places are likely to be inaccessible on November 6, and to identify alternative sites, and to provide that information, in writing, to Robert Giles, Director, Division of Elections, at Robert.Giles@sos.state.nj.us, and Robert Lougy, Assistant Attorney General, at Robert.Lougy@dol.lps.state.nj.us;
 - a. If the designated polling place has power, voting will take place as planned;
 - b. If no power exists for the polling place or alternate polling place, please report back to Robert Giles and the State Division of Elections will work with County officials to coordinate alternative arrangements.
5. The 10-ballot limitation established in N.J.S.A. 19:63-4 is hereby relaxed, as follows:
 - a. Any authorized messenger designated by me, the County Board of Election or the County Clerk shall be empowered to serve as an authorized messenger for more than 10 persons residing at State-supported shelters;
 - b. Any authorized messenger so designated need not be a resident of the county of the voter's residence;
 - c. Any authorized messenger so designated shall comply with all other provisions of the vote by mail law;
 - d. A voter is free to choose not to use the authorized messenger provided for under this Order but to use an authorized messenger of their own choice;
6. The requirement that a member of the district board of registry and election be a resident of the county in which he or she works is hereby waived for the purpose of the November 6, 2012 election;
7. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:8-2 and Executive Order 104, I hereby permit a polling place to be more than 1,000 feet distant from the boundary line of the district if there is no suitable polling place within the district or 1,000 feet distant from the boundary line of the district;
8. This Directive is effective immediately and shall expire after the general election of November 6, 2012.

Kim Guadagno



Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State