

2020 Primary Election Timeline

April

April 8

Deadline for Filing Certificate to Fill Vacancy of a Primary Election Candidate by the Appointed Vacancy Committee

(55 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-12

April 8

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenges for Primary Election Candidates

(9 days after the last day for filing nomination petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-11

April 9

Deadline for Municipal Clerk to Certify to the County Clerk the Names of the Candidates who filed Primary Election Nomination Petition with Municipal Clerk

(54 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-14

April 9

Transmittal of Secretary of State Certification of Federal and State Primary Election Candidates to County Clerks

(54 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-21

April 9

County & Municipal Clerk Drawings for Ballot Positions for Primary Election Candidates

(54 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-24 – (P.L.2020, c.5.)

April 10

Transmittal of County Clerk Certification of All Candidates to be Placed on the Primary Election Ballot to Municipal Clerks, the County Clerk Shall also Transmit such List, but for Federal Candidates; to Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC)

(53 days before the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-22

April 13

Deadline for Filing in Superior Court to Protect Primary Election Candidate's Rights

(12 days after petition filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-12

April 26 - May 2; May 3 - May 9

Publication of Notice of Requirements to Vote in Primary Election by County Commissioner of Registration

(notice to be published once during each of the two calendar weeks next preceding the week of the 55th day before the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-45.1

2020 Primary Election Timeline

May

May 12

Publication of Notice of Mail-in Ballot Availability for Primary Election by County Clerks
(prior to the 55th day before election)
N.J.S.A. 19:63-6

May 13

Deadline for Change of Party Affiliation Declaration Forms for Primary Election to be Filed with County Commissioners of Registration
(55 days before election)
N.J.S.A. 19:23-45

May 17 – June 15

Publication of Notice of Primary Election by County Boards of Election
(within 30 days before close of registration for election)
N.J.S.A. 19:12-7
**Under current law the Primary Election is held only for the Democratic and Republican parties. N.J.S.A. 19:5-1*

May 18*

Deadline for Preparation of Official Primary Election Ballot for Printing
(50 days before election)
N.J.S.A. 19:14-1
** County Commissioner of Registration is to provide notice to the two County Chairpersons of the date to inspect voting machines after they have been prepared for the upcoming election. This date will vary from county to county. N.J.S.A. 19:48-6*

May 23

Commencement of Sending UOCAVA Ballots for Primary Election
(45 days before election)
N.J.S.A. 19:63-5, N.J.S.A. 19:63-9

June

June 15

Certification of Polling Places for the July 7, 2020 Primary Election by County Boards of Election
(Moved from May 15 by Executive Order 120) (Updated in Executive Order 144)
N.J.S.A. 19:8-4 (Executive Order 120)

June 15

Filing of Certification of Accessible Polling Places to the Secretary of State by the County Boards of Election
N.J.S.A. 19:8-3.4

June 16

Voter Registration Deadline for Primary Election
(21 days before election)
N.J.S.A. 19:31-6

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June 16

Mandated Evening Voter Registration Available for Primary Election in Offices of County Commissioners of Registration

(optional for Municipal Clerk)

(21 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:31-2

June 23

Deadline for Filing of Challenger Appointments for Primary Election

(second Tuesday preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:7-3

June 28 – July 4

Publication of Notice of Primary Election by County Boards of Election

(once during the calendar week prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

June 30

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for Primary Election by County Boards of Election

(7 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

June 30

Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for Primary Election

(not less than 7 days prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-3

July

July 1

Mailing of Polling Place Notification for Primary Election

(on or before 12 noon on Wednesday preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-34 (Executive Order 144)

July 3

Deadline for Application to Receive Primary Election Mail-In Ballots by Electronic Means for Qualified Overseas Civilian and Military Voters

(4th day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:59-4

July 6

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for Primary Election by County Boards of Election

(1 day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

July 7

Primary Election Day

(Moved from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June by Executive Order 120)

N.J.S.A. 19:2-1, N.J.S.A. 19:23-40 (Executive Order 120)

2020 Primary Election Timeline

July 7 – Prior to 8:00 pm

Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for Primary Election

(Voted ballots must be returned to the County Board of Elections by 8:00 p.m. on July 7, 2020)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-3 (Executive Order 144)

July 7

Last day for Testing of Electronic Scanning Equipment for Tabulation of Paper Ballots for Primary Election

(day of election) (notice to be given 48 hours prior to the start of testing)

N.J.S.A. 19:53A-8

July 7

Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots for the Primary Election

July 7

Deadline for in Person Submission of Primary Election Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election

(by 8:00 p.m. on the day of election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-16

July 8 - July 29

Impoundment Period for Voting Machines Used in the Primary Election

(Extended 5 days from 17 to 22 days following election as per Executive Order 144) (to comply with P.L. 2018, c.72)

N.J.S.A. 19:52-6 (Executive Order 144)

July 14 – 8:00 p.m.

Deadline for Receipt of Timely Mailed Postmarked Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election

(Extended 5 days after 48 hours from the closing of the polls as per Executive Order 144)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-22 (Executive Order 144)

July 19

Deadline for Filing of Acceptance of Nomination by Successful Primary Election Write-in Nominee

N.J.S.A. 19:23-16

July 19

Filing of Acceptance of One Nomination where Primary Election Nominee Receives More Than One Nomination for Same Office

(Extended 5 days from 7 days after election as per Executive Order 144)

N.J.S.A. 19:14-9 (Executive Order 144)

July 20

Deadline for Municipal Clerk to Certify to County Clerk and County Board of Elections the Names of Duly Elected County Committee Members

(Extended 5 days from within 8 days after primary election as per Executive Order 144)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-54 (Executive Order 144)

July 22

Deadline for Filing of Election Contest Petitions for Primary Election

(Extended 5 days from 10 days after election as per Executive Order 144)

N.J.S.A. 19:29-3 (Executive Order 144)

2020 Primary Election Timeline

July 24

Canvass of Primary Election Votes by County Clerks

(Extended 5 days from 12 days after the election as per Executive Order 144)

N.J.S.A. 19:23-55 (Executive Order 144)

July 29

Deadline for Recount Applications for Primary Election

(Extended 5 days from 17 days after election as per Executive Order 144)

N.J.S.A. 19:28-1 (Executive Order 144)

July 29

Deadline for Applications for Recheck of Voting Machines Used in the Primary Election

(Extended 5 days from 17 days after election as per Executive Order 144) (to comply with P.L. 2018, c.72)

N.J.S.A. 19:52-6 (Executive Order 144)

July 29

Deadline for Preparation of Emergency and Provisional Ballot Reports by Each County Board of Election for the Primary Election

(Extended 5 days from 17 days after the election as per Executive Order 144)

N.J.S.A. 19:53B-21, N.J.S.A. 19:53C-21 (Executive Order 144)