



Frequently Asked Questions June 8, 2021 Primary Election

Voting In-Person/Provisional Ballots

Q. Can I vote in-person at my polling location?

A. Yes, you can vote in person at your polling location. To find your polling location please visit Vote.NJ.Gov. If you have received your vote by mail ballot but have not voted you may only vote by paper provisional ballot at your polling place.

Q. What is a provisional ballot?

A. A provisional ballot is cast by a voter whose eligibility to vote cannot be confirmed at the polls on Election Day or if they have applied for a vote by mail ballot. If, after the election, it is determined that the voter who cast the provisional ballot was eligible to vote, the ballot will be counted.

Q. Will in-person voters at polling locations be required to wear a mask?

A. All voters are asked to wear a face covering and observe appropriate social distancing.

Q. Is there an early voting period in New Jersey?

A. There is not an in-person (polling place/vote center) early voting period for this Primary Election. However, voters will be able to request and return their vote by mail ballots early to a secure ballot drop box, by mail, or in person to their Board of Elections office. Dropbox locations can be found [here](#) on the 2021 New Jersey Voter Information Portal.



Voter Registration

Q. What is the Voter Registration Deadline?

A. May 18th, 2021.

Q. How can I register to vote?

A. Voters can register to vote on online [here](#) or by filling out a paper registration form, which can be found [here](#).

Q. How can I check my voter registration status?

A. Voters can check their voter registration status on the ["Am I Registered?"](#) page on the [2021 New Jersey Voter Information Portal](#).

Q. What is considered an "Inactive" voter?

A. An Inactive voter is a voter whose address has come into question. The main way the counties receive this information is via the sample ballots that are sent prior to each election. If a sample ballot is returned as undeliverable or indicates the voter has moved, that voter is put into an "Inactive" status and is sent a confirmation notice informing them that 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.

Inactive voters do not get sample ballots and are not eligible to receive a vote by mail ballot until they are put back into an Active status. You can update your record to active status through the [online voter registration](#) or using a [paper registration form](#).



Poll Worker

Q. How can I be a poll worker on Election Day?

A. Submit an [application](#) to be a poll worker. Citizens, including college and high school students, are encouraged to apply. Training is required and will be provided.

Vote by Mail

Q. How do I receive my vote by mail ballot?

A. Every Active registered voter is eligible to request a vote by mail ballot. Please contact your county clerk to submit a request. If you would like to receive your ballot by mail you must request your ballot by Tuesday, June 1st. Otherwise you must get your vote by mail ballot in-person from your county clerk, the deadline is June 7 at 3 p.m. You have until 8 pm on Election Day to return your ballot to the Board of Elections in person or deposit it in one of your county's secure authorized ballot drop boxes.

You can find your County Clerk contact information [here](#).

Q. When will ballots be mailed?

A. Counties will begin mailing ballots to voters no later than April 24, 2021, but some counties will begin before then.

Q. How do I know if my vote by mail ballot has been mailed?

A. You can check on the status of your vote by mail ballot online [here](#) or you can contact your County Clerk. That contact information is [here](#).



Q. Can I track my vote by mail ballot?

A. Yes, voters can track their vote by mail ballot through the [Track My Ballot Portal](#). First time users have to create an account and will need either a Driver's License Number, last 4 digits of SSN, or Voter ID Number to validate voter registration status. (If you don't know your Voter ID number, you can obtain it by going to ["Am I Registered?"](#) or contact your [Superintendent of Elections or Commissioner of Registration](#))

Q. If I am voting by mail, when must the county Board of Elections receive my ballot?

A. Vote by mail ballots that are sent through the mail must be postmarked by Election Day, June 8, 2021, and received by the county Board of Elections on or before June 14, 2021. Vote by mail ballots that are placed in the county's secure ballot drop box or delivered in-person to the county Board of Elections must be delivered by 8 pm on Election Day, June 8th.

Q. How can I return my ballot?

A. Either return your ballot by mail, bring your completed and sealed ballot in-person to your county's Board of Elections office, or place it in a secure "ballot drop box" located throughout your county.

Q. What is the deadline by which election officials must receive a mailed ballot?

A. Every vote by mail ballot that is postmarked on or before June 8, 2021, and that is received by June 14, 2021, at 8:00 p.m. shall be considered valid and shall be canvassed, assuming the ballot meets all other statutory requirements. Additionally, every ballot without a postmark, and ballots mismarked and confirmed by the post office that those ballots were received by the post office on or before June 8, 2021, that is received by the county Boards of Elections from the United States Postal Service within one hundred and forty-four (144) hours (6 days) of the closing of polls on June 8, 2021, shall be considered valid and shall be canvassed, assuming the ballot meets all other statutory requirements.



Q. Do I have to include a stamp on my ballot return envelope?

A. It depends on your county. Please call your county clerk. You can find your County contact information [here](#).

Q. Do vote by mail ballots require a witness or notary?

A. No, vote by mail ballots do not require a witness or notary. **They do require the voter's signature.**

Q. Do voters casting a ballot by mail need to include a copy of ID?

A. Voters do not need to provide a copy of their ID in order to cast a vote by mail ballot except under certain circumstances for first time voters. These voters will receive a notice with their vote by mail ballot.

Q. What should I do if I make a mistake, damage, or lose my vote by mail ballot?

A. If you have not already returned your ballot, you may request a replacement vote by mail ballot from your county clerk [here](#). If you go to your polling location on Election Day, you will have to vote using a paper provisional ballot.

Q. What is the difference between absentee and vote by mail ballot in New Jersey?


A. The term "absentee ballot" was changed in July 2009 and was replaced by the vote by mail ballot law that allowed a voter to request a ballot by mail for any reason.

Q. Will my other votes be counted if I choose not to vote for a candidate or question?



A. Yes, if you choose to leave a race or question blank, your other votes will still be counted.

Q. Do I have to vote for the Party I am registered with?

A. Yes, this is a Primary Election. NJ recognizes the Democrat and Republican parties. You may vote for the candidate(s) of your choice representing the party in which you are registered. You may only vote for the number of candidate(s) permitted for the office that you are casting a vote for. Example – Senate - Vote for One- you may only vote for one. Voting for more than one creates an “Over Vote” which disqualifies the vote cast for that office. Please remember to check the back and any additional pages of your ballot to ensure that you have reviewed all offices up for election. 

If you are an unaffiliated voter (a voter that has not declared a party) you may be eligible to vote in the Primary Election. You must declare a party when voting at your polling location or select one ballot, Democrat or Republican, if voting by mail.

Q. Will my vote by mail ballot be counted? I heard that vote by mail ballots might not be counted.

A. Every valid vote by mail ballot is counted. Be sure to complete and sign the certificate attached to the inner envelope when you return your vote by mail ballot. Be sure to leave the certificate attached to the inner envelope. Do not put it inside the inner envelope. If you are going to mail your ballot, it must be postmarked ON or BEFORE Election Day, June 8, 2021 and received by your county Board of Elections by 8 pm June 14, 2021. If you are not sure if your ballot will arrive in time, you can drop it off in person at the county Board of Elections or one of the county’s secure authorized ballot drop boxes. Contact your Board of Elections for drop-off locations. If you are dropping your ballot off in-person, you must do-so by 8 pm on Election Day, June 8, 2021.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Q. What is a “Ballot Drop Box”?



A. A ballot drop box is a secure, locked structure operated by election officials where voters may deliver their ballots from the time they receive

them in the mail up to the time polls close on at 8 pm on Election Day, June 8th. There will be at least 10 drop boxes located throughout each county, which will be available 24 hours a day. Drop boxes will be under surveillance by security cameras and collected daily by county election officials.

Q. Where can I find the locations of the ballot drop boxes?

A. You can find that information [here](#) on the 2021 New Jersey Voter Information Portal.

“Bearers”

Q. Can I deliver more than 1 vote by mail ballot to the Board of Elections office or place it in the ballot drop box?

A. A person who transports a voted (completed) vote by mail ballot for someone else is considered a "Bearer". **Bearers are limited to three (3) non-household ballots per election, except that an authorized bearer may transport up to five (5) ballots in an election if those voters are immediate family members residing in the same household as the bearer.**

- ✓ Not to exceed (5) ballots in total for any election
- ✓ The Bearer MUST SIGN the "Bearer Portion" of the outer envelope of the ballot in the presence of the voter when taking custody of the ballot.

Any Bearer Ballots that exceeds the limit must be REJECTED. The Bearer MUST SIGN the "Bearer Portion" of the outer envelope of the ballot in the presence of the voter when taking custody of the ballot. If the Bearer is hand-delivering the ballot to the county Board of Elections, then he/she MUST SHOW ID AND SIGN the Bearer Book. It is against the law for anyone except you, the voter, to mail or transport your ballot unless the outer envelope is sealed and the "Bearer Portion" is completed.

Q. Can I deliver my vote by mail ballot to my polling location?



A. No, you cannot bring your ballot to your polling place on Election Day. However, you can bring your completed and sealed ballot in-person to your county's Board of Elections office, or place it in a secure "ballot drop box" located throughout your county.

Signature Verification/Matching

Q. Are ballots subject to signature matching? If a voter submits a ballot that lacks a signature or the signature is determined not to match the signature in the voter's voting record, will that voter be notified?

A. Yes, if your vote by mail ballot or provisional ballot was missing your signature or the county Board of Elections has determined that your signature does not match the signature in your voting record, your county Board of Elections will provide you an opportunity to certify that you did, in fact, cast that ballot.

Q. Why am I receiving a letter, call, and/or email saying that my vote by mail ballot or provisional ballot was missing a signature, or that the signature did not match, and asking for additional information?

A. If your vote by mail ballot or provisional ballot was missing your signature or the county Board of Elections has determined that your signature does not match the signature in your voting record, your county Board of Elections will provide you an opportunity to certify that you did, in fact, cast that ballot.

Q. What if I believe an election crime or voter fraud has been committed?

A. If you would like to report a potential election crime or incident of voter fraud, please call **1-877-NJ-VOTER**.