

New Jersey Primary Elections Reference Sheet

Use this reference sheet to ensure you have a plan to vote which includes knowing election dates and deadlines, methods of voting, as well as confirming your voter registration and polling location. Find more info on voting plans and their importance [here](#).

All election info courtesy of [Vote.NJ.Gov](#)

Primary Election Dates and Deadlines (More election deadline info [here](#))

- **May 16** - Voter Registration Deadline for the Primary Election
 - **May 30** - Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for Primary Election
 - **June 2 – June 4** - Early Voting Period
 - **June 5 – by 3:00 p.m.** - Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for Primary Election
 - **June 6** - Primary Election Day
 - **June 6** - Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the Primary Election
 - **June 12** - Deadline for Receipt of Mailed Postmarked Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election
 - **June 17** - Deadline for Receipt of Cure Form to County Boards of Election
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- How to Check Voter Registration: <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/registration-check>
 - Vote-By-Mail Information: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-by-mail.shtml>
 - Checking Polling Locations: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-polling-location.shtml>
 - Secure Ballot Drop Boxes: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-secure-drop-boxes.shtml>
 - Track My Ballot (related to Vote-By-Mail): <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-track-my-ballot.shtml>
 - Early Voting Information: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>
 - Voter Education Videos: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/voter-education.shtml>
 - Certified Election Result Information
 - <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote-3-ways-to-vote.shtml>
 - <https://nj.gov/state/elections/does-publications.shtml#flyer-3-ways-vote>

What is a Primary election?

Primaries are elections that political parties use to select candidates for a general election. Then each party's candidates run against each other in the general election. New Jersey is a closed primary state. In a closed primary, voters may only vote in the primary of the party they are registered with. For example, a voter registered as a Republican can only vote in a Republican primary. Absentee voters in States that conduct closed primaries are often required to choose a party affiliation on their voter registration form to participate in the State's primary elections.¹

What is a General election?

A General Election is an election in which determines which candidate is elected to office. Candidates for the General election are determined by the Primary. The General Election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Polls are open from 6AM to 8PM.

What is Early Voting?

In 2022, historic legislation established in-person early voting in New Jersey. This law makes our state even more voter-friendly and strengthens our democracy by expanding opportunities to exercise your right to vote. This new option allows registered voters to cast their ballot in person, using a voting machine, during the designated voting period prior to Election Day. Every county will provide registered voters with this option for the 2023 Primary Election.

Counties will designate in-person early voting locations that will be open **June 2, 2023 – June 4, 2023** (the in-person early voting period). Hours will be Friday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. and Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.²

What is Vote by Mail (VBM) and what are Drop Boxes?

Voting by mail (VBM) allows you to vote safely from home instead of going to a polling place. Your local election official's office will send you a mail-in ballot, also known as absentee ballots. When you receive your mail-in ballot, it will also include directions and an envelope to return your ballot. It is important to follow the directions to correctly fill out your ballot and sign it, so your vote is counted. Depending on your county's rules, you may need to request your ballot, or a ballot may be automatically sent to you. Many counties with vote by mail also provide drop boxes or secure locations throughout the county where your ballot can be dropped off directly into the election official's custody.³

What does it mean to “cure the forms”?

To make sure all eligible voters have their voices heard, many states rely on ballot curing to give voters a chance to fix—or “cure”—problems on their ballot envelope before their ballot is discarded. Importantly, voters aren't changing their choices on the ballot itself. In many states that allow ballot curing, election officials contact the voter directly by email, phone, or in some cases by mail if a ballot needs a cure. Turnaround times are short, and voters must provide alternative information or a new signature to verify their ballot's eligibility.⁴

¹ <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Outreach-Materials/PrimaryElectionsFactSheet.pdf>

² <https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/vote-early-voting.shtml>

³ <https://whenweallvote.org/voting101/votebymail/>

⁴ <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/the-low-down-on-ballot-curing/>