

1-877-658-6837

NJ Voters' Bill of Rights

PART
1

- ▶ *Voting Machine*
- ▶ *ID Requirements - Only for Certain First-time Registrants by Mail*
- ▶ *Provisional Ballot Voting*

▶ Voting Machine

You Can Vote in the Voting Machine if:

- Your complete voter registration information is in the poll book.
- You currently live in the election district or moved out of the County after the close of registration for this election. (Thereafter you must be registered in your new County).
- There are no successful challenges to your right to vote.

Instructions on use of the voting machine are available in the polling place. If you do not see them, ask any board worker.

Assistance in the Voting Machine:

- If you are blind, physically disabled or cannot read the ballot on the machine, you can have someone of your choice assist you in the voting machine.
- If you are alone and are entitled to assistance, two board workers of opposite political parties may help you. **You have the right to have both workers assist you or one worker — It is your choice.**

The district board workers must first fill out a disability certificate for you before you go into the voting machine.

Standing in Line to Vote:

If you are in line to vote after the polls have closed — **You MUST be allowed to vote. Board Workers CANNOT turn you away.**

Emergency Ballots:

If the voting machine is **not working**, **DO NOT LEAVE** the Polling Place. A Board Worker will give you a **Paper Emergency Ballot**. If you spoil your ballot, you have the right to ask the board worker for another ballot.

▶ ID Requirements - Only for Certain First-time Registrants by Mail

1. If you registered to vote by mail in this County after January 1, 2003, and never voted in a federal election in the County, you were required to provide identification. If you did not provide identification before voting for the first time at the polling place **you must show the board workers identification today.**
2. An identifying document may include, **but is not limited to**: Any Valid and Current Photo ID:
 - NJ driver's license ■ Military or other Government ID ■ Student or Job ID ■ Store Membership Card, or,Any current document with your name and address on it, **including but not limited to**:
 - Bank statement ■ Pay check ■ Car registration ■ Rent receipt ■ Sample ballot
 - Government check or document ■ Utility bill ■ Non-photo NJ driver's license

If you DO NOT show the board workers any identification you CANNOT vote in the voting machine. You MUST vote with a provisional paper ballot.

▶ Provisional Ballot Voting

You MUST Vote by Provisional Ballot if:

1. You are a registered voter in the County who moved within the County and did not notify the County Commissioner of Registration before election day of your current address **or**,
2. Your registration information is not complete in the poll book; for example your signature or address is missing; **or**,
3. You are a first-time registrant by mail in the County after January 1, 2003 who has not provided identification information.
4. If there is an "A" in the poll book but you did not receive, or did not apply for, an absentee ballot.

*ID must be submitted to **Mercer County Superintendent of Elections (609-989-6750)** by the close of business on the second day after the election. Office hours are 8:00-4:00.*

How to Vote by Provisional Ballot:

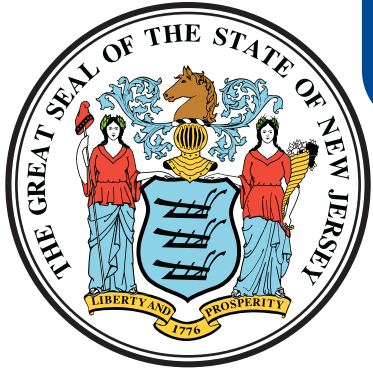
1. The board worker will give you a paper ballot and an envelope.
2. Vote the ballot. The board worker must provide you with a place to vote the ballot in secret.
3. Put the voted ballot in the envelope and seal it.
4. Sign and complete the "Affirmation Statement" that is attached to the envelope. **DO NOT DETACH** the Affirmation Statement.
5. Give the envelope to the board worker.
6. Watch the board worker put the envelope into the provisional ballot bag, or you may put your ballot into the bag yourself.
7. If you spoil your ballot, you have the right to ask the boardworker for another ballot.

No Provisional Ballot is Counted at the Polling Place. All provisional ballots are taken to the County Commissioner of Registration's office after the close of the polls for verification and counting by the County Board of Election.

After the election, you can call **1-877-NJ-VOTER (1-877-658-6837)** to find out if your ballot was counted. If your ballot was not counted, you can find out why it was rejected.

Complaint Forms are available if you have a complaint regarding the conduct of the election at this polling place. Ask any board worker for a form.

*You may also call the **Mercer County Superintendent of Elections at 609-989-6750 or 1-877-NJ-VOTER (1-877-658-6837)***



1-877-658-6837

NJ Voters' Bill of Rights

PART
2

- ▶ *Challenger Do's & Don'ts*
- ▶ *Challenger Process in Polling Places*
- ▶ *Election Offenses*
- ▶ *Absentee Voting in New Jersey*

▶ Challenger Do's & Don'ts

Challengers Can:

1. Challenge a voter if the challenger believes the voter is *not qualified to vote*.

In order to vote a person must be:

- a United States citizen
- registered to vote
- 18 years of age or older
- a resident of the County for at least 30 days before the election

A person on probation or parole for a felony conviction cannot vote.

A challenger must sign an affidavit stating the reason for the challenge.

Challengers Cannot:

1. Challenge a voter for any of these reasons: **a.** they think they know how the voter is going to vote. **b.** the race or ethnic origin of the voter. **c.** the voter resides in a **particular** ward, housing complex, or section of a municipality or county.

It is a criminal offense for a challenger to challenge a voter for any of the above 3 reasons.

2. Sit with the district board workers or touch the election materials.
3. Go to the voting machine during the voting hours.
4. Challenge the voter directly.
Only the district board can ask the voter questions.
5. Wear any campaign buttons, signs or campaign clothing.
6. Harass or intimidate any voters; or cause any disturbances in the polling place.
7. Challenge a voter because the district board asks the voter to affirm his or her residence, or asks a first-time registrant by mail to show identification.

▶ Challenge Process in Polling Place

- If your right to vote is challenged, the board workers may ask you for identification and you must sign an affidavit.
The challenger must also sign an affidavit.
- If the board workers vote to reject the challenge or there is a tie vote on the challenge, you have the right to vote in the voting machine.
- If the board votes to uphold the challenge, you cannot vote but you have the right to go to a Superior Court Judge to request a court order to vote. The board workers must tell you where to go to see the Judge.

▶ Election Offenses

- **Electioneering** — It is a crime under State law to electioneer within 100 feet of the outside entrance of the polling place up to and including the polling room. There can be no campaign signs or material in this area and no one can campaign on behalf of any candidate or public question.
- **Fraudulent Voting** — It is a crime under federal and State law to attempt to vote or vote knowing you are not entitled to vote, or to provide false information when registering to vote or voting. You are not permitted to vote more than once in an election.
- **Conspiracy** — It is a federal crime to conspire to deprive voters of a fair election. If anyone is harassing you or improperly interfering with your right to vote, ask the board worker for assistance.

Exit Polling — It is Legal You may be asked by a member of the press or non partisan interest group about your voting when you are leaving the polling place. **You do not have to answer any questions — it is your choice.**

▶ Absentee Voting in New Jersey

NEXT TIME YOU CAN VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.

It is now the law that any voter can vote by absentee ballot in any election.

Absentee Ballot Application Process

To get an absentee ballot, you must fill out an application. You can get an absentee ballot application from the County Clerk's office. You can also visit www.NJElections.org to download an application.

Make sure you properly fill out the Application:

- Print your name and address.
- **You must Sign and Date the Application.**
- A Power of Attorney signature on behalf of a voter is not acceptable.
- **If you do not sign the application, it will be rejected.**
- **If you receive assistance in completing the application, the name, address, and signature of the assistor must be provided.**

The Absentee Ballot Application must go to your County Clerk's Office. If you mail it to your County Clerk, it needs to get there at least 7 days before the election. After that day, you must deliver the application to the County Clerk's Office. Ballots can be issued by the Clerk until 3:00 p.m. of the day before the election.

Authorized Messenger Application Process

Only sick and confined voters may ask someone to be their Authorized Messenger to go to the County Clerk's office to get their ballot.

- At the bottom of the application, **you must write the name of the person you choose** as your Authorized Messenger.
- No one can be your Authorized Messenger without your permission.
- No candidate in the election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot can be an Authorized Messenger.

If you are permanently disabled, you can ask for an absentee ballot in all the elections in a calendar year on one application. Any voter who wishes to vote only by absentee ballot for a general election can request to automatically receive an application for general elections.