



2024 New Jersey History Conference Call for Proposals

The New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) is pleased to present the 2024 New Jersey History Conference, which will be held at the Rutgers University New Brunswick Campus on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 in partnership with the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Since its founding in the 17th century, New Jersey has had a diverse and unique political landscape. From the division of the colony into the East and West proprietorships, to debates over the Civil War, to the era of political party machines, to the impact of civil rights activism, New Jersey's political history serves as a rich source for historical inquiry. This conference titled, "Imperfectly Civil: History of Civics and Politics in New Jersey," will examine how New Jerseyans have historically navigated these challenges and engaged with civic life through elections, public debates, activism, and beyond. In addition to illuminating the past, this conference will also explore how historians and history organizations can support democracy today.

Lightning Session Proposals

The New Jersey History Conference is an annual program that highlights the importance of studying and sharing state and local history by inviting established and emerging scholars, educators, public historians, students, and a broad spectrum of social science and humanities researchers to present new research that facilitates greater public awareness of New Jersey history. Lightning sessions are brief, dynamic presentations designed to share new research, projects, or ideas in the early stages of development.

We encourage proposals that feature diverse figures, events, and narratives. Presentations exploring the history of politics and civics in New Jersey may address topics including, but not limited to:

- History of elections in New Jersey
- Expansion and retraction of voting rights in New Jersey
- History of media and its role in politics
- History of activism and political protest
- Local politics during times of crisis
- The ways in which historians and historical organizations can contemporarily support the democratic process

The Conference Planning Committee will also review and consider proposals on general topics in New Jersey history unrelated to this year's theme.

Submission

The conference attracts a mixed audience that includes scholars, students, public historians, and history enthusiasts. We highly recommend that presenters do not read their papers. As such, the Committee accepts proposals for individual presentations and does not require a full paper submission. Some presentation summaries and papers may be selected for publication in *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, the online journal co-sponsored by Middlesex County, the NJHC, and Rutgers University Libraries.

Please submit your proposal via this [link](#) by the deadline of October 11 2024. Your submission will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee, and you will be notified of the acceptance of your proposal no later than October 25, 2024. Each lightning session presentation will be scheduled for a 5-minute time slot.

Proposals must include:

- Contact information (address, telephone, email).
- The title of the presentation.
- A one-paragraph bio.
- A headshot for each speaker.
- Your preferred name, title, and affiliation stylization (how you would like to be listed in the conference program).
- An abstract of no more than 250 words that outlines the content and significance of your lightning session proposal.

To submit a lightning session proposal, please click [here](#).

For questions, contact Rachel Thimke at rachel.thimke@sos.nj.gov.