

FAQs for November 3, 2020 Election
Prepared by
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Northern Valley (9-2020)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Q: Can I register to vote online?

A: Yes, NJ has just sent out the following link to register online without having to fill out a paper registration form -- <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/register>. It is compatible with mobile phones and tablets.

NOTE -- you can use this form for:

- * New registration
- * Address change
- * A mailing address for your ballot if different than your home address.
(Note: VBM Ballots will not be forwarded.)
- * Name change
- * Signature update
- * Political party affiliation, if you so choose
- * Vote by mail request (new registrants only)

Q. How do I sign the online voter registration form?

A. If you have a NJ drivers' license or state ID, your official signature comes from the DMV file. If you don't have these and use the last 4 digits of your SSN, you will need to either sign electronically or upload a file of your signature. If voters do not have any of these identifications or cannot register online, they must use a paper form.

Q. Will online voter registration be compatible with third party registration apps (Rock the Vote for example).

A. They are compatible. Third party registration apps are directing people directly to the NJ Division of Elections online voter registration.

Q: What is the deadline to register to vote?

A: October 13, 2020. However, if you can register or update your registration, it is important to do so ASAP because the State of NJ expects to mail Vote-By-Mail ballots at the end of September / early October. NOTE: The ballots will not be able to be forwarded to a new address.

INACTIVE VOTERS

Q. Who is considered an inactive voter?

A. * Anyone who hasn't voted in one of the past two federal elections or if election mail was returned to the county as "undeliverable" is removed from the voter rolls, and you must register again.

- * Anyone who has a questionable address, including mail that is forwarded.
- * If you have moved, you must change your address using the online form or on a paper registration form. (When you move, the state sends a confirmation notice of your move to the Board of Elections and you are then listed as an inactive voter until you update your mailing address.)

Inactive voters will be sent confirmation notice and an Affirmation of Residency form. If your status is “inactive” contact your Commissioner of Registration office to update your voter registration.

You can check online using the “**Am I Registered**” tool on the New Jersey Divisions of Elections website. (<https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check>)Be sure to encourage people to check their status!

Q. How do the Voter Rolls stay updated? What plans are in place to update the Voter Rolls?

- A.** When voters are placed on the inactive list, 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. A voter cannot be placed on inactive status 90 days prior to an election.

Q. How can people who are homeless register to vote?

- A.** People who are homeless can register wherever they are. Some folks register using a P.O. box, but people can register in the area where they are living, an example being a park bench.

Q. How can people struggling with domestic violence vote?

- A.** They can register using the address confidentiality program, meaning they don't show up on any voter list and the Commissioner of Registration has a specific file. County election officials work with these individuals to ensure they will receive their vote-by-mail ballots.

Q. Why won't inactive voters be sent a ballot?

- A.** Because the NJ Board of Elections doesn't want to send a ballot to the wrong address, which could result in voter fraud.

VOTE BY MAIL

Q: What is the deadline to apply for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot (previously called an Absentee Ballot)?

- A:** There is no need to apply for a Vote-by-Mail ballot unless you are submitting a new registration or are changing your mailing address. All active registered New Jersey voters will automatically receive a prepaid return-postage Vote-By-Mail ballot beginning the late September/ early October. Link to application form if needed: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/forms-vote-by-mail/vote-mail-ballot-bergen-english.pdf>

Q. How do I know if my ballot was received?

A. You can use "track my ballot" on the NJ Board of Elections website. Here you will see if it was received but you won't know if it was accepted or rejected until after election day.

Q: Do I need to apply postage on my mail in ballot?

A: No

Q: What is the deadline to mail back my ballot?

A: All ballots being returned through the US mail must be postmarked by election day on Tuesday, November 3rd.

* Ballots that lack postmarks due to postal error but are received by November 5th will be valid. Vote-By-Mail ballots can also be dropped off at your in-person polling site on election day.

Q: Why does my Vote-By-Mail ballot inner envelope have a flap?

A: So that your ballot can become anonymous after your signature is approved. DO NOT TEAR OFF THIS FLAP.

VOTE-BY-MAIL SECURITY

Q. How do I make sure my VBM ballot is counted?

A. You have four ways to return your Vote-By-Mail ballot:

- * Send the ballot by mail so that it arrives by deadline for counting.
- * Place your completed VBM ballot in a dropbox (see below).
- * Hand your VBM ballot to a poll worker on election day.
- * Drop your VBM ballot off at the Board of Elections in Hackensack (1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, entrance off parking lot)

Q. Can I drop off someone else's ballot?

A. It depends. You can only drop off your own ballot at the polling place on election day. However, you can drop off up to 3 other people's ballots in drop boxes or at the Bergen County Board of Elections up to election day. NOTE: If you are bringing more than one ballot, you must sign each voter's ballot as the bearer in front of the voter. If you sign more than 3 as bearer, the extra ballots will be rejected.

Q. Does the label on the VBM ballot identify my political affiliation?

A. No, there is no identity as to which party, if any, you belong to.

BERGEN COUNTY DROP BOXES

Q: Where are the drop boxes for completed ballots in Bergen County?

A: Bergen County has 18 Drop Box locations, placed there two weeks before the November 3rd election. Completed ballots will be collected by the county board of elections regularly and several times during election day.

Bergenfield, 198 North Washington Ave (Borough Hall in Rear)

Demarest, 118 Serpentine Road (Borough Hall)

Englewood, 2-10 North Van Brunt St (City Hall)

Fair Lawn, 8-01 Fair Lawn Avenue (Behind Borough Hall)

Fort Lee 1355 Inwood Terrace/Anderson Avenue Circular Drive (Fort Lee Community Center)

Hackensack, One Bergen County Plaza (County Administration Building)

Hasbrouck Heights, 320 Boulevard (Behind Borough Hall)

Hillsdale, 380 Hillsdale Ave (Borough Hall Parking Lot)

North Arlington, 214 Ridge Rd (Borough Hall)

Oakland, One Municipal Plaza (Borough Hall, across from Library)

Old Tappan, 227 Old Tappan Rd (Borough Hall)

Paramus, 1 Jockish Square (Borough Hall, outside main entrance)

Ramsey, 30 Wyckoff Ave (Rear of Library)

Ridgewood, 131 North Maple Ave (Village Hall)

Ridgefield, 725 Slocum Avenue (Ridgefield Community Center)

Rutherford, 176 Park Ave (Borough Hall)

Teaneck, 818 Teaneck Rd (Municipal Building, North Entrance)

Wyckoff, 340 Franklin Ave (Municipal Building)

Q. Will the drop boxes be under surveillance?

A. Yes they will be under video surveillance 24/7 for voter security.

VOTING IN PERSON

Q: Will I have the option to vote in person?

A: There will be in-person polls open for the November 3rd Election. Each municipality will be required to open at least one in-person polling site. All counties must ensure that at least 50% of their total polling places are open. Any voter who chooses to cast their vote in-person will do so on a provisional ballot. All individuals with disabilities will have access to an ADA-conforming voting machine.

Q: Will I be able to drop off my ballot at a polling place on November 3rd?

A: Yes, you can hand it directly to a poll worker at a polling place on Election Day. However, you need to confirm which polling places will be open.

Q: Will I receive a sample ballot in the mail?

A: No, instead, all voters will receive notification (mailed the 3rd week of October) about their polling place locations, secure ballot drop box locations, and information about how to obtain or view a sample ballot. This notification will be mailed by October 23rd.

CURING YOUR BALLOT

Q. Can I send in a replacement ballot if I filled it out wrong?

A. No. The "curing" process is only for a missing signature or if it doesn't match your official DMV or registration form signature.

Q. How is the ballot "cured"?

A. The staff looks at the signature and if it is questionable they send it to the Commissioner of Registration to decide whether to accept or reject it. Only the Commissioner of Registration can decide whether to accept or reject the signature.

Q. Will all votes that don't get counted for whatever reason get notified?

A. Yes, but not all reasons for rejection have the option to cure their ballot.

COUNTING OF BALLOTS

Q. When will the Board of Elections start counting ballots?

A. The NJ Board of Elections can start counting ballots 10 days prior to election day, but there will be no tallies until after polls close at 8PM on election day (November 3rd). It is against the law to leak early results.

Q. Can I volunteer to help count ballots?

A. Yes, contact the Bergen County Board of Elections.

Q. When will the results be certified?

A. December 13th

Q. Where can I find out what's on my ballot?

A: The national League of Women Voters Education Fund has a comprehensive website – www.Vote411.org – that has answers to questions about voter registration status, location of polling places (updated as state and local districts add information), information on local & state candidates, dates and registration information about local Candidates Forums, plus pros and cons on NJ's three public questions.