

# HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

## VOTING BY MAIL

### IMPORTANT

- **VOTE EARLY, before October 20**, to be sure that your vote gets counted. *The sooner you can return your ballot the better!*
- The LWV highly recommends that you **bypass the regular mail system** and use a **SECURE BALLOT DROP BOX (or other option)** to return your ballot. The boxes are emptied daily by election officials and get to the Board of Elections **faster than by mail**. **You must use a drop box located in your county**. Ballots will not be taken/delivered to other counties' Board of Elections.
- You must **FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS** on the ballot **EXACTLY** and fill it out **COMPLETELY** or **your vote will NOT be counted!** Avoid **stray marks, tears, and other accidental flubs** that could **disqualify your ballot**.
- If you **damage or fill out your form incorrectly**, **request a supplemental ballot immediately** from your county's Board of Elections: <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/county-eo.shtml>

### 1. HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE BY MAIL IN BALLOT

1. Mark your ballot completely. With your pen, select your candidate by completely filling in the oval next to your candidate's name. Mark "yes" or "no" to the Public Questions.

#### **IMPORTANT DO NOT TEAR OFF THE FLAP ON THE INNER ENVELOPE!**

This is how your anonymity is maintained.

2. Complete and **SIGN** the **Certificate of Mail-in Voter** using your "official" signature. **Sign carefully and legibly**. Your signature is matched to the signature you used when your registered to vote. *If your signature has changed or you have changed your name, be sure to update it by re-registering.*
3. Put your completed ballot in the **Inner** envelope and **SEAL**. **It must be sealed for your ballot to count. AGAIN, DO NOT TEAR OFF THE FLAP!**
4. Put your **Inner** envelope in First-Class, postage paid, return **Outer** envelope and **SEAL. NO STAMP NEEDED.**
5. **Double check every part of your ballot in case you left something out or made a mistake!**
6. (*Whichever is applicable for your county*) Write in your return address or make sure your preprinted address is showing.
7. If you have asked someone to return your ballot for you (*your "bearer"*), the "Bearer" must complete the "Bearer" portion of the envelope.
8. Return your ballot before the deadline.

### NEED HELP COMPLETING YOUR BALLOT?

**SOMERSET COUNTY** has a **step-by-step, video tutorial** in both **English** here: <https://youtu.be/94oPOmsKKf4> and **Spanish** here: [https://youtu.be/jL\\_yL11YKE](https://youtu.be/jL_yL11YKE) **MIDDLESEX COUNTY** has a **video titled "How to Vote by Mail in the General Election"** here: <http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/Government/Departments/CS/Boardofelections/Pages/vote2020.aspx>

**NOTE: The color of the envelopes will vary by county.**

## 2. HOW TO RETURN YOUR COMPLETED VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

OPTIONS	DEADLINE TO RETURN YOUR COMPLETED VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ATTENTION:</b></p> <p>A notice will be sent with the location of your county's <b>SECURE BALLOT DROP BOXES</b> and your designated <b>POLLING PLACE</b> before or by <b>Oct. 23</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Option 1: SECURE BALLOT DROP BOX.</b> Place your completed ballot in one of <b>your county's</b> secure ballot drop boxes. The boxes are tamper proof, under video surveillance 24/7, and emptied daily by election officials who take them directly to the county's Board of Elections. <p style="text-align: center;">If you are worried about the delays in the Post Office, skip regular mail as an option.</p> </li> <li> <b>Option 2: MAIL IT TO YOUR BOARD OF ELECTIONS.</b> The return envelope for your ballot is pre-addressed and First-Class, postage paid. <b>NO STAMP NEEDED.</b> Mail it by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting it in your own mailbox for the mail carrier to collect <i>or</i></li> <li>Putting it in a Post Office blue mailbox <i>or</i></li> <li>Taking it to a post office.</li> </ul> </li> <li> <b>Option 4: POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY (NEW for the November Election).</b> Only you, the voter, can bring your completed ballot to your designated polling place. Hand it directly to a poll worker who will verify that you are the voter who voted the ballot. <b>NOTE: Polling places are limited; your polling place may not be in the same place you have voted in the past.</b> </li> <li> <b>Option 4: DELIVER IT TO YOUR BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find your county Board of Elections locations here: <a href="https://nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml">https://nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml</a>.</li> <li>You will need to present personal identification.</li> <li>If you have asked someone to deliver your ballot for you (<i>your "bearer"</i>) the "Bearer" portion of the envelope must be completed by the Bearer. Then they must sign in a ledger and present a valid form of ID to an authorized official.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>SECURE BALLOT DROP BOX - on or before November 3, by 8 p.m.</b> <p style="background-color: yellow;">You must use a drop box located in your county.</p> </li> <li> <b>MAIL</b> – must be <b>postmarked on or before November 3rd</b> and received no later than 8 pm on November 10. </li> <li> <b>POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY - November 3 from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.</b> </li> <li> <b>BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE– any business day during working hours through November 3.</b> <i>NOTE: In some counties the BOE office may not be open due to COVID-19.</i> </li> </ul>

## 3. HOW TO TRACK YOUR VOTED MAIL-IN BALLOT

- You may check on the status of your ballot by calling your County Board of Elections. Find the number here: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/county-eo.shtml>

- Alternatively, you may set up an account with the NJ Voter Information System and check online. To set up an account go here: <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/auth/sign-up> You will need your Voter ID to use the NJ Voter Information System. Your ID can be found on the inner envelope address label.

# VOTING IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

## November 3, 2020

### IMPORTANT

Polling places will be limited. **You may not be able to vote in the same place you always have.**  
A notice will be sent with your designated POLLING PLACE before or by October 23.

### NEW

**You can bring in and drop off your vote by mail ballot at your designated polling place.**  
Hand it directly to a poll worker.

- **Polling places are open from 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.**
- Voters who choose to cast their ballot in person rather than completing a mail-in ballot, will do so on a **provisional ballot NOT via a machine.** (**NOTE:** Provisional ballots are paper ballots that are counted after a voter's eligibility is confirmed. In the case of voters who received a mail-in ballot, their provisional ballots will be counted once it is verified that they did not cast a vote using the mail-in ballot.)
- Individuals with disabilities will have access to an ADA-conforming voting machine.
- **Sample ballots will not be mailed out for this election.** Active voters will receive a postcard with instructions on how to view a sample ballot online, and a sample ballot will be displayed at the polling places on election day.
- **If this is your first time voting in NJ or if you did not show ID when you registered, you will need to show it.** Acceptable ID includes:
  - **Any photo ID, with or without an address:** NJ driver's license, passport, student or employment ID, military or government ID, store memberships cards, etc.
  - **Any document that has your name and current address:** bank statement, car registration, government check or document, non-photo driver's license, utility bill, paycheck, rent receipt, etc.

### IMPORTANT LINKS/RESOURCES

- **New Jersey Division of Elections:** <https://nj.gov/state/elections/index.shtml> New Jersey's State Election Website
  - **County Election Officials:** <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/county-eo.shtml> The government office responsible for running elections in your county. **These are the best people to contact if you have any questions about voting in New Jersey.**
  - **Voter Search/Confirm Your Voter Registration Status:** <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check>
  - **Online Voter Registration:** <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>
  - **(By Mail/Paper Form) Voter Registration Application Forms:** <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml>
  - **NJ 2020 Election Information:** <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/election-information-2020.shtml>  
Candidates, Public Questions on the ballot
- **League of Women Voters New Jersey:** <https://www.lwvnj.org/>
- **VOTE 411.org:** <https://www.lvw.org/elections/vote411> Launched by the League of Women Voters. VOTE411 provides "one-stop-shop", nonpartisan election-related information to the public with both general and state-specific information on several topics. Find candidate information & much more.
- **rockthevote.org:** <https://www.rockthevote.org/> Rock the Vote is a nonpartisan, nonprofit dedicated to building the political power of young people.
- **Campus Vote Project: NJ Voting Guide** <https://www.campusvoteproject.org/stateguides/New-Jersey>

Would you like to **JOIN US** as a member or volunteer, be added to our mailing list or donate? Email us at [lwvnjnba@gmail.com](mailto:lwvnjnba@gmail.com).

Please **LIKE** and **FOLLOW US** on: **Facebook**: League of Women Voters NJ-Greater New Brunswick Area <https://www.facebook.com/LWVGNBA/>

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